

NASCAR playoffs in all three series head to Talladega, Formula 1 off until mid-October

October 1, 2024 | Associated Press State Wire: North Carolina (NC)

Author: By The Associated Press | Section: Sports | 1444 Words

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All Times Eastern NASCAR Cup Series

YellaWood 500

Site: Talladega, Alabama.

Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, race, 2 p.m. (NBC)

Track: Talladega Superspeedway.

Race distance: 188 laps, 500.08 miles.

Last year: Eventual series champion Ryan Blaney got his title-run going when he crossed the finish line about a foot ahead of Kevin Harvick to win at Talladega. The victory was Blaney's third at the superspeedway. He had only led eight laps, but was out front the final two to top Harvick, whose car was disqualified during post-race technical inspection for violating rules involving windshield fasteners.

Last race: Ross Chastain took the lead from Martin Truex Jr. on a restart with 20 laps to go and held off playoff leader William Byron to win for the first time this season at Kansas. Truex was third in his final season of racing. Defending Cup Series champ Ryan Blaney was fourth and Ty Gibbs, who like Truex was eliminated from the playoffs a week earlier, was fifth.

Fast facts: Byron, among four Hendrick Motorsports drivers left among the 12 playoff teams, moved to the front of the playoff field with his runner-up finish at Kansas. ... Defending champion Blaney and Christopher Bell are tied in second, six points in back of Byron. ... Past champions Chase Elliott and Joey Logano are seventh and eighth, both four points ahead of the cutline. ... Tyler Reddick, who won the regular-season championship, is first team out in ninth, four points behind Elliott and Logano. ... The others on outside are Daniel Suarez, Chase Briscoe and Austin Cindric. ... The round of 12 concludes on Oct. 13 at the Charlotte Roval, where the field will be sliced to eight. ... Chastain became the second non-playoff driver in four postseason races this season to win. Chris Beuscher won at Watkins Glen three races ago. ... Reddick won at Talladega in April, avoiding a multi-car crash about 400 yards from the end.

Next race: Oct. 6, Talladega, Alabama.

Online: <http://www.nascar.com> NASCAR Xfinity Series

United Rentals 250.

Site: Talladega, Alabama.

Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 11:30 a.m.; race, 4 p.m. (CW)

Track: Talladega Superspeedway.

Race distance: 94 laps, 250.04 miles.

Last year: Jeb Burton won in double-overtime when the Xfinity last raced at Talladega in April 2023. Burton, the son of NASCAR Cup Series driver Ward Burton, held off Sheldon Creed by 0.113 seconds. Parker Kligerman finished third, with Cole Custer fourth and Brennan Poole fifth.

Last race: Aric Almirola ran down Xfinity playoff leader and defending series champion Cole Custer to win at Kansas. It was Almirola's first win at Kansas and sixth in his Xfinity career. Almirola beat Custer to the finish line by 0.660 seconds, with Chandler Smith trailing in third.

Fast facts: Custer remained on top as he tries for a second straight Xfinity title. He's got a five-point lead over Chandler Smith as contenders head to the second event in three-race round of 12. ... The round ends at the Charlotte Roval on Oct. 12. ... Austin Hill is third on the playoff grid with Sam Mayer fourth followed by Creed, Shane van Gisbergen, Jesse Love and Riley Herbst the rest of the drivers currently in position to advance. ... Justin Allgaier is first on the bubble, just a point in back of Herbst. ... The others on the bad side of the cutline are A.J. Allmendinger, Parker Kligerman and Sammy Smith.

Next race: Oct. 12, Concord, North Carolina.

Online: <http://www.nascar.com> NASCAR Truck Series

Love's RV Stop 225

Site: Talladega, Alabama.

Schedule: Friday, qualifying 2 p.m.; race, 4:30 p.m. (FS1)

Track: Talladega Superspeedway.

Race distance: 85 laps, 226.1 miles.

Last year: Former series champion Brett Moffitt pulled off a three-wide pass to the front to win his first-ever event at a superspeedway. Moffitt came out unscathed during a late accident that involved 10 trucks at the treacherous track. Moffitt got by Christian Eckes on the restart and held off Ben Rhodes for the win.

Last race: Corey Heim sped past faltering Ty Mejeski to win a playoff elimination race at Kansas. Majeski ran out of fuel approaching the one-to-go, white flag while leading and Heim took advantage to win for the sixth time this season. Among those eliminated from the playoffs was defending champion Ben Rhodes and rookie Daniel Dye. Layne Riggs, who had won the first two playoff races, finished second and Christian Eckes was third.

Fast Facts: The round of eight starts at Talladega before going to Homestead-Miami and Martinsville. The four advancing racers will chase a championship at Phoenix on Nov. 8. ... All eight previous playoff races at Talladega have been won by non-playoff drivers. ... Heim leads the standings with Eckes second and Majeski third. ... The four drivers below the cutline at the start of the round of eight are Rajah Caruth, Tyler Ankrum, Grant Enfinger and Taylor Gray. ... Caruth is eight points behind fourth-place driver Nick Sanchez for the final spot for the championship four.

Next race: Oct. 26, Homestead, Florida.

Online: <http://www.nascar.com> Formula 1

Last race: Lando Norris chipped seven points from Max Verstappen's lead with a dominating victory at the Singapore Grand Prix from the pole on Sept. 22. It was Norris' third career win, all coming this season.

Fast facts: The once unstoppable Verstappen is now just 52 points ahead of Norris with six races left. ... Verstappen, who has won the past three F1 titles, appeared to be cruising to four in a row when he won seven of the first 10 races this season. But the Red Bull Racing driver has not won since June in his longest winless streak

since 2020. ... Longtime F1 racer Daniel Ricciardo was released by his Red Bull team last week. He had won eight races over 14 seasons, the last at Monza for McLaren in 2021. ... Charles Leclerc is third in the driver standings, 86 points behind Verstappen. ... The series resumes in two weeks with the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 20. The series goes to Mexico and Brazil the two races after that.

Next race: Oct. 20, Austin, Texas.

Online: <http://www.formula1.com> IndyCar

Last race: Alex Palou claimed his second consecutive IndyCar championship and third in four years at Nashville Superspeedway three weeks ago. Challenger Will Power's seatbelt came loose minutes into the season-deciding finale. Colton Herta won the Music City Grand Prix for his first career victory on an oval and second win of the season for Andretti Global.

Next race: March 2, 2025, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Online: <http://www.indycar.com> NHRA Drag Racing

Last event: Jack Beckman, driving for John Force Racing, took the Funny Car title at the NHRA Mid-West Nationals, outracing fellow veteran Ron Capps for the title. Beckman has been piloting Force's car in recent events as Force recovers from his horrific racing accident in Virginia this past June. It was the first title for Beckman since he last competed during the 2020 season. Tony Schumacher won the Top Fuel title over Steve Torrence.

Fast facts: In Top Fuel, Antron Brown has a 34-point lead over Justin Ashley with Shawn Langdon in third, 60 points in back of Brown. ... Austin Prock leads the Funny Car standings, 105 points in front of his boss at John Force Racing, John Force. Bob Tasca is 159 points in back in third with Ron Capps and Matt Hagan rounding out the top five. ... Force, with Beckman driving, is chasing his 17th overall world Funny Car title. NHRA rules allow a replacement driver to collect points for up to eight events.

Next event: Oct. 9-13, Ennis, Texas.

Online: <http://www.nhra.com> World of Outlaws

Weis Markets National Open, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Last events: The races at Sharon Speedway in Hampton, Ohio, last weekend were canceled due to persistent rain from Hurricane Helene. ... On Sept. 20 and Sept. 21, Carson Macedo led all 35 laps of the Dennis Roth Classic in Tulare, California, to slow the recent roll of Michael "Buddy" Kofoid, who had won four of five events. The stakes, and steaks, were high as Macedo earned an \$83,000 winner's check and carted off 20 pounds of choice New York strip steak amid 70 pounds of meat overall. Kofoid was second and Sheldon Haudenschild third. David Gravel won the Friday night feature opener for his 14th win this season.

Fast facts: Gravel leads Macedo by 90 points in the driver's standings. Donny Schatz is 170 points back in third.

Next events: Oct. 12, Abbotstown, Pennsylvania.

Online: <http://worldofoutlaws.com/sprintcars>

AP auto racing: <https://apnews.com/hub/auto-racing>

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By The Associated Press, 'NASCAR playoffs in all three series head to Talladega, Formula 1 off until mid-October', *Associated Press State Wire: North Carolina* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF58078B779BA0>>

Helene leaves mountain community like no-man's land, firefighter says

October 1, 2024 | Bertie Ledger-Advance (NC)

Author: Bobby Burns | Section: Across Carolina | 531 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

A former photographer for The Daily Reflector who is now a volunteer firefighter in western North Carolina said people need to know about the isolation and devastation brought by Hurricane Helene to rural mountain communities like his.

Will Stricklin moved to Bakersville in Mitchell County in northwest North Carolina in 2022 and joined the Mitchell County Volunteer Fire Department along with his wife about six months later. He has been on duty since the hurricane began pelting the region on Friday and was able to make his first calls out on Monday after an emergency cellular connection was established.

