

With Adam Thielen out, here's who the Carolina Panthers will turn to at receiver

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Jonathan Mingo hasn't been on social media since his college days in an effort to find clarity under the brightest spotlight — to find tranquility despite all the football noise.

So when you tell him that the fantasy football world has taken notice of his potential for a breakout performance in Week 4, his response is what you'd expect:

"Nah," he said with a smile Thursday.

"I don't do that type of stuff," added Mingo, who is projected to score 10 fantasy points this week. "I just try to do my job every day."

The Panthers will need him to do his job at 1 p.m. Sunday when they host the Cincinnati Bengals in Bank of America Stadium — perhaps even more so than in previous weeks.

The second-year wide receiver might hear his name called Sunday a bit more than usual. A lot of that has to do with the hamstring injury suffered by Adam Thielen, the team's No. 2 wide receiver who will now miss at least the next four games on injured reserve.

But a lot of that, too, has to do with how Mingo played Sunday. In the Panthers' 36-22 win over the Raiders — one in which Andy Dalton put on a vintage, 300-plus yard, three-TD performance — Mingo lived up to his role. He notched 49 snaps (66% of all offensive plays), which is a season high. He also caught three of his four targets for 18 yards and took an end-around rush that looked promising before the Raiders defense made a nice play to hold it to 2 yards. (That's the second time in three games they've called an end-around rush for Mingo.)

His biggest play of the day came when he caught a pass in the flat behind the line of scrimmage and then took it for 15 yards with his team backed up deep in its own territory.

How that play came together even more so speaks to Mingo's expected elevated role in the offense.

"We had something else called (out of the huddle)," Mingo told The Charlotte Observer of that 15-yard catch. "Andy checked to a Cover 0 answer. So it was a good check by him, saw he was getting (blitzed). Had a good block on the outside and tried to take advantage of running the ball in space. It's something that I've been trying to prove to people that I can do."

PANTHERS_PRACTICE_06.jpgCarolina Panthers wide receiver Jonathan Mingo secures the ball on a pass reception during practice on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

So ... who will replace Adam Thielen in the offense?

It's true that replacing Thielen won't be easy. The 34-year-old is the second-leading receiver on the team and notched three catches for 40 yards and a touchdown in one half Sunday before going down with an injury that'll have him sidelined for a while.

Ask offensive coordinator Brad Idzik, though, and the plan to make up for Thielen's absence is pretty simple. It's

designed that way.

"They both did a phenomenal job stepping in," Idzik said of Mingo and rookie Xavier Legette. "And again, it's just a testament to them owning the full game plan. The thing that we value in this offense is guys not just memorizing one spot, whether it's a heavy tackle coming in and playing tight end for us in the run game or the pass game, or it's a receiver who's typically the Z having to come in and spell us at F or X."

Ideally the plan for the Panthers is to look for Diontae Johnson, who hauled in a career-high 122 yards Sunday, on every passing play. After that, there's Mingo and Legette; the duo will almost certainly round out most three-receiver sets. Legette, like Mingo, also saw some more attention in Thielen's absence. The first-round pick played 44 snaps - 49% — and caught two of three targets for 42 yards, which included a 35-yard catch that was mostly thanks to his speed after the catch.

Thielen2.jpgCarolina Panthers wide receivers Adam Thielen (19) and Diontae Johnson (5).

And then behind them is Jalen Coker, a once-coveted undrafted free agent and practice squad promotion this week who flashed in the preseason enough to make the team's initial 53-man roster.

Coker said Thielen — one of the most successful undrafted free agents in league history himself — has been a great leader to all the rookies, and that has only helped prepare Coker for Sunday.

"He's always going to take you under his wing and try to guide you through this process, which is awesome," Coker told The Charlotte Observer on Wednesday. "Especially because we do have similar backgrounds. So it's really kind of an amazing opportunity for me and experience for me, where I get to learn from probably one of the best guys to ever do it."

CLT_panthersota1_02Carolina Panthers Jalen Coker runs at practice in Charlotte, N.C., on Monday, May 20, 2024.

Shaq Thompson wanted to play in the preseason

The question of whether the Panthers should have played their starters in the preseason was a storyline for a bulk of training camp. Head coach Dave Canales ultimately chose to not play most of his starters outside of one series in the final preseason game — an approach other teams across the NFL took.

After the Panthers' slow start, that decision lingered under scrutiny. And on Thursday, veteran linebacker Shaq Thompson shared that he wished his defense had played in the preseason.

"That's just my opinion, I'm not the head coach or the GM who calls that shot. But I like playing in the preseason," Thompson said. "Getting all the jitters and all that stuff out. ... But you know what? It is what it is. We got a win last week, and we're 0-0 this week, and we're trying to get a win this week."

He added: "Helps with everything. Communication, tackling, going out with your guys, playing football. It helps with everything."

USATSI_24303683.jpgLas Vegas Raiders quarterback Aidan O'Connell (12) makes a touchdown pass under pressure from Carolina Panthers linebacker Shaq Thompson (54) and Carolina Panthers defensive end A'Shawn Robinson (94) during the fourth quarter at Allegiant Stadium.

Quick hits

« With rain from Hurricane Helene whisking into Charlotte — and with the Panthers currently without an indoor facility in their practice space — the team practiced in soggy conditions Thursday. That is still optimal, according to Thompson, who said he prefers to play on grass over turf no matter the weather conditions. (Thompson has shared this view before.)

- « There's really only one big change on Thursday's injury report. And that involves arguably the Panthers' most explosive player. Diontae Johnson didn't practice Thursday because of a groin injury; he told reporters that the decision was primarily because of the field conditions and that he'll be good to play Sunday. Those who showed up as "Did Not Participate" on Thursday's injury report: Lonnie Johnson (hip), Damien Lewis (elbow), Shy Tuttle (foot), Taylor Moton (rest) and Johnson (groin). Those who showed up as limited: A'Shawn Robinson (knee) and Nick Scott (quadriceps).
- « Something fun for Panthers fans to look forward to: At halftime of Sunday's game against the Bengals, Julius Peppers will receive his Pro Football Hall of Fame Ring of Excellence, according to a release from the Hall. The legendary defensive end was inducted into the Hall this summer.

Mike Kaye contributed to this report.

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'A cutthroat business': Charlotte music fest is up against competitors, stigmas and storms

September 26, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Théoden Janes, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5_things_to_do | 1794 Words OpenURL Link

No, it's not Lollapalooza, or Austin City Limits, or Newport Jazz.

