

## Voting to continue in North Carolina as storm recovery begins

September 30, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Elyse Apel | The Center Square | Section: News | 361 Words OpenURL Link

With just 36 days until Election Day, the North Carolina State Board of Elections held an emergency meeting Monday afternoon to decide how to ensure voting will continue after devastating damage from Hurricane Helene.

In the preliminary meeting, which the board said would be one of many needed in the coming weeks, the board voted unanimously to allow counties affected by the disaster to delay absentee voting board meetings.

Asheville, most-populous city in western North Carolina at nearly 100,000, and the surrounding North Carolina continue to be largely stranded from the rest of the nation as bridges, roads and highways were rendered impassable. As the meeting commenced at 4 p.m., DriveNC.org reported 432 road closures statewide because of Helene.

The counties allowed to delay the meetings include all those under federal disaster declarations. Many are without power, cell service, or water.

"We have been able to reach out to the affected counties, and we know that 14 of the 22 counties that we are in contact with are indicating that they are closed at this time today, and we anticipate several more days of closure," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the board.

Helene, a Category 4 hurricane when it hit the Big Bend of Florida on Thursday night, is forecast to leave behind more than \$100 billon in damage and economic loss throughout multiple states.

"This is a difficult situation for most of our state," said Chairman Alan Hirsch.

The absentee voting board meetings were meant to be held every Tuesday, beginning on Oct. 1. In these meetings, county election boards review absentee ballots to determine whether they are eligible for counting.

"What we're recommending is for the board, under its emergency authority, to provide flexibility for those county boards to continue to have those meetings, but to reschedule them as needed," said Paul Cox, general counsel for the board.

The board all voiced their support for the measure and their concerns for the counties affected. And, even as western North Carolina rebuilds, the board promised that voting will go on.

"As we have said many times through other hurricanes, pandemic, and natural disasters, we do not stop an election, we figure out how to proceed," Bell said.

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## Pitt County emergency personnel move to aid areas ravaged by Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Ginger Livingston | Section: Local | 813 Words OpenURL Link

Local first responders are mobilizing to help residents in western North Carolina reeling from Hurricane Helene's destruction.

Pitt County Sheriff Paula Dance is sending 10 deputies to Buncombe County for a week before replacing them with a second contingent of 10-12 deputies. The first group leaves Tuesday.

After that Dance will continue to assess needs and personnel availability, she said, adding that deputies staying in Pitt County have agreed to step into roles left behind by those who volunteered to aid in storm recovery.

Deputies will bring food, water, hygiene items and other resources, which will be distributed by state and local emergency management. Dance said Buncombe County Sheriff Quentin Miller told her water is a chief need.

The deputies' exact role had not been determined but could range from traffic control to recovering human remains, Dance said. She added that similar assistance from outside agencies was "invaluable" during Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

"I can't really tell you how much we appreciated for our community as a whole," Dance said. "They stepped up and came from everywhere, and so that's what we are giving back this week and next week and however long it takes to make sure that their community is taken care of as well."

Detective Christopher Hobbs, an investigator with the major crimes unit, was one of the first to volunteer. His experience includes fast water rescue from his time with the Washington Police Department. Hobbs said there was not much he could do to help when Floyd struck in 1999 since he was in middle school. That is no longer the case.

"I've got a couple of older friends who worked with me in Washington that moved out west and got out of law enforcement," Hobbs said. "One of them called and told me his house was messed up, things like that.

"As far as just the brotherhood, they're asking for help and we need to help them."

The Greenville Police Department deployed 10 people to assist Hendersonville police on Monday morning. From there they will be dispatched as the need arises, a Greenville police spokeswoman said. Additional personnel may rotate with the deployed officers.

The police department also is collecting relief supplies along with Ignite Church, Greenville Fire-Rescue and other organizations. The department will have a truck accepting donations at Tuesday's National Night Out from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Town Common.

Department personnel traveled with a truckload of resources gathered from an outreach event at Ignite Church on Bayswater Road. The outreach efforts at Ignite will continue throughout the week from 9-4 p.m.

Organizers are asking for items such as water, non-perishable food, baby formula, bug spray, trash bags, toiletries, sanitation items, feminine hygiene products and soups.

A swift water rescue team from NC Task Force 10, made up of two Greenville Fire-Rescue personnel and four from the City of New Bern, are currently at work in the Chimney Rock area, said Greenville Fire-Rescue Deputy Chief Jesse Harris.

The crew is working alongside federal personnel from Michigan and New York to conduct searches and rescue people who are stranded. Harris said some areas are accessible only by water.

He said the team deployed with swift water equipment and will remain on-site through the week. Any extended deployment will be determined by state emergency management.

"There's a lot of federal teams that are on site and a lot of state teams, so there's a tremendous amount of personnel up there," Harris said.

Greenville Utilities Commission sent a 20-person electric crew to the City of Morganton and to the Town of Drexel on Friday.

"Our crews will work alongside others from across the country who operate under mutual aid agreements," GUC said. "These agreements allow community agencies to come together following disasters where system damage is widespread and significant."

ECU Health and Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition team members took a medical ambulance bus to assist in collaboration with NC Emergency Management.

"ECU Health Emergency Management is in regular contact with state officials and prepared to provide further assistance as needed," a spokesmand said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those involved in this effort and, importantly, those directly impacted by this (devastating) storm."

U.S. Rep. Greg Murphy, who represents Pitt County and most of coastal North Carolina, was scheduled to tour western by North Carolina with U.S. Sens. Ted Budd and Thom Tillis, U.S. Rep. David Rouzer and N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler on Tuesday. After the tour, the officials were scheduled to meet with Rep. Chuck Edwards for an operational review of the recovery effort.

"Eastern North Carolina has a history of natural disasters, and we understand the critical nature of recovery efforts," Murphy said. "Western North Carolina has been there for us in those moments, and we must do the same in return. I host an annual WATERS Summit focused on flood mitigation and hope to be helpful in dealing with this catastrophe."

The summit, which was scheduled for Tuesday, has been postponed because of the flood.

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# Asheville cut off from world; damage estimated \$100B in South

September 30, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | Section: News | 214 Words OpenURL Link

Asheville and other parts of western North Carolina were cut off from the world on Saturday, with no roads open into or out of the most populous city in the region and electricity and cell towers limited or inoperable.

Fatalities from the storm Helene in the South were more than five dozen, and the Buncombe County numbers – where Asheville is county seat – were not included due to trouble reaching next of kin, said the Emergency Services director. Nearby Spruce Pine collected 24 inches of rain between Tuesday and Saturday, dwarfing the 11-plus in metro Atlanta in a 48-hour period that eclipsed records dating to 1878.

Helene, a Category 4 hurricane when she hit the Big Bend of Florida on Thursday night, is forecast to leave behind between \$95 billion and \$110 billion in damage and economic loss. Property damage alone is forecast by Moody's to run \$15 billion to \$26 billion.

President Joe Biden on Saturday granted emergency aid to North Carolina through a declaration.

"To say this caught us off guard would be an understatement," Buncombe County Sheriff Quentin Miller said.