"Our 9-1-1 dispatch went down at 6 p.m. on Friday. The cells went out, too. We had no communications from Friday until today," said Stricklin, who also was able to send a few photos and video he shot during his department's early response in hopes of publicizing the damage. (He hopes to share more in the coming days.)

The small contingent of local first responders based in Bakersville — the Mitchell County seat and a town of 500 between Asheville and Boone — was cut off and worked to reach stranded neighbors with personal vehicles and chainsaws. Stricklin said microbursts from the storm snapped acres of pine trees and nearly 30 inches of rain swelled creeks into raging rivers.

The Iraq War combat veteran who covered news and sports and shot Scene Around party pics for the Reflector from 2011-17 compared the damage to scenes captured in images from World War I.

"It's like no-man's land where all the trees are snapped off at 10 to 15 feet high, where artillery burst above them. It's like that," he said. "It's like the craziest thing I've ever seen. I've done hurricane duty with the National Guard, I've been to war, and this is the craziest thing I've ever seen."

A dozen or so firefighters worked with sheriff's deputies and a handful of other first responders to check on the welfare of neighbors they knew were at risk since nobody could call for assistance. The firefighters cleared trees from roads so emergency crews could travel from one mountain community to another.

Many homes still remained inaccessible, however, and Monday was too early to guess about the extent of property damage and loss of life, Stricklin said.

State-coordinated search and rescue teams began the work of accounting for lives and damage on Monday when the first heavy vehicles arrived and a large helicopter dropped supplies in the middle of town, Stricklin said. People are missing but no deaths have been confirmed, he said.

Isolation caused tension and worry between Friday and Monday, he said.

"We didn't know what was coming, we had no idea," he said about the help they needed to rescue friends and neighbors, wishing it had been there sooner. When it came on Monday, "it just showed up."

He said he hopes sharing details and images from the disaster will focus state and federal authorities on the dire situation of a community that already struggles with poverty.

"There is help rolling in now, but this help's going to be needed for a long time," he said. "If there is any attention that can be brought, then let's get these people some long-term aid."

- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Bobby Burns, 'Helene leaves mountain community like no-man's land, firefighter says', *Bertie Ledger-Advance* (online), 1 Oct 2024
〈<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF119208AEBF70>〉

Active rescue efforts continue as EMS make way into hardest hit areas

October 1, 2024 | Bertie Ledger-Advance (NC)

Author: Moss Brennan The Watauga Democrat | Section: Across Carolina | 301 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Moss Brennan The Watauga Democrat, 'Active rescue efforts continue as EMS make way into hardest hit areas', *Bertie Ledger-Advance* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&doref=news/19BF4D68C38D5128>>

Bladen Baptist Association Collecting Water For Western NC

October 1, 2024 | BladenOnline.com (Elizabethtown, NC)

Author: BladenOnline.com | Section: Local News | 162 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

There are numerous opportunities to assist the storm ravaged areas of western North Carolina. Water is among the most needed items.

Bladen Baptist Association provided one truckload of water earlier this week and more are planned. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so at Bladen Baptist offices at 137 Mercer Mill Road in Elizabethtown near CVS. Individuals may donate water or cash.

The effort is just one of several by local individuals and organizations. A truckload of water costs about \$5,000. Individuals may purchase water and deliver it to Bladen Baptist offices or make a cash donation. The local effort will provide needed supplies to some of the most needed areas. Some local businesses are also using their own vehicles and resources to deliver much needed supplies to people in need in western North Carolina.

Contact Rev. David Foster at Bladen Baptist Association at 910-862-3496 or Rev. Kincey Barrow at 910-874-1525.

The post Bladen Baptist Association Collecting Water For Western NC appeared first on .

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

BladenOnline.com, 'Bladen Baptist Association Collecting Water For Western NC', *BladenOnline.com* (online), 1 Oct 2024
⟨<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF18C9F73D0590>⟩

Jullian Gorrell, volunteer in east Tennessee

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Video (NC)

Section: News | 13 Words

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

'Jullian Gorrell, volunteer in east Tennessee', *Charlotte Observer, The: Video* (online), 1 Oct 2024

⟨<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFEECB786D86B0>⟩

How to get help or lend a hand amid Hurricane Helene's devastation

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)

Author: Stories by The Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer team, with AI summarization, The Charlotte Observer | 1092 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

The aftermath of Hurricane Helene has prompted widespread efforts to assist affected communities. We've collected tips for how to make insurance claims, how to reach FEMA and how to get help locally.

For those who want to pitch in, we've provided information about organizations that are accepting volunteers and donations to aid recovery and support.

Additionally, local initiatives are under way to collect supplies and host fundraisers to support victims.

The summary above was drafted with the help of AI tools and edited by journalists in our News division. All stories below were reported, written and edited by McClatchy journalists.

RAL_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-16.JPG Residents in Clyde begin cleaning up on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 1: After Helene: Tips for assessing storm's damage to your home & filing insurance claims

As clean-up and recovery efforts continue, here's what to know about dealing with Helene's impact to your home and property, including filing a claim.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Korie Dean

RAL_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-32.JPG Blake Nelson, 11, and his father Mitch Nelson clean up a flooded salon in Clyde on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 2: How to help people and volunteer in NC in Hurricane Helene aftermath

Some got out of floodwaters on a kayak. Some are still waiting for an airlift. Hurricane Helene's NC victims have a long swim to recovery ahead. Here's how to help.: Published September 29, 2024: Read Full Story by Julia Coin

RAL_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-04.JPG Residents in Clyde begin cleaning up on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 3: Want to donate to people in NC affected by Helene? Here's how to help

Here's also what you should and should not donate.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Julia Coin

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-10.JPG A rescue team paddles down the Swannanoa River on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 4: Federal aid is available for North Carolinians affected by Helene. Here's how to apply.

Western North Carolina was pummeled by Helene, a storm that destroyed homes and businesses. Here's how to apply for federal aid as part of recovery efforts.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Luciana Perez Uribe Guinassi

Imagn-24335150.JPGThe remnants of Hurricane Helene hover over Georgia and the Carolinas after making landfall in Florida. Downgraded to a tropical storm, the system has left thousands without power in the Southern Appalachians Friday, Sept. 27.

No. 5: Helene damaged your home or car? How to get in touch with your insurer, and other tips

Here's what to do — and what to expect.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Lawrence Mower

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-27.JPGAsheville residents line up for gasoline at a gas station on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 6: Price gouging law is in effect following Helene. How to recognize & report it in NC

North Carolina businesses are not legally allowed to charge too much for items during a crisis. Here's how to alert the authorities to price gouging.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Renee Umsted

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-04.JPGSwannanoa residents walk through devastating flood damage from the Swannanoa River on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 7: How Apple, T-Mobile & Verizon customers can access Wi-Fi & phone signals after Helene

Hundreds of thousands of people are still without power, but companies are providing ways for them to communicate.: Published October 1, 2024: Read Full Story by Renee Umsted

tree on house .pngTrees snapped off during Helene caused widespread damage in Greenville County and caused four deaths.

No. 8: FEMA just announced assistance is available in SC after Helene. Here's how to apply

Who's eligible for federal funding for disaster recovery in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene?: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Maria Elena Scott

240927_KAT_RiversideDrivePowerOutage_001.JPGGeorgia Power linemen work on removing a tree branch from a power line on Riverside Drive on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, in Macon, Georgia. Multiple traffic lights and businesses down Riverside Drive are without power as of noon on Friday.

No. 9: FEMA starts support work in Georgia. It's unclear when power will come back for many

Officials say they're waiting for storm effects to clear in some parts of Georgia before power restoration can begin.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Alba Rosa

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-29.JPGSwannanoa residents share rolls of toilet paper on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 10: Charlotte restaurants, businesses come together for Helene relief effort. You can help.

Along with nonprofits accepting donations, local restaurants, bars, boutiques and other businesses have set up fundraisers and donation drop-offs.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by CharlotteFive staff

riverside-5092.jpgWater from nearby Congaree River creeps into Hudson Avenue as the nearby Congaree River begins flooding the Riverland Park subdivision in Cayce on Sunday, Sept 29, 2024.

No. 11: If Helene flooded your SC home, these are the best tips to follow ASAP to reduce costs, damage

Did Helene flood your South Carolina home or are you thinking about flooding more after the storm? These are the best tips to follow to reduce costs and damage to your home after a flood.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Patrick McCreless

cayce flooding 1788.jpgCayce, South Carolina experiences severe flooding as water from Hurricane Helene flows down the Congaree River from North Carolina on Monday, September 30, 2024.

No. 12: How can the Myrtle Beach, SC area help with Helene recovery? Check out these resources

Want to help communities hit by Helene recover? Here's how you to volunteer and donate.: Published October 1, 2024: Read Full Story by Maria Elena Scott

1000x1000 (1).jpgTropical Storm Helene as of mid-Friday.

No. 13: Hurricane Helene leaves behind damage, millions without power. How Texans can help

In total, there has been 22 storm-related deaths reported across Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Brayden Garcia

This report was produced with the help of AI tools, which summarized previous stories reported and written by McClatchy journalists. It was edited by journalists in our News division.