But people who get paid to know what they're talking about will tell you this: The Carolina edition of Breakaway Music Festival — the two-day, two-stage outdoor extravaganza of EDM, house and pop music set for zMAX Dragway at Charlotte Motor Speedway this weekend — deserves to be mentioned in the same breath.

For the past two years, The Hollywood Reporter has carved out space on its list of "The Best Music Festivals" of the year for Breakaway, a growing festival series with stops in several other cities. This will be Year 4 in Charlotte (or Concord, to be more specific).

And yet despite organizers' hopes that 12,000 fans will come through the gates each day, it's still a niche event serving a niche crowd.

If you're younger than 30, there's a better chance you're familiar with Breakaway. If you're older than 40, those chances drop off precipitously. Such is the nature of EDM, a genre of music driven not by singers, songwriters or traditional musicians, but rather by DJs and music producers using computers to create pulsating tracks that make (predominantly) younger adults wanna dance.

On the eve of Breakaway Carolina, we spoke with Jarrod Fucci — the 33-year-old Charlotte resident who took over as Breakaway Music Festival president just over a year ago — about the joys and challenges of the event.

J.Fucci-4390-2.jpgJarrod Fucci, 33, previously led a marketing agency in the Charlotte area before taking the leadership position with Breakaway.

Based on the conversation, here are five key takeaways about Breakaway, from the lineup and the location to stigmas and storms.

1. As EDM talent goes, Breakaway's is A-list

Fucci characterized the names on the bill as "Super Bowl" level, and if you know your EDM, you know he's right.

Saturday night's headliners — Fisher, Knock2 and Loud Luxury — are perhaps less-known among more-mainstream music fans. But Friday night in particular features some of the genre's heaviest hitters. Over the past decade-plus, Friday-night headliner Alesso has made hits with Tove Lo, Hailee Steinfeld, Florida Georgia Line and Katy Perry, while his co-headliner for the evening — Marshmello — has attained superstar status thanks to collaborations with Selena Gomez, Chris Brown, Halsey, Demi Lovato and the Jonas Brothers.

"Dance music is nothing new," Fucci said, "but the explosiveness of dance music over the last decade has been really special."

He continued: "If you ask someone who maybe is in their mid-, late 40s, they say, 'Well, dance music is an underground thing. It's just a lot of noise,' or, 'It's someone up there just pressing buttons up on the stage.' (But) dance music is such a special art of being able to create music and being able to bring in so many other genres. When I think about dance music's place in music culture right now, I look at dance music as the core, and the

epicenter, of all of these other genres of music. Marshmello, he just released a song recently with Kane Brown.

6-R5DS4003-Enhanced-NR.jpgMarshmello will headline Friday night's bill at the festival.

"So we're starting to bridge this gap. You have artists like Post Malone who are kind of veering all over the place, in and out of music. And dance music has this really unique ability to adapt and collaborate with other genres. You see a lot of dance music participating in country, in pop, in hip-hop — and so we'll continue, I think, to see the trends grow.

"The underground dance scene," Fucci said, "is not so underground anymore."

In addition to Alesso and Marshmello, British EDM duo Chase & Status will be on evening duty Friday. An additional 17 artists — including a handful of local and regional acts — will perform during the daylight hours each day. A complete rundown of the two stages' set times for the weekend is here.

2. Charlotte has been a great home for the festival

The Breakaway series was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in 2013 and has since expanded to include shows in cities like Bonner Springs, Kan.; St. Paul, Minn.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Worcester, Mass.

This past May, a second Breakaway-branded festival — the bass-centric "Another World" spinoff — was launched.

Asked why the company has zeroed in on the Queen City, Fucci explained: "Charlotte is really densely populated with young people who are right in our demographic. We are an all-ages event. We welcome families of all ages. But our core demo is really those juniors and seniors in college, then post-grads; and what we see especially with our model — and I think why we have such a strong place here in Charlotte — is you've got all these really great collegiate institutions all around: Columbia, South Carolina, all the way up to Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, that area, and UNC Charlotte.

"And we find that students will fall in love with Breakaway. Then we see these individuals continue to stay in Charlotte, (plus) a lot of people coming from Columbia or Chapel Hill into Charlotte to work, maybe start their careers, get into a little bit more of a city-centric environment for themselves and then just continuing to come to our festivals, because now they're closer to them than they were before. That 21- to 25-, 26-year-old (demo) is really where we see the lion's share of attendance."

He also said EDM-friendly venues like The Fillmore, The Music Yard and Blackbox are helping to promote "the dance music scene continuing to grow in this market."

More generally, Fucci said, "What's really unique about Breakaway is we really pride ourselves on bringing global names in dance and pop music to places and towns and cities where people live, work and play every day, as opposed to expecting people to fly to our events as a destination.

BREAKAWAY2023_0929_183849-1205_GP.jpgThe popularity of the Breakaway Music Festival series has exploded over the past 11 years, since launching in Columbus, Ohio.

"The type of lineups that we pull together are the same lineups that you would go see at an Ultra (Music Festival) in Miami, or maybe EDC, another large electronic festival. But we're bringing that to (smaller) markets and we'll continue to expand our program into more markets next year, adding some really, really cool cities that we're excited to announce in just a few weeks."

3. What they've built hasn't been built easily

It's not just that the 2020 festival here was canceled due to Covid, or that the 2022 festival was pushed to the spring of 2023 due to a hurricane. It's pretty much a constant struggle — but it's one Breakaway seems to be

winning.

"You've got independents (like us)," Fucci said, "and then your larger festival series that are typically promoted and managed by companies like Live Nation, AEG — great, great companies. They have their space, we have ours. (But) it is becoming harder and harder for independent festivals to exist and compete with (them)."

On top of that, Breakaway's "Another World" festival in May had unexpected competition from the inaugural Lovin' Life Music Fest.

Fucci said he was "excited that we have another property here in this market. A lot of people — friends, colleagues, whatever — were like, 'Wow, you guys have competition. What are you gonna do?' (In my opinion) it's great. I think that there (are) enough people who live in this market that this market can tolerate multiple events."

At the same time, he added: "At large, festivals, it is a pretty cutthroat business."

4. 'Safety is paramount for us'

Fucci emphasized wanting to create a safe environment for festivalgoers several times over the course of his 40-minute conversation with The Charlotte Observer.

