

# Pisgah football falls in thrilling return to gridiron post-Helene

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: Sports | 1125 Words OpenURL Link

The Pisgah Bears football team returned to action for the first time since Helene ravaged Canton and left Pisgah Memorial Stadium with severe damage.

The Bears were given a tough matchup in their return to play — facing off against the reigning conference champions, West Henderson. The Falcons kept their conference record clean with a close 27-24 victory.

"We played well in spots," Pisgah coach Ricky Brindley said. "We had an opportunity to win the game. We just couldn't overcome some mistakes. They executed really well at times. It was two good football teams battling."

#### Fans line the fence

While Pisgah weren't able to get the victory on Friday night, they provided the fans with an exciting escape from the devastation around them.

"This community has been destroyed," senior Jake Lowery said. "It's been through a lot these past two weeks. Getting out here and seeing everyone rally behind us and getting to play in front of everybody and trying to bring the community back together was really special for us."

The game was played at Bethel Middle School due to the damages at Pisgah Memorial Stadium. For many of the players, including senior quarterback Aaron Clark, it was a return home to where they had played so many games from youth up through middle school.

"It was awesome," Clark said. "I've played here my whole life. It's my stomping grounds. It's me and a bunch of my teammates' old stomping grounds. We really enjoy playing here. We're really glad we made this our home field."

Many of the coaches, including Brindley, grew up and played on the same field, as well.

"This is a special place," Brindley said. "Having grown up here and went to Bethel, it was a big deal to me. I'm very proud to have been able to play this game on this field."

Parking was a hot commodity for the game, as fans lined the fences around the field and filled the limited bleachers.

"It was a great atmosphere. It was a great crowd," Brindley said. "I was really excited to see the amount of people that were here and the amount of people that were here. There were a lot of people hanging on the fence."

That crowd was important, especially during the big plays late in a close game.

"It felt electric," Clark said. "It felt really packed. The fans were getting into it. It really fed us, especially towards the end when we started rolling. It was a really fun game to play in with the atmosphere the fans produced."

Down to the wire

The game on the field was a thriller. From the very start, both teams were trading haymakers.

The problem for the Bears was allowing the explosive play to the Falcons.

In the first quarter, West Henderson scored on runs of 46 and 65 yards. In the second quarter, the Falcons scored on a 51-yard pass. Their final touchdown was a 35-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter.

"We've talked about this as a staff and with our players," Brindley said. "Explosive plays can be devastating to a team. Certainly, tonight they were able to hit a few. They were backbreakers. You play well for several snaps and all of a sudden they break off a 55, 65, 75 yard run. That's hard. That's hard to overcome and play on that emotional rollercoaster."

But Pisgah's offense certainly hung with the Falcons throughout the game.

After the first West touchdown, both teams traded a pair of three-and-outs. The Bears then marched the ball downfield, capping the drive off with a 15-yard pass from Clark to Lowery to level the score.

"It was electric," Lowery said. "We're not at home. The stadium is condensed a little from what we're used to, but we still had Pisgah nation here. They showed out and showed up. It felt like there were a ton of people here. Them having our backs really felt good. Scoring that touchdown right in front of the fans on the fence and seeing them go wild was really cool for me."

With the Bears trailing 13-7 and all the momentum on the West Henderson sideline, senior Landon Pope lowered his shoulder on a run to the outside and ran through a defender.

"We needed something to get us going," Pope said. "With no school today, it threw us off our routine. I felt like that gave us some energy to start playing some football."

The Falcons took a 20-10 lead into the halftime break, but Pisgah came out swinging to start the second half.

Pope quickly got the Bears back in the game. On the second play of the half, the senior broke off a 72-yard run. A couple of plays later and he punched it into the end zone from a yard out to cut the deficit to 20-17.

"He's an animal. He's a moose," Brindley said. "What they were doing was difficult. But when we did get them blocked, it gave him lots of room to be able to operate. He played well. He ran the ball so hard. He was violent. The first tackler had a hard time bringing him down. I was very impressed with him."

He finished the night with 19 carries for 168 yards and a touchdown.

Going to the fourth quarter, the Falcons led 27-17. The Bears forced an early punt. Then, senior Kenyon Moore took over a drive — snagging back-to-back catches as the Bears marched toward the end zone.

"Kenyon was big. Kenyon always is," Brindley said. "He's such a threat. He forces people to have to keep a safety over the top. They're trying to take him away and they did a really good job of that. We were able to finally get him the ball some."

Moore was one of three players to haul in five passes, picking up a team-best 60 yards along the way.

A few plays later, Clark hit junior Matthew Mehaffey for a 26-yard touchdown pass.

Clark finished the night completing 16 of 29 passes for 168 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. He also added 50 rushing yards.

West got the ball back and marched down field, burning clock along the way. On fourth down deep in Pisgah territory, the Falcons went with a reverse. The run earned West Henderson a first down and allowed them to go into victory formation.

While Pisgah didn't grab the win, just getting back on the field was a victory for the entire community.

"It meant a lot to our kids — just having the opnpruntuntiy to be able to play this game. You can't take it for granted," Brindley said. "It can be gone in the blink of an eye. It was great for our kids to be able to play tonight and to have that opportunity."

Pisgah will return to action next Friday when it hosts North Henderson, who lost to Franklin, 45-6, on Friday.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

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# An act of kindness saves family from homelessness

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: Life | 873 Words OpenURL Link

A young mother facing homelessness after Hurricane Helene found an unexpected lifeline when a couple from Mississippi, feeling called by God, delivered a camper to give her and her daughter a fresh start.

As noon approached on the Friday of the flood, Veneta Black and her daughter, Aria, were evacuated from their mobile home in Jonathan Creek. Black had initially planned to ride out the storm, unaware of how severe the situation would become.

"The fire department just told us that it's very dangerous, and we just really need to get out, and I need to get all my animals out. So I didn't have much time," Black said.

At that point, the reality of the situation — and the weight of worry — began to sink in for Black. She hastened to gather as many of her and her daughter's belongings as she could, along with their animals.

"I was just freaking out. I was so worried about getting all of the animals out of there, and my daughter and myself, I wasn't sure where we were going to go," Black said. "I just instantly felt like I had to rush to get everything together, and I knew I was going to lose everything."

When she had the chance to return home, she sifted through the mud to find anything salvageable, but her mobile home, the camper she had been working on, and her car had all been flooded.

## A sign from God

A little over 500 miles away in Morton, Miss., Bobby Tagert and his wife Betty were watching the devastation from Helene unfold on the news. They were moved by the need and knew they had to help.

The next morning, a light bulb went off for Bobby. He had an unused camper sitting in his lot, one he had tried to sell the previous couple of months.

"I had never pulled it anywhere. I pulled it home when I bought it, and it had stayed there for over a year, and my grandsons were too busy for us to go camping and do things," Bobby said.

"I just felt the Lord just wanted me to give somebody this camper, it didn't matter who, somebody in need, somebody that could use it," he added.

He turned to his wife and said, "Let's be praying about this, because I don't know how to go about doing it."

After discussing it with her sisters, Betty found that her second cousin Janet Burns — a member of First United Methodist in Waynesville — would be the missing link.