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Stories by The Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer team, with AI summarization, The Charlotte Observer, 'How to get help or lend a hand amid Hurricane Helene's devastation', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF186FC6FD42C8>>

Hopewell rolls past conference soccer rival North Meck, keeps hold on first place

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)
Author: Jacob Moss, The Charlotte Observer | Section: high_school | 459 Words
[OpenURL Link](#)

Hopewell High's soccer team won its fifth straight game Tuesday, knocking off rival North Mecklenburg 7-0 to stay unbeaten in Queen City 3A/4A conference play.

The Titans (10-1-2, 5-0) remain in first place, ahead of Hough (7-6-3, 5-0-1). Hough beat Harding 9-0 Tuesday.

North Mecklenburg fell to 5-9 overall, 3-2 in league play.

"We had a heck of a game tonight," Hopewell head coach DJ Mehall said after the game. "We finally put it all together, we've had some rough ones in the past you know, not playing all 80 minutes, but tonight we actually did. We put together a heck of a first half and played a close out second half."

The first half certainly set the tone for the game, as Hopewell immediately established a breakneck pace that North Meck couldn't match.

Titans' senior captain Alejandro Morales got the first goal with 7:42 left in the first half. Three minutes later, he scored again.

"As individuals I felt like we all connected," Morales said. "I feel like I did my part by centering my passes, and you know just playing my game. I feel like as a team we played really well, just kept moving the ball and we scored you know."

The connection Morales described was apparent in the second half, when five different Titans scored.

While his team certainly put on a dominant performance, Mehall emphasized the importance of keeping his team locked in.

"We just want to take it one game at a time," Mehall said. "We've got one against West Meck tomorrow, so we're just going to focus on taking care of them tomorrow and taking it game by game from there."

Three who made a difference

Alejandro Morales, Hopewell: The Titans senior captain was the centerpiece of his team's victory, scoring the first two goals of the match and setting his teammates up with timely passes down the stretch.

Elmer Salmeron, Hopewell: Another senior leader for the Titans, Salmeron kicked off the scoring for Hopewell in the second half along with setting up several of his teammates up with scoring opportunities thanks to some accurate passing.

Cooper Kullmam, Hopewell: The Hopewell goalkeeper wasn't asked to do much, but he did make a couple of saves to secure the Titans shutout.

What's next

Both teams have very quick turnarounds in order to make up games that were postponed due to Hurricane Helene.

Hopewell will travel to West Meck on Wednesday, while North Meck heads to J.C. Chambers.

Scoring summary

Hopewell – 2 5 7

North Meck – 0 0 0

First Half

(H) – Alejandro Morales goal with 7:42 remaining

(H) – Morales goal with 4:04 remaining

Second Half

(H) – Elmer Salmeron goal with 25:35 remaining

(H) – Ethan Covaci penalty kick with 22:33 remaining

(H) – Tyler Howe goal with 21:26 remaining

(H) – Jason Allende goal with 12:15 remaining

(H) – Anthony Cruz goal with 6:39 remaining

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Jacob Moss, The Charlotte Observer, 'Hopewell rolls past conference soccer rival North Meck, keeps hold on first place', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF2C72C88336E8>>

20 accounts of Helene's devastation in North Carolina, including the western mountains

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)

Author: Stories by The Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer team, with AI summarization, The Charlotte Observer Section: north_carolina | 1086 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina is immense, with significant flooding, power outages, and road closures affecting the region.

The storm, which initially struck Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, has left more than 100 people dead across six states, with at least 30 fatalities reported in North Carolina's Buncombe County, home to Asheville.

Severe damage to infrastructure, including washed-out highways and submerged substations, is hampering recovery efforts.

Emergency responders, including the Red Cross and the North Carolina National Guard, are actively conducting rescue and relief operations.

Disruptions to cell service and electricity are widespread, complicating communication and aid distribution. In response, local officials and organizations are rallying to provide essential resources and support to affected communities.

The summary above was drafted with the help of AI tools and edited by journalists in our News division. All stories below were reported, written and edited by McClatchy journalists.

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-15.JPGA washed out bridge over the Swannanoa River in Black Mountain on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

No. 1: Tuesday updates from western NC after Helene: Power outages, road closures, recovery efforts

"The devastation was beyond belief," NC Governor Roy Cooper said. Here's what to know on Tuesday.: Published October 1, 2024: Read Full Story by Renee Umsted, Adam Wagner and Richard Stradling

image.jpeg

No. 2: Photos: Search for victims of 'apocalyptic' flooding in NC continues with many still cut off from help

Helene kills at least 11 in Western NC, cutting power, water and communications: Published September 29, 2024: Read Full Story by Scott Sharpe

image.jpeg

No. 3: Tree that killed 1 when Helene hit Charlotte should've been cut down already, neighbor says

Part of the tree that killed one person in Helene had fallen onto another house months ago. "It probably should have been chopped down then," a neighbor said.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Julia Coin

image.jpeg

No. 4: Four critically hurt after tornado associated with Helene hits Eastern NC city

Multiple injuries have been reported at restaurants in Nash County after a tornado touched down.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Adam Wagner

image.jpeg

No. 5: Trying to reach a missing person impacted by Helene in NC? What to do and who to call

Here's how to submit a missing persons report and request a rescue or welfare check for someone potentially in danger due to the storm.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Chyna Blackmon

image.jpeg

No. 6: Girl, 4, killed in wreck during Hurricane Helene rains, NC State Highway Patrol says

The girl died after two SUVs collided after one crossed the center line during heavy rains, trooper says.: Published September 26, 2024: Read Full Story by Joe Marusak

image.jpeg

No. 7: See photos and video from Helene's devastation in the mountains of western NC

See photos and video of the destruction wrought from flooding across the NC mountains: Published September 28, 2024: Read Full Story by Scott Sharpe

image.jpeg

No. 8: How Helene's destruction could affect voting in North Carolina's election

With the postal service on pause and roads washed away, all forms of voting could be disrupted.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Kyle Ingram

image.jpeg

No. 9: A county by county look at Helene's devastation in western NC

We're gathering what we know of the damage in each county in Western North Carolina. Here is an evolving snapshot of Helene's toll.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Evan Moore

image.jpeg

No. 10: See Hurricane Helene storm damage across North Carolina as flooding hits western NC

A look at Charlotte and western North Carolina as Hurricane Helene moves through the region.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by The Pham

image.jpeg

No. 11: Help The N&O document the aftermath and damage of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina

This is a historic moment. Help us document the stories of people and places impacted by Hurricane Helene in our state by sharing your photos and videos.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Laura Brache

image.jpeg

No. 12: Helene's devastation changed everything about their wedding, except the important part

The wedding in Lake Lure was both a demonstration of the kind of flexibility marriage requires and a desperately needed bit of joy in the face of a natural disaster.: Published September 29, 2024: Read Full Story by Martha Quillin

image.jpeg

No. 13: Watch videos as Helene causes major flooding throughout the NC mountains

See video from flooding in multiple spots across the mountains of Western North Carolina.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Travis Long

image.jpeg

No. 14: How to help people and volunteer in NC in Hurricane Helene aftermath

Some got out of floodwaters on a kayak. Some are still waiting for an airlift. Hurricane Helene's NC victims have a long swim to recovery ahead. Here's how to help.: Published September 29, 2024: Read Full Story by Julia Coin

image.jpeg

No. 15: Tornado with 90 mph winds hit popular NC mountain tourist town before Helene, NWS says

The tornado knocked down and snapped trees in Blowing Rock, blew tents apart during severe weather system, NWS investigators found.: Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Joe Marusak

image.jpeg

No. 16: Cut off by Helene in Western NC, Rep. Foxx calls for more aid for her district

Helene didn't spare Rep. Virginia Foxx's Banner Elk community. Now she's urging Gov. Roy Cooper to bring more National Guardsmen to Western North Carolina.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Danielle Battaglia

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No. 17: 'Apocalyptic' damage: Helene kills at least 30 in Western NC, severs power, water, roads

At least 30 people have died in Buncombe County alone, the sheriff announced Sunday.: Published September 29, 2024: Read Full Story by Julia Coin

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No. 18: Western North Carolina communities hope for 'some sort of lifeline' after Helene damage

The situation is dire. Many North Carolina communities haven't had fresh water, internet or cell service for multiple days.: Published September 30, 2024: Read Full Story by Ryan Oehrli

image.jpeg

No. 19: Flooding, evacuations after Helene plows Western NC; officials say stay off roads

Hundreds of thousands were without power, with county roads flooded or blocked by fallen limbs and trees.:
Published September 27, 2024: Read Full Story by Ryan Oehrli

image.jpeg

No. 20: Panthers' David & Nicole Tepper pledge Hurricane Helene relief donation for Carolinas

The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation, with the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC, has pledged an initial commitment to provide relief for those impacted by Hurricane Helene in the Carolinas.: Published September 28, 2024: Read Full Story by Mike Kaye

This report was produced with the help of AI tools, which summarized previous stories reported and written by McClatchy journalists. It was edited by journalists in our News division.

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Inside a makeshift helicopter mission to western NC, where index cards are saving lives

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)

Author: Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 1131 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

Right now in North Carolina, an index card could save a life.

Blue-lined, 3-by-5-inch papers sit in a grid on a plastic folding table inside Hickory Regional Airport, listing coordinates and what those stranded in Hurricane Helene's aftermath need:

Baby formula.