SpaceDeckConfetti.JPGBreakaway Music Festival revelers enjoy one of the recent events on the circuit.

And when we asked him about the stigmatization of EDM concerts — which some people associate with raves, which some people associate with heavy recreational drug use — he didn't flinch.

Yes, Fucci admitted: "Dance music in general has this stigma of being this seedy underground rave, where maybe the perception is that they're overconsuming, or they're participating in recreational drug use or whatever it may be. Is that happening at our events? It is impossible for us to say no, right? I mean, the same thing happens every night at 50 different locations in South End. We just happen to aggregate 12,000 people at the same time. So of course. People do sometimes maybe have a little bit too much fun at our events.

"What I can say is a few things. One, I will continue to reiterate it for everyone that we talk to is: Safety is paramount for us. All of our teams are trained to see what overconsumption looks like, and so it's our role in being the operator of our events to make sure that our teams know how to respond to maybe someone who's having a little bit too much fun. Or if they maybe try and come have an extra drink, we would say, 'Hey, maybe we skip this one and you should just enjoy the show for a little bit.' Or, 'Hey, do you need to take a beat?' We've got an amazing medical services team. We are not out to get people. We are absolutely here to keep people safe."

He also said Breakaway has partnered with the nonprofit End Overdose, which has a "mission of preventing and responding to overdoses." That means several people on site will have been trained to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone.

"We have a real responsibility for people's safety," Fucci said, "and we watch really, really closely."

5. As for the weather, it'll be what it'll be

There won't be a repeat of 2022, when Hurricane Ian chased Breakaway away from the fall.

Saturday's forecast, as of Wednesday, looked terrific. But Tropical Storm Helene could bring rain and flooding during the day on Friday ...

In any event, Fucci said, "we are a rain-or-shine event. Of course, we have policies and procedures in place to make sure that if there is lightning in the area, that we don't conduct the event, that we will temporarily pause, delay our doors. We are always evaluating that. We have a team of meteorologists that we work with that are always

watching over us. They're always texting, calling, sending me screenshots. They all sit at home and watch our events from afar."

And in the end, he said, "I can't change the weather." Whatever it is, "I accept it — and we keep it moving."

3V5A3224.jpgJarrod Fucci calls the Carolina festival "one of our marquee tentpole festivals of the year."

Breakaway Music Festival (Carolina)

When: Friday and Saturday. The first artists take the stages at 4 p.m.

Where: zMAX Dragway at Charlotte Motor Speedway, 6570 Bruton Smith Blvd., Concord.

Tickets: \$104 and up for single-day general-admission, and \$189 and up for both days. Parking is an additional \$25-\$35.

Details: breakawayfestival.com/carolina.

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Helene in Atlanta could be what Hugo was to Charlotte

September 26, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 396 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Atlanta is forecast to take the worst storm beating of a major inland city in the South since the first Bush administration.

Hurricane Helene's expanse is forecast to only fall short of Opal (1995), Wilma (2005) and Irma (2017) from the Gulf since Hugo devastated Charlotte in 1989. The storm, likely making landfall Thursday evening in the Big Bend of Florida, is forecast to be a tropical storm when it centers over or near Georgia's capital city.

At 2 p.m. Eastern on Thursday, Helene has maximum sustained winds of 110 mph, minimum pressure of 959 millibars, and was moving north-northeast at 16 mph. Its center is about 195 miles southwest of Tampa, about 230 miles south of Apalachicola, Fla.

Impact on the eye's route through Georgia could span more than 100 counties in diameter.

Hugo came ashore Sept. 22, 1989, near Sullivan's Island, S.C., just north of Charleston as a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 135-140 mph. It blew through the Upstate region, pushing sustained winds to 70 mph in Charlotte. About 85% of the city was left in the dark, and much was inaccessible.

On the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale – a measurement of wind speed, and criticized for the shortcoming of dangerous storm surge not being reflected – the Category 1 range is sustained wind speed of 74-95 mph.

Many forecasters are putting Charlotte's Hugo in the same conversations with Atlanta and Helene. All totaled, Hugo killed 67 and caused an estimated \$11 billion in damages – about \$27 billion in today's dollars.

Southern Appalachian mountain communities are bracing for troubling conditions in Georgia and the Carolinas. The French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, each of which runs near Asheville, are expected to break century-old records this weekend. Mudslides are possible.

While the storm is expected to turn more westerly as it makes its way out of the South, North Carolinians remember well not only Hugo but Floyd 25 years ago that produced a once-in-500 years flood. Big part of that catastrophe was Hurricane Dennis inundating eastern North Carolina just weeks earlier.

Floyd was a Category 2 storm landing at Cape Fear near Wilmington on Sept. 16, 1999. In most communities east of Interstate 95, the projection was a five-year recovery period; many lasted longer.

Nine storms have been named in the Atlantic hurricane season that began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30. Isaac was the most recent.

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'I need to go': Floridians make final preparations for Hurricane Helene

September 26, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Gerard MARTINEZ| Section: National | 387 Words OpenURL Link

Across the northern Florida coast, most small towns were deserted on Thursday, with stores closed and windows boarded up to protect against the high winds and potentially devastating storm surge of Hurricane Helene.

The storm was hours away from hitting the US state's "Big Bend" region, with the area from the Florida capital Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico coast at particular risk, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC).

While many heeded evacuation orders, some, like Lance Palmer, were still making final preparations.

In the early afternoon, the actor and musician filled up his Jeep and prepared to leave his home in the town of Panacea, on the edge of the ocean.

"I was kind of checking conditions and trying to make a call if I should leave or not," he said.

"What happened this morning was that flood waters were already half way up to my house," he added. "So I thought: 'Man, I need to go.'"

Nearby, at the same gas station, John Luper has a problem: he wants to move to higher ground, but his mother and brother refuse to listen.

"They're not going to leave," he said, filling jerry cans with fuel. "I'm stuck with them."

The area where the Lupers live, near Appalachian Bay, could experience storm surges of up to 20 feet (six meters) high, authorities have warned.

- Emergency shelters -

Further north, in Tallahassee, the Red Cross was working against the clock to shelter those who have nowhere to go during the storm.

In one of its makeshift shelters, on a school basketball court, the organization was distributing food to the dozens of people who have come, including adults, children and the elderly.

Some set up pillows and cushions on the floor to try to spend the next few hours as comfortably as possible.