"I messaged her on Facebook Messenger and she said, 'Yeah, I think my church would be interested,'" Betty said.

# Making a match

Janet was then able to put the couple in contact with her church's preacher and Nicole Kott, director of the Friendship House, the community outreach and service ministry of FUMC.

"When we knew it was coming across the country, we started looking through all the folks that we've worked with and the folks we helped evacuate. And we identified a small family that could sustain it, that would fit in the camper," Kott said.

That family would be Black and her daughter.

"I believe there are solutions. It just takes the right people coming together, just a good group of people doing what they can to make a difference," Kott said.

Two days later, Bobby hitched up the camper to the back of his truck and Betty climbed into the passenger seat to help him navigate the 12-hour drive to Haywood County.

"So, my first real pull was over 550 miles through Atlanta," Bobby said. "That was a God thing."

Betty said they prayed before their car ride and made it without a scratch.

Kott had kept the surprise, and on Monday asked Black to meet her at the church, just to take a look at the camper to see whether something like that would work for her and Aria.

The big reveal

When they arrived, Betty and Bobby stood to the side as Kott handed Black the keys and told her it would be their home.

"I've just been hoping and praying for something like this for a couple months, and then when the flood finally destroyed our place, man, I just started praying even harder," Black said. "And when I saw that, I just, I don't know, it was just like, finally, we got some help. And it's beautiful, it's a nice place and just brand new, and it's something that we've needed for a very long time."

Black said the mobile home they'd been living in over the past nine years had been slowly deteriorating, and they had been in need for a long time, applying to Mountain Projects for housing.

"Nothing ever came of it. But I know that there are so many people who apply, who need help. They're not able to get to everybody," Black said.

She said the biggest thing she has come to appreciate through all this is the connection with other people.

"I think it opens people's eyes a little bit to others who need help, because a lot of the time we all just kind of stay to ourselves and don't really know what's going on with each other. But now I feel like I have a bigger support system, and I've got to meet some really nice people," Black said.

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# 'The interstate has basically gone into the river': I-40 through Pigeon Gorge hit by Helene

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 708 Words OpenURL Link

The stunning damage to Interstate 40 in the Pigeon River Gorge makes it impossible to create a timeline for its reopening, given engineers are still figuring out the best way to fix it.

The Pigeon River scoured away the mountainside that held up the roadbed. Now that roadbed is gone, collapsing out from under the interstate. Enormous sections of asphalt lie in pieces in the river at the bottom of a near-vertical escarpment.

In essence, I-40 is gone.

"You are truly between a rock on one side and a hard place on the other," said Kevin Ensley, chairman of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners.

Ensley escorted media along I-40 in the gorge Wednesday to survey the damage, and in turn, get the message out to the rest of the nation that I-40 is in shambles and needs the full weight of government assistance to get it repaired.

"We need to get this fixed as quickly as we can," Ensley said.

The westbound lanes heading toward Tennessee are thankfully passable, but only to emergency vehicles and construction crews — which are already at work.

But on the other side of the median barrier, huge chunks of the eastbound lanes along a 2.5-mile stretch are missing.

"The interstate has basically gone into the river," Ensley said.

The entourage hopped the barrier to get a better look, walking up to the edge of the missing pavement and peering over a 50-foot drop off at the rubble below.

"Don't get too close," Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Henderson cautioned. The collapsed slope might not be done collapsing yet, he warned.

Indeed, the pavement that remains is marred with long cracks, a telltale sign of slippage in the underlying roadbed, even visibly tipping toward the river chasm in some places. Crews at work now are stabilizing compromised areas to prevent more sections from tumbling — and, God forbid, taking the passable westbound lanes with it.

I-40 through the Pigeon Gorge was cut into the side of a mountain. On one side, it plummets to the river. On the other, the mountain rises precipitously.

"It's a cliff," Ensley said.

And that leaves little room to work with when engineering a repair.

"Anything can be fixed, it's just a matter of how," reassured Wanda Payne, the head of the westernmost division of the N.C. Department of Transportation.

'We need help'

While Haywood County has a long road to recovery, and a seemingly infinite to-do list, Ensley adopted I-40 as his number one priority early on. As the top elected official in Haywood County, Ensley has had a direct line to the governor, Congressmen, Senators, FEMA and even the White House.

In their calls, they always ask Ensley "What do you need?"

His answer: fix I-40.

"We have to make sure they understand how important this highway is," Ensley said. "I have asked them to please send us the funds to expedite the repair to our interstate."

When U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis toured Haywood County this week, Ensley got on the horn to alter his itinerary. Tillis needed to see I-40, Ensley said.

"It was impactful for him to see the extent of damage in person, because the pictures just don't do it justice," Ensley said.

I-40 through the Pigeon River Gorge has suffered landslides before — twice since the mid-2000s. But this time, the situation is worse.

The fix will be much harder, since there's nothing to build the road back on top of. But moreover, Haywood is facing the double whammy of I-26 into Tennessee also being closed. An I-26 bridge in Unicoi, Tennessee collapsed — rendering the normal detour of I-26 to I-81 impassable.

"We can't get to Tennessee now," Ensley said. "We are somewhat isolated. People can't really get here from the west."

Past landslides blocking I-40 cut off the flow of tourists.

"That had a bigger impact on the county's sales tax revenue than the recession because we are so tourist driven. When access is cut off, we see it financially," said County Manager Bryant Morehead.

It's also a hardship for local folks who frequent Tennessee, whether it's for business dealings or pilgrimages to Dollywood.

But it's not just Haywood County that will suffer.

"It's an economic impact for the whole region. There's a lot of freight that comes through here. I-40 runs all the way to the Pacific coast. This will interrupt things at a national level," Morehead said.

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# 'The interstate has basically gone into the river': I-40 through Pigeon Gorge hit by Helene

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: On Premise | 38 Words OpenURL Link

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# Struggling to understand magnitude of loss after Helene

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: James Markey| Section: Columns | 580 Words OpenURL Link

I'm struggling to find the right words to express the heartbreak I feel for everyone affected by this unimaginable tragedy. On Friday, Sept. 27, Bethany, Selah and I found ourselves in a frightening situation. For hours, sleep was impossible as we faced the uncertainty of the storm. Thankfully, when the worst passed, we found ourselves spared from the most severe damage — just a small leak, no power, and eventually, no cell service to connect us with the outside world.

Bethany was scheduled to help at the shelter that evening, and we attempted to drive out in two cars, thinking the roads would be passable after 12 hours. That's when we realized we weren't going anywhere. When the town's public works team reached us the next day — huge thanks to those incredible workers — we began to understand the extent of the devastation.

Through neighbors and emergency radio updates, we learned that much of Western North Carolina, Upstate South Carolina and Eastern Tennessee were left reeling by the hurricane. It wasn't until the middle of the night, as I was feeding Selah, that I saw updates on Facebook that revealed the full, chilling scope of the disaster.

My heart aches for friends and strangers who have lost everything — loved ones, homes filled with memories and even beloved pets. I can hardly begin to comprehend the magnitude of this loss. It's overwhelming.