Insulin.

Help.

A patchwork group of pilots inside the two-room airport grab three or four cards at a time, head to their helicopters and fly west. Fuel is expensive. If they end up unable to land on the rickety terrain in the mangled Appalachian Mountains, they need more cards, more options before turning back. Organizers realized that halfway through their second day of missions.

But Andy Petree, a retired NASCAR analyst for ESPN, takes just one card at 5:56 p.m. Monday. The sun will set in about two hours. This is his sixth and last trip of the day. His first was 12 hours ago, when he flew his son out of their hometown, Hendersonville, and dropped him at Petree's Lake Norman house, one with its own helipad, near Charlotte.

[operation airdrop story inline link](#)

For his second to last trip, Petree flew out to Black Mountain, where he rescued a family of three and their dogs.

Now, Petree loads Pampers diapers, Similac baby formula, his wife's PB&J sandwiches and a Charlotte Observer reporter into his private helicopter and lifts off from the landing strip that's about three football fields long.

The 66-year-old is one of 37 pilots offering their private aircraft to Operation Airdrop, a nonprofit that sends volunteer pilots and their aircraft with essential supplies after disaster.

Operation Airdrop in Hickory Andy Petree, a retired NASCAR analyst for ESPN, flies supplies from Hickory, NC, to western NC on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024.

In Asheville, Swannanoa, Lake Lure, Marshall, and many parts of western North Carolina, people are only reachable by air. Roads, shredded by the floods, have turned into narrow dirt paths, riverbeds or cliffs into the orange, murky water below.

Hickory, a North Carolina town of about 44,000 known as a furniture manufacturing capital of the United States, is about an hour drive from Charlotte, Asheville and Boone. That's about 30 minutes in Petree's helicopter.

We head to Lake Lure in his Robinson 44 Raven 2 — a four-person helicopter he bought to get from his Hendersonville home in western North Carolina to the NASCAR tracks in the middle of the state, close to Concord and the Lake Norman home where his son now sits with 200 pounds of supplies.

Three days ago, as Helene passed over his home state Friday, Petree was in Port Canaveral, Florida, canceling plans to travel from where he and his wife were about to get onto a cruise ship.

He had to help, he said.

The rest of the volunteers, some dropping supplies and clothes and airlifting people out, have similar stories. Some are in matching black pants, black shoes and black shirts that say “Academy of Aviation,” some are in military camo, and some are in jeans and T-shirts that show their neck tattoos.

Operation AirdropVolunteers with the nonprofit Operation Airdrop work at the Hickory Regional Airport on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, to find and deliver supplies to people cut off by Helene’s flooding.

Hodgepodge helicopters help Helene’s victims

Pockets of destruction rest between Hickory and the Appalachian Mountains. Some areas seem fine, with outdoor furniture unmovd or at least reset. Then a smear of downed trees that will die before their leaves turn into a cluster of colors this year.

Then a river. Then a lake. Then a whole town tattered into pieces.

N.C. Helicopter MissionsInside the makeshift helicopter missions to western North Carolina.

“That hurricane basically picked up the whole Gulf of Mexico and dropped it right there,” Petree says, pointing to the thick layer of branches, roofs, umbrellas and siding sitting where Chimney Rock used to be.

I tell him this summer, on a trip back to Charlotte from Topton, a town further out west that escaped total ruin Friday, I considered stopping at the quaint lake town. I didn’t.

“Now you’ll never see it,” he says.

Those with homes still intact won’t be able to get to them, he says. Those with their homes and belongings whisked away won’t see it rebuilt. Those dead in the ruin won’t be found for a few more days, months, maybe years, he says.

Operation Airdrop in HickoryHelicopters owned by volunteer pilots with Operation Airdrop wait at the Hickory Regional Airport on Monday, Sept. 30, 2004, for pilots to fly supplies to people cut off by Helene’s flooding in western North Carolina.

As of Monday, officials said more than 100 Americans had died in the 10 states hit by Helene. By Tuesday afternoon, there were 57 people confirmed dead from the storm in just Buncombe County in North Carolina, according to Sheriff Quentin Miller. Hundreds are still missing.

Petree, who was in the rubble talking to people earlier Monday, said the people there are just awestruck. The devastation is unimaginable. And for those who don’t have to imagine — those who heard the freight-train-sounding rush of water and woke up to their neighbor’s homes in the water — it’s incomprehensible.

At 6:45 p.m., after circling above the coordinates listed on Petree’s index card, finding no place to land and seeing no people waving us down, we land on a bridge next to Bat Cave Volunteer Fire Department between the demolished Chimney Rock and Gerton, the next unincorporated community west. The makeshift landing pad is marked with two orange Xs. The next bridge over is marked with black, capitalized words: DO NOT LAND.

The people who asked for diapers and baby food aren’t there, but one bleary-eyed volunteer firefighter with muddy camo boots and a gun in his waistband is. He’s with a few others.

Their eyes are all the same. Wide open, glazed, processing the monster storm that hit their town — one once dubbed a “climate haven” by some for its long distance from the coast and relatively high elevation.

“Everyone is gone,” says Marie O’Neill, a butterfly-booted woman who lives on a slope above the fire department. “The people, the animals.”

Helene flood damageA view over flood-damaged western North Carolina on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, as Andy Petree flies a helicopter through Operation Airdrop to deliver supplies.

We don’t have time to stay long.

She waves as we take off, the setting sun shielded by clouds — remnants of the storm that’s passed and plagued the state.

We fly back over the ruin and land back in Hickory at 7:27 p.m. Inside one of the airport’s rooms, 50 volunteers — pilots, runway golf cart drivers, regular people — eat pizza and hot dogs when a director comes in.

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson’s niece is out there, somewhere. She asks who is certified to fly at night. One person is. Two people are needed.

They grab an index card and rush out of the building, looking for a second certification — and hoping to save one more life.

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Why are nearly 1 million people in the Carolinas still without power? Duke Energy explains

October 1, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)

Author: Nora O'Neill, The Charlotte Observer | Section: weather_news | 897 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the Carolinas are still without power, and many could be that way until Friday or longer, according to Duke Energy.

Helene left over 100 people dead and more than 600 people unaccounted for across 10 states. Around 640,000 Duke customers still do not have power in the Carolinas, according to poweroutage.us. Around 322,000 more customers of other power companies also were without power Tuesday afternoon.

Duke has around 18,000 employees working primarily in western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina to restore power as quickly as possible, said Jeff Brooks, a Duke Energy spokesman. Other companies are sending crews to help, too. But when the lights come back on depends on where the house or business falls in a priority list and what caused the outage.

"Many of our workers live and work in these communities as well," Brooks said. "Some of them have experienced personal tragedy and challenges too, so we know all too well what it means to get the power restored and return these communities to some sense of normal after what has been a really tragic and difficult time for many of these communities."

Who gets power restored first after Helene?

Duke Energy uses a process for restoring power that starts with restoring the system responsible for getting electricity from the power plant into communities, Brooks said.

The bulk electric system is responsible for moving power via transmission lines, he said, calling the lines the "interstates" of the power grid. Without the bulk electric system and transmission lines, fixing lines in communities won't do anything. Workers also focus on repairing substations responsible for taking in the power from the grid, Brooks said.

"If you imagine my road metaphor, (substations) are like the off-ramp of the power grid coming off the interstate. So the high voltage electricity is reduced in voltage so that it can be spread around the community," he said.

From there, Duke Energy focuses on restoring power to emergency services such as hospitals and police and fire departments, Brooks said. Then, crews get main power lines through towns running. That could include roads with grocery and other necessary stores on them. By fixing main lines first, often power is restored to thousands of customers in one repair, he said.

"Often people say, 'well, why don't you start in my neighborhood?' Because often the problems that you may be experiencing are the result of a problem somewhere else on the line, further upstream from where you are," Brooks said. "So fixing the line to your house may not do anything if there's a problem somewhere else on the system."

Finally, workers move into neighborhoods and individual residences, Brooks said.

Why does it take so long?

Restoring power looks different depending on the type of damage.

On a normal day, it might require resetting safety systems if a tree branch brushed against a power line. After storms, Brooks said, repair typically involves installing new utility poles and reattaching lines to the new poles.

“A repair like that could take several hours, even to half a day or more, in some cases. And when you look at the number of outages after a storm ... each of those is a place that a crew has to go to complete a repair,” Brooks said. “If that takes several hours at each location, you get a sense why we have 18,000 people out there working today.”

Of remaining outages in the Carolinas, about half will require equipment to be completely rebuilt rather than repaired, he said. Rebuilding entire lines and substations is challenging work, Brooks said.

Communication has been a challenge in some places with cellular blackouts, he said. On Sunday, he saw a crew climbing poles behind a house in order to get a connection.

“We’re seeing historic damage from this storm on a scale that many of us have never seen in western North Carolina in recent memory... When we encounter hurricanes at the coast, the geography is and the infrastructure of the grid is a little more accustomed to that type of wind,” Brooks said. “What we’re seeing in the western portion of the state is tremendous amounts of damage, both from water and from wind, roads that are inaccessible, equipment that’s difficult to reach.”

When will power be restored?

Duke Energy expects most customers in both Carolinas will have their power back by 11:45 p.m. on Friday evening, Brooks said. But in some areas there is still no estimate for restoration.