Greg Farnsley preferred to spend his time outside, smoking a cigarette while sitting on a bench -- before the hurricane makes it impossible to venture out.

He and his wife had planned to hunker down in their motor home, just a few miles inland, but the intensity of the storm scared them off.

"I am glad I am here and not home," said the 66-year-old. "It's way safer than staying at home."

"I only hope that come tomorrow afternoon the roads back home will be clear and my home will still be there the same way I left it."

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

September 26, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Emilie BICKERTON| Section: National | 538 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 from typhoon Yagi 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 swaths 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/np/gv

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Governor Cooper warns of danger as catastrophic Hurricane Helene impacts North Carolina

September 26, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: The Herald Staff Reports | Section: Local | 482 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper and state leaders urged North Carolinians today to prepare for life-threatening flooding as well as high winds, tornadoes and heavy rain as Hurricane Helene passes through the state.

According to a press release from the governor's office, Helene is expected to bring tropical storm force winds, damaging debris flows and river flooding through Saturday. The heaviest rainfall is expected across the North Carolina mountains and foothills, with total rainfall amounts of 9-14 inches with some areas receiving up to 20 inches of rainfall. With the increased rainfall, widespread power outages and life-threatening landslides across the mountains are also increasing concerns. Helene has the potential to cause historical and catastrophic impacts to North Carolina.

Although primary storm impacts are forecast to be concentrated in the mountains and foothills as well as the Charlotte region, impacts will likely be felt across the state. Residents in central and eastern North Carolina should prepare for heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms and possible tornadoes.

"Helene is an unusually dangerous storm that threatens to bring heavy rain and potentially catastrophic flooding tonight and tomorrow for Central and particularly Western North Carolina," Gov. Roy Cooper said in the release. "Make a plan now to stay with friends or family if you are in an area that could likely be flooded and stay informed to protect yourselves and your family."

Gov. Cooper declared a State of Emergency on Wednesday to mobilize critical state resources ahead of anticipated storm impacts. The President granted Governor Cooper's request for a Federal Emergency Declaration, allowing more resources to the state. The State Emergency Response Team has deployed equipment, personnel and resources to support impacted communities, including North Carolina Swift Water Rescue Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams, as well as more than 200 North Carolina National Guardsmen.

North Carolina residents are advised to stay aware and keep a watch on local forecasts. State officials advise these tips to make sure your household is personally prepared:

Have multiple ways to receive emergency information from reliable sources. Make sure emergency alerts are enabled on your mobile phone and monitor local new outlets and the National Weather Service.

Check to see if your local emergency management office offers emergency alert services for its residents. You can visit your county government website for more information.

Review your emergency plan. Know where to go if you need to evacuate, especially if you live in a flood-prone area.

Gather emergency supplies or refresh your emergency kit. Visit ReadyNC.gov for info on how to build an emergency kit.

Avoid unnecessary travel. If you do not need to drive, stay home. You can find information on road conditions and closings by visiting DriveNC.Gov.

Never drive through flooded roadways or around barricades. Turn around. Don't drown.

For more information on how to ensure you are disaster ready, visit ReadyNC.gov, which features traffic, power outage and shelter information.

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NC urged to prepare for significant travel, other impacts from Hurricane Helene

September 26, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: News | 636 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH – People are urged to prepare for Hurricane Helene as rains associated with Helene have already started impacting western North Carolina, even before the full force of the storm is forecast to arrive in western and central North Carolina.

As of 1 p.m. Thursday, heavy rains associated with Helene had resulted in 97 road closures in western North Carolina. Helene is not expected to make landfall in Florida until Thursday evening.

From Thursday night through Friday, Helene is expected to bring to North Carolina flash flooding, downed trees and landslides in higher elevations and isolated tornadoes. The storm's impacts could create treacherous travel conditions and power outages in the mountains and much of the Piedmont.

"Our agency is gearing up for a large storm," state Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins said. "But we want our citizens to take this storm seriously too by being ready, keeping a close eye on the weather and planning accordingly as Helene is expected to bring widespread impacts to North Carolina."

NCDOT is encouraging people to postpone unnecessary travel during the storm and use DriveNC.gov to check for real-time road conditions. Never drive through flooded roads and don't try to drive around barricades and road closure signs. It's against the law and those signs are in place to protect people.

People can also use ReadyNC.gov for emergency preparedness tips and tools.

Statewide, N.C. Department of Transportation crews are readying equipment, reviewing inventories and staff for possible road clearing efforts, shoulder repairs and possible crossline pipe replacements. More than 2,000 employees statewide are prepared to respond from the mountains to the coast with over 1,300 chainsaws, 180 graders, 350 backhoes and front-end loaders, and 1,300 dump trucks. NCDOT has been fueling up and testing equipment and vehicles before the storm's arrival. Agency crews also have thousands of road closure and highwater signs, and barricades ready to put in place on flooded, blocked or damaged roads and bridges.

NCDOT staff also drove the main highways looking for any weather-related problems that may need the agency's attention. They also checked known trouble spots, such as low-lying areas and roads without drainage systems, and made sure culverts and ditches were not clogged or overgrown with weeds, to help lessen any stormwater backup that may occur during the storm.

In some areas, crews have staged equipment so it can be available once cleanup and recovery begins. Generators have been checked and readied, and traffic services offices staged message boards. NCDOT staff have also made arrangements to shift personnel to areas of greatest need and have contractors on standby ready to respond to any storm-related tasks such as cutting and removing downed trees from roads.

The agency is using its flood warning system to prepare for and respond to the storm. The system includes about 600 gauges and has storm surge prediction capabilities that enable the agency to make informed decisions to protect the traveling public.

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is tracking the storm and will make any adjustments to services as needed. Already Thursday, a dozen driver license offices have suspended road skills testing for today due to inclement weather in the area. Driver license offices will remain open as conditions remain safe for customers and staff. Any appointments at those offices that may have to be canceled will be rescheduled at a time convenient for the

customer. Three western North Carolina license plate agencies, which are independently owned and operated, have closed due to the rain. Others may choose to adjust their operating schedules depending on the storm's impacts.

Crews with NCDOT's Ferry Division are preparing by testing emergency generators and emergency ramps at the terminals. Ferry passengers are urged to sign up for text or email notifications from the Ferry Information Notification System.