On Sunday morning, I found myself asking God the hard questions: Why is this happening? How can we say His hand is in this? I don't have answers. The only comfort I've found is in remembering that God calms the stormy seas, though He never promised there wouldn't be storms.

I don't claim to understand how that fits into the grand scheme of things, but I will say that in the midst of all this, I've seen something powerful. Neighbors have been selflessly helping each other, sharing what they have. People from far and wide have reached out to check on us. There is so much care and compassion being shown for one another, whether people know each other or not.

I don't know why these tragedies happen. It's difficult for anyone to grasp. But I do know that today I'm alive, able to hold my wife, and to watch the wonder in my daughter's eyes, oblivious to the chaos around her. Even in this darkness, I see light. I've seen it in the acts of kindness all around us. I'm seeing it now. And for my part, I'll share what I can, where I can, with as many as I can.

Thank you to everyone who has been concerned for us as we've been out of communication. Your care has been a great comfort in this difficult time. Many have asked how to help, and while I don't have clear answers yet beyond the usual aid channels, I will do my best to direct help toward those I know who are most affected. As opportunities arise, I will reach out to you if there are ways you can join in.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord." — Jeremiah 29:11-14.

James Markey is choir director at First Baptist Church in Canton and Enka High School choir director Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

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# The flood left this single mom homeless, until a stranger gifted her a camper

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara| Section: On Premise| 33 Words OpenURL Link

A young mother facing homelessness after Hurricane Helene found an unexpected lifeline when a couple from Mississippi, feeling called by God, delivered a camper to give her and her daughter a fresh start.

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# Maggie Valley couple opens home for neighbors to connect to outside world

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Paul Nielsen| Section: On Premise| 49 Words OpenURL Link

The welcome sign in front of the Maggie Valley home of Jeff and Caitlin Nichols was still up 11 days after Hurricane Helene. But this was not your ordinary welcome sign. Instead, it read: "Free Wi-Fi" and listed the network name and password for the couple's Starlink satellite system.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Paul Nielsen, 'Maggie Valley couple opens home for neighbors to connect to outside world', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C3952F06A59578">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C3952F06A59578</a>>



# PHOTO GALLERY: I-40 destruction in Pigeon Gorge

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 64 Words OpenURL Link

View the damage to I-40 through the Pigeon Gorge on the Haywood County stretch of the interstate following

The Pigeon River scoured away the mountainside that held up the roadbed. Now that roadbed is gone, collapsing out from under the interstate along a 2-4 mile stretch. Enormous sections of asphalt lie in pieces in the river at the bottom of a near-vertical escarpment.

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# Blackhawk journey unveils state of damage in Haywood

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: News | 465 Words

OpenURL Link

Local emergency personnel took a flight around Haywood County aboard a Blackhawk helicopter to get a better understanding of the damage caused by Helene.

"The goal was to observe dams and portions of infrastructure that you can get a broader picture of," Haywood County Sheriff Bill Wilke said.

Having a bird's eye view allowed a better understanding of the scope of the devastation following the storm.

"When you stand at the first place on I-40 where there's damage, you get the context of what's right in front of you," Wilke said. "From the air, you get the context of the length of that and what's happened potentially across miles of damage."

The trip took the group to every part of the county. They visited the Asheville watershed, the Waterville dam, I-40, Clyde, a bridge of N.C. 209 and Lake Logan.

"We covered almost the entire county," Wilke said. "It was pretty extensive."

The group included folks from various fields, including emergency personnel and architects.

The group was looking for debris, locations with damage and landslides that weren't previously known. Wilke's focus was on anything that could impact public safety.

"We had an entire contingent there looking for any vulnerabilities, landslides that weren't identified previously," Wilke said. "It's really just a situational awareness picture that we were looking for."

The damage and devastation they saw was widespread.

"It's hard to explain," Wilke said. "You have portions of residential areas in the county that were seemingly untouched. You have pristine homes and cars. Literally just hundreds of yards away, you have complete devastation."

He also noticed changes in the Pigeon River.

"The river has been rerouted in some areas. That's not going to change. There's significant land loss. It has agricultural consequences," Wilke said. "It's hard to describe the places that were hit. They were entirely different than how I knew them to be."

Those changes to the river are something that might not be quite as noticeable on the ground.

"It was striking to me how the river looked different from the air," Wilke said. "Places that I knew where it went before, places that it had broadened. It's different. You don't get that perspective from anywhere but a few thousand feet in the air above it."

Interstate 40 also showed significant signs of damage.

"It's a much better assessment from the air," Wilke said. "There's areas that you can easily see that have washed

and are still washing. The stability under I-40 is not there. You have whole lanes that are gone, and you can look at it and tell that it's not stable."

But beyond all of the wreckage, Wilke noticed a lot of good things happening.

"I was amazed at the difference in the debris, how much had been fixed in just a few days' time," he said. "There's a lot of progress being made, and it's being made quickly."

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# Blackhawk journey unveils state of damage in Haywood

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: On Premise | 42 Words OpenURL Link

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# Raging waters undermine bridge in Frog Level, prompting closure

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 384 Words OpenURL Link

The bridge over Richland Creek in Frog Level — an important artery between downtown Waynesville and Russ Avenue — is closed indefinitely after flooding that eroded the structural support.

"The velocity of the river just took the foundation out from under the base and the abutments," said Jeff Stines, Waynesville public services director.

There's a center pier that runs the width of the bridge in the middle. But instead of the pier holding up the bridge, the bridge is now holding up the pier.

The creekbed beneath the pier was washed out, so it's now sitting on nothing at all.

The town enlisted the engineering firm Mattern and Craig to do an assessment of 11 town bridges following Helene.

"They were johnny-on-the-spot willing to help us," Stines said. "They look at the supports. They look for spalling in the concrete. They look for separation of the riverbed from the bridge."

When they got to the Depot Street bridge, they discovered a gap between the riverbed and the supports. That was Tuesday of this week, and traffic had been going over the bridge for 10 days since the flood. But Stines, who was on site for the inspection, sprung into action after learning of the issue.

"I told the guys 'Go get the barricades and shut it down,'" he said.

Luckily, a fix is possible to shore up the bridge without totally rebuilding it.

"A structural concrete foundation will be bored underneath it down to a good base," Stines said.

A timeline isn't yet known, however.

Getting into town

Traffic coming from Russ Avenue hits a detour when reaching Frog Level, but the detour weaves through narrow neighborhood streets to Sulphur Springs. So it would behoove drivers to get to town another way all together.

The town has put a message board on Russ Avenue to alert drivers before heading into Frog Level.

Meanwhile, however, the Russ Avenue bridge over the railroad tracks is down to one lane in each direction for unrelated construction. That created a bottleneck on the Russ Avenue approach to downtown even before the Depot Street bridge closure was added to the mix.

The sudden closure of the Depot Street bridge created traffic backups at first. But that should lessen once locals modify their patterns and get to town via the Old Asheville Highway, through Hazelwood or along Howell Mill Road through the rec park.