For areas with major damage such as Buncombe County, Greenville, South Carolina and Chimney Rock, Duke Energy is still developing a response strategy and figuring out how to access equipment, he said. Temporary solutions in the meantime include installing temporary equipment or rerouting power and completing more permanent repairs later on.

Duke Energy isn’t working alone. Numerous electric companies from other states including FirstEnergy, Avangrid and Central Maine Power have sent crews to the Carolinas to help speed up the restoration process.

Customers can monitor outages and restoration on Duke Energy’s website.

“The challenge here is that you took a hurricane, which we typically see at the coast, and you put it in terrain that is challenging on a good day, and then when you put it in there with mudslides and flooding and all kinds of other challenges, it is probably one of the most difficult environments in our service area to restore power,” Brooks said. “That’s what we’re dealing with.”

Charlotte Reality Check Editors Note embed

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These seven battleground states may well decide the US presidency

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)
Author: Michael Mathes | Section: National | 742 Words
[OpenURL Link](#)

US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump are hurtling toward their November election showdown, one of the closest contests in modern American history.

And in the handful of critical states framing the 2024 race, there is little daylight between the rivals with barely a month before Election Day on November 5.

Under the US Constitution, America's founding fathers established that each of the 50 states would hold its own vote for president.

Then, under the complex Electoral College system, each state has a certain number of "electors," based on population. Most states have a winner-take-all system that awards all electors to whoever wins the popular vote.

With candidates needing 270 of the 538 electors to win, elections tend to be decided in the hotly contested "swing states" with a history of alternating between Republican and Democratic candidates.

This year, there are seven such battlegrounds, and virtually every one is a toss-up. Here is a look:

- Pennsylvania (19 Electoral College votes) -

Pennsylvania was once reliably Democratic, but these days, they don't come much tighter than the Keystone State.

Republican Trump won the most populous battleground, with 13 million residents, by 0.7 percentage points in 2016. Joe Biden claimed it by 1.2 percentage points in 2020.

Known for its "Rust Belt" cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has been blighted for decades by the steady decline of its industrial manufacturing base.

Trump and Harris have campaigned repeatedly in the eastern state. Trump, who survived an assassination attempt at a July rally there, is courting the rural white population and warning that migrants are overwhelming small towns.

Harris is touting recent infrastructure wins, and in Pittsburgh, she outlined plans to invest \$100 billion in manufacturing, a key issue for state residents.

- Georgia (16) -

This southeastern state was an election flashpoint at the end of Trump's first term, and the controversy simmers.

Prosecutors in Georgia indicted Trump in an election interference case after he called state officials urging them to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's narrow 2020 victory.

But in a boost for Trump, the case is paused until after the election.

Biden was the first Democrat to win the Peach State since 1992. Demographic changes are likely to benefit Harris, who has courted minority voters across Georgia.

- North Carolina (16) -

The southeastern state has voted Democratic only once since 1980, but Harris believes it's back in play.

The population, now over 10 million, is expanding and growing more diverse, benefiting Democrats.

Complicating matters for Trump, a scandal involving the state's Republican gubernatorial candidate has infuriated party officials who worry it could sink Trump in a close race.

As in neighboring Georgia, one wild card is how the devastation from storm Helene, which recently laid waste to towns in western North Carolina, might impact the vote.

- Michigan (15) -

Trump flipped Michigan, a former Democratic stronghold, on his way to defeating Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Biden returned it to the blue column in 2020, buoyed by unionized workers and a large Black community.

But this time, Harris risks losing the support of a 200,000-strong Arab-American community that has denounced Biden's -- and by extension her -- handling of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

- Arizona (11) -

The Grand Canyon state was among 2020's tightest races, with Biden triumphing by just 10,457 votes.

Trump hopes frustrations over the Biden-Harris administration's immigration policy will swing Arizona, which shares a border with Mexico, back in his favor.

Harris visited Arizona's border last week vowing to crack down on migration and work on reviving last year's bipartisan border bill, which she said Trump "tanked" for political purposes.

Of the battlegrounds, Arizona is showing the largest poll advantage: Trump up by two percentage points.

- Wisconsin (10) -

Clinton lost Wisconsin after giving the state a wide berth during the 2016 campaign.

As with Midwestern neighbor Michigan, it was a different story when Trump's opponent was Biden, who turned a 23,000-vote deficit into a winning margin of 21,000 for Democrats.

Trump considers it winnable, and his party held its summer national convention there.

While Trump led early against Biden, Harris has a tiny polling edge.

- Nevada (6) -

The Silver State, with a population of 3.1 million, hasn't voted Republican since 2004. Conservatives, buoyed by Trump's headway with Hispanic voters, are convinced they can flip the script.

Trump held a significant lead here against Biden.

But within weeks of becoming the Democratic nominee, Harris -- promoting her economic plans to help small businesses and combat inflation -- has erased that advantage in the western state, whose largest city Las Vegas is dominated by the hospitality industry.

- **Citation (aglc Style)**

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Helene's Aftermath: How to Safely Enter, Clean Flood-Damaged Homes

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Staff Writer | Section: Health | 705 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

TUESDAY, Oct. 1, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- Following the historic destruction of Hurricane Helene, many Americans must now return to their mangled homes and begin the heartbreaking task of clean-up.

After making landfall in Florida near Tallahassee as a ferocious Cat 4 storm on Thursday, Helene caused record-breaking storm surges in Tampa, flash flooding in Atlanta and power outages, massive flooding and mud slides in the mountains of North Carolina. Even as rescuers continued to search on Monday for survivors, more than 120 people across six states have already been confirmed dead.

For survivors, federal health experts warn they must be prepared for the many dangers that likely await them when they return to their homes.

Perhaps the most pressing is the risk of electricity or gas leaks, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Be sure to go back during daylight, so you don't need to try to turn on any lights, and use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns rather than candles, gas lanterns or torches.

First and foremost, if there's standing water and you can turn off the house's main power from a dry location, do that first -- before you start cleaning up, the CDC says.

It's a different story if accessing the main power switch means entering standing water. In that setting, you need to call an electrician to turn it off.

"Never turn power on or off yourself or use an electric tool or appliance while standing in water," the CDC stresses.

Next thing to check? Sniff the air as you enter. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, then turn off the main gas valve and open all windows before leaving your house as quickly as possible, the CDC advises. Don't turn on the lights or do anything that could cause a spark.

Tell the gas company or emergency officials about the suspected leak, and don't go back in until you're told it's safe.

Even if there are no power problems, you'll only want to enter briefly at first to open doors and windows. Airing out the house for at least a half-hour is important, particularly if it's been closed up for several days, the CDC says.

Mold hazards

Once you have taken care of the immediate hazards, you should assume the house has mold if it's been flooded and closed up for several days, the CDC says.

Dry the house out as soon as possible. Use a wet-dry vacuum or water pump to remove standing water, then fans and dehumidifiers to remove excess moisture. Fans should be placed to blow air out of the house, to prevent mold from spreading.

If you don't have electricity and need to run a generator to power your equipment, make sure you place the generator outside and at least 20 feet away from any door, window or vent. Be sure to wear rubber boots if operating electrical equipment in wet areas, the CDC says.

Get an HVAC cleaning professional to check your system before turning on your air conditioning, or you could spread mold throughout the house. Professional cleaning will kill the mold and prevent later mold growth.

Food and water

Also consider that a flooded house could be contaminated with sewage. Make sure to wear rubber boots, rubber gloves and goggles while cleaning up if sewage is involved.

Follow local guidance on whether public water is safe to drink, and get water from a private well tested before you use it. Bottled, boiled or treated water is safe for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

Throw away any food that might have come into contact with flood water, as well as perishable foods that have not been refrigerated properly.

"Unsafe food can make you sick even if it looks, smells and tastes normal," the CDC says. "When in doubt, throw it out."

Use a generator safely

Don't attach a generator to your home's electrical system unless you've talked to your power utility. The generator must have approved automatic-interrupt devices, as it can become a major fire hazard if it's on when electrical service is restored. The improper connection of a generator to your home's electrical circuits also can endanger line workers helping restore power for everyone.

More information

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more about cleaning up safely after a disaster.

SOURCE: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Hurricanes, storms, typhoons... Is September wetter than usual?

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)
Author: Emilie BICKERTON | Section: National | 535 Words
[OpenURL Link](#)

With typhoon Yagi battering Asia, storm Boris drenching parts of Europe, extreme flooding in the Sahel and hurricane Helene racing towards Florida, September so far has been a very wet month.

But while scientists can link some extreme weather events directly to human-caused global warming, it remains too early to draw clear conclusions about this sodden month.

"You will always have some sort of extreme weather events, but their intensity has been magnified by global warming, especially in the context of rainfall," Paulo Ceppi from Imperial College London's Grantham Institute told AFP on Thursday.

"That's probably one of the common drivers of these different events in very different parts of the world."

Early indications from monthly data show some record-breaking precipitation levels in the regions affected.

In central Europe, the torrential rains accompanying storm Boris were "the heaviest ever recorded" in the region, according to the World Weather Attribution (WWA) network of scientists, inundating homes and farmland.