Right now, all NC By Train passenger trains remain in operation, but people should visit Amtrak.com for the latest schedules.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

For the Record, 'NC urged to prepare for significant travel, other impacts from Hurricane Helene', *Daily Record, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA9FF0AB67268



Governor warns of danger as catastrophic Hurricane Helene impacts NC

September 26, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: News | 454 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper and state leaders urged North Carolinians Thursday to prepare for life-threatening flooding as well as high winds, tornadoes and heavy rain as Hurricane Helene passes through the state.

Helene is expected to bring tropical storm force winds, damaging debris flows and river flooding through Saturday. The heaviest rainfall is expected across the North Carolina mountains and foothills, with total rainfall amounts of 9-14 inches with some areas receiving up to 20 inches of rainfall. With the increased rainfall, widespread power outages and life-threatening landslides across the mountains are also increasing concerns. Helene has the potential to cause historical and catastrophic impacts to North Carolina.

Although primary storm impacts are forecast to be concentrated in the mountains and foothills as well as the Charlotte region, impacts will likely be felt across the state. Residents in central and eastern North Carolina should prepare for heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms and possible tornadoes.

"Helene is an unusually dangerous storm that threatens to bring heavy rain and potentially catastrophic flooding tonight and tomorrow for Central and particularly Western North Carolina," said Cooper. "Make a plan now to stay with friends or family if you are in an area that could likely be flooded and stay informed to protect yourselves and your family."

Cooper declared a State of Emergency on Wednesday to mobilize critical state resources ahead of anticipated storm impacts. The president granted Cooper's request for a Federal Emergency Declaration, allowing more resources to the state. The State Emergency Response Team has deployed equipment, personnel and resources to support impacted communities, including North Carolina Swift Water Rescue Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams, as well as more than 200 North Carolina National Guardsmen.

North Carolina residents are advised to stay aware and keep a watch on local forecasts. State officials advise these tips to make sure your household is personally prepared:

Have multiple ways to receive emergency information from reliable sources. Make sure emergency alerts are enabled on your mobile phone and monitor local new outlets and the National Weather Service. Check to see if your local emergency management office offers emergency alert services for its residents. You can visit your county government website for more information. Review your emergency plan. Know where to go if you need to evacuate, especially if you live in a flood-prone area. Gather emergency supplies or refresh your emergency kit. Visit ReadyNC.gov for info on how to build an emergency kit. Avoid unnecessary travel. If you do not need to drive, stay home. You can find information on road conditions and closings by visiting DriveNC. Gov. Never drive through flooded roadways or around barricades. Turn around. Don't drown.

For more information on how to ensure you are disaster ready, visit ReadyNC.gov, which features traffic, power outage and shelter information.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

For the Record, 'Governor warns of danger as catastrophic Hurricane Helene impacts NC', *Daily Record, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA9FF15CFC550



Hurricane Helene: Pitt County Schools to operate remotely Friday

September 26, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Kim Grizzard | Section: News | 37 Words OpenURL Link

Pitt County Schools will operate on a remote learning schedule for students on Friday, Sept. 27, due to the forecast of possible impacts associated with Hurricane Helene, including the risk of tornadoes. All after-school activities are canceled.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Kim Grizzard, 'Hurricane Helene: Pitt County Schools to operate remotely Friday', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA9A36AD9AE48



State braces for Hurricane Helene impacts

September 26, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Jamie Kritzer North Carolina Department of Transportation Section: Enquirer Journal 640 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH, N.C. — Rains associated with Hurricane Helene have already started impacting western North Carolina, even before the full force of the storm is forecast to arrive in western and central North Carolina.

As of 1 p.m. Thursday, heavy rains associated with Helene had resulted in 97 road closures in western North Carolina. Helene is not expected to make landfall in Florida until Thursday evening.

From Thursday night through Friday, Helene was expected to bring to North Carolina flash flooding, downed trees and landslides in higher elevations and isolated tornadoes. The storm's impacts could create treacherous travel conditions and power outages in the mountains and much of the Piedmont.

"Our agency is gearing up for a large storm," state Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins said. "But we want our citizens to take this storm seriously too by being ready, keeping a close eye on the weather and planning accordingly as Helene is expected to bring widespread impacts to North Carolina."

NCDOT is encouraging people to postpone unnecessary travel during the storm and use DriveNC.gov to check for real-time road conditions. Never drive through flooded roads and don't try to drive around barricades and road closure signs. It's against the law and those signs are in place to protect people.

People can also use ReadyNC.gov for emergency preparedness tips and tools.

Statewide, N.C. Department of Transportation crews are readying equipment, reviewing inventories and staff for possible road clearing efforts, shoulder repairs and possible crossline pipe replacements. More than 2,000 employees statewide are prepared to respond from the mountains to the coast with over 1,300 chainsaws, 180 graders, 350 backhoes and front-end loaders, and 1,300 dump trucks. NCDOT has been fueling up and testing equipment and vehicles before the storm's arrival. Agency crews also have thousands of road closure and highwater signs, and barricades ready to put in place on flooded, blocked or damaged roads and bridges.

NCDOT staff also drove the main highways looking for any weather-related problems that may need the agency's attention. They also checked known trouble spots, such as low-lying areas and roads without drainage systems, and made sure culverts and ditches were not clogged or overgrown with weeds, to help lessen any stormwater backup that may occur during the storm.

In some areas, crews have staged equipment so it can be available once cleanup and recovery begins. Generators have been checked and readied, and traffic services offices staged message boards. NCDOT staff have also made arrangements to shift personnel to areas of greatest need and have contractors on standby ready to respond to any storm-related tasks such as cutting and removing downed trees from roads.

The agency is using its flood warning system to prepare for and respond to the storm. The system includes about 600 gauges and has storm surge prediction capabilities that enable the agency to make informed decisions to protect the traveling public.

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is tracking the storm and will make any adjustments to services as needed. Already Thursday, a dozen driver license offices have suspended road skills testing for today due to inclement weather in the area. Driver license offices will remain open as conditions remain safe for customers and staff. Any appointments at those offices that may have to be canceled will be rescheduled at a time convenient for the customer. Three western North Carolina license plate agencies, which are independently owned and operated, have

closed due to the rain. Others may choose to adjust their operating schedules depending on the storm's impacts.

