

Former Green Beret talks about how he rescued his 3-year-old daughter and ex-wife from Helene

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After Helene, Western NC NPR station did more than report news. It opened doors for others

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mary Ramsey, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 603 Words OpenURL Link

Blue Ridge Public Radio has provided not just for its own staff — but for journalists from across North Carolina and the country — as reporters descended on Asheville after Helene's hit.

Western North Carolina's National Public Radio affiliate remains on the air amid ongoing power and water outages in Asheville, where the station is based. Staff are working extended shifts and have expanded the station's services since the storm hit to bring critical news to a wider audience.

The station also opened the doors to its downtown Asheville office to journalists from other news outlets who need a safe place and a stable internet connection to file their own stories about the devastation. Outside reporters, photographers and editors simply ring the building's doorbell, and they're greeted by BPR staff and ushered to whatever workspace is currently available.

Streetview embed: Blue Ridge Public Radio

"We're a little sub-community," said Laura Lee, BPR's news director. "... And like many communities, you sort of band together and open your doors in whatever ways you can."

Opening the doors

The station ran on a generator initially when power went out, Lee said. But with a central location, the building got power and internet back relatively quickly. That was particularly beneficial journalists traveling to the area still afflicted by hundreds of thousands of power outages.

"It just seemed to make sense to extend that benefit to other media," Lee said.

The open-door policy has brought in "a blend of familiar faces and new people," Lee said. Other local news organizations such as Asheville Watchdog have been frequent visitors, and other guests have included The Charlotte Observer and The New York Times.

The program is "a natural extension" of collegiality among North Carolina media, Lee said.

"This isn't to say we're not competitive with each other — of course we are in some circumstances. But I think generally, there's just more of a collaborative spirit in journalism now," she said.

Helene news

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-41.JPGThe French Broad River breaks its banks in Asheville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

The first days after Helene hit were "pretty nerve-wracking," Lee said, as she and other leadership tried to track the staff's whereabouts. It took about 24 hours to reach one reporter, and almost 72 hours to make contact with another.

"We're feeling good now in terms of being able to account for each other every day and sort of working around some of the communication barriers that we had before," she said Tuesday.

Coverage has focused on the most vital information and updates across the station's typical 14-county coverage area and beyond. The station has regularly carried live updates from officials. For some still without power or internet access, the radio is their only source of news about where to get water, food and other essential aid.

"It just became apparent how valuable and how critical that was for people who were completely blocked off from other access to other information," Lee said.

The station also launched a text-only version of its website at text.bpr.org, making it easier for folks with slow or limited internet access to load articles. BPR also expanded its Spanish-language coverage.

What's next for Blue Ridge Public Radio?

"It's really hard," Lee said, to know what comes next for BPR as the station and the community move out from the immediate aftermath of Helene.

"Even though we're not, you know, a day or two out of the storm, we are still without water. The vast majority of Asheville .. is still without power. So in some ways, it doesn't feel like we have hit a recovery place yet," she said.

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When Helene crippled NC's small mountain communities, lifelines lived next door

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 1555 Words OpenURL Link

A week after Hurricane Helene brought once-in-a-century flooding to Appalachia, mountain folk pepper the cracked roads that few outsiders have navigated. They carry Pampers and Spam, water and protein bars they grabbed from the longstanding community centers — churches, fire departments, restaurants — that are now survival centers.

Disaster relief workers are in the sludgy streets, too, looking down at their frozen phone screens. Maps don't load here. Cell towers are down or overwhelmed.

Two men wearing blue and red search and rescue shirts stop in front of mangled driveways to ask for directions. They're met with first names and a finger pointing down the road.

Jimmy, up on the mountain, might need some food.

Someone should probably check on Nance again. She's one of the town's widows. Lives right over there.

Oh, Jerry, I forgot about him. If he made it, he'll need more oxygen soon.

Most volunteer group leaders give the same orders when setting up in the most rural of mountain areas between hard-hit Asheville and Hickory, a city an hour northwest of Charlotte.

Find a local. Find out what they need. Find out where to go.

When streets are shredded, rivers are relocated and forests turn into fields of logs, rescue teams can't always get to the stranded. For a few days, they don't know who the stranded are.

But neighbors do. Helene turned some small mountain towns into mostly rubbled buildings. Still, community remains.

Helene, the Category 4 hurricane that made landfall in Florida's Big Bend region, hit North Carolina as a tropical storm. But even before Helene's bands barrelled over mountaintops, Appalachia saw days of rain - 10 inches, in some places.

By Sept. 27, as Helene settled over the sloped towns, houses and Christmas tree farms that dot the region, the area became overwhelmed with floods, mudslides and log-slides.

First came rescue, now comes restoration.