Global warming has doubled the likelihood of severe four-day downpours since the pre-industrial era and the costs of climate change are "accelerating", WWA said in a report published Wednesday.

Meanwhile in Japan's city of Wajima, more than 120 millimetres (4.7 inches) of rainfall per hour was recorded on the morning of September 21 -- the heaviest rain since comparative data became available in 1929.

- Hotter, and wetter? -

"Attributing different weather patterns around the world at the same time to climate change is very challenging," said Liz Stephens, science lead at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

"But the fundamental principle remains that for every 1 degree Celsius of warming the atmosphere can hold seven percent more moisture," she told AFP.

With global warming on track to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times "you can do the math pretty quickly and that will have a measurable impact," said Ceppi from the Grantham Institute.

The 2024 northern summer saw the highest global temperatures ever recorded, beating last year's record, according to the EU's climate monitor Copernicus.

A hotter planet, in other words, could also signal a wetter one.

The sweltering summer in the Mediterranean this year "gives a lot of extra evaporation, pumping more water vapour into Europe if the conditions are right and allowing for all that moisture to be dumped in certain places," Ceppi said.

"The global temperatures -- both over the land and the ocean -- were anomalously high during August-September despite La Nina-like conditions evolving in the Pacific," Roxy Mathew Koll at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology told AFP.

"Anomalously high temperatures assist in supplying additional heat and moisture for storms and weather systems to intensify."

La Nina refers to a naturally-occurring climate phenomenon that cools the ocean surface temperatures in large swathes of the tropical Pacific Ocean, coupled with winds, rains and changes in atmospheric pressure.

In many locations, especially in the tropics, La Nina produces the opposite climate impacts to El Nino, which heats up the surface of the oceans, leading to drought in some parts of the world and triggering heavy downpours elsewhere.

Currently, "neutral" conditions prevail, meaning neither El Nino nor La Nina are present.

Large swathes of South America and Southern Africa suffered from drought in 2024.

The global September update from Copernicus is due early next month and will provide hard data on precipitation levels.

eab/

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Biden calls for return to bargaining table as port strike disruptions loom

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Brett Rowland | The Center Square | Section: National | 373 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

(The Center Square) – President Joe Biden on Tuesday called for those on both sides of a port worker strike to return to the bargaining table as U.S. ports brace for what could be the most disruptive labor stoppage in decades.

Some 50,000 International Longshoremen's Association members went on strike Tuesday against the East and Gulf Coast ports, hobbling the flow of goods.

The International Longshoremen's Association is at odds with the United States Maritime Alliance over pay and automation.

The union wants more money and doesn't want to lose jobs to automation.

Biden said collective bargaining was the best way forward.

"I have urged USMX, which represents a group of foreign-owned carriers, to come to the table and present a fair offer to the workers of the International Longshoremen's Association that ensures they are paid appropriately in line with their invaluable contributions," the president said in a statement. "Ocean carriers have made record profits since the pandemic and in some cases profits grew in excess of 800% compared to their profits prior to the pandemic."

Biden has said he won't use powers under the Taft-Hartley Act to intervene in the labor dispute.

"As our nation climbs out of the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, dockworkers will play an essential role in getting communities the resources they need. Now is not the time for ocean carriers to refuse to negotiate a fair wage for these essential workers while raking in record profits," he said. "My Administration will be monitoring for any price gouging activity that benefits foreign ocean carriers, including those on the USMX board."

Formally known as the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, the law empowers the president to intervene in labor disputes that could cause a national emergency.

International Longshoremen's Association President Harold J. Daggett said members want bigger paychecks.

"We are now demanding \$5 an hour increase in wages for each of the six years of a new ILA-USMX Master Contract," Daggett said Tuesday. "Plus, we want absolute airtight language that there will be no automation or semi-automation, and we are demanding all Container Royalty monies go to the ILA."

Business groups have warned the strike could pose economic risks for the nation with a strike at ports from Maine to Texas. They have also called for Biden to intervene.

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Brett Rowland | The Center Square, 'Biden calls for return to bargaining table as port strike disruptions loom', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF530F05E99878>>

Election Board and state legislature poised to ensure voting continues

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Elyse Apel | The Center Square | Section: State | 585 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

(The Center Square) – With five weeks left until Election Day, the North Carolina State Board of Elections and staff are poised to ensure that voting continues and voters are assisted as needed, even in the midst of unprecedented damage from Hurricane Helene.

"This storm is like nothing we've seen in our lifetime in North Carolina," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the board.

The counties in western North Carolina were particularly hard hit, but Bell said the board will do everything in its power so voting continues.

"Mountain people are strong and the election people who serve them are tough and resilient too," she said. "We've battled through hurricanes and tropical storms and still held safe and secure elections."

On Monday, the board voted unanimously to allow counties affected by the disaster to delay absentee voting board meetings, which were supposed to start Tuesday.

In a press conference Tuesday morning, Bell said the meeting was likely the first of many.

"This will be an ongoing process," she said.

As of Tuesday morning, 12 election offices remain closed. The priority of the board is to ensure the safety of election and poll voters and that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to, Bell said.

Across the state, nearly 250,000 absentee ballots have already been requested. The board is working with the U.S. Postal Service to make sure mail-in ballots are secure and will stay in communication with the agency to see if there are other steps that are necessary to ensure the mail-in voting process continues.

For those voters who are displaced, the board advises that absentee ballots can be redelivered to a new location, if necessary.

Bell said that special emergency kits will be deployed to election offices that are having internet and cell service issues, which are in four or five counties. The state election board has 10 of the kits available.

Not only is the board partnering with the postal service, but it is also working with emergency management and federal authorities to determine what counties are most at risk and in need of assistance.

Bell said she hopes voters will continue to have confidence in the security of the election, even with the disruptions.

"I hope this helps them have more faith in the results and what we do," Bell said. "We might have to do it a little differently," but she is confident that the results will be accurate.

In initial reports, all county election offices are believed to be intact, Bell said. The board has also confirmed that essential voting materials like ballots and voting machines are secure.

They are not as sure about polling centers, but Bell said they are poised to look into alternatives, including temporary polling centers, if necessary.

Though the situation remains fluid, Bell says the board has processes in place ready to address any and all needs of counties.

"We feel it doesn't matter if it's this type of storm ... there are many things that can be disruptive, but we still figure out how to proceed," she said.

Voter registration will continue as normal, as the main objective for the state board is to get county boards of elections up and running.

She encourages voters to use local media, radio stations, and ncsbe.gov to keep up with the latest voting information.

While the election is coming up, Bell assures voters that the board and the state Legislature will continue to monitor the situation and what steps are necessary over the next few weeks.

"We do have some time still," Bell said.

Early in-person voting is scheduled to begin in 17 days.

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Elyse Apel | The Center Square, 'Election Board and state legislature poised to ensure voting continues', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF530F62D85D48>>

With 130 dead from Hurricane Helene, Biden defends US government response

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)
Author: John Falchetto | Section: National | 747 Words
[OpenURL Link](#)

The death toll from a devastating storm that battered the southeastern United States climbed to at least 130 on Monday, as the disaster became a hot topic in an already bitter election campaign, with the White House angrily refuting claims it had been slow to respond.

With hundreds still unaccounted for across several southeastern US states and the death toll climbing, President Joe Biden announced he would travel to storm-ravaged North Carolina Wednesday to monitor rescue efforts.

Biden also accused former president Donald Trump of spreading lies, after the Republican presidential candidate charged, without evidence, that the federal government was ignoring the disaster brought on by Hurricane Helene and denying help to his supporters.

"He's lying," Biden told reporters in the Oval Office, adding that he had spoken to North Carolina governor Ray Cooper "and he told him he's lying. I don't know why he does it... that's simply not true, and it's irresponsible."

Later on CNN, Cooper, a Democrat, said when asked about Trump's accusations of Republican victims being ignored: "It makes no difference who you are. If you need help, we are going to provide it."

"And if there is ever a time where we all need to come together and put politics aside, it is now."

At least 130 people were killed by the storm and associated flooding -- 57 in North Carolina, 29 in South Carolina, 25 in Georgia, 14 in Florida, four in Tennessee and one in Virginia, according to tallies from local authorities and media reports compiled by AFP.

Emergency workers continued a grim search for hundreds of people still unaccounted for across the affected states, where torrential rains brought widespread havoc.

They also worked to restore water and power supply to the affected areas as well as cell phone service, remove fallen trees, deliver supplies and register people for disaster assistance.

- Biden accused of 'sleeping' -

With Biden preparing to head to North Carolina, Trump on Monday visited Georgia, another epicenter of the destruction -- and both are among the key swing states where the US election will be decided in just five weeks' time.

In the city of Valdosta, Trump vowed to "bring lots of relief material, including fuel, equipment, water, and other things" to those in need.

"The federal government is not being responsive," he told reporters. "The vice president, she's out someplace, campaigning, looking for money," he said, referring to his election rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We're not talking about politics now," he said later, wearing a bright red "Make America Great Again" hat while standing in the rubble of a furniture store.

Harris canceled campaign events to return to Washington Monday for a briefing on the federal response.

"Over the past few days, our nation has endured some of the worst destruction and devastation that we have seen in quite some time," Harris said afterwards.

"And we have responded with our best, with the best folks who are on the ground and here doing the kind of work that is about rising to a moment of crisis."