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Becky Johnson, 'Raging waters undermine bridge in Frog Level, prompting closure', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C341D524633368">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C341D524633368</a>



# Revised tourism message still casts cloud over Haywood, merchants say

October 12, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 1156 Words OpenURL Link

New tourist messaging was unveiled Thursday at an emergency meeting of the Downtown Waynesville Commission, with numerous downtown Waynesville merchants in the audience eager to hear whether the previous "don't come here" language would be reversed.

The new message is accompanied by an image of downtown Waynesville in fall, as opposed to the message a week ago of rooftops peaking above flood waters. And while it says tourists can now come if they want to, it cautions there's not a lot to do.

"The message is, 'come,' but the experience won't be quite the same," Ruffieux said. "We don't want them to have a bad experience and then never come back."

The messaging lists what's closed: the Blue Ridge Parkway, Cataloochee Valley, and the entire Pisgah National Forest — where downed trees and washed out trails would make hiking treacherous.

But what about what's open?

"My first thought was 'If I read this, I wouldn't come here," Waynesville Town Councilman Jon Feichter said. "Yes, we need to be realistic with folks who are looking to come here. But I want to make sure we are keeping visible what is open."

All the shops and restaurants in downtown Waynesville and Hazelwood are open save a few in Frog Level. Just a few blocks from Main Street, however, the sidewalks of Frog Level are lined with towering piles of mud-caked debris from flooded businesses.

But that's not a reason to deter tourists, according to Teresa Pennington, an artist with a gallery on Main Street.

"I don't think they will expect the town to be spotless. I don't think we can shut down all these businesses just in case somebody might have a bad experience," said Pennington. "The majority of the merchants on Main Street purchase inventory to sell. Now they have all that money invested and no one here to buy it. Small businesses who live week to week can't make it."

It still begs the question: what is there for tourists to do here right now?

"If their thing is the breweries and restaurants and shopping, I guess they would be OK," County Commissioner Chairman Kevin Ensley said. "But beyond that, to get out there in the rural areas, they should give us more time. We don't want somebody out hiking when our emergency services are stretched thin."

After all, fall in the mountains is all about the leaves.

"The number one reason people come to Haywood County is to visit the great outdoors," said Ruffieux.

While options are limited without the Parkway and Pisgah National Forest, the vast majority of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is open, which was untouched by the storm to the south and west of Haywood.

"Nobody is talking about the fact the Smokies are open," said Pennington.

The county's new draft language incorrectly said the N.C. side of the Smokies is closed. However, the Smokies from Fontana Dam to Clingman's Dome (now Kuwohi) are open, accessible from either Bryson City and Cherokee 45 minutes away, including all of U.S. 441 through the park. Only Haywood sections of the Smokies are closed.

#### Festival season

Fall is also festival season in the mountains, and two major festivals planned for this weekend were canceled: Church Street Arts and Crafts Festival in Waynesville and the Smoky Mountain Bluegrass Festival in Maggie Valley.

The call was made last week when much of the county was still in shock and shambles.

Given the remarkable recovery in just two short weeks, however, two festivals on tap for next weekend will be a go: the Apple Festival in Waynesville and the Maggie Arts and Crafts Festival. A festival will not only help the economy but might be just what the community needs right now, said Maggie Chamber Executive Director Teresa Smith.

"Maggie Chamber leaders felt the show would help boost spirits and the local economy," said Smith.

For the Apple Festival, more than one-third of the 140 vendors that would have lined Main Street on Oct. 19 can't come anymore. Some can't get here easily with I-40 to Tennessee being closed. Others lost their inventory in the flood.

"It will be scaled down, but it will be going forward," Haywood Chamber Director David Francis said.

Courting locals and Ashevillelt's more important than ever for locals to support local businesses, merchants said during the Downtown Waynesville Commission meeting Thursday.

"Instead of shopping on Amazon, we ask that folks switch their buying patterns to shopping local," said Bob Williams, owner of Dillsboro Chocolate in downtown Waynesville. "As much as we want people to be here for the fall leaf season, they're not. The people who are here now are friends and neighbors."

Without local support, the downtown Waynesville that folks know and love might not be here the same way come spring — a message that will hopefully resonate.

"They want to see us survive because they don't want to lose this either," said Jessica Garrik, a downtown merchant and DWC member.

Another market to tap is Asheville, where the prolonged lack of water has shuttered restaurants and hotels across the city. Some shop owners have reported Asheville locals are coming to Waynesville to escape, even if only for an afternoon.

"They were enjoying themselves before having to go back to work," said Charles Trump, owner of Olde Brick House on Main Street.

The Downtown Waynesville Commission hopes to capitalize on that with a campaign in Asheville and Hendersonville.

"I think we might see an influx of some of those folks coming to visit just to get away, because it is so sad over there. It is a disaster," Waynesville Mayor Gary Caldwell said. "We are very fortunate compared to what has happened over there. I look for a lot of folks to come and get a breather in our community."

Now is also the time for downtown Waynesville to pull out all the stops.

Joyce Massie, a shop owner who sits on the Downtown Waynesville Commission, called for two motions: to launch an eat-and-shop in downtown Waynesville campaign and to schedule more live music on the sidewalks.

Haywood County Tourism Director Corrina Ruffieux suggested merchants be open on Sunday and stay open later on Thursday and Friday if they want to capture the local market.

"It only works if everyone does it," pointed out Patricia Blake with Affairs of the Heart.

While fall won't be the same, Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. Merchants also called on the Downtown Waynesville Commission to step it up for the holidays.

Axe and Awl Leatherworks already put together plans for a mini-festival on Depot Street in early November that will double as a relief fundraiser.

"We are trying to pack in as many events as possible," said owner Spencer Tetrault. "Being able to rally behind something in unity is really valuable."

Meanwhile, the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority has launched an online commerce campaign at VisitHaywood.com/gifthaywood. Any merchant who sells wares online can be included in the shopping directory, which encourages tourists who love Haywood County to support it from afar, Ruffieux said.

The TDA has also launched a list online of businesses that are open at VisitHaywood.com/helene.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

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# Local hospitals conserving IV fluids

October 12, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: John Peters jpeters@mtairynews.com| Section: Lifestyles | 529 Words OpenURL Link

Officials with both Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy and Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital in Elkin said they are keeping a close eye on intravenous fluid supplies that are critical for surgical procedures, dialysis, and other treatments.

That is because of a nationwide shortage largely caused by Hurricane Helene's damage to a facility in the mountains of western North Carolina which produces more than half the nation's supply.

While federal officials are looking for ways to alleviate the shortage, local medical practitioners are taking it upon themselves to be ready for a worst-case scenario.

"Northern is expecting a prolonged and severe shortage of this resource and has begun efforts to secure additional supply and thoughtful conservation of our current supply," Northern Chief Medical Officer Jason W. Edsall said Thursday. "Currently there is no planned disruption of services but continued care of all our patients is our utmost priority. We will provide updates to our community as we know more information in the coming weeks."

"Hugh Chatham Health took immediate action to protect and conserve their supply of IV fluids and has had no disruption in service to our patients and the community," Chief Operation Officer Mary F. Blackburn said on Friday. "The current and predicted ongoing supply chain concern is being addressed through widely adopted conservation methods which include appropriately selecting the type and amount of IV fluid for each unique patient care situation... We will continue to evaluate and monitor our supply of IV fluids until the national shortage is alleviated."