Commerce and tourism will be impacted for some time by the loss of Interstate 40 between Asheville and Knoxville, Tenn. Two eastbound lanes fell into the Pigeon River about 4 miles into North Carolina.

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# Asheville cut off from world; damage estimated \$100B in South

September 30, 2024 | Duplin Times, The (NC) Author: Alan Wooten | Section: News | 214 Words OpenURL Link

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## Helene damages local homes

September 30, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com| Section: Enquirer Journal| 578 Words OpenURL Link

UNION COUNTY, N.C. — Eddie and Jenna Stedem were a few of the Union County residents who saw severe house damage, due to Hurricane Helene last week.

On Friday, Sept. 27, a tree fell through their home in the Shannamara subdivision located in Indian Trail. The tree went through one of the bedrooms and the room above the family's garage was destroyed. No one can enter the room as the tree has blocked the doorway.

They and their two children, Taylor and Wesley, were OK after the crash.

Jenna did not hear anything because she was sleeping on the opposite side of the house when the tree fell. Jenna said she was shocked when she awoke to see the damage. She was the only person home at the time.

"I messaged my friends in the neighborhood and they all came to the house to check on Jenna," Eddie said. "I had no idea how bad it was until my friends sent me a picture. It took me another 30 minutes to get here. Taylor was already here and a few neighbors were still here."

The family is meeting with their insurance company this week to discuss repairs. Although the fallen tree has already been removed, Eddie said the repairs could take six months.

### Storm impacts

Helene was a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall in Florida on Sept. 24. Although by the time it reached the Carolinas it had been downgraded to a tropical storm, the heavy rains from Helene caused catastrophic flooding, particularly in Western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

Union County Communications said by Friday morning, 2.7 inches of rain had fallen in Monroe.

City of Monroe Energy had 225 customers without service or power. Most of the power outages took place in Wesley Chapel and Stallings.

Pee-Dee Electric reported outages affecting 162 customers.

About 12,000 households in Union County with Union County Cooperative were without power during the storm. All members had their power on by 10 p.m. Saturday.

As of 6 p.m. Sunday, Duke Energy had restored power to more than 1.1 million Carolinas customers impacted by Helene, including 803,000 in North Carolina. About 396,000 customers in North Carolina remain without power. Nearly all these outages are in the western portions of the state.

After some temporary road closures Friday due to flash flooding, fallen trees or power lines, but as of Monday, there were no roads still closed in Union County due to the storm.

## Lending a hand

Union County Sheriff's Office teams equipped with chainsaws and heavy machinery removed large trees that were uprooted and scattered across the area. These efforts have been instrumental in restoring access to neighborhoods,

allowing residents to safely return to their homes and begin their own recovery processes.

Several businesses, restaurants and churches are all serving as drop-off stations for relief items to transport to the western side of North Carolina.

The Monroe Fire Department sent two swift water rescue teams to western North Carolina to assist with rescue and recovery efforts.

The team assigned to Jackson County is hard at work assisting with rescue efforts in some of the hardest hit areas. On Friday, this team rescued 85 people, two dogs and two cats from a trailer park using inflatable rescue boats.

The team assigned to Ashe County rescued a person from a car stuck on a bridge in flood waters. This team also worked with the Ashe County Rescue and Lansing VFD to rescue a driver trapped in his car after the road collapsed under him. The car overturned in the river.

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## Many collecting donations for storm victims

September 30, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com| Section: Enquirer Journal | 706 Words OpenURL Link

Donation drop-off sites Covenant Baptist Church, 2706 Secrest Shortcut Road, Monroe; Sept. 30-Oct. 4 Sun Valley Animal Hospital, 4706 Old Charlotte Highway, Monroe; Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Accepting dry dog and cat food, small mammal pellets, plastic or aluminum bowls, cat litter and dog crates. Farmstand on Lucy, 2717 Lucy Short Cut Road, Monroe; Sept. 29-Oct. 5. Accepting canned formula for babies. Lee Park Church, 2505 Morgan Mill Road, Monroe Idewild Family Dentistry, 4801 Indian Trail Fairview Road, Indian Trail; Sept. 30-Oct. 3. Accepting dog or cat food, bug spray, sunscreen, manual can openers, water, cleaning supplies, nonperishable foods, socks, plastic sheeting, cleaning supplies and tote bags. American Legion Post 535, 6112 Concord Highway, Unionville; 10 a.m.noon. Oct. 5. Accepting canned goods, freeze-dried foods, bottled water or juices, and personal care items. Monroe Aquatic and Fitness Center, 2325 Hanover Drive, Monroe; Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Accepting nonperishable food, pet supplies, medical supplies, hygiene kits and baby supplies. Omni Elite Athletix, 1426 Babbage Lane, Indian Trail; 4-8 p.m. Sept. 30-Oct. 4. Accepting bottled water, sports drinks, hydration packs, manual can openers, first aid kits, pet food and baby supplies. Simpson Events Center, 307 Cultivation Circle, Monroe; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 30-Oct. 4. All items collected will be delivered to the Ashe County Emergency Management team for distribution to affected individuals and families. Weddington High School, 4901 Weddington Road, Weddington: Oct. 1-noon Oct. 4. Accepting trash bags, cleaning supplies, flashlights, can openers, formulas, batteries, toiletries, wipes and bottled water.

UNION COUNTY, N.C. — Because of the devastation western North Carolina is facing from Hurricane Helene, Union County businesses, organizations, and churches are coming together to lessen the burden.

Marked as one of the worst storms in United States history, the wasteland of splintered houses, crushed cargo containers and mud-covered highways offers a clear picture of the negative impacts from Helene.

As of Tuesday, 143 people from six states have died from the storm, including 56 form North Carolina, which suffered the greatest toll.

Helene made landfall at peak intensity in Florida with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph. Helene weakened as it moved quickly inland before degenerating to a post-tropical cyclone over Tennessee on Sept. 27. The storm then stalled over the state before dissipating Sunday, Sept. 29.

Several areas in western North Carolina are facing devastation from floods, including Chimney Rock, Asheville, Boone, Black Mountain, Banner Elk, Burnsville and Spruce Pine.

Covenant Church immediately opened a drop off location in response to the devastation. For the hurricane relief, it is accepting bottled water, easy-open canned food, nonperishable foods, Clorox wipes, cleaning supplies, diapers, baby wipes, formula, baby food, feminine products, first aid supplies, toiletries, batteries and pre-mixed chainsaw fuel.

It is also accepting tin foil, plastic wrap, plastic bags, to-go plates, plastic silverware, trash bags, napkins and boot socks for the emergency workers based in Asheville.

Daniel Hill, a member of Covenant Church, was one of many volunteers who helped organize supplies inside a large truck. He said they are striving to be "generous and do what we're called to do."

Mandy Funderburk, also a member, said Pastor Rile Baucom traveled to Asheville on Sunday and Monday to help feed emergency workers and drop off supplies.

Covenant's supplies will be transported to Trinity Baptist Church in Trinity, which is serving as a hub collecting relief donations.

The Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center will also collect items through Wednesday at 3 p.m. With the volunteer transport of Smith's Automotive & Wrecker Service, they will be shipping the supplies to the "Hearts with Hands" organization in Asheville.