Across the U.S., more than 200 have been reported dead so far in the monster storm. Some remain missing.

Sinking in mud

Logan Brown had a home near Frank, an Avery County town about 150 miles northwest of Charlotte. It perched atop a hill and had a view of the scenic Route 19E and North Toe River.

That's where the 17-year-old sat on Sept. 27. He was inside the two-story, green-shuttered house with his dad and

siblings.

Then came the roaring mud.

IMG_4808.JPGA 6,000-pound RAM 2500 truck sits toppled below Logan Brown's home between Ingalls and Elk Park, North Carolina. Mangled metal is a common site in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene's bands triggered deadly mudslides, flooding and destruction in Appalachia on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

The four escaped out the back before Helene gouged logs into the door frame and punched holes into the rest of the house.

Brown says they sat by the river, waiting for the storm to pass. Then they made it to his dad's work truck down the road. Then to his girlfriend's mountainside trailer home 10 miles away, which — miraculously — made it through the storm, says Ashley Clawson, the girlfriend's mother.

"He was just caked in mud," she says, "from head to toe."

Brown was in new clothes taken from a store with a broken window, she says.

"I don't blame him for stealing," she continues. "What else was he supposed to do?"

Brown has stayed in their trailer for the last few days, Clawson says.

IMG_4832.JPGAshley Clawson and her children navigate thick mud as Logan Brown, 17, digs out his family's dirt bikes from a sludged shed on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024. Hurricane Helene buried many items.

On Thursday, Brown's hands are cut from moving branches and debris to make paths near his home, but they aren't nearly as muddy.

He and his dad, with shovels in hand, walk up the highway to their driveway. They decline help from a makeshift group of volunteers, passing their toppled, nearly vertical, 6,000-pound RAM truck without a second glance.

In Western North Carolina, mangled metal has become more common than a deer sighting. Trailers wrap trees like tinsel. Asphalt crinkles like paper mache. Wooden crosses and Jesus statues poke out of piled debris.

The Browns have a mission. The Clawsons — from nearby Clawson's Holler, where all but two people share her family's name — are there to help.

There's four dirt bikes inside a shed next to the Brown homestead. They're getting them out.

IMG_4836.JPGLogan Brown, 17, and his family tug dirt bikes from the shed next to their home on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, nearly a week after remnants of Hurricane Helene flooded it with logs and mud.

"Be careful," Brown's ax-holding brother cautions as Clawson's children leap into the mud and around an old-school can of Mountain Dew.

Jennavi Clawson, 11, makes room on a branch resting above the mud. Ashley Clawson and her grandson — a tall 2-year-old named James, pull themselves onto it.

Brown heaves the bikes out, easily revving the first, second and third bike.

The fourth sputters as his brother tries to start it.

"That one might not work," Brown says. "It's hard to start."

He leaps on the red and white frame, pumping his cowboy boot on top of the kick starter. It rattles, then shoots out a cloud of exhaust toward the forest behind him.

Everyone smiles.

"We don't have much, but we make do," Ashley Clawson says, watching her daughter's boyfriend of two years load the bikes onto his trailer.

This is a highlight of their day.

On Oct. 1, their source of light was more literal: candles on Brown's chocolate swirled ice cream cake. He turned 17 four days after the storm slopped debris onto his bed pillows.

IMG_4851.JPGLogan Brown, 17, left, and his father, right, deliberate where to put the dirt bikes they just recovered from their home on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, after Hurricane Helene covered everything with mud.

Sending supplies down the line

In Turkey Cove, a ravine 60 miles south of the Browns' home, down past Spruce Pine and Little Switzerland, a 57-year-old woman wears a "Glenwood Elementary" t-shirt. She responds to volunteers asking if crated dogs on a disheveled hill need anything.

They're good, she says before loading them into a silver Nissan Rogue.

She drives down the bumpy side road and stops to talk to four men helping deliver supplies and a Charlotte Observer reporter in a fleet of ATVs.

"My daddy did a good job, didn't he?" Karen Hollifield says, pointing to the small wooden cabin her father built on the hillside above years ago. It survived Helene.

IMG_4901.JPGKaren Hollifield, 57, stands near the aftermath of a mudslide on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, one week after remnants of Hurricane Helene tattered Western North Carolina. A cabin her dad built sits above. It's one of the few structures in her area left standing.

Somehow, in a house half a mile up the mountain, so did her brother and sister-in-law, she says.

The couple lived in a doublewide trailer nestled up the side road Hollifield just drove down. They heard cracking and rushing water. They stood up and took one step, but the mud stopped them there. It launched them out of the home, broke Hollifield's brother's back and buried her sister-in-law up to her neck, Hollifield says.