While both local hospitals are able to continue offering surgical procedures, many hospitals nationwide have stopped offering any elective surgeries until the shortage is alleviated.

According to multiple media outlets, there was already a shortage of the fluids in some segments of the nation, largely as a result of supply chain and shipping issues. When Hurricane Helene ravaged the mountains of Western North Carolina, a production facility in Marion, owned by Baxter International, was heavily damaged. Various reports indicate that plant produces between 50% and 60% of the IV fluids used across America.

"We will spare no resource — human or financial — to restart operations and help ensure patients and providers have the products they need," Baxter CEO José Almeida said in a company update posted on its website this week.

Already the firm has been cleaning and repairing the plant, with plans to reopen the facility in phases with the hope of being fully operational before year's end.

Another company, B. Braun, had planned to increase its production of IV fluids to help fill in the need, but its facility in Daytona Beach, Florida, was shut down because of Hurricane Milton. That facility sustained significantly less damage and officials hope to have that plant up and running, at least in a limited capacity, soon, this weekend, according to a report by NPR.

Other manufacturers are trying to ramp up production of the product, and this week the Food and Drug Administration announced it has authorized 19 IV products for temporary importation from Canada, China, Ireland and the U.K.

Still, that leaves local hospitals and other medical facilities scrambling for new sources and implementing ways to conserve the use of the fluids until national supplies increase.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

John Peters jpeters@mtairynews.com, 'Local hospitals conserving IV fluids', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C2F05F76D3E380">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C2F05F76D3E380</a>



# Hope is much more than a wish

October 12, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: George Randall Jr.| Section: Lifestyles | 956 Words OpenURL Link

I Corinthians 13:13 says, "And now abides (endures, remains) faith, hope, charity (love), these three."

Are you an optimist, looking for the best, or a pessimist, expecting the worst? If you are a Christian, there is only one option, and that is to be an optimist. It is the faith, which we studied last week, that causes us to hope this week, and on and on into the future.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines hope as: "Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises. (E.g.) The Christian indulges a hope that his sins are pardoned. Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain and anxiety."

Faith in our sovereign, merciful, gracious God gives the believer great and abundant hope. Hope for forgiveness, redemption, salvation, eternal life, and a better life even here and now. All of this is possible with the ever-abiding indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, gifted to us as we permanently placed our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord an Savior.

According to the poet Alexander Pope, 1688-1744, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast; Man never is, but always to be blessed. The soul, uneasy, and confined from home, rests and expatiates in a life to come." He obviously believed that human beings of faith continue to hope; to keep expecting, and talk in length and often about something better to come: that heavenly home for our soul beyond this present life.

Titus 2:13 says, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." This hope is not a hope so hope; it is a for certain expectation hope. And why would we have such confidence in good to come? Because God has given us His word, His promise. Hebrews 6:18-19, "That by two immutable (unchanging) things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation (comfort), who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

Because God's promises are sure, and His Word is true, we may be secure, unshakable, and positive of everything working out for our good, and this anchors our soul even when everything else around us appears to be falling apart.

In the process of writing his message, we in this area around Surry County have experienced the real inconvenience of the impact of Hurricane Helene. Locally we've shared the troubles of widespread power outages for days, multitudes of downed trees and the ensuing cleanup, no communication with loved ones due to no cellphone service... And as bad as all this is, I use the word "inconvenience" because that's all this is, as we compare ourselves with the heart-rending scenes coming from nearby western parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, and all those other towns, cities, and areas devastated and destroyed by winds and flood water along the path of this storm. There has been much loss of life there. There is also loss of homes and lively-hood. There is much sorrow.

However, by faith in our merciful God, we still hold hope. For God's children; those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, there is complete confidence that all will eventually be right. Perhaps not even here in this life, but in His presence one day. I am reminded that this is not home; He is! And if this, for some, a life changing event, does anything to bring our attention back to God, or the cause for humbling ourselves in repentance from sin to cry out for His mercy and salvation, then good can surely come out from this calamity.

Let us respond in the best way; by placing our wholehearted faith and expectant hope in the Lord. Let us also who have this hope share it with those who presently think there's no hope.

I Peter 3:15, ... "Be ready always to give an answer to every man (woman, boy and girl) that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you". What the people of this world need is hope, and that hope is found exclusively in Jesus; in a relationship with Him! Psalm 62:5-6, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved". Joel 3:16, "The Lord will be the hope of His people". If you have Him, share Him; make Him known to everyone around you. We Christians take great comfort and peace of mind knowing God's got us. Even when it looks like gloom and doom, by faith in Him, we keep hope, and can rejoice in Him.

There's not room enough here to print these Psalms out, but please look them up and meditate on them for lasting hope. Psalm 42, 43, 46, 61, 62, 78: 1-7, ..."showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His wonderful works that He hath done...That they might set (fix, establish) their hope in God," 91, 130, "... I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His Word do I hope."

Please friend, I'm asking you to see beyond the present sufferings of this life by fixing your eyes on the face of Jesus. Allow Him to have your heart, then all of you. Think on these words of the Lord, through Paul, in Romans 15:13, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

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### **ELAINE PARKER**

October 12, 2024 | Nashville Graphic, The (NC) Section: Deaths (Updated Daily) | 146 Words OpenURL Link

NASHVILLE - Elaine Parker, age 72, passed away on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Born in Wilson County on May 7, 1952, she was the daughter of the late Robert Russell Etheridge and Gladys Lamm Etheridge. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Herman Lee Parker; brother James Etheridge; and her favorite aunt, Annie Doris Keel.

Elaine is survived by her daughters, Betty Jo Page (Mike), Janet and Eric Earp, and Deborah Midkiff (Ricky); 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her sisters, Lela Gail Etheridge, Deborah Stancil, and Linda Etheridge Johnson.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, with a visitation with the family following the service.

Flowers are welcome, or memorial contributions can be made to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000 Boone, NC 28607 to assist with Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

'ELAINE PARKER', *Nashville Graphic, The* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C2ECB585BB0698>



# North Carolina Observer: Helene recovery and rebuilding

October 12, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Jessica Banov, News & Observer | Section: north carolina observer nl | 1057 Words OpenURL Link

Good morning, and welcome to the North Carolina Observer.

It's been just over two weeks since Tropical Storm Helene hurtled her way through North Carolina. The recovery and rebuilding will be long and costly. And in the immediate aftermath, residents (and supporters) of Western North Carolina are grieving - for those who perished, the loss of property and personal items and the destruction of a very special part of our state.

Reporters and photojournalists with The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer have covered this aftermath with teams in towns and communities across Western North Carolina. This interactive map shows you the spots we have visited and the stories that originated there. The work will continue.

That includes debunking rumors and trying to find answers to questions people have about the storm and the aftermath. This story has been updated frequently in the past week. (It's worth pointing out that no technology exists to create massive hurricanes).

Here are some highlights of the coverage.

RAL\_SALUDAHELENE-NE-100724-RTW\_20.JPGSusan Figetakis adjusts her protective mask as she works to clean out her home, flooded by the Green River during Hurricane Helene, on Monday, October 7, 2024 near Saluda, N.C.