No clothing items will be accepted by Covenant Church and the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center.

JAARS accepted strategic supplies for the hurricane-stricken areas from Sunday to Tuesday. Its aircraft has limited capacity, so it is being very strategic regarding the items it can carry at this time. It will only take goods that help sustain life for 24 hours. It is accepting water, protein bars, diapers, formula and sports drink powder.

The Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport and Monroe Police Department are also serving as drop-off locations. They are accepting medical supplies, hygiene kits, nonperishable food and pet supplies. Fuel, flammable items, clothing or linens will not be accepted.

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# College Football Roundup 10-2-24

September 30, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Enquirer Journal | 274 Words OpenURL Link

College Football Roundup

Knotts has career-high game

Monroe High School 2022 graduate Shaleak "Punch" Knotts tallied a career-high 41 receiving yards in Maryland's 42-28 road loss to Indiana on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Knotts had three catches including a 27-yard sideline catch against the Hoosiers, now 5-0. He currently has six catches for 54 yards.

The Maryland Terrapins are now 3-2 and 0-1 in Big Ten Conference play.

Blackwell contributes for Tar Heels

Sun Valley High School 2021 graduate Gavin Blackwell saw action in North Carolina's 21-20 road loss to Duke Sept 28.

Blackwell had two catches for 21 yards. He now has four receptions and 43 yards in four games played so far.

Blackwell also had a 19 yard catch in the game, which is his longest of the 2024 season.

UNC dropped to 3-2, while Duke improved to 5-0.

Johnson helps Tribe win three straight

Porter Ridge High School 2024 graduate Harrison Johnson had just one tackle for a loss, but helped the William and Mary defense suffocate Hampton, 49-7, at home Sept. 28.

With the win, the Tribe improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in conference play.

Bulldogs cancel home game

Wingate University canceled their home football game against Mars Hill originally scheduled for Sept. 28.

The Lions were unable to travel to Wingate on Friday because of Tropical Storm Helene.

The Wingate Bulldogs, 2-1, will travel to UVA-Wise on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Zayachkowsky shines in CSU loss

Porter Ridge High School 2023 graduate Stephan Zayachkowsky continues to step up big for the Charleston Southern Buccaneers.

The Buccaneers lost their recent road game to Tennessee State, 13-9, thanks to a game-winning touchdown by the home team.

Zayachkowsky had four tackles, including two assists and a quarterback hurry.

# Charleston Southern fell to 1-3.

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## Governor urges people to donate to NC Disaster Relief

September 30, 2024 | Enterprise, The (Martin County, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Across Carolina | 366 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Governor Roy Cooper is encouraging donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from catastrophic damage caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

"There is a massive effort underway to get help to the people of Western North Carolina including state and federal relief but we know there will be additional needs," Governor Roy Cooper said. "If you're able to give, please consider a donation to help North Carolinians as they clean up and recover from Helene."

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.

Donations can also be mailed to:

NC Disaster Relief Fund, 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0312.Or NC Disaster Relief Fund, c/o United Way of NC, 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 100, Cary NC 27511.

Donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

United Way of North Carolina is the fiscal agent for the Fund and will provide grants and reimbursement to nonprofits working in impacted communities.

"United Way of North Carolina is proud to partner with the Governor's Office to manage the NC Disaster Relief Fund. We recognize the critical importance of delivering resources to communities for effective relief efforts. Together with the Governor's Office, we are committed to ensuring that communities in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene receive the support they need. This unprecedented situation calls for collective action to provide both immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance," said Brittany Pruitt Fletcher, President and CEO of United Way of North Carolina.

Eligible non-profits can seek grants and reimbursement of up to \$10,000 from the NC Disaster Relief Fund for efforts to meet immediate storm recovery needs via the United Way of North Carolina at https://www.unitedwaync.org/nc-disaster-relief-fund-helene.

If sufficient donations are collected to support long term recovery work, the North Carolina Community Foundation's affiliate foundations and statewide grants committee will work to ensure that all remaining donations are distributed to nonprofits that can best serve unmet needs in affected communities.

Donations to the NC Disaster Relief Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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# Helene leaves 'overwhelming' destruction - Stunned residents of Fla. town assess the damage

September 30, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Trevor Hughes; USA TODAY | Section: News | 931 Words Page: A3 OpenURL Link

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. – For nearly two decades, Scott Peters poured his heart and soul into his Crabbie Dad's bar just across the road from the Steinhatchee River on Florida's Big Bend coast.

He's weathered storms and floods, the ups and downs of the tourist trade, the overall economy and pretty much anything else the world has thrown at him. And for a long time, hurricanes have been a fact of life – and usually mild enough to ride out in town.

Locals threw hurricane parties, cracking open beers and howling defiance at the wind. But after 2016, when Hurricane Hermine trashed the small town he calls home, they started taking the storms more seriously.

"We're basically at sea level," Peters said Wednesday.

That was before Hurricane Helene roared ashore pushing a wall of water. Helene's eye hit the coast a few miles away, and Steinhatchee got hit maybe harder than almost anywhere else.

And Peters' bar maybe got hit the hardest.

He rode out the storm in Gainesville, about 70 miles away, and hadn't yet made it home to assess the damage.

His friends and neighbors texted him photos and videos of the bar, but he worried the small bridge to his house was gone, and maybe the house itself.

"It's total devastation," he said by phone Friday, while sheriff's deputies blocked entry to the town. "I've got to start completely over."

Helene shoved a wall of water estimated at least 10 feet high into the lowest-lying areas of Steinhatchee, including where the bar sat. The iconic sign is gone, and only a few of the dollar bills once stuck to the rafters remained to flutter in the wind.

Also gone are the pieces of plywood workers carefully but hastily fastened over the windows. And the windows are gone, too. And the jaunty peach-colored walls.

Mostly what's left are the concrete steps, the back patio and the partially collapsed tiled floor.

"This is overwhelming," Steinhatchee resident Jamie Lee said as she surveyed the damage. "I don't think it's sunk in."

For days leading up to the storm, Peters and his staff moved out the beer coolers and liquor bottles.

"The thing's coming so damn fast, we didn't have time to prepare much," Peters said before the storm.

Anything small enough to haul away, they moved to higher ground. Peters checked and rechecked to make sure his insurance policy would cover damage from a named storm.

"We're taking everything I can lift and move and things I didn't take out last time that I learned a lesson from," he

said Wednesday. "You take every storm as serious as you can, because this is such a low-lying area."

On Friday, stunned residents shuffled though the town's muddy streets or bumped around on golf carts and pickups as a Coast Guard helicopter clattered overhead.

The storm surge piled more than a foot-thick mat of sea grass onto some low-lying areas, shoved docks and boats across Riverside Drive and left sticky mud in other areas.

"We've got somebody's freezer in the yard," said Pamela Keen, 62, as she stood on her deck looking at scattered packages of shrimp, green peppers, soda cans and a tub of shucked oysters nestled amid the seagrass covering their front yard. Down the road, plates, beer cans and a paring knife lay on the pavement.