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Right now, all NC By Train passenger trains remain in operation, but people should visit Amtrak.com for the latest schedules.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Jamie Kritzer North Carolina Department of Transportation, 'State braces for Hurricane Helene impacts', *Enquirer-Journal, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDC127207D4E78>



High school football games rescheduled due to tropical storm

September 26, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com| Section: Enquirer Journal| 184 Words OpenURL Link

UNION COUNTY, N.C. — Week six of the 2024 Union County High School football season was altered by the potential impact of Hurricane Helene.

Union County Public Schools said in a social media post Thursday, Sept. 26 that school will be closed for students and staff on Friday, Sept. 27. Athletic events scheduled for this day are postponed.

Three of the four games have been moved to Monday Sept. 30, including Marvin Ridge's road game versus Sun Valley, Weddington's home game versus Westside from Anderson, S.C., and North Stanley at Forest Hills.

Marvin Ridge, 3-2, and Sun Valley, 4-1, will meet as non-conference opponents for the first time for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff. The Marvin Ridge Mavericks are 10-7 all-time against the Sun Valley Spartans dating back to 2007.

Weddington, sitting at 5-0, will have another undefeated battle against Anderson, 4-0.

Forest Hills, 2-2, will host North Stanly for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff, also on Monday.

Parkwood, now 1-3, will travel to Eastern Randolph, 4-0, for a 6 p.m. kickoff on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Monroe, Cuthbertson, Union Academy, Porter Ridge, and Piedmont are all on a bye week this week.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com, 'High school football games rescheduled due to tropical storm', *Enquirer-Journal, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA656DC234328>



Tricare expands temporary prescription refill waivers

September 26, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Defense Health Agency | Section: Enquirer Journal | 204 Words OpenURL Link

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Defense Health Agency announced that Tricare has expanded the number of North Carolina counties in which Tricare beneficiaries may receive emergency prescription refills due to Hurricane Helene.

All counties are now eligible to receive emergency prescription refills through Oct. 5.

The original counties impacted were Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Dare, Durham, Onslow, Orange, New Hanover, Pender, and Wake. The date for beneficiaries to receive emergency prescription refills in these counties has been extended from Sept. 26, 2024, to Oct. 5, 2024.

To receive an emergency refill of prescription medications, Tricare beneficiaries should take their prescription bottle to any Tricare retail network pharmacy. If the bottle is unavailable or the label is damaged or missing, beneficiaries should contact Express Scripts or their retail network pharmacy for assistance.

To find a network pharmacy, beneficiaries may call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303, or search the network pharmacy locator.

If possible, visit the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Prescriptions filled by a retail chain may be filled at another store in that chain. If the clinician who prescribed the medication is available, beneficiaries can ask them to call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy.

Beneficiaries are advised to visit Express Scripts' weather notices page for updates.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Defense Health Agency, 'Tricare expands temporary prescription refill waivers', *Enquirer-Journal, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDC12725351DB0



Federal support after Hurricane Ian hit \$10.2B

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Mark H. Bickel; Fort Myers News-Press | Section: News | 448 Words Page: A7 OpenURL Link

Hurricanes have a price tag. And according to the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane lan is the costliest storm to ever hit Florida and third costliest in the United States.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced federal support topped \$10.2 billion for households, businesses, communities and flood insurance policyholders.

As the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian approaches this week, Florida residents are dealing with another event: Tropical Storm Helene is expected to reach major hurricane strength on Thursday as it hits the state.

In 2022, Hurricane Ian had briefly intensified to Category 5, with winds of 161 mph, as it moved into the Gulf of Mexico on its way to Florida. By the time Ian made landfall on Cayo Costa, a barrier island on Florida's southwest coast, on Sept. 28, 2022, its sustained winds had dropped, the National Hurricane Center found. But only to an estimated 149.6 mph, enough to leave catastrophic death and destruction in its wake.

Support by the numbers

Here's how much FEMA has spent relating to Hurricane Ian:

- \$2.3 billion to reimburse state, local and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for costs of emergency response, debris removal and repair or replacement of infrastructure
- \$1.4 billion for emergency response
- \$1.15 billion for 387,139 households for home repairs, lodging expenses, rental assistance and other needs
- \$701 million for debris removal
- \$101 million for permanent work
- \$25 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to help communities rebuild in a way that reduces loss from future disasters

To support individuals and households, FEMA operated 57 Disaster Recovery Centers and specialists visited 354,600 homes to help Floridians apply for assistance.

In addition, the National Flood Insurance Program paid \$4.67 billion to approximately 47,000 policyholders to restore homes and businesses.

The U.S. Small Business Administration approved 25,400 applicants for \$2.1 billion in low-interest disaster loans. It made \$1.6 billion in loans to 22,600 households and \$498 million in loans to 2,800 businesses and private nonprofit organizations.

The storm dropped almost 27 inches of rain on Grove City, Florida, and 21 inches on Daytona Beach, and kicked up 15 tornadoes. Some of the impact could not be repaired with money. As of April 2023, 66 people in the U.S. had died due to the direct effects of Ian, all in Florida, USA TODAY reported at that time. Another 90 casualties were

indirectly attributed to the hurricane. At least 13 people were still missing.

FEMA continues to work with the State of Florida, other federal agencies, local governments, private sector and voluntary organizations on recovery from the storm.

Contributing: Dinah Voyles Pulver, USA TODAY

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Mark H. Bickel, Fort Myers News-Press, 'Federal support after Hurricane Ian hit \$10.2B', *Fayetteville Observer, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 A7 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD4D73CAC20358>



Hurricane Helene: What the Fayetteville area can expect and when

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joseph Pierre, Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 572 Words OpenURL Link

EDITOR'S NOTE: See Friday's story on Tropical Storm Helene here.

(This story has been updated to add new information.)

Hurricane Helene is barreling its way through Florida on Thursday and is expected to affect the Fayetteville area on Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

If the system strengthens, the hurricane's effects have a probable path including Eastern North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The National Weather Service in Raleigh on Thursday afternoon issued a wind advisory for Cumberland County from midnight Thursday through 6 p.m. Friday. Winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts of up to 45 mph are expected and should reach their peak by mid- to -late-morning Friday.

Cumberland County is also under a flood watch issued by the National Weather Service in Raleigh on Thursday afternoon. It's in effect until 6 p.m. Friday, and means that flash flooding could be possible because of excessive rainfall.

What does the potential tropical storm mean for Fayetteville?

Raleigh-based NWS meteorologist Nick Luchetti said the forecast track has the storm making landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida on Thursday evening and will head up toward southwest Georgia by 1 a.m. Friday.