Picking up the pieces, and stories of survival

We're learning more about the people who died during the storm with rescue teams shifting gears to search for victims. FEMA sent more than 1,200 urban search-and-rescue personnel to North Carolina to do this daunting task. They've methodically combed the land and vehicles to see who may have survived.

Up until the moment Helene took her life, this NC mom was watching out for her loved onesWhen Helene hit NC's Green River Gorge, woman's only escape route was over the mountainHe jumped into a river to survive Helene. Sheltering near Charlotte, he looks forward.

RAL\_100924-HELENE-TEL-017.JPGVolunteers organized by grassroots group BeLoved Asheville haul gray water to help residents in low-income independent living facilities, with no running water, flush their toilets on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024. About half of Asheville's water customers were still without running water this week because the remnants of Hurricane Helene ripped apart the city's distribution system.

#### Basic needs

Power and cell service is slowly returning to the mountains, but water is scarce and many roads are in crumbles. Residents have been unable to drink, bathe, flush toilets, cook or fill up the dog's bowl. Reporters learned the the creative ways people are managing, and how officials are scrambling to rebuild a system that they thought would be protected. Plus, community groups and volunteers are filling in the gaps.

Two weeks without running water: This is life in Western North Carolina after HeleneRepair crews will play Whac-A-Mole as first water flows from Asheville reservoirWork begins to restore I-40 through the NC mountains, but timetable still uncertainTwo weeks after Helene, NCDOT still working to connect Bat Cave with outside worldAs Western North Carolina digs out of Helene's mud, residents worry, agencies urge cautionWestern NC Latino

community forms makeshift delivery service after Helene'lt threw us back': People living in public housing in Asheville cope in post-Helene life

RAL\_100824-HELENE-TEL-002.JPGSoldiers with the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, use Infantry Squad Vehicles to deliver water, food, toiletries, and other aid to residents in the Soco Gap community in Maggie Valley on Tuesday, October. 8, 2024. The team has been using the Maggie Valley Pavilion and Town Hall as a distribution base for relief efforts in the town following Tropical Storm Helene.

#### The need for relief

As recovery and relief efforts continue in Western North Carolina, lawmakers convened in Raleigh on Wednesday to address what Gov. Roy Cooper calls "a true all-hands-on deck moment." A bipartisan group of lawmakers who represent districts in the mountains spoke about their harrowing experiences post-Helene. For all of them, the relief package passed Wednesday is personal.

NC lawmakers to pass \$273 million Helene relief bill. How the money will be spent. Cooper describes 'all-hands-on-deck' Helene response in NC, blasts disinformation'It reinstills your faith in people.' What Western NC lawmakers say about Helene aftermathMore Helene relief expected to pass this month. How to tell NC lawmakers what you need

CLT\_OpAirDrop\_8.JPGVolunteers help Operation Air Drop as they organize supplies to be flown into western North Carolina, which sustained catastrophic flooding over the weekend, in Concord, NC on Monday, September 30, 2024.

#### How to help

In addition to aid from the government, assistance has poured in from all over in the form of donations, benefit events and fundraisers. One such event that created a stir when announced is the "Concert for Carolina," featuring a who's who of North Carolina-connected musicians. Luke Combs, Eric Church and James Taylor are coming together Saturday, Oct. 26 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte. The lineup also features Billy Strings, Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban and Bailey Zimmerman.

Tickets went on sale Thursday and were quickly snatched up. But there are plenty of other ways to help.

Combs, Church on Helene benefit: 'We wish we didn't have to be having this conversation' Musician Ben Folds to hold concert benefiting Western NC. Here's when & where Western North Carolina shops and restaurants could use our help from afar - here's how Want to support Western NC? Check out these fundraising events and donation drives Want to show your support for Western North Carolina? These T-shirt shops are helping out Want to donate clothing to Western NC? Here's where & when to drop it off

LuluandWinston.jpgKorey Floyd's dogs, Lulu, left, and Winston, right, curl up together in the backseat of a car. Floyd says the two have become fast friends after he rescued Lulu during post-Helene rescue and relief efforts in Mitchell County.

#### What now?

Helene's wrath is prompting some residents to consider leaving the place they call home for good. Plus, questions loom about when schools will resume classes; how people will vote in the upcoming election; and when major tourism spots will reopen.

Let me leave you with two stories that might lift your spirits.

First, it's amazing what can happen with a phone call. A teacher reaching out to her fifth-grade student - just to check on her - was one such call. Check out the accompanying video. Then you have a Triangle-based firefighter

who found a dog while working in Mitchell County as a part of a swift water team. You'll want to learn more about Lulu, the black and white dog in the above photo.

Thanks for reading, and enjoy the rest of your Sunday.

Jessica Banov Newsletter Author tag.pngJessica Banov

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Jessica Banov, News & Observer, 'North Carolina Observer: Helene recovery and rebuilding', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C8A4FEC73DF930>



# Harris packs supplies for Western NC in Raleigh before heading to rally in Greenville

October 12, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Tammy Grubb and Avi Bajpai, News & Observer | Section: election | 633 Words OpenURL Link

Vice President Kamala Harris landed in Raleigh on Saturday to meet supporters and pack hurricane relief supplies as her presidential campaign resumed following Helene's devastating impact on Western North Carolina.

She was expected to spend Saturday night in Raleigh before heading east Sunday for a campaign rally. Harris is expected to speak at 4:40 p.m. Sunday in Greenville before returning to Washington later in the evening.

Harris arrived at Raleigh-Durham International Airport at around 5:45 p.m. Saturday and traveled by motorcade to The Pit Authentic Barbecue in downtown Raleigh. There, she meet with members of the Black community, politicians and faith leaders before helping box up several care packages of diapers, hand sanitizers and other supplies for Western North Carolina.

Last weekend she was in Charlotte on a similar visit.

Greg Hatem, owner of The Pit and founder of Empire Properties, said he worked with Harris' campaign to organize the relief effort. The campaign pulled together the group of supporters they wanted to meet with and have a conversation, he said.

"We took (a truck) earlier, mostly water and gas and basic supplies," Hatem said. "We're going to be taking a second truck, and we're working with the governor's office about what they need and where, so we put those two together - the campaign, Vice President Harris - we put those together to pack this, along with Empire Properties."

The collection drive will continue for a few weeks before the supplies are delivered to the N.C. mountains, he said. After that, they will start planning for how to provide mobile kitchens and construction labor, he said. They're also reaching out to chefs and other restaurant workers in Western North Carolina about how to set up temporary jobs, he said.

"It's such a community of people in the restaurant industry. Everybody knows everybody," he said.

North Carolina a battleground state

North Carolina is one of seven major battleground states that Harris and former President Donald Trump have been crisscrossing in recent weeks. The Harris rally Sunday comes ahead of the start of early voting here, which begins Thursday and runs through Nov. 2.

As part of her outreach in Eastern North Carolina, Harris is also tapping former President Bill Clinton to stump for her. Clinton will embark on a bus tour of the region targeting "hard-to-reach" rural voters between Oct. 17 and 20.

He's expected to appear at small-scale events like "local fairs and porch rallies," and will focus on the economy, CNN reported earlier this week.