Keen and her husband, Gary, rode out the storm in a motel a few miles inland, counting themselves lucky to get a room at the last minute. Unfortunately, she said, it was also infested with roaches.

"I'm thankful we had a room, even if we did have a lot of company," Keen said with a laugh, before kissing her husband and chiding their grandchildren to watch out for snakes.

Driving with his wife around town in a golf cart, retiree John Kujawski pointed out damage still lingering from past storms, including last summer's Hurricane Idalia, which also whacked Steinhatchee.

A longtime resident of the Naples area, Kujawski had been visiting Steinhatchee for nearly 20 years when they decided to move here permanently, drawn by the sense of community and small-town feel.

Navigating their bumpy way along muddy Riverside Drive, the couple pointed out guest houses that had been flattened, docks tossed ashore, and boats overturned and jammed into pilings near the Sea Hag Marina.

They noted which new roofs were destroyed all over again and mourned the damage to the recently opened Vargo's Buffalo Style Pizza restaurant.

From Gainesville, Peters was still grappling with the loss of his bar and possibly his house. He does some scallop fishing and hoped that might be enough to tide him over while waiting for insurance and any possible government assistance.

He said he has previously turned down offers of government aid but this time is ready to accept whatever help he can get.

"I'm going to jump through all the hoops," he said. "I have to. I don't just want to just take a huge loss and sell a blank slate piece of property. I'm not one to give up that easy. But it all depends on the insurance."

And he said that if it takes him years to rebuild, adding back on piece by piece as he gets the money, that's what he'll do.

"Over the years, I'll keep building on when I can afford it," he said. "At least I saved the liquor. But now I don't have anywhere to put it."

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# Davin Vann, NC State football spearheading relief effort for those affected by Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Rodd Baxley, Fayetteville Observer | Section: Sports | 270 Words OpenURL Link

N.C. State football defensive lineman Davin Vann and the Wolfpack are collecting relief supplies to send to western North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Vann's mother, Joy Hall, owns Joyful Movers moving company in Cary. The Wolfpack will be collecting donations and filling up trucks over the next three days for communities dealing with the devastating effects of Helene.

The trucks will be at the Close-King Indoor Practice Facility from 3-8 p.m. on Monday and from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Live updates from Asheville Citizen-Times

N.C. State football coach Dave Doeren said they're looking for donations of bottled water, electrolyte drinks, premixed baby formula, diapers, baby wipes and other hygiene products, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, diapers and shampoo. Flash lights, batteries and lanterns, as well as blankets, sleeping bags and pop-top canned foods are also listed as items of need.

"Anything that anybody wants to bring over, we would love to have to fill this moving truck to take over to those folks," Doeren said Monday during his weekly press conference.

"Really proud and thankful for Davin and his family. Davin probably just came off the best game of his career, as well. For that to be what's on his mind today, I think, says a lot about that young man and his family. ... They'll gather the goods and then they'll be delivered to Durham Rescue Mission for dissemination."

According to the Asheville Citizen-Times, at least 41 fatalities have been attributed to the storm in western North Carolina. For the latest updates, visit citizen-times.com.

Staff writer Rodd Baxley can be reached at rbaxley@fayobserver.com or @RoddBaxley on X/Twitter.

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## Helene hits hard

September 30, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Diane Turbyfill | Section: News | 231 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

Nearly two-thirds of Gaston County's residents were without power Friday afternoon because of Hurricane Helene.

Crews continue to work to restore power after the storm trudged through North Carolina Thursday into Friday.

In Gastonia alone, city officials said more than 100 trees fell during the storm, many on power lines.

The storm also brought with it 4 to 8 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service.

Emergency Management and Fire Services continued to monitor water levels of Mountain Island Lake and the Catawba and South Fork rivers.

As of Friday afternoon, Mountain Island Lake was anticipated to rise 10 feet above maximum levels, and voluntary evacuations were issued for the Nivens Cove neighborhood adjacent to the lake.

On Thursday, a shelter was opened in Dallas. By Friday afternoon, the shelter was relocated to Belmont Middle School, 1020 South Point Road.

Residents with non-emergency concerns or needs were urged to utilize GCOEMFS' email or phone hotlines at GastonIncidentInfo@GastonGov.com or 704-862-6281 and reserve 911 for true life-threatening emergencies.

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Diane Turbyfill, 'Helene hits hard', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 A1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE9C1450D99170">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE9C1450D99170</a>



## Groups, residents help in Helene recovery

September 30, 2024 | Goldsboro News-Argus, The (NC) Author: Sam Dietrich | Section: Local | 809 Words

OpenURL Link

Sherry Archibald fielded calls throughout the day Monday at the United Way from people wanting to help residents reeling from widespread devastation that struck western North Carolina in the wake of Tropical Storm Helene.

United Way staff is coordinating efforts to handle the influx of people wanting to donate money or supplies to help people struggling from the storm.

"Financially, this is a great way to help," said Archibald, executive director of the United Way in Wayne County.

Staff have yet to identify a collection site in Wayne County where local residents can send donations and they are working with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army to coordinate their efforts.

"Obviously, there are some challenges," Archibald said. "It is a strong statewide effort ... It's going to take some time."

Joel Gillie, Wayne County public information officer, said Wayne County staff is working with the United Way and the state to aid people in need with donations like money, water and food.

"Our first goal is to make sure the people are safe," Gillie said.

On Saturday, firefighters from the Mar-Mac Volunteer Fire Department sent one of its fire trucks with personnel to Buncombe County to assist a mutual aid request by providing fire suppression and water, Gillie said.

Volunteer firefighters plan to be in Buncombe County, where Asheville is located, for five days.

Wayne County 911 Communications staff have also joined in the effort, acting as a backup 911 center to support several counties in western North Carolina, especially people who are up in the mountains affected by flooding from the storm.

Gillie said Helene was a "devastating storm" and Wayne County is still coordinating efforts to create a defined donation area so people can send needed resources.

"Our residents always step up to help," he said.

Archibald said several businesses and churches have already reached out to United Way staff requesting to join in the recovery effort. She said residents should "continue praying" for the people affected by Helene and look out for "reliable sources" that explain how and where to donate.

On Monday, Wayne Community College officials announced plans to collect supplies locally in partnership with the nonprofit, the 4-Day Movement. The donations will be transported by Fairwinds Aviation to affected areas, said Meredith Futrelle, WCC public information officer.

Requested items are cases and gallons of water, flashlights, AA and AAA batteries, paper plates, cups, plasticware, non-perishable foods, diapers, baby wipes, toiletries, blankets and children's toys.

Items can be donated by Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and dropped off in the Student Lounge in the WCC Wayne Learning Center. Contact 919-739-6740 for more information.

On Sunday, Gov. Roy Cooper's office issued a media statement to encourage donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from catastrophic damage caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

"There is a massive effort underway to get help to the people of Western North Carolina including state and federal relief but we know there will be additional needs," Cooper said. "If you're able to give, please consider a donation to help North Carolinians as they clean up and recover from Helene."

To donate, visit nc.gov/donate. Donations can be sent by mail to N.C. Disaster Relief Fund, 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C., 27699-0312.