Her dad's craftsmanship held up once more. His china cabinet, ousted from its spot in the corner of the room, fell on top of the sister-in-law — trapping her, but also shielding her from the rushing water above.

Hollifield's brother got out first, she says. Then he went to the neighbors'.

"I give all the credit to them," Hollifield says. They dug her sister-in-law out.

Her family and their neighbors all survived, but the seven dachshunds that roamed the property are gone. Hollifield found one of them dead, she says as she shooed a yellowjacket away from her bicep.

The bees have sent several people in Western North Carolina into anaphylactic shock, according to officials who made calls for more Epipen and Benadryl donations.

Both are stocked in one ATV manned by an Operation Airdrop volunteer from the Outer Banks. He and his neighbor drove west to put their hobby to use — to help.

Hollifield doesn't want either medicine. She just needs to make sure she doesn't get stung, she says, her t-shirt sleeves rolled up, resting on top of her shoulders, exposing her arms.

Down the road, at Turkey Cove Baptist Church, a lady with the same "town name" — Hollifield — similarly rejects supplies, saying other places probably need it more.

The church got its first stockpile on Oct. 1, four days after the storm severed them from the rest of the world. Many members of the congregation stayed as the "little bitty creek" flooded, says April Hollifield, 72. They stayed in the days after, too.

They knew what would happen if they left before the storm: they wouldn't be able to come back, she says. Not for a while, at least.

The souls who stayed through the storm quickly threaded lifelines between each other.

"The immediate response came from the citizens... from the victims," says Jennifer Bowman, a volunteer who took Jeeps, trucks and horses stocked with supplies to Burnsville — one of the state's hardest hit towns.

A "sweet local lady" had set up a distribution point and was trying to manage it by herself. Bowman and a fleet of others organized the supplies, multiplied them and dispersed them.

"Nobody wanted to take more than what they absolutely needed," Bowman says.

One woman asked for just two rolls of toilet paper. When Bowman brought out a "Sam's-Club-sized" pack, she cried and muttered.

I just feel so greedy taking that much toilet paper.

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After Helene hit IV fluid plant, NC hospitals use Gatorade, rationing to handle shortages

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Chase Jordan, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 737 Words OpenURL Link

Hospitals in Charlotte, like their counterparts across the Carolinas and the nation, continue to deal with IV fluid shortages after Hurricane Helene flooding caused major problems for a manufacturing site in Western North Carolina.

The rain and storm surge from Helene flooded Baxter International's North Cove manufacturing site in McDowell County. Baxter supplies 60% of IV solutions used at hospitals and care centers in North America. Liquids with electrolytes like Gatorade are even being used for drinks as an IV fluid substitute for some patients in North Carolina and elsewhere around the country.

Novant Health, one of the Charlotte region's two main health care providers, told The Charlotte Observer it is conserving IV fluid supplies to minimize any impact to patient care. The hospital system said it is not planning to stop medical procedures.

Novant said it evaluates patients' needs to find the proper way to provide hydration, which can include water or fluids with electrolytes.

Atrium Health, the biggest health care provider in the Charlotte region, did not respond to multiple requests for comment from The Charlotte Observer about its IV fluid needs.

Novant was notified about not receiving its full allocation of Baxter products, and is working to source additional products from primary suppliers not impacted by Helene. "Our thoughts are with (Baxter's) teams as they face this unimaginable disaster," Novant said in a statement.

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reported that healthcare facilities will use conservation methods such as Gatorade to ensure IV fluid supply can be maintained for situations where oral hydration is not an option.

Ensuring that people impacted by the storm can access medical supplies is a top priority, said DHHS spokeswoman Summer Tonizzo.

Rebuilding the Baxter IV fluid plant

The federal government and state partners are in touch with Baxter and helping the North Cove facility evaluate damages and engage in recovery efforts.

On Wednesday, Baxter announced that it would be increasing allocation for IV solution supplies from 40% to 60%. Baxter also expects to be at 70% by the end of October, and 90% to 100% by the end of the year, according to the American Hospital Association and the company.

Baxter will continue to ration its IV products, the Raleigh News & Observer reported, including: saline, used to rehydrate patients and replace electrolytes; dextrose, a sugar solution used when patients are dehydrated or have low blood sugar, (Saline and dextrose are also used with other drugs that need to administered by IV.); and dialysis solutions for patients with kidney failure.

The state's health department is focused on reducing supply chain disruptions that may result from damage to the

facility and surrounding infrastructure, Tonizzo said. The state will continue to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help the company clean up the facility, Tonizzo added.

september 006.JPGA vehicle buried among the debris along with a destroyed house in Chimney Rock, N.C. on Sept. 29, after Hurricane Helene. The storm and flooding also disrupted production at an IV fluid manufacturing site elsewhere in the Western NC mountains, impacting hospitals in Charlotte and across the state and nation.