Election Day is just 24 days away.

HarrisHelene\_1305.jpgVice President Kamala Harris assists NC Counts Coalition as they work together to assemble care packages with toiletries for those who were affected by Hurricane Helene in Charlotte, NC on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024.

Trump, the Republican nominee for president, held a town hall in Fayetteville on Oct. 4, where he blasted the Biden administration's response to the storm.

Harris and Trump, and their vice presidential picks - Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Republican Ohio Sen. JD Vance - have included the Tar Heel state in multiple campaign stops this year.

Those visits have been ramping up in the last few weeks, with Vance holding a town hall Thursday with voters in Greensboro. He is also expected to attend the Bank of America ROVAL 400 race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday, according to WCNC Charlotte. This will be Vance's third visit to Charlotte in less than a month.

On Saturday, the Trump campaign announced that Vance will hold a rally in Wilmington on Wednesday.

Walz has not returned to North Carolina since Helene.

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Tammy Grubb and Avi Bajpai, News & Observer, 'Harris packs supplies for Western NC in Raleigh before heading to rally in Greenville', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 12 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C8A4FF22D96AD0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C8A4FF22D96AD0</a>



# UNC basketball's relocated scrimmage takes somber turn after early injury to RJ Davis

October 12, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Shelby Swanson, News & Observer | Section: university of north carolina | 1346 Words OpenURL Link

What should've been a celebration of the upcoming men's basketball season took a brief turn when returning All-American RJ Davis hit the floor after a heavily-contested shot at North Carolina's Blue-White Scrimmage on Saturday afternoon.

The reigning ACC Player of the Year was attacking the rim early in the second half when, following some contact, his body came crashing down to the hardwood.

After the game, UNC Athletics Communications clarified Davis suffered a lower-back contusion - essentially a bruise. Davis was not made available for comment following the scrimmage.

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW.jpgNorth Carolina's R.J. Davis (4) collects a hard foul from James Brown (2) and tumbles to the court in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. Davis did not play the rest of the scrimmage.

"Basketball play," freshman guard lan Jackson said. "He got bumped, he fell down, lower-back I believe. He'll be fine. Number four is tough. He'll be good."

Overall, the Blue-White Scrimmage took on a somber, but uplifting, tone.

RAL\_UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_17.JPGNorth Carolina's James Brown (2) reaches to check on R.J. Davis (4) after a hard foul in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. Davis did not play the rest of the scrimmage.

The Tar Heels wore warm-up shirts to honor Tylee Craft, a North Carolina wide receiver who died Saturday morning following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Originally set for Oct. 13 at Harrah's Cherokee Hotel & Casino Resort, the event was relocated to the Smith Center due to logistical issues following Hurricane Helene. The scrimmage became a fundraiser for hurricane relief efforts, raising more than \$121,230 in donations between ticket sales and the basketball programs' own contributions.

"It was super fun," Belmont University transfer Cade Tyson said. "Glad we got to go out there and compete against each other and get a first taste of what it's like in the Smith Center... the energy was definitely a little different but I enjoyed it and I think all my teammates enjoyed it."

Here are three takeaways from UNC's scrimmage:

Freshman duo continues to impress

Jackson and fellow freshman Drake Powell showed off their growing chemistry on Saturday.

In the final two minutes of the scrimmage, Powell used his length to corral an offensive rebound and quickly found Jackson in motion outside the perimeter.

Before Jackson's defender could close out, the former 5-star recruit had released his jumper.

Swish.

There were certainly more highlight-worthy plays. Jackson's strip of Elliot Cadeau and transition dunk - a flashy, two hand slam - late in the first half comes to mind.

But these routine connections between the freshmen are a more fruitful sign of cohesive play to come as the two hoopers, wildly different in personality, work to learn each others' nuances.

"It was a little bit awkward at first because, I don't know if you guys can tell, but I'm a pretty quiet type of person," Powell said with a laugh. "We gel pretty well together. We'll play 2K sometimes, the NCAA games, and that really translates to the court. We're still learning each other's spots - like where we can be the most successful. I think we can be a pretty good duo this upcoming season."

Cadeau said the team is on a "different level of athleticism this year because of the freshmen."

"I feel like they bring a lot of grit, toughness - and basically everything we need as a team this year," Cadeau said. "They're bringing it all."

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_1.jpgNorth Carolina's Seth Trimble (7) brings the ball up court in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Keep an eye on Seth Trimble

Jackson wasn't the only player showing off his hops on Saturday. Perhaps the most eye-popping play came from Trimble, who caught a body midway through the second half.

The dunk, a one-hand stuff over the outstretched arms of graduate forward Ty Claude, brought a number of fans to their feet. Cadeau, meanwhile, became so excited at the sight he slipped and fell. The point guard then got up ran back on defense - but not before throwing his hands on his head in an incredulous celebration. Trimble tossed his head back, yelled and flexed before locking back in on defense.

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_7.jpgNorth Carolina's Seth Trimble (7) breaks to the basket against Ven-Allen Lubin (22) in the first half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Trimble led all scorers with 19 points at a 53% clip. He added five rebounds and three assists and was the only Tar Heel to play the entire scrimmage.

The junior guard didn't speak to the media following the game, but his teammates - like Cadeau - did the talking for him.

"It don't surprise me at all," Cadeau said. "I feel like he does that every day in practice so it's kind of just letting the world see it and it's just fun watching it."

Cadeau said the biggest difference between Trimble this season versus last is his confidence.

"He's always been this skilled, he's always been very talented," Cadeau said. "I felt like his confidence is on another level and I feel like this year he's playing a much bigger role and he knows that. He's filling those shoes pretty well."

Cade Tyson isn't just a shooter

Tyson didn't make a single 3-pointer on Saturday, despite three attempts. While the performance didn't exactly reinforce his identity as a sharpshooter, it gave Tyson the opportunity to show off other aspects of his game.

The Belmont transfer came alive in the second half, recording 10 points by battling down low and getting out in transition.

Tyson also displayed his defensive versatility. He routinely matched up with, and held his own, against both guards and forwards on Saturday.

RAL\_UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_18 (1).JPGNorth Carolina's Cade Tyson (5) gets a dunk over Jae'Lyn Withers (24) in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

"I feel like my competitive nature and growing up with my brother [Denver Nuggests forward Hunter Tyson]," Tyson said, "I feel like that feeds into it a lot."

His teammates had high praise for the transfer and how he'll slot into Hubert Davis' system this season.

"He's been playing really well at the four position," Cadeau said. "He's been guarding, literally the one through four, every day in practice and he's been doing a really good job holding his own."