According to the N.C. Department of Transportation, about 390 roads, including areas along Interstate 40 and dozens of highways in the foothills and mountains, are closed due to flooding, downed trees, landslides or catastrophic damage from Helene.

More than 60 closures are along primary routes including I-40, U.S. 74, U.S. 64 and dozens of other U.S. and N.C. highways, said Jamie Kritzer, DOT communications officer.

DOT Secretary Joey Hopkins said the "scope and magnitude of the devastation is "unlike anything many long-time residents have ever seen in western North Carolina."

"Our top priority is everyone's safety and well-being," Hopkins said. "People should still consider roads in western North Carolina to be closed and avoid travel unless it is absolutely necessary. Priority must be given to all the emergency responders, utility and transportation crews, and others who are working hard to help with what will be a lengthy response and recovery effort."

Hopkins said N.C. DOT officials are doing everything they can to help the people recover from the storm, calling it a "long-term effort."

United Way of North Carolina has also announced the launch of its United Way Helps N.C. fund, an initiative designed to support both immediate and long-term recovery efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Helene.

The Duke Energy Foundation has donated \$100,000 to Cooper's N.C. Disaster Relief Fund, a state fund which is also managed by United Way of North Carolina, said Brittany Fletcher, president and CEO of United Way of North Carolina.

"We are deeply committed to helping all impacted North Carolina communities through this crisis," said Kendal Bowman, Duke Energy North Carolina state president. "Our hope is that these matching funds will inspire others to join us in supporting our neighbors during this devastating time."

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## Help on the way: Brunswick County residents band together to aid western North Carolina

September 30, 2024 | Goldsboro News-Argus, The (NC) Author: Dylan Phillips Brunswick Beacon Editor | Section: News | 1194 Words OpenURL Link

Brunswick County residents are taking action to help our western North Carolina neighbors after Hurricane Helene devastated the area on Friday, Sept. 27.

Across the county, law enforcement, fire departments, churches, nonprofits, businesses and private citizens are pitching in to donate and deliver desperately needed food, water and other essential items to folks in the affected western counties.

The remnants of Hurricane Helene slammed western North Carolina last Friday, resulting in catastrophic and deadly flooding and mudslides.

The Associated Press reported Monday evening that the death toll had risen to 130 and countless more still missing across six states, with over two dozen North Carolina counties affected. Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer told CNN on Monday that over 600 people are missing from Asheville alone.

Thousands are also without power and water, as over 100 water systems in the region are without power, damaged or under boil water alerts.

In response to the natural disaster, Brunswick County citizens are banding together to provide relief to the thousands of affected residents, as many local residents once lived in western North Carolina or have family who still reside in the region.

Needed items include: non-perishable foods, water, gloves, mops, brooms, tarps, large trash bags, personal bug sprays, shovels, diapers, baby wipes, adult wipes, feminine hygiene products, adult hygiene products, hand sanitizer, batteries, working flashlights, dry dog food and dry cat food.

There are many opportunities in Brunswick County to donate essentials for affected Western North Carolina residents. This is not an exhaustive list, and The Brunswick Beacon will continue updating this story online as new collection sites are opened.

Sunset Beach Fishing Pier collection site

Gary and Teresa Massey have organized a supply drive outside the Sunset Beach Fishing Pier to collect essential food and items for affected residents. The Masseys announced on Sunday afternoon that they will be collecting food, water and essentials for folks in Avery County, North Carolina.

By mid-morning on Monday, Sept. 30, the two trucks parked outside the pier lots were both nearly full and Sunset Beach residents continued pouring into the parking lot to drop off donated food, water and essential items.

Gary Massey, an Avery County native, said he has been blown away by the community's response so far. Teresa Massey, overwhelmed with emotion, echoed Gary's sentiment. "It fills my heart to see people pulling in with carloads of stuff," she said.

A retired public safety professional, Gary Massey said he is in contact with the Avery County sheriff to ensure they will be able to get the supplies to the destination. He said he is able to confirm the collected supplies will reach Avery County.

David Phillips, a native of Newland in Avery County who now lives in Holden Beach, dropped off cases of water and other essentials Monday morning. Phillips recalled a bad storm in 1979 that caused significant flooding in the area, but said he has never seen anything like last week's storm and subsequent destruction.

The two truck were fulled loaded and headed for Avery County by Monday afternoon, and an update was posted to the Sunset Beach Fishing Pier Facebook page on Tuesday, Oct. 1, confirming the donated supplies arrived at the destination.

Teresa Massey told The Brunswick Beacon that the supplies were distributed on Tuesday in Avery, Mitchell and McDowell counties. However, she said there are many other items still needed.

These items include: cleaning supplies, baby food, baby formula, baby bottles, adult and baby diapers, canned foods and can openers, heavy duty trash bags, plastic totes and small, camping-style propane tanks.

Gary Massey added that he will be bringing in a tractor trailer to set up across from the pier lot, noting he hopes to have that ready to load by Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Until that tractor trailer arrives, donated items can be left at the back of The Island Market in its warehouse or in the Sunset Beach Fishing Pier lots, the post notes.

Local resident Daniel Stitt was at the pier loading the vehicles on Monday morning. Stitt is retired from the Union County Sheriff's Office, which is not far from the affected counties.

Stitt said he is also astounded by the outpouring of support. "This is the American spirit," he said. "Outside of politics and all the other craziness — it's people coming out and just jumping in where they can and it's helped."

NCSHP-Shallotte Police Department collection site

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol Troop B has partnered with the Shallotte Police Department for to host a food and supply drive in the Lowe's Home Improvement parking lot at 351 Whiteville Road NW.

Items and food will be collected from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Friday, Oct. 4. The drop-off location is set up near the garden center.

Shallotte Police Chief Adam Stanley said folks started donating on Monday morning as soon as the drive opened. By 10:30 a.m., the police department's trailer was nearly full and additional trailers were set up by Carolina Creations to hold the donated goods.

When the trailers currently on site at Lowe's are filled, more will be brought in, Trooper John King said.

Josh Phillips, who is soon set to join the Shallotte Police Department as a police officer, moved to Brunswick County from Asheville in 2023, and said his parents still live in that area. Phillips said his mom and dad are safe and their home was not flooded, but they are stranded on their property.

His appreciation for the community's response and heart to help left him lost for words, Phillips told The Brunswick Beacon.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Office collection sites

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has set up multiple drop-off locations across the county.

BCSO is stationed at Lowe's Foods on Midway Road from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday, or folks can drop off items at the main Sheriff's Office in Bolivia from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at the substations in Calabash and Belville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Other collection sites

Canopy Mortgage Shallotte Branch Manager Amy Cain Tarr has partnered with 835 Transport in Clemmons, North Carolina to collect and haul essential items to western North Carolina. Several businesses across Brunswick County have been set up drop-off locations as part of Tarr's collection initiative. Those locations are Century 21 Sunset Realty at 502 Sunset Blvd. North in Sunset Beach, Klinton's Flooring and More at 1633 Seaside Road in Ocean Isle Beach, The Pour House at 4802 Main Street in Shallotte and The Preppy Pineapple at 1564 Market Place Blvd. #200 in Ocean Isle Beach. A drop-off site will also be set up at the North Carolina Oyster Festival later this month.