In the wake of Helene, Baxter managed to build a causeway into the plant, the News & Observer said. It has hundreds of workers at the plant already handling repairs to damaged and flooded areas.

And NCDOT is rebuilding a bridge to the plant with a temporary one provided by the Florida DOT.

Baxter also set up an onsite command center, and is contacting customers and industry officials about the allocation of products. Baxter officials were not available for comment Thursday.

IV fluid concerns across the Carolinas

The IV fluid shortages are impacting hospitals across the Carolinas.

Last Friday, Duke University Hospital told the News & Observer that it is "working to assess inventory, deploy conservation strategies, and triage future distribution in an equitable manner across the health system. At this time, we are making case-by-case assessments of our ability to safely perform certain surgeries and procedures going into the weekend and next week."

And the South Carolina Department of Public Health issued a health advisory Oct. 4 about the Baxter site impact to IV fluid and dialysis solutions.

The state agency, prior to any federal declaration of a supply shortage, recommended health facilities start conserving inventory and reduce non-essential uses. A recommendation was made to prioritize IV fluid use for urgent medical needs.

The agency notified healthcare agencies across the state formally asking them to follow those same guidelines.

The (Rock Hill) Herald reporter John Marks contributed to this report

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Lowe's, Duke Endowment donating \$27 million to hurricane recovery after Helene, Milton

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Jeff A. Chamer and Catherine Muccigrosso, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 299 Words OpenURL Link

In the wake of hurricanes Helene and Milton, Charlotte-area companies like Lowe's and nonprofit Duke Endowment are committing a combined \$27 million to recovery efforts.

Lowe's funding comes on the heels of Duke Endowment's commitment to give \$15 million to recovery efforts in the Carolinas.

The private foundation named after industrialist James B. Duke said Wednesday that \$7.5 million of that money would be split between organizations — one in Western North Carolina and one in Upstate South Carolina.

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina's Emergency and Disaster Response Fund will receive \$5 million, the foundation said.

The Central Carolina Community Foundation's One SC Fund, which works with nonprofits to provide food and housing in South Carolina, will receive \$2.5 million.

Based in Charlotte, The Duke Endowment is not related to Duke Energy or Duke University.

"It has been overwhelming to see the devastation in Western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina," said Charles C. Lucas III, chair of the foundation's board of trustees, in a press release. "Our hope is that these initial dollars will go towards addressing short-term and urgent needs for those affected. As the region transitions to recovery and rebuilding, this is the right way to start."

The other half of the \$15 million commitment will be donated as staff members from the foundation vet organizations, the press release said.

Lowe's donates \$10 million more to Helene recovery

Lowe's is adding \$10 million to the multi-state recovery efforts on top of \$2 million already announced Sept. 30, the Mooresville-based home improvement chain said in a news release Friday.

The money will be used to assist Lowe's nonprofit partners and first responders in recovery efforts, including support in Western North Carolina, the company said.

Lowe's employees also are volunteering hours and using Lowe's merchandise to help communities clear mud and debris, the company said.

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Want to wear your support for Western North Carolina? These T-shirt shops are helping out

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Heidi Finley, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5_development | 568 Words OpenURL Link

With widespread devastation in Western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene spurring relief efforts that will likely stretch for years, many in the Charlotte area are looking for ways to help and show their support.

One easy way to do that is to buy a shirt or sweatshirt. Many local and regional shops are selling apparel to donate funds to organizations working in storm-hit areas, and all you have to do is click "buy."

Here are a few options for hurricane relief items that you can check out:

The Bitter Southerner General Store

Location: Online

Funds from sales of The Bitter Southerners' The South – Disaster Relief Shirt will rotate over time, but right now the white T-shirts are benefiting World Central Kitchen.

Cost: \$38

Screenshot 2024-10-07 at 4.53.12 PM.pngSales of the Bitter Southerner General Store's The South – Disaster Relief Shirt are now going to World Central Kitchen.

[FEEDING THE COMMUNITY: Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen distribute thousands of meals in Western NC.]

Ellis + Olivia Ruth Boutique

Location: Online

Ellis + Olivia Ruth Boutique's Mountain Strong shirts showcase a blue mountain range image on a black T-shirt. Twenty percent of proceeds will go to those who have been affected by the hurricane.

Cost: \$25 (Note: They are currently sold out, but new orders are on the way.)

IMG_8756.JPGEllis + Olivia Ruth Boutique's Mountain Strong shirts have already sold out once, but you can place an order again soon.

Glory Days Apparel

Location: 2202 Hawkins St, Charlotte, NC 28203

Glory Days' custom online exclusive Carolina Strong T-shirts and sweatshirts are available in multiple colors. Youth sizes are available, too. All proceeds from the items will benefit the NC Disaster Relief Fund.