Responding to Trump's criticism that he was "sleeping" instead of dealing with the storm damage, Biden defended his decision to spend the weekend at his home in Delaware, saying he was working "the whole time."

When a major natural disaster hits the United States, the federal government responds at the request of states. A president's role is usually to oversee and coordinate aid, including funding.

Scientists say climate change likely plays a role in the rapid intensification of hurricanes, because there is more energy in warmer oceans for them to feed on, and Biden stressed as much Monday.

"Absolutely, positively, unequivocally, yes, yes, yes, yes," Biden told reporters in the Oval Office when asked if climate change was to blame for the trail of destruction left by the storm.

- Drowned in their homes -

The sheriff's office in Pinellas County, Florida published a grim litany of the nine people left dead there so far, almost all of whom were found in their homes.

Nearly all appeared to have drowned, it said, while the others were buried under debris.

In Georgia, residents faced power cuts, supply shortages, blocked roads and broken communication lines in often mountainous terrain, with Governor Brian Kemp describing the storm as a "250-mile wide tornado."

More than 1.6 million households and businesses remained without power on Monday, according to tracker poweroutage.us.

Cooper, the North Carolina governor, said Monday that hundreds of roads had been destroyed and many communities were "wiped off the map."

"This is an unprecedented storm," he told reporters. "The emotional and physical toll here is indescribable."

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Trump and Harris campaigns seek to turn crises to their advantage

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Camille CAMDESSUS and Aurelia END | Section: National | 598 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

A series of domestic and international crises a month before the US presidential election have shaken up an already fiery campaign, as the rival camps scramble to contain or exploit them to their advantage.

Soaring tensions in the Middle East; a deadly hurricane on US soil; and a historic strike by American dockworkers: Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump have plenty to get their teeth into.

"Today, big news comes hurtling at us like a meteor shower. Naturally, a presidential election is affected profoundly," Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia, told AFP.

With Iran firing around 180 missiles at Israel, Trump on Tuesday placed the blame for a rapidly escalating conflict wholly at the feet of Harris and Democratic US President Joe Biden.

"You wouldn't trust Joe or Kamala to run a lemonade stand, let alone lead the free world," said the former president, who promised to deliver "peace in the world" if he is reelected in November.

Sabato said that Trump's vow to solve the crisis was "simple as always."

"He can fix anything, often in a single day! He has a magic wand, you know," he said.

"Meanwhile the incumbent party has to deal with reality. Intractable problems cannot be solved quickly and cleanly."

- 'Unwavering' -

Harris and Biden strived to show they were working together on the tensions in the Middle East, in the hopes of elevating the 59-year-old Democratic nominee's leadership credentials.

The White House on Tuesday published a photograph of the pair in the Situation Room -- reserved for sensitive military operations -- and noted that both had followed, in real-time, Iran's missile attacks on Israel.

Harris later pledged "unwavering" support for key US ally Israel's security.

The United States has also faced two crises at home, starting with the devastating passage of Hurricane Helene, which killed at least 155 people.

The storm caused massive destruction and may have a political impact as well, with two of the worst-hit states, Georgia and North Carolina, among the seven critical swing states likely to decide the US election result.

Trump on Monday visited an affected community in Georgia where he criticized the federal government's response.

"We're not talking about politics now," Trump said, even as he wore his presidential campaign's emblematic "Make America Great Again" red cap while speaking to reporters at the disaster site.

A visibly annoyed Biden, who will visit North Carolina on Wednesday, accused the Republican of "lying" about his administration's response to the hurricane.

Asked by a reporter if he regretted spending the weekend at his beachside home in Delaware, the president snapped: "Come on, stop that game, will you? Why I was in Delaware -- it's 90 miles from here, okay? And I was on the phone the whole time working on that."

Harris will visit a community in Georgia hit by Helene on Wednesday.

- Dockworkers strike -

The White House says Harris has been paying close attention to another crisis -- a mass strike by some 45,000 US dockworkers that started Tuesday, impacting 36 ports nationwide.

The walkout presents a dire risk for the Democrat as it could create a drag on the world's largest economy just weeks ahead of voters going to the polls, allowing Trump to exploit what is already a weak area for Harris.

Inflation and the cost of living are among the biggest worries for US voters who, according to polls, trust Trump more than Harris to handle the issues.

"Americans who thrived under President Trump can't even get by because of Kamala Harris -- this strike is a direct result of her actions," Trump said on Tuesday, as he sought to turn the crisis to his advantage.

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US VP rivals to clash in 'high drama' debate

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Angela Weiss, with Danny Kemp in Washington | Section: National | 668 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

US vice presidential contenders J.D. Vance and Tim Walz face off in what could be an unusually important undercard debate Tuesday as they compete for decisive votes in America's heartland just weeks before the election.

The showdown between Walz, the Democratic Minnesota governor chosen by Kamala Harris, and Vance, the Republican senator from Ohio who is Donald Trump's running mate, is likely to be the last of the 2024 campaign.

Trump has refused a second debate with Harris, meaning this could be the final chance to see the two tickets go head to head.

Vance, 40, and Walz, 60, each claim to be the true voice of the crucial Midwestern swing states -- including Michigan and Wisconsin -- that could decide an election that remains on a knife-edge with five weeks to go.

History suggests vice presidential debates rarely move the dial much. But in an election campaign that has seen Harris step in for US President Joe Biden unprecedentedly late in the game, Tuesday's contest may have added significance.

The race has seen Vance and Trump use increasingly divisive rhetoric and even falsely accuse immigrants of eating people's pets -- meaning that the debate is almost guaranteed to make for fiery television.

"It will whet a lot of people's appetites for November 5," Thomas Whalen, an associate professor of social sciences at Boston University, told AFP.

The CBS clash comes in the aftermath of Helene, an enormous storm which has brought misery to thousands, left at least 130 people dead across six states, and taxed the ability of federal and local authorities to respond.

Trump visited a hard-hit area in Georgia on Monday and claimed "the federal government is not being responsive."

Harris canceled campaign events, returned to Washington and met with emergency management teams to discuss the response. Her message to those affected: "Our nation is with you."

The devastation, and how to address such disasters, is likely to come up during the debate.

- 'High drama' -

Walz and Vance were each picked by their bosses to reach out to voters in the Midwestern battlegrounds where, thanks to the country's idiosyncratic electoral college system, a few thousand votes could determine who wins the White House race.

Both are military veterans with strong blue-collar credentials. Vance authored the Rust Belt memoir "Hillbilly Elegy" while Walz boasts a folksy persona as a former teacher and football coach.

The similarities end there.

The combative Vance shares Trump's penchant for courting controversy, whether by smearing Democrats as "childless cat ladies" or by boosting false claims that Haitians living in an Ohio town ate residents' pets.

His goal will be to overcome polls that initially had him as one of the least popular VP nominees in history, after a series of previous comments on women and abortion were unearthed.

"Vance has to be careful, because I think a trap has been laid for him," said Whalen.

Democrats also pulled off pre-debate hijinks Monday, projecting messages on Trump Tower, just six blocks from the debate locale at CBS Broadcast Center in New York, including a quote from Vance referring to Trump as "an idiot."

The cheery Walz will be seeking to introduce himself to a public that barely knows him, after Harris's swift rise to replace Biden as the Democratic nominee.

He became a hit with Democrats for branding Vance and Trump "weird" and for his progressive politics -- but that will be a target for Vance as he and Trump seek to paint Walz and Harris as "Marxists."

Vance "is going up against a moron, a total moron," Trump said in an interview Monday on Fox Nation.

Televised debates have already proved their ability to shock this year, with Biden forced to drop his reelection bid after a disastrous performance against Trump in June brought long-simmering concerns about his age to the fore.

Whalen said few vice presidential debates have "had any appreciable difference" in the past, but Tuesday's clash could produce "high drama" for viewers who love political theater.

The Vance-Walz debate could feature extra spice given that their microphones will be live throughout, allowing them to cut in on their rivals.

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Vance, Walz debate economy, immigration, abortion in tight presidential race

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 1129 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

(The Center Square) – U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance, R-Ohio, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz exchanged barbs on the debate stage Tuesday night in what may be the final debate before Election Day just five weeks away.

CBS News anchors Norah O'Donnell and Margaret Brennan hosted the 100+ minute debate of the vice presidential nominees, where the candidates grappled over the economy, immigration, abortion and the records of their respective running mates. Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris remain in a tight race according to polling nationally and in the swing states.

Throughout the debate, Walz repeatedly attacked Trump for many of his controversial comments and Vance emphasized that if Harris could solve the nation's many problems, she would have done it already since she is currently in the White House.

The debate began with a question about the Middle East. Iran launched a major missile attack on Israel earlier Tuesday, potentially leading to a full-scale war in the region.

Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism and has been backing proxy groups in the region that have been attacking Israel for months. Israel has been systematically destroying Iran-backed Hezbollah, one such group that has displaced tens of thousands of Israelis by firing on northern Israel.

Israel is also continuing its ongoing war against Hamas, the terrorist group that killed over a thousand Israelis in a brutal Oct. 7 attack on civilians.

"Israel's ability to defend itself is absolutely fundamental," Walz said before quickly pivoting to attacking Trump.