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_10.jpgNorth Carolina's R.J. Davis (4) gets a screen from Ty Claude (0) in the first half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_14.jpgNorth Carolina's James Brown (2) defends Drake Powell (9) in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW 4.jpg

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_13.jpgNorth Carolina's Ty Claude (0) is trapped by Russell Hawkins (14) and Ven-Allen Lubin (22) in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_2.jpgNorth Carolina forward Jalen Washington (13) gets a dunk in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

RAL\_UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_13.JPGNorth Carolina's Ty Claude (0) is trapped by Russell Hawkins (14) and Ven-Allen Lubin (22) in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

RAL\_UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_9.JPGNorth Carolina's Elijah Davis (6) faces off against Seth Trimble (7) in the first half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

RAL\_UNCBB-SP-101224-RTW\_12.JPGNorth Carolina's Ty Claude (0) is trapped by Russell Hawkins (14) and Ven-Allen Lubin (22) in the second half during the Tar Heels' Blue vs. White scrimmage on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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# Helene recovery continues with FEMA representatives, debris cleanup

October 12, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Burke County Government | Section: Government Politics | 606 Words OpenURL Link

As Burke County reaches the two-week mark after Hurricane Helene's impact, the recovery effort continues across government and nonprofit entities to provide residents with access to financial assistance, debris cleanup and clean drinking water. Some updates below are on the new Helene Hub at burkenc.org/Helene.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Survivor Assistance teams are currently visiting residents throughout Burke County. If you are visited by a FEMA representative, they should be dressed in FEMA attire and have a federal photo identification badge. The teams go door to door in impacted neighborhoods to help people apply for federal assistance, check the status of an application, identify potential needs and make connections with organizations that can provide resources. Disaster Survivor Assistance crews never ask for, or accept, money.

Impacted residents can begin the application for FEMA assistance now. Do not wait to apply. Get started today at DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA App, or call 800-621-3362 any day of the week.

FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits for survivors that provide flexible funding, a simplified process and expanded eligibility for access to a wider range of assistance and funds for serious needs. Some available resources include:

Money to help pay for essential items such as food, water, baby formula, breastfeeding supplies, medication and other emergency supplies. Money to help with immediate housing needs if you cannot return to your home because of the disaster. The money can be used to stay in a hotel, with family and friends, or other accommodations. Survivors now have the option to apply for a low-interest SBA loan at the same time they apply for FEMA assistance. If you received an insurance payout that did not cover the cost of damage to your home or property, you may still be eligible to receive money from FEMA. Keep in mind, FEMA assistance is not a replacement for home, renters or flood insurance and will not cover all losses from a disaster. You may receive money to repair the portions of your home damaged by the disaster regardless of pre-existing conditions. You can also make repairs that prevent similar damage from future disasters.

Burke County residents should note that FEMA's response to Hurricane Helene has been hampered by misinformation on social media and phishing websites that appear similar to the application website. For verified information and resources related to Hurricane Helene, visit burkenc.org/Helene.

### Debris

Clearing debris is a huge part of recovery efforts in Burke County. Debris pickup services will begin Monday, Oct. 14, and continue over the coming weeks and months at no cost to residents. To avoid disposal charges, residents should not transport storm debris to the landfill. Anyone transporting debris to the landfill is reminded to secure the load to prevent littering. Separate debris and place it on the side of the road for pickup. Additional information about debris removal is available by calling 828-764-3088.

#### **Donations**

Individuals interested in contributing to the recovery effort are encouraged to donate to the Burke County Disaster Relief Fund. This fund was established by the Community Foundation of Burke County for nonprofits in Burke County and those serving the county to apply for funding to help community efforts in assisting neighbors. Nonprofits involved in disaster relief activities can apply for up to \$10,000 in funding.

#### Wells

Burke County has resources available for residents using well water that may have been impacted by Hurricane Helene. Comprehensive guides on managing wells before, during and after flooding are available to ensure the safety of your drinking water. All wells must be disinfected before they can be tested.

For more information or to request a well test, visit burkenc.org/Helene or call 828-764-9240.

For the latest information and resources related to the Hurricane Helene recovery effort, visit burkenc.org/Helene.

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# 251 buildings with major damage in Burke

October 12, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: SHARON MCBRAYER smcbrayer@morganton.com| Section: News| 711 Words OpenURL Link

In Burke County, 251 buildings had major damage after Hurricane Helene hit the area as a tropical storm on Sept. 27.

Another 34 buildings were destroyed, according to a new Burke County damage assessment dashboard. One hundred and fifty-three homes had minor damage and 31 were mildly affected.

The majority of damaged buildings were in Morganton. Eight buildings were destroyed in town. Near Glen Alpine, a row of 10 homes was destroyed along Powerhouse Road, according to the dashboard.

The data was collected by 10 teams throughout the county, according to the county.

Burke County announced the damage dashboard and a Hurricane Helene informational page at a press conference on Wednesday. The page, www.burkenc.org/2600/Hurricane-Helene, has information about private wells and FEMA help.

During the press conference, Burke County, Morganton, Drexel and Valdese officials updated residents about the impact of Hurricane Helene damage and thanked people who worked to get the area back to a semblance of normal.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and how they responded from the time the board of commissioners issued an emergency declaration up until now," said Scott Mulwee, vice chairman of the Burke County Board of Commissioners. "They all worked tirelessly, selflessly and with an abundance of courage and compassion throughout this event. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

"I also want to commend our community for its resilience throughout this event, and for the generosity of individuals, civic and faith organizations and our local business community. It's been amazing."

County Manager Brian Epley said there is still only one confirmed death caused by the storm, which involved a vehicle accident with a downed tree where there was heavy damage.

Epley said during the storm the county 911 center was inundated with 4,300 calls and at one point, the 911 system went down but the backup system worked as designed. About 300 calls during that time were rerouted to Catawba County's 911 system, he said.

From 48 to 72 hours after the storm, 75 swift-water calls were made to homes and bridges. Epley said there were 330 wellness checks conducted, administering and deploying supplies like oxygen to high-risk citizens, insulin and a variety of other medications.

Epley said FEMA is in Burke County handling two functions of the agency. One is for individual assistance for homeowners and the other is for assistance for local governments.

Epley said agents called disaster survival associates will go door to door to those who have suffered damages due to the storm.

"So if you are on this map (of damaged homes), or you've met someone who's indicated you have damage, these folks will come to you and start that process of the application to see how they can help," Epley said.

He said the agency is evaluating Burke County for a regional FEMA Disaster Recovery Center, where FEMA associates would set up a shop to help people in person.

Epley said the county is also working with FEMA on debris removal, reminding folks to put their debris on the curb and sort it.

In a move toward a more long-term strategy, the county has identified the nonprofit Community Foundation of Burke County to accept monetary donations from those who still want to donate. Epley said the initial donation was more than \$100,000. Epley said all money donated to that fund stays in Burke County for disaster relief efforts.

The Community Foundation will make grants to nonprofits to help support housing, food and economic insecurities of residents due to the storm, Epley said.

Debris, scams in storm wake

Burke County Emergency Management Director Mike Willis asked residents to be patient with debris removal because it will take time. He said that long-term recovery from the storm will take years.

Willis said the storm will change emergency management in the state and its response to future events.

Burke County Sheriff Banks Hinceman warned about scams during this time. He said if someone shows up at a property offering to do work, residents can call the sheriff's department for a deputy to verify whether the person or group is legitimate.

"Don't trust people that just show up at your house," Hinceman said.

Hinceman said his department has had more calls from people suffering from mental health issues. He requested that people reach out to health professionals for help with mental health issues.

Want to donate?

To make a donation or learn more, visit www.cfburkecounty.org/grants.html.

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