Cost: \$34-\$70

Carolina Strong green tshirt.pngGlory Days Apparel's Carolina Strong T-shirts and sweatshirts are available in a variety of colors and styles.

Homewurk

Location: Online

Homewurk has offered a choice of three Carolina sweatshirts — with green, blue or brown writing — with 100% of proceeds going to Samaritan's Purse and Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Online, you can select which organization you'd like your donations to go to.

Cost: \$38

Shop Homewurk Carolina Sweatshirts.pngYou can direct your donation to either Samaritan's Purse or Brother Wolf Animal Rescue when you purchase a Homewurk sweatshirt.

McCall & Co.

Location: Online

McCall & Co. is offering black and gray Together We Rebuild shirts with your choice of locations, including Asheville, Swannanoa, Chimney Rock and other spots, plus a few Appalachia Strong selections. All proceeds go to Little River Baptist Church in Penrose, which is serving as a disaster relief feeding and distribution center. Shipping is available, but shirts will also be available for pickup at McCall Farm in Penrose.

Cost: \$20

Untitled design copy.pngMcColl & Co. offers two Appalachia Strong options among its Hurricane Helene Disaster Fundraiser T-shirts.

Paw Mountain Designs

Location: Online

Paw Mountain Design's Western NC Relief collection offers gray and black T-shirts with your choice of multiple designs. Shipping is available, or you can pick up your purchase at Southern Grace Studios, 1207 Southern Grace Lane in Raleigh. All proceeds will be donated to community support and disaster relief.

Cost: \$20

462640518_1046067047011231_5177379802957686965_n.jpgPaw Mountain Designs' hurricane relief shirts come in black or gray.

Sycamore Cycles

Location: 112 Hendersonville Hwy, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

Sycamore Cycles has created an oatmeal-colored Ride for WNC Helene Relief T-Shirt and a hat option, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to local charities dedicated to rebuilding Western North Carolina. Youth sizes are available, too.

Cost: \$24.99-\$29.99

Sycamore Helene Tshirt.pngSycamore Cycles has sold more than 2,500 Ride for WNC Helene Relief T-Shirt shirts so

far, gathering \$35,000 in donations.

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Did NC's Ted Budd and Dan Bishop vote against disaster relief? We explain.

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Danielle Battaglia, The Charlotte Observer | Section: politics_government | 610 Words OpenURL Link

Sen. Ted Budd and Rep. Dan Bishop have been criticized for voting against funding the Federal Emergency Management Agency ahead of Hurricane Helene.

The storm made landfall on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 hurricane and tore up the East Coast, leaving a path of devastation behind.

Helene killed more than 230 people, decimated communities across Western North Carolina as well as other states, and will cost well into the \$100 billion range in relief aid.

And just days before the storm hit, Congress went home while ignoring requests for billions of dollars of additional disaster relief funding.

But that's not what Budd and Bishop are being criticized for. The two Republicans are under fire for voting against a continuing resolution to keep the government funded at its current levels through Dec. 20. The CR refilled FEMA's \$20 billion budget.

Eighteen senators and 82 House members voted against the package.

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign and others have used the vote to criticize Budd, Bishop and the other 98 lawmakers for voting against disaster relief funding.

But is that a fair assessment?

Voting against appropriations

"Appropriations bills are large, unwieldy pieces of legislation by design," said Chris Cooper, a political science professor from Western Carolina University. "While it is true that the bill they voted against would have included FEMA funding, it also would have included a host of other provisions that have absolutely nothing to do with emergency management or disaster relief."

After the bill passed the House, 341-82, Bishop quickly took to social media to explain his vote. Bishop said he won't vote to spend billions on things the country doesn't need when he has concerns about the election and "our debt is sky-rocketing."

"Today's vote sets up another monstrous December omnibus and worsens the swamp spending addiction," Bishop wrote.

Bishop is running for attorney general against fellow Rep. Jeff Jackson.

Budget negotiations

This session of Congress will go down in history as one of the least productive on record. The first year was mired by Republican infighting, and that largely stemmed from negotiations over 12 appropriation bills.

The infighting got so severe that it cost House Speaker Kevin McCarthy his leadership role, caused him to resign from Congress, led to Rep. Patrick McHenry, a Republican from North Carolina, becoming an interim speaker for the first time in the nation's history, and then set up three weeks of Republicans trying to elect a new speaker.

Most of those events happened in October 2023, but it wasn't until March that Congress passed those 12 appropriation bills that make up the government's budget.

And now they have to do it again.

Budd's vote

As for Budd, he didn't put out a public statement following the vote, but his staff provided an explanation in an email to McClatchy Tuesday.