The Grissettown-Longwood Fire Department is collecting food and essential items every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the department located at 758 Longwood Road, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469.

Soldier Bay Baptist Church will be collecting items at the church, located at 3915 Whiteville Road in Ash. The church office will be open for drop-offs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Monetary donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief. Donate at nc.gov/donate.

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### LENDING A HELPING HAND

September 30, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: KEVIN GRIFFIN Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 674 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

The N.C. Disaster Relief Fund is currently accepting donations for Hurricane Helene relief.

To donate or learn more, visit nc.gov/donate.

Greensboro police officers departed for Asheville Sunday afternoon to assist authorities there in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Greensboro Police Chief John Thompson said the department received a request for help from the Asheville Police Department around 8 p.m. Saturday.

Officers were quick to volunteer, he said and the department ultimately assembled a group of 36 who left out from the police headquarters shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday.

Thompson said the officers' primary role will be in providing security at sites like shelter and also in helping local police fulfill basic law enforcement functions as they contend with the disaster.

Four of the officers are part of the department's all-terrain vehicle (ATV) team and the department sent some ATVs as well.

Thompson said the officers are expected to be in Asheville for around a week, at which point the department will consider swapping them out for a new group.

This officers who left Sunday are not the only emergency personnel from Greensboro participating in the response to Helene out west. On Wednesday, the Greensboro announced 18 members of their rescue team were going to the mountains.

While the effects of the storm were relatively moderate in the Triad, many western parts of the states have been left devastated in the wake of the storm.

President Joe Biden has signed off on a major disaster declaration sought by Gov. Roy Cooper. The declaration covers 25 counties in the mountains and foothills as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

During a press briefing Sunday, Cooper said the storm dropped between 10 and 29 inches on parts of western North Carolina. He reported 30 deaths in Buncombe County resulting from the storm, part of an overall death toll of at least 84 people across several states.

N.C. Emergency Management Director William Ray said more than 45 search and rescue teams, including federal personnel and personnel from at least a dozen other states, searching for missing people.

The 24 shelters open in the region were housing more than 1,000 people, Ray said.

Cooper commended the work of emergency personnel.

"North Carolina is strong and our first responders are the best in the country," Cooper said. "I'm thankful for their hard work and for risking their lives to protect all North Carolinians.? This is an unprecedented tragedy that requires

an unprecedented response."

Thompson said it was a privilege to be able to assist another community in need.

"I wish I could go," Thompson said before going on to praise the volunteers as having "a servant's heart."

Thompson briefly addressed the group of officers before their departure, thanking them for stepping up to the task.

"Remember who you are and remember who you represent," the chief said. Asst. Chief Stephanie Mardis prayed for the officers' safe return.

Lt. H.J. Velez is among the Greensboro officers taking part in the effort. Velez said he experienced the effects of hurricanes as a native of Puerto Rico and that his background motivated him to help.

"I know (how it is) to be without power for four, five months, without water," Velez said. "That's why when I received the call, I wanted to volunteer right away."

He said his advice to the other officers is "just treat everybody with kindness and try to help, be helpful."

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## Pa. Gov. Shapiro stumps for Stein

September 30, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: NANCY MCLAUGHLIN Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 522 Words Page: 6A OpenURL Link

When brought out by gubernatorial candidate and N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein at UNCG Sunday, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro doubled down on how he says Stein's opponent is not fit for the job.

"Both of us got a whole lot of attention on our races because of the extremist opponents that we are up against,"
Shapiro said, referencing Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who has faced controversy over a CNN report on racial and sexual comments posted on a pornography website.

"But it would be a disservice to Josh Stein if we just focused on the negative, kooky, crazy, bonkers, extremist stuff that the other guy is doing," Shapiro said. "You see I know Josh Stein. I know he has a servant's heart."

Robinson, who faces Stein Nov. 5 to succeed Gov. Roy Cooper, was in the news over the weekend for a short hospital stay for what his campaign described as second-degree burns from touching a truck, which Shapiro did not reference.

Both Stein and Shapiro also began the meet-and-greet by acknowledging that North Carolina is struggling after Hurricane Helene, with Stein calling for a moment of silence for the victims and those working to restore power and utility service and to clear roads. Shapiro also said search-and-rescue teams had been dispatched from his state.

Stein also said that while he was continuing to campaign that he was using the campaign events as a way to also bring attention to the devastation.

Shapiro would also talk of the importance of electing Stein to office by looking at his record in moments of crisis. He mentioned the state's backlog of rape kits that Stein cleared up as attorney general. Stein helped lead a national bipartisan group of state attorney generals to hold pharmaceutical companies responsible for the opioid crisis, Shapiro noted.

"This is not just a race where we're voting against someone," Shapiro said."We've got someone great we can vote for in Josh Stein to be our next governor. He knows how to get stuff done."

Stein spoke of raising the state minimum wage, which he says could lift children out of poverty, while building an economy that provides possibilities for anyone who wants to work hard.

"Governing isn't complicated," Stein said. "It's about putting people first and then fighting for them."

But Robinson's words were apparently still ringing in his ears.

"From that CNN report, we learned that he's a self-described Nazi," Stein said. "He wants to bring slavery back. He praises Hitler. But look, he was unfit to be governor before that story broke."

Robinson has said he has hired lawyers to look into the CNN report.

"He disrespects women," Stein continued to moans from the audience. " ... He said public school teachers are wicked, gay people are filth, civil rights leaders are crap. This summer, from all places, a church pulpit, he screamed that some people need killing. But it's not just what he said, but what he would do."

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## Page keeps Ragsdale off balance

September 30, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: BRYANT ROCHE Staff Reporter | Section: Life | 942 Words

Page: 1B OpenURL Link

5 TAKEAWAYS | Page vs. Ragsdale

Page football is finding its identity, while Ragsdale is looking for its own.

The Pirates took a 30-6 home victory on Friday.

"Just trying to figure out ways to get our guys the ball," Ragsdale coach Antwon Stevenson said. "And guys on the outside not making enough plays, so it's one of those things. Just trying to figure it out. That's what mode we are in, still trying to figure it out."

Page (2-3, 2-0) began its season under first-year coach Caylon Hann with losses to current Triad top five teams Dudley, Reidsville and Mount Tabor by an average score of 47-11, but coming off a bye week, defeated Southwest Guilford 55-12. The Pirates continued the momentum against the Tigers, leading 23-0 at halftime and scoring the first 30 points of this game on the way to a three-way tie for first place in the Metro 4A Conference.

"Our program is changing, and that is what we want," Hann said. "Page has a great history of winning, and we want some wins around here. We want to keep winning, and we have some freshmen who are really good, and we look for a bright future ahead of us and some sophomores who are really good, so we are just hoping that the future is bright and we just want to take it one day at a time."

Ragsdale (2-3, 0-2), also with a first-year coach, reached 2-0 for the first time since 2012 with wins over Northeast Guilford and Glenn, but the team has since lost three straight.