Vance answered the same question by introducing himself, pointing to his poor upbringing in the Midwest, his military service and his gratitude to the U.S. for helping someone from his humble beginnings.

Vance then pivoted to attacking the Biden-Harris administration for releasing billions of taxpayer dollars to Iran earlier in their term and pointing out the Oct. 7 attack happened on Harris' watch.

"Who has been the vice president for the past three and a half years?" Vance asked. "The answer is your running mate, not mine."

Vance continued by pointing out that Trump is the only president in the last 40 years to not have a major conflict break out during his term.

The candidates then turned to the deadly Hurricane Helene and climate change, where Vance called for building clean American energy and blasting Harris for pushing energy production overseas.

The Biden-Harris administration has hampered U.S. energy development, citing climate concerns while encouraging production overseas, Vance noted.

"If we actually care about clean air and clean water, the best thing to do is to double down on American workers and American energy," Vance said.

"We have a historic immigration crisis..." Vance said, pointing to 94 executive actions that have "opened the

floodgates" for fentanyl and illegal immigrants.

Vance said 25 million illegal immigrants competing for homes in America is one of the biggest drivers of rising housing costs. citing a Federal Reserve Bank study linking immigration to housing affordability.

Immigration consistently appears in polls as a top concern among voters. A CBS poll from last month showed the majority of Americans support mass deportations.

When asked specifically about deportation, Vance said the country should start by deporting criminal migrants and blasted Harris for the hundreds of thousands of child separations from the broken border where families have been separated.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reported last week that more than 660,000 criminal foreign nationals are living in the U.S., including those those convicted or charged with violent crimes such as homicide, sexual assault and kidnapping, The Center Square reported.

ICE's own inspector general issued a management alert In August that the agency can't account for hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors who crossed into the U.S. and whether they are "safe from trafficking, exploitation, or forced labor," The Center Square reported.

Walz repeated Harris' point from the previous presidential debate, saying Democrats supported a border bill earlier this year that Republicans would not pass. The measure failed in the Democrat-controlled Senate. Republicans expressed concerns that the bill would not actually close the border and that it expanded the powers of U.S. Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, whom the U.S. House impeached over the border crisis earlier this year.

At one point in the debate, one moderator contradicted Vance's point on Haitian migrants before trying to move on to another topic. Vance pushed back, saying they had agreed to no fact-checking in the debate and then explaining the new CBP One app enacted by the Biden-Harris administration that fast tracked Haitian migrants into the U.S. and which Republicans say is illegal.

On the economy, Walz attacked the Trump-era tax cuts, and Vance blasted Harris for 40-year high inflation, which led to prices rising more than 20% since she took the White House.

Walz pushed back, attacking Trump's "failure on COVID" and saying Trump doesn't trust economists or climate experts.

"Teachers, nurses, truck drivers or whatever, how is it fair that you are paying your taxes and year when Donald Trump hasn't in 15 years?" Walz asked.

Walz emphasized he is a "union guy" and agreed about the problems with the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Vance said many "experts" were wrong for years when they advocated for shipping jobs overseas, saying it has hurt the middle class and that Trump popularized bringing manufacturing back to the U.S.

"I was raised by a woman who would sometimes go into medical debt to put food on the table in our household," Vance said, making the point that he understands the financial struggles of Americans.

Walz was pressed on his previous lie about being in Hong Kong during the famous Tiananmen Square protests, something that has been fact-checked as false by previous media reports.

After first avoiding the question by spoking warmly of his upbringing in a small Nebraska town, when pressed, Walz called himself a "knucklehead" and admitted he "misspoke."

Vance was pressed about his previous hard criticisms about Trump. He said he was wrong in those criticisms and pointed to Trump's economic record.

Abortion remains a key issue in this election as well, something Democrats have tried to make a defining issue of this election since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, sending the abortion issue to the states.

Walz touted helping restore Roe v. Wade protections in Minnesota before attacking the abortion policies promoted in Project 2025, a conservative playbook that Trump has repeatedly disavowed.

"We trust women," Walz said. "We trust doctors."

Vance plainly said he would not endorse the Project 2025 pregnancy monitoring database.

"I want us as a Republican party to be pro-family in the fullest sense of the word," pointing specifically to supporting families in buying homes, childcare, and fertility treatments.

The debate continued with discussions about gun violence, healthcare, and paid family leave as well as Jan. 6, where Walz went after Trump's contesting of the 2020 election.

As of now, no more presidential or vice presidential debates are scheduled before Election Day.

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Razor-thin difference in battleground state facing catastrophe

October 1, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)

Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 971 Words

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(The Center Square) – In western North Carolina where a fatal flood of historic proportion has torn apart normal, the 2024 election will go on and a razor-thin difference is watched between Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump.

Asheville in Buncombe County is known for a liberal bent, many counties along the Blue Ridge Mountains are red, though it was less than two decades ago Democratic Congressman Heath Shuler carried the area.

Election Day is five weeks away. And the State Board of Elections, as has been done for hurricanes and other unplanned occurrences before, is forging ahead. So, too, will everyone else.

"It would be an ironic shame if the people who most need strong representation in the national and state legislatures play no part in selecting those representatives," Dallas Woodhouse, North Carolina executive director for American Majority-Action, wrote in an email to The Center Square.

Every effort will be made, the state board said Monday and again Tuesday at a morning presser.

"When disasters strike elections, we use this mantra: 'We do not stop an election; we figure out how to proceed,'" said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections.

History agrees. Four years ago, it was COVID-19. Primarily in the southeastern part of the state, the 2018 midterms were preceded by Hurricane Florence the first week of September and the 2016 presidential cycle overcame Hurricane Matthew's landfall on Oct. 8.

Laws, including for state elections, are set by the General Assembly. The state board and its executive director, however, do have emergency powers granted.

"We had emergency powers of the executive director during the pandemic," Andy Jackson, director of the Civitas Center for Public Integrity, told The Center Square in a telephone interview on Monday. "There was a lot of words back and forth on that.

"With emergency authorization under regulations for the executive director, one of the things you have to consider is how much time does the General Assembly have to act? I'd imagine the General Assembly, after evaluation of what is going on and what is needed, they can go ahead and pass a bill like they did for Florence in '18. If deadlines come before, the executive director will have authority."

The Center Square was unsuccessful getting comment from Anderson Clayton, chairwoman of the North Carolina Democratic Party. The party issued a statement of concern for the area, and added, "We take care of our neighbors. We will grieve and rebuild."

Matt Mercer, spokesman for the state Republican Party, said, "We want the focus for the next few days to be on relief efforts."

Invariably, debate is coming on how the challenges to even cast votes will impact races. Neither presidential candidate is exceeding the margin of error in polling, making North Carolina a toss-up. Many downballot statewide races have polled close, too.

For context, Trump won the state four years ago by 1.3% (74,483 votes) and eight years ago by 3.6% (173,315 votes). That's fewer than the 372,000-plus customers out of power at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning.

The state, with winner-take-all 16 electoral college votes, is up to more than 7.6 million registered voters. A 75% turnout rate, as was the case in 2020, would produce more than 5.7 million voters and mean a 4% difference is fewer than 230,000 votes.

"The mountain area of North Carolina is very heavily Republican in most elections," said Dr. Tom Eamon, associate professor of political science at East Carolina University, wrote in an email to The Center Square. "Exceptions are the city of Asheville and Boone. Too early to predict overall impact."

Dr. Steven Greene, political science professor at N.C. State, agreed.

"Furthermore, on a partisan basis, yes Asheville is a liberal hub, but a liberal hub within a sea of red," he wrote in an email to The Center Square. "The 11th Congressional District, in which Asheville sits, is reliably Republican and has been affected throughout by flooding, which suggests that if there is any partisan impact it is more likely to affect Republicans."

If anything, the region since the turn of the century may well illustrate why the state is called purple – the mix of red Republican and blue Democrat.

"There were counties still voting Democratic in the 20-oughts," Jackson said. "Heath Shuler won it. In the '90s and 20-oughts, the 11th District was back and forth. There are some residual Democrats. It's generally Republican-leaning."

"If raw numbers, if both sides are equally motivated, it would be a net loss for Republicans statewide. Considering how close the races are looking, that could be the difference."

Prognosticators nationwide have seven consensus battleground states. And from them, few if any are acknowledging a pathway to 270 electoral college votes without at least one if not both of North Carolina and Pennsylvania (19 votes).

Seventeen days before early in-person voting is to start, Tuesday morning's 10 a.m. road closure report had 401 statewide because of Helene. The recovery work is paramount and mourning the lives lost is first.

As Bell said, the election will come and go on schedule.

"As our neighbors, friends and family in western North Carolina, deal with horrific losses of life, property, income and security, it's important that we make sure these citizens don't lose their voice in the political process," Woodhouse said. "We at American Majority-Action are already having conversations with people across the political spectrum on how to guarantee citizens the ability to vote in the flood disaster areas. We don't know exactly what that looks like, but it will be a monumental effort."

"As far as what side may or may not benefit from the changes in the electorate, we don't know, and we don't care. We are all citizens, neighbors and friends. This is so beyond partisan politics. One area American Majority Action will focus on is making sure displaced residents know how and where they can vote once those arrangements are made."

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