"Friday and it will start to move up into the Appalachians, northern Georgia, like up into the Smokies," Luchetti said. "It'll curve to the west into the Tennessee Valley up through about 1 p.m. Friday."

Luchetti said during the day and overnight Thursday should remain relatively quiet in Fayetteville. He said the main concern would be the weather at daybreak through the early afternoon Friday.

Schools remote: Cumberland County Schools to shift to remote learning due to Hurricane Helene

What do the latest models show for North Carolina and Fayetteville?

According to the National Hurricane Center's five-day forecast, the storm will be parallel with the city of Fayetteville on Friday morning. Luchetti said the biggest concern will be the tropical moisture associated with the outer rain bands.

"We will have some heavier downpours moving through and given you're in an urban area, those are typically prone to flooding. We could have some isolated flash flooding in and around the Fayetteville area," Luchetti said. "We'll see some gusty winds ... I think we'll see anywhere from 15-25 mph sustained winds and then with higher gusts upward of 30 or 40 mph will be also possible."

Luchetti said the city will receive a "broad brush" of 1-2 inches of rain. He warned Fayetteville residents to prepare for potential power outages and tornado warnings as the system passes.

Here are some important links to check power outages, road closures, storm damage and more.
Power outages
Check overall Cumberland County outages by clicking on this link.
Check Fayetteville PWC outages by clicking on this link.
Check Duke Energy outages by clicking on this link.
Check Lumbee River outages by clicking on this link.
Check South River EMC outages by clicking on this link.
Warnings and watches
Click this link to see the latest weather warnings and watches for Cumberland County.
Rainfall
See rainfall predictions in the Fayetteville area here.
Storm trackers
Track the storm here.
Check out the storm's "spaghetti models" here.
River levels
Check river levels, including the Cape Fear River, at this link.
Flooding
Enter your address in this FEMA search to see whether you're in a flood-prone area. Check it out here.
Monitor flooding in your area here.
Road closures
The North Carolina Department of Transportation provides updates on road closures and accidents. Click here for the most updated information.
Storm damage
Click this link for damage reports after the storm passes through.
Public safety reporter Joseph Pierre can be reached at jpierre@gannett.com.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Joseph Pierre, Fayetteville Observer, 'Hurricane Helene: What the Fayetteville area can expect and when', *Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?

p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD74B7C304DB90>



Hurricane Helene to delay Fort Liberty operations Friday

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Rachael Riley, Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 102 Words OpenURL Link

FORT LIBERTY — Hurricane Helene's expected impact to the area will cause Fort Liberty to open on a two-hour delay Friday, a news release stated Thursday.

Essential personnel will still need to report at their normal time, and those who work on post should contact their chain of command or supervisor for guidance, the release stated.

Child and Youth Services will also operate at normal hours, while Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Fort Liberty will operate on the two-hour delay.

Staff writer Rachael Riley can be reached at rriley@fayobserver.com or 910-486-3528.

More hurricane: Hurricane Helene: What the Fayetteville area can expect and when

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Rachael Riley, Fayetteville Observer, 'Hurricane Helene to delay Fort Liberty operations Friday', *Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD9AC45E8F6CE0>



Cumberland County Schools to shift to remote learning due to Hurricane Helene

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joseph Pierre, Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 200 Words OpenURL Link

Cumberland County Schools will switch to remote learning Friday because of expected inclement weather and a PWC boil water advisory, the school district announced Thursday afternoon.

The estimated effects of Hurricane Helene have led all Cumberland County Schools to shift to remote learning Friday, a news release said. The Fayetteville Public Works Commission issued a boil water advisory Thursday for customers in Fayetteville, Hope Mills and Hoke County because of a water main break.

According to the Cumberland County Schools release, while at home, students will work independently on assignments from their teachers. Elementary and middle school students will have five days to complete and submit their assignments, while high schoolers will have three days, the release said.

The latest on Helene: Hurricane Helene: What the Fayetteville area can expect and when

After school activities and the Prime Time After-School program will be canceled Friday.

Students who take classes at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Technical Community and College Connections are asked to contact their instructors for information regarding class schedules.

District offices and school buildings will be closed Friday and employees will work remotely, according to the release.

For continued updates, visit the district's website and Facebook.

Public safety reporter Joseph Pierre can be reached at jpierre@gannett.com.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Joseph Pierre, Fayetteville Observer, 'Cumberland County Schools to shift to remote learning due to Hurricane Helene', Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD9AC45C2A3868>



Boil water advisory remains in effect for impacted Fayetteville PWC customers

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Beth Hutson, Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 361 Words

OpenURL Link

Editor's note: See Friday's update on the boil water advisory here

Editor's note: Your questions on the boil water advisory answered here

(This story has been updated to add new information.)

A boil water advisory remains in effect for Fayetteville Public Works Commission customers affected by a water main break, the utility said in an update Thursday afternoon.

Water customers in Fayetteville, Hope Mills and Hoke County are experiencing periods of low pressure and outages, which can increase the potential for bacteria to be introduced into the water supply, PWC said in a news release earlier Thursday. It typically takes about 48-72 hours to test the water system and ensure the water is safe.

More: Cumberland County Schools to shift to remote learning due to Hurricane Helene

Customers in Stedman, Spring Lake and Fort Liberty are not affected by the outage and are not under a boil water advisory.

In an updated news release Thursday, PWC said that contrary to rumors making the rounds on social media, the utility is not shutting off customers' water during the boil water advisory.

What to do under a boil water advisory

PWC advises affected customers to boil all water used for human consumption. Bring the water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, then let it cool before using.

"Vigorous boiling for one minute should kill any disease-causing organisms that may be present in the water," the release said. "As an alternative, customers may use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice."

Crews have made temporary repairs, and the water pressure is building back up, the release said.

Weather updates: Hurricane Helene: What the Fayetteville area can expect and when

"PWC urges water customers to conserve water whenever possible in the event of additional outages," the release said. "This system pressure advisory remains in effect until further notification is issued. Once water pressure is restored and conditions are back to normal, we will inform you when the system pressure advisory is lifted."

PWC advised that as water pressure returns, customers could see cloudy or discolored water, which is normal.

News director Beth Hutson can be reached at bhutson@fayobserver.com or 910-486-3533.