Here are my biggest takeaways from the Ragsdale-Page game.

## Momentum

Building off last week's win, Page had a 10-play, 74-yard touchdown drive to start the game. The Pirates missed the extra point.

Page added a 33-yard field goal, then forced an incomplete pass on Ragsdale's fake punt. Three plays later, Page freshman quarterback Za'Mari Williamson hit sophomore wide receiver Kasai Poindexter deep in the end zone for a 29-yard touchdown.

"We put ourselves in a bad situation," Stevenson said. "Early turnovers. We got down and gave them confidence. Any time you have a team that is building coming off a win, you can't give teams like that confidence."

### Ragsdale's offense

The Ragsdale offense entered with a very balanced attack, with a nearly 50-50 balance of run and pass, while averaging 171 rushing yards and 169.5 passing yards per game.

Against Page, the Tigers, despite falling behind early, still remained relatively balanced, running 26 times and passing 21 times. They had 169 yards rushing to just compared to just 41 yards passing. On the season, Ragsdale has only completed 46.7% of its passes and has thrown three touchdowns to eight interceptions.

Fabian Diggs' running was the offense's biggest lift. He ran 16 times for 157 yards, including a 74-yard run for Ragsdale's only score. The Tigers are most effective leaning on the run, controlling the clock and throwing in an occasional surprise pass as it did when it had a momentum-turning, wide-open 51-yard touchdown pass that made it 20-14 in their eventual 21-20 win over Glenn.

It appeared that Ragsdale was in a bind as it got behind having to choose between what is most effective for them and the knowledge that passing is the faster way to move the ball.

### Freshman quarterback

Williamson earned the starting quarterback job in camp over incumbent starter Nigel Hinson, a senior, as Hann said Williamson's poise didn't change from getting junior varsity reps to playing with the varsity, in addition to impressing in a preseason scrimmage against West Forsyth with a 98-yard touchdown play.

The offense only averaged 11.3 points over its first three games, but Williamson's efficiency has been key since then, with the emergence of Poindexter, who was out with a shoulder injury prior to the Southwest game. Against Southwest, he completed 7 of 9 passes for 147 yards and three touchdowns and against Ragsdale completed 8 of 14 for 79 yards and two touchdowns, with no interceptions thrown in either game.

## Assignment football

Hann was pleased with the way his defense played together.

"It's not who we play; it's how we play," he said. "That was a big thing. Guys knew what to do. Whatever formation they come out in, our guys know exactly what their assignment is and they know what to do, so that is a plus for us."

Stevenson said that is a struggle for his team, especially on offense, which is averaging 12 points per game.

"We just have to keep playing," Stevenson said. "I think football is the ultimate team sport where you have to have all 11 on the same page and all it takes is just one not doing what they are supposed to do to mess a whole play up. Very few times did we have all 11 doing what they are supposed to do."

### Artificial turf

Page is the only high school in Guilford County with an artificial turf field. Installed for the 2023 season, it came in handy Friday as rains from Hurricane Helene caused all but two football games to be rescheduled, the other remaining Friday game being Western Guilford at Southwest Guilford.

The artificial surface looked and felt as though rain had never come through. The weather was a non-issue hours before the 7:30 p.m. kickoff at Page. The lack of rain made it a much better experience than if it the game had been bumped up to Thursday, when it rained throughout the region as Grimsley hosted Northwest Guilford.

Hann said the artificial turf gave Page confidence that the game could be played on Friday. It may be something to think about for other county schools. Reidsville is the only other school in the Triad with artificial turf.

Also:

Western Guilford 43, Southwest Guilford 20

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## Page keeps Ragsdale off balance

September 30, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: BRYANT ROCHE Staff Reporter | Section: Life | 1072 Words

Page: 1B OpenURL Link

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## Momentum

Building off last week's win, Page had a 10-play, 74-yard touchdown drive to start the game. The Pirates missed the extra point.

Page added a 33-yard field goal, then forced an incomplete pass on Ragsdale's fake punt. Three plays later, Page freshman quarterback Za'Mari Williamson hit sophomore wide receiver Kasai Poindexter deep in the end zone for a 29-yard touchdown.

"We put ourselves in a bad situation," Stevenson said. "Early turnovers. We got down and gave them confidence. Any time you have a team that is building coming off a win, you can't give teams like that confidence."

### Ragsdale's offense

The Ragsdale offense entered with a very balanced attack, with a nearly 50-50 balance of run and pass, while averaging 171 rushing yards and 169.5 passing yards per game.

Against Page, the Tigers, despite falling behind early, still remained relatively balanced, running 26 times and passing 21 times. They had 169 yards rushing to just compared to just 41 yards passing. On the season, Ragsdale has only completed 46.7% of its passes and has thrown three touchdowns to eight interceptions.

Fabian Diggs' running was the offense's biggest lift. He ran 16 times for 157 yards, including a 74-yard run for Ragsdale's only score. The Tigers are most effective leaning on the run, controlling the clock and throwing in an occasional surprise pass as it did when it had a momentum-turning, wide-open 51-yard touchdown pass that made it 20-14 in their eventual 21-20 win over Glenn.

It appeared that Ragsdale was in a bind as it got behind having to choose between what is most effective for them and the knowledge that passing is the faster way to move the ball.

### Freshman quarterback

Williamson earned the starting quarterback job in camp over incumbent starter Nigel Hinson, a senior, as Hann said Williamson's poise didn't change from getting junior varsity reps to playing with the varsity, in addition to impressing in a preseason scrimmage against West Forsyth with a 98-yard touchdown play.

The offense only averaged 11.3 points over its first three games, but Williamson's efficiency has been key since then, with the emergence of Poindexter, who was out with a shoulder injury prior to the Southwest game. Against Southwest, he completed 7 of 9 passes for 147 yards and three touchdowns and against Ragsdale completed 8 of 14 for 79 yards and two touchdowns, with no interceptions thrown in either game.

## Assignment football

Hann was pleased with the way his defense played together.

"It's not who we play; it's how we play," he said. "That was a big thing. Guys knew what to do. Whatever formation they come out in, our guys know exactly what their assignment is and they know what to do, so that is a plus for us."

Stevenson said that is a struggle for his team, especially on offense, which is averaging 12 points per game.

"We just have to keep playing," Stevenson said. "I think football is the ultimate team sport where you have to have all 11 on the same page and all it takes is just one not doing what they are supposed to do to mess a whole play up. Very few times did we have all 11 doing what they are supposed to do."

### Artificial turf

Page is the only high school in Guilford County with an artificial turf field. Installed for the 2023 season, it came in handy Friday as rains from Hurricane Helene caused all but two football games to be rescheduled, the other remaining Friday game being Western Guilford at Southwest Guilford.

The artificial surface looked and felt as though rain had never come through. The weather was a non-issue hours before the 7:30 p.m. kickoff at Page. The lack of rain made it a much better experience than if it the game had been bumped up to Thursday, when it rained throughout the region as Grimsley hosted Northwest Guilford.

Hann said the artificial turf gave Page confidence that the game could be played on Friday. It may be something to think about for other county schools. Reidsville is the only other school in the Triad with artificial turf.