"Senator Budd wanted to see reform to the broken budget process instead of setting in motion a process that will lead to a massive take-it-or-leave-it spending bill before Christmas," said Curtis Kalin, Budd's spokesman. "... when the government overspends on things it shouldn't, it crowds out the real responsibilities it has, like disaster relief."

Disaster relief

Since Helene hit Western North Carolina, Budd has been one of the lawmakers who immediately called for relief to those affected.

He and Sen. Thom Tillis wrote a joint letter asking for congressional leadership to consider bringing members of Congress back during their October recess to pass disaster relief aid.

FEMA officials stated that the agency has the money for an immediate response and recovery to Helene.

But long-term, both Republicans and Democrats, including President Joe Biden, have called on Congress to do more.

And overnight, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Florida, causing widespread damage and flooding in its path.

Under The Dome embed (2022)

New Under the Dome newsletter subscriber embed (graybox)

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How can I get tickets for 'Concert for Carolina'? The Helene relief show is on sale now

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Chyna Blackmon, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5_things_to_do | 413 Words OpenURL Link

It's finally time for tickets to go on sale for the "Concert for Carolina" Live Nation relief show to support storm victims affected by Hurricane Helene.

Following the deadly aftermath of the hurricane that swept through the region as a tropical storm, North Carolina natives Luke Combs and Eric Church are teaming up as headliners for the benefit concert alongside James Taylor, Billy Strings, Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban and Bailey Zimmerman at Bank of America Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26.

All proceeds from the show, presented by Explore Asheville and the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority, will be split between Combs and Church's Chief Cares Foundation to be donated to different relief organizations across the region, including Samaritan's Purse, Manna Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC and Eblen Charities.

"It's [North Carolina] in every fiber of who I am," Church said in a statement when the show was announced. "Our family members, friends, neighbors and communities are in dire need. I'm honored to share the stage with an incredible lineup in order to help meet those needs. Through the dark, light will shine."

How to get tickets

Tickets for the "Concert for Carolina" will be up for grabs beginning 10 a.m. on www.ticketmaster.com. According to Ticketmaster, there is an eight ticket limit for fans interested in going to the show.

Nearly an hour after ticket sales, fans were still waiting in line to get a chance to see the show. Around 10:55 a.m., there were still over 14,000 people ahead of me in the Ticketmaster queue. My colleague, Charlotte Observer columnist Scott Fowler, was waiting behind about 35,000 people. At 10:20 a.m., with a whopping 50K people ahead of him, he took to Twitter to pitch the idea of a second show.

scott fowler concert for carolina tweet

How much are 'Concert for Carolina' tickets?

Once I got into the queue around 11:30 a.m., the cheapest tickets I saw available were \$95+ in Section 547 of Bank of America Stadium with some of the priciest coming in around \$2,000 for floor seats.

concert for carolinas ticketmaster screenshotA screenshot of ticket prices for the "Concert for Carolinas" show at Bank of America Stadium.

concert for carolinas ticketmaster screenshot of ticket prices for the "Concert for Carolinas" show at Bank of America Stadium.

While there's been no word yet on whether or not a second show date could be in the works, the event website says a raffle and an auction will also be coming soon.

You can find more details at concertforcarolina.com.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chyna Blackmon, The Charlotte Observer, 'How can I get tickets for 'Concert for Carolina'? The Helene relief show is on sale now', Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C1FA2D6A3B5B08>



'That's what athletics are about.' Charlotte teams help UNC Asheville recover post-Helene

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Langston Wertz Jr., The Charlotte Observer | Section: sports | 1347 Words OpenURL Link

Janet Cone has been athletic director at UNC Asheville for 21 years. She intentionally built a house in an area where, even when the snow and bad weather would come — and it always comes in the mountain winters — Cone knew she could still get to work.

That was until Hurricane Helene blew through Asheville last week, delivering a double-fisted blow of wind and rain like the area had not seen since "The Great Flood" of 1916.

Businesses closed. Nearly 100 lives were lost. The power went out. The water stopped working.

"In the 20-something years I've been here," Cone said, "I don't think I've ever not been able to get work until that Friday. My neighborhood wasn't bad. There were trees blown all over, but when you came out to the county road and you look to the right, it was like, 'Well I can't go that way.' There just trees and power lines down. Then I looked to the left and it was the same thing.

"All I could do was go back home."

janetcone.jpegJanet Cone, UNC-Asheville athletic director

Like many people in the area, Cone didn't really know how bad things were.

She couldn't turn on the TV, although she did find an old transistor radio that could pick up one station. By Sunday, she could finally get a cellphone signal, and one of the first messages she read was from Charlotte 49ers AD Mike Hill.