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Live updates, scores & highlights from Week 6 of high school football around Fayetteville

September 26, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Monica Holland, Fayetteville Observer | Section: Sports | 195 Words OpenURL Link

Welcome to the 910Preps Friday Night Live football scoreboard, with in-game updates from all of the Fayetteville area's football teams in action on Week 6.

Scores refresh every 60 seconds, so be sure to check in often, and we'll be adding highlights from social media and on-site reporters and photographers throughout the night.

Follow us on X, formerly Twitter, @910Preps for updates from around the Cape Fear region, and follow reporter James F. Moore Jr. @ogcookie_ for more.

You can also check here following Friday night's action for final results, as well as links to stories from key area games and photo galleries. And while you're at it, bookmark The FayObserver high school football landing page, offering end zone-to-end zone coverage of action this fall.

Watch football games on NFHS Network

NC high school football scores - Week 6

NC high school football highlights

Football weather forecast

The Week 6 football schedule was shuffled early on, with all games involving Fayetteville teams moved up to Thursday as remnants of Hurricane Helene were expected to bring heavy rain. Those rains arrived Thursday afternoon, and Jack Britt's home game against Lumberton has been rescheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m.

More schedule updates are available here.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Monica Holland, Fayetteville Observer, 'Live updates, scores & highlights from Week 6 of high school football around Fayetteville', *Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD9AC464EE5880



Rain expected through Friday, as Tropical Storm Helene approaches

September 26, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Kara Fohner; Gaston Gazette | Section: News | 301 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

Gaston County can expect heavy rain, especially late Thursday night and Friday morning, but the Tropical Storm Helene's impact on Gaston is expected to be less severe than what is expected in the mountains, according to the National Weather Service.

Gaston County will likely see heavy rain from Wednesday through Friday afternoon, wit the most intense periods of rainfall occurring late Thursday night and Friday morning, Meteorologist Doug Outlaw said in an interview.

Gaston County is expected to get three to three and a half inches of rain total, with more rain closer to the mountains, Outlaw said.

"Anybody in the Gaston County area who is thinking about doing any traveling toward the mountains should postpone that until after this event is over," Outlaw said. "Portions of the mountains are expecting 10 to 15 inches of rain, and there's going to be the potential for landslides in the mountains."

Wind speeds in Gaston County will slowly increase throughout the day on Thursday, with the most intense wind speeds between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. Friday morning. Gusts could reach 45 mph, and the combination of saturated ground and that wind speed could topple trees, which could carry power lines down with them.

"And so there's going to be power outages, especially Friday morning. People should be prepared for that ... Certainly fully charge your phones before that and also make sure you have workable flashlights during any length of time for a power outage," Outlaw said.

The weather is expected to improve Friday afternoon and the storm will be completely over by Friday evening, but it could take time to get everyone's power on again, Outlaw said.

"It's gonna be a pretty widespread event," he added.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Kara Fohner, Gaston Gazette, 'Rain expected through Friday, as Tropical Storm Helene approaches', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 A1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD4A9C296E75E8



County braces for Hurricane Helene's impacts

September 26, 2024 | Goldsboro News-Argus, The (NC) Author: Dylan Phillips Brunswick Beacon Editor Section: News 607 Words OpenURL Link

Brunswick County is bracing for potential impacts from Hurricane Helene, as the storm threatens the county just over a week after a tropical cyclone dropped historic rainfall and caused widespread catastrophic flood damage.

Hurricane Helene is expected to make landfall near the Big Bend of Florida on Thursday evening, Sept. 26, the National Weather Service-Wilmington (NWS) said in its Wednesday, Sept. 25 noon update. "Due its large physical size, effects will be felt far away from the storm center, especially to its east. Local impacts will include gusty winds, some areas of flooding, isolated tornadoes, and dangerous surf conditions."

As of Wednesday afternoon, the National Hurricane Center on Wednesday has forecasted Hurricane Helene will make landfall as a Category 3 storm in western Florida before making its way north.

Although not in the storm's direct path currently, southeastern North Carolina and Brunswick County are expected to feel the storm's impacts between Thursday evening, Sept. 26, into Friday, Sept. 27.

Currently, southeastern North Carolina, including Brunswick County, is projected to get between one and two inches of rainfall from Helene, with isolated amounts being potentially higher. The rain could result in isolated flooding.

"Areas hardest hit by last week's heavy rain event will be extra flood prone," NWS noted. "Some area rivers could be impacted as a result." Most rivers and creeks are still inundated from last week.

Isolated tornadoes are also possible in Brunswick County, mainly starting Thursday night into Friday before the threat moves away from the area, per NWS. The risk for overnight tornadoes in and around Brunswick County was increased from "slight risk" to "enhanced risk" around noon on Sept. 26.

Winds gusts up 40 miles per hour (mph) are possible, according to NWS, but that is mainly across portions of northeast South Carolina. Winds up to 35 mph are expected in southeast North Carolina.

Rough maritime conditions are expected across the coastal waters of southeast North Carolina, including large breakers, strong rip currents and steep waves around inlet entrances, NWS's Sept. 26, 7 a.m. briefing states.

The county is still reeling from the impacts of Potential Tropical Cyclone 8 that hit Brunswick County on Monday, Sept. 16. Though between two to five inches of rain with some flash flooding was predicted, NWS's rainfall totals indicate between 14 and 20 inches fell in areas during last Monday's storm.

And while Helene's effects on Brunswick County are currently projected to be minor, Brunswick County is preparing for the worst.

Brunswick County Schools (BCS) sent students back to the classroom on a staggered schedule this week. On Wednesday afternoon, BCS has cancelled school and all athletic events at all BCS schools scheduled for Friday in preparation for the storm's potential impacts.

This includes the West Brunswick High School football game at home against Ashley. That game has been rescheduled for Monday, Sept. 30, at 6:30 p.m. WBHS will be back in action later next week when it hosts Hoggard at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

Brunswick Community College has announced classes will also be cancelled and all BCC campus locations, including the Dinah E. Gore Sports & Aquatics Complex, will be closed on Friday, Sept. 27. BCC will reopen on its normal schedule on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Brunswick County Government in its Sept. 25, 5 p.m. update on the county's response to last week's cyclone said the county is continuing to monitor Helene's path.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper has declared a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene as North Carolina prepares for severe weather impacts that could threaten life and property across North Carolina through Saturday morning.

Find the latest information on Hurricane Helene here: NWS Helene briefings.

This story was updated on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 3 p.m.

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