Also:

Western Guilford 43, Southwest Guilford 20

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## Page keeps Ragsdale off balance

September 30, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: BRYANT ROCHE Staff Reporter | Section: Life | 942 Words

Page: 1B OpenURL Link

5 TAKEAWAYS | Page vs. Ragsdale

Page football is finding its identity, while Ragsdale is looking for its own.

The Pirates took a 30-6 home victory on Friday.

"Just trying to figure out ways to get our guys the ball," Ragsdale coach Antwon Stevenson said. "And guys on the outside not making enough plays, so it's one of those things. Just trying to figure it out. That's what mode we are in, still trying to figure it out."

Page (2-3, 2-0) began its season under first-year coach Caylon Hann with losses to current Triad top five teams Dudley, Reidsville and Mount Tabor by an average score of 47-11, but coming off a bye week, defeated Southwest Guilford 55-12. The Pirates continued the momentum against the Tigers, leading 23-0 at halftime and scoring the first 30 points of this game on the way to a three-way tie for first place in the Metro 4A Conference.

"Our program is changing, and that is what we want," Hann said. "Page has a great history of winning, and we want some wins around here. We want to keep winning, and we have some freshmen who are really good, and we look for a bright future ahead of us and some sophomores who are really good, so we are just hoping that the future is bright and we just want to take it one day at a time."

Ragsdale (2-3, 0-2), also with a first-year coach, reached 2-0 for the first time since 2012 with wins over Northeast Guilford and Glenn, but the team has since lost three straight.

Here are my biggest takeaways from the Ragsdale-Page game.

## Momentum

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## Storm causes some universities in state to close doors

September 30, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Korie Dean; Staff Writer | Section: News | 643 Words Page: 5A OpenURL Link

Some universities in western North Carolina will remain closed for at least a week due to the impacts of Helene, the storm that left much of the region devastated and destroyed.

UNC Asheville plans to remain closed until Wednesday, Oct. 9, Chancellor Kimberly van Noort announced in a statement posted to the UNC System's X account Saturday.

On Friday evening, a university emergency alert message said the storm "created multiple hazards on campus and significantly compromised university infrastructure." Van Noort said in her statement Saturday that "everyone is safe," but "parts of campus are inaccessible" and "cell and internet coverage is nonexistent at this point."

The university will provide "security, food, water and comfort" to students who remain on campus, van Noort said.

The city of Asheville remains under a curfew, in effect from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. each night, until further notice. City officials are also advising residents to boil water used for human consumption, or to use bottled water.

More information is available on the university's Bulldog Alert website: new.unca.edu/bulldogalert.

The Appalachian State University campuses in Boone and Hickory will remain closed through 5 p.m. onFriday, Oct. 4, the university announced Saturday through an emergency alert message.

On the Boone campus, student residence halls remain open, with none of the buildings "structurally compromised." The central dining hall, campus markets, the student union, the student health center and the student recreation center also remain open.

Maintenance crews are roping off "dangerous areas" on campus, and those on campus are advised to not enter the areas once they are marked. Anyone doing so may face disciplinary action or possible arrest.

The university is asking those who remain on campus to conserve water by taking short showers, running dishwashers and washing machines only when they are full, and not leaving faucets to run.

The university also advises anyone who chooses to leave campus or the surrounding areas to "proceed with extreme caution, and keep the roads as clear as possible for emergency response vehicles."

Students, faculty and staff who live off-campus should not come to campus. Anyone in need of shelter should call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

More information is available on the university's App State Alert website: appstatealert.com.

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee will remain closed through Friday, Oct. 4, the university announced on social media Saturday. The closure also applies to remote students.

The university has power, water and food, according to a post the university made to X around noon Saturday.

Campus emergency services and student services will remain operational during the closure. Campus dining will also available with limited options.

The university advises students to not leave campus due to the closures of major roads and interstates in the area. The university also advises the parents and guardians of students to not attempt traveling to campus.

The campus University Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, where students may make landline phone calls as cellular and internet disruptions continue.

The university's website appeared to be down Saturday afternoon. The university will make additional updates through its social media channels, including on X (twitter.com/WCU) and Facebook (facebook.com/WesternCarolinaUniversity).

Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory will not hold classes on Monday, Sept. 30, the university announced Saturday. The closure applies to in-person and remote classes.

The university does not know when power will be restored to all of campus, and is thus advising students who are able to safely leave during the weekend to do so.

Minges Science Building, George Hall and the Rudisill Library will be open from 8 a.m. until midnight Saturday and Sunday, with power, internet and air conditioning available in each building. Rudisill Library will provide late-night programming, food and drink from 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday.

More information and further updates will be available at Ir.edu/news/hurricane-helene-storm-updates.

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## Western NC town of Clyde rebuilding - - again - after Helene

September 30, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Ryan Oehrli; Staff Writer | Section: News | 459 Words

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CLYDE People in Clyde were rebuilding Saturday - again.

For many residents, it was their second time getting hit by a storm and having to start over. For some, it was the third. In 2021, Haywood County got hit by Tropical Storm Fred. Before that, Ivan in 2004.

But neither compared to what they saw after Helene, residents told The Charlotte Observer. Helene, which struck Florida as a Category 4 hurricane before dumping historic rain totals on western North Carolina as a tropical storm, washed out roads and brought untold damage to a swath of the state. Cellular networks and internet access remained limited.

The water line from flooding nearly reached the ceiling of a home on Broad Street in Clyde, where Brandon Patterson raked mud and trash out of his stepfather's home.

Patterson's stepfather, Tomas Quiroz, bought the house after Fred flooded it in 2021, hoping to fix it up.

Now he is back to square one, and his family says they will rebuild there.

Others on Broad Street were dealing with the same, familiar issues.

"We lost everything in the house just about," said Denise Dean, who lived just a few doors down from Quiroz, and who's lived on Broad Street for about eight years.

Unlike Quiroz, she's moving somewhere with higher ground. She's staying across the Pigeon River from her home after the storm. Her family has been in a hotel.

Nearby, husband and wife Lora and Mitch Nelson shoveled mud out of Lora's salon and barber shop, Superior Cuts, on Depot Street.

"That building never flooded before, if that tells you anything. They said FEMA and the National Guard are coming. But people've got livelihoods," said Mitch Nelson.

Lora Nelson's shop is plastered with mud. It's surrounded by buildings trashed by Helene. She's not sure how she'll be self-employed.

"It's devastating," she said.

There were some silver linings Saturday for people in Clyde.

Amy Russell and Lisa Monteith had about a dozen customers who, without any phone calls possible, just showed up to help.

Their pet food and dog training business flooded heavily - so much so that a bag of dog food found its way into someone's house on another street. They had the store for about three years, and already dealt with the "little flood," said Russell. There wasn't so much water then.

"We weren't expecting this," she said. "It's so heartbreaking."

Russell said they're planning to reopen the smaller shop for dog grooming and training, just around the corner, and move the retail inside that location.

Her customers helped to clean out both locations.

"Lisa says that a customer becomes a friend before a friend becomes a customer," Russell said.

# Ryan Oehrli: @oehrli

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