How can I help you?

"At first, I told Mike, 'Let me get back to you,'" Cone said. "My first thing was to make sure our students were safe. We were making sure we could get student-athletes off campus."

The aftermath on campus

When Cone finally got to UNC Asheville, she was able to see the damage, which included a building that houses athletic offices, golf and tennis locker rooms being flooded with water that was, she said, between eight and 12 feet high.

RAL_HELENE-NE-100624-RTW (2).JPGAT&T linemen from Asheville, N.C. work to restore communication lines destroyed by Hurricane Helene along the banks of the Broad River on Sunday, October 6, 2024 in rural Buncombe County, near Black Mountain, N.C.

And once she got a head count of her athletes, Cone began to work on a plan — with Hill and other N.C. universities as well as the NBA's Charlotte Hornets, who'd also reached out.

This week, the UNC Asheville swim team went to live and train at Garnder-Webb University in Boiling Springs. Track went to Emory & Henry in Virginia.

But most of the Bulldogs' teams playing now or training for the upcoming winter sports seasons came to Charlotte.

The men's and women's basketball teams moved into hotels near UNC Charlotte. The men's and women's soccer and volleyball teams are living in dorms on Charlotte's campus. The Asheville teams are practicing and training at Queens University and at Charlotte. The men's and women's basketball teams will practice at the Hornets' uptown facility, beginning Thursday.

In all, that's about 140 athletes on five teams. They will practice here and the teams currently in season will travel for all away games. Basketball starts next month.

"Athletics is just a small part of the story of what's happened to western North Carolina," Cone said. "It's horrible up there, but it's getting better each day. But it will be a long time before these communities in Asheville and around Asheville recover. But I want people to understand that due to the generosity and hospitality of these college athletic directors and college presidents that it's allowing our student-athletes to continue to practice and play and have a semblance of a fall semester on a college campus.

"And we're grateful for that."

The million dollar question

Chris Thomasson, the Charlotte 49ers' executive associate athletic director for internal affairs, said he isn't sure how long the Asheville students will be on campus.

But he said it doesn't matter.

"Look this is what athletics is all about," Thomasson said. "We hear so much about college athletics and how we're turning, more and more, into a pro model, but it really is about helping young people and developing them for life and putting them in positions where they learn and are exposed to life lessons. It makes me feel great as a university and athletic department that we're able to do this. And we're excited to do this."

christhomasson-uncc.jpegChris Thomasson, Executive Associate Athletic Director for Internal Affairs at UNC Charlotte

Thomasson said the Asheville athletes moved onto campus at Charlotte on Monday and have been using the 49ers' team facilities or campus rec centers for things like weight training and watching film. The Asheville athletes eat in the 49ers' dining hall.

In a statement provided to The Observer, the Hornets said they have "a long-standing" relationship with UNC Asheville, including hosting the NBA team for training camp and a preseason game.

Beginning this week, the Bulldogs' basketball teams will use the practice facility at Spectrum Center, including the Novant Health Training Center. On days when the space is not available, the Hornets said they will secure additional facilities for the Asheville teams to use.

"We're proud to return the favor and host them at our home, especially during this time of need," the team said in its statement.

'No playbook for something like this'

There are about 95,000 people who live in Asheville, which is bordered by the French Broad and the Swannanoa, which makes the city and the region susceptible to floods.

USATSI_20249315.jpgMar 16, 2023; Sacramento, CA, USA; UNC Asheville Bulldogs head coach Mike Morrell talks to

UNC Asheville Bulldogs guard Alex Caldwell (10) in the second half against the UCLA Bruins at Golden 1 Center. Mandatory Credit: Kelley L Cox-USA TODAY Sports

And when the city was blanketed by heavy rain, ahead of Helene last week, men's basketball coach Mike Morrell knew it could be bad.

He canceled a Friday practice and prepared for the worst.

He said the worst of the storm blew through Thursday night and, the next morning, he walked to a bridge that look out over the famous River Arts District near where he lives. Morrell said he literally had to crawl through trees to get there.

"I wanted to see what the river was like," he said. "They had talked about how high it could get."

He stood there looking, he said, with about 30-40 people. And when he tried to go back, just a few hours later, the bridge he had been standing on was under water.

"That was the first time, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this ain't good,'" Morrell said.

Morrell said his players lost power about 7:30 a.m. Friday and he lost it about 30 minutes after that. Phones worked for little while longer, but when they went dark, it was hard to know what was going on.

"It was like you were in 'The Truman Show,' or 'The Hunger Games,' where everybody can see what's going on top of you," Morrell said, "and you don't know what they're seeing."

Morrell checked on his family in Tennessee, also affected by the storm, and then circled back to his players, who by then, had lost running water.

"We had to get the guys out of town, man," he said. "This is not safe."

The mother of fifth-year guard Josh Banks — who played at Charlotte's Olympic High School — drove up and Morrell said she took some guys back to Charlotte. Two other players, Kam Taylor and Jordan Marsh, both from the Charlotte-area, also drove back, taking teammates with them.

By Monday, all of Morrell's players had all gotten to Charlotte and in the team hotel.

"I told our players there is really no playbook for this," Morrell said. "You're asking for a lot of grace from a lot of people in Charlotte. It makes you feel good but it's really not surprising. I would like to think that we would do the exact same thing. So we're just inconvenienced right now. That's all this is. We're not without power and water the way some people are in western North Carolina or Tennessee or Georgia, or people in Florida having to evacuate (due to Hurricane Milton).

"So we're inconvenienced, but we're also thankful. It's probably not the only time in life you'll find yourself in a situation like this."

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Langston Wertz Jr., The Charlotte Observer, 'That's what athletics are about.' Charlotte teams help UNC Asheville recover post-Helene', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C1EA5BB3D52A40



Former Green Beret flew to his 3-year-old daughter, then helped other Helene victims in NC

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Ryan Oehrli, The Charlotte Observer Section: north_carolina 325 Words OpenURL Link

A former Army Green Beret has been helping lead volunteer helicopter pilots as they drop supplies and rescue people across Western North Carolina.

Black Mountain's Adam Smith led the effort after a more personal job. His ex-wife, Megan, and three-year-old daughter, Tove, live close to the Broad River.

He lost contact when the storm hit and feared they were dead. In a brief interview before he went on another helicopter mission Tuesday, Smith said he was in Texas at the start of the storm.

"I legitimately didn't think there was any hope," he said. "The house is, like, 30 yards from the river."

A friend flew Smith to the house and airlifted his family out.

Since then, he's rounded up other military connections, and they've set up base at a Harley-Davidson shop in Swannanoa. About 300 volunteers have delivered food, rescued people and brought a generator to a community center by air, Smith said.

"That's really what it's been," Smith said. "It's been guys getting (stuff) done because they support their community."

savageoperations_06.JPGAdam Smith holds his daughter, Tove, 3, at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

savageoperations_04.JPGAdam Smith, center, speaks to volunteers at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

savageoperations_02.JPGAdam Smith makes a phone call at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

savageoperations_03.JPGAdam Smith gets a B12 shot while he works at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

savageoperations_07.JPGAdam Smith, right, shakes hands with a volunteer before boarding a helicopter at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

savageoperations_08.JPGAdam Smith takes off in a helicopter at Savage Operations Center inside of a Harley Davidson store in Swannanoa, N.C. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

Western NC Latino community forms makeshift delivery service after Helene

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Panthers CB Dane Jackson bonded with fellow injured defenders during stint on sideline

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mike Kaye, The Charlotte Observer | Section: carolina_panthers | 1080 Words OpenURL Link

Panthers newsletter embed

Dane Jackson won't offer up any spoilers on his status for Sunday's game against the Atlanta Falcons.

The veteran cornerback, who has been on injured reserve since the season started, could make his Carolina Panthers debut this weekend. But for now, he's just doing what he's told, and not sharing those directions with anyone outside of Bank of America Stadium.

"I'm just following the plan that they've got for me," Jackson said with a big smile on Thursday after practice.

PANTHERS_PRACTICE_17.jpgCarolina Panthers cornerback Dane Jackson runs through drills during practice on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

Jackson signed a two-year deal with the team in free agency in March. He was projected to be the favorite at the No. 2 cornerback spot opposite Jaycee Horn, but he suffered a notable hamstring injury in training camp in August.

And he has been sidelined ever since.

"It's been a process, for sure," Jackson said. "Never had a (hamstring injury) to this extent, so it's definitely been a process. But I've been working with the strength staff, with the training room staff — doing my own thing on the side, too — just trying to get to it and get back as healthy as I can."

Jackson built a bond with teammates in trainers room

During Jackson's stint on the sideline, he bonded with fellow veterans D.J. Wonnum and Amare Barno, who have been on the physically unable to perform (PUP) list since July.

The trio worked in the trainers room together as they went through their respective rehab assignments. The bond between Wonnum and Jackson, in particular, helped the pair get back on the right track to returning to the field.

"We've definitely (grown) closer since we've both been hurt, we've both been out," Jackson said. "We both like to play around a lot. Getting each other through the day — sometimes, you come in here hurt, and you've got to find it yourself. Just getting each other through the days and bonding with each other and growing together as teammates for sure."

PANTHERS_MINICAMP_18.jpgCarolina Panthers cornerback Dane Jackson during the team's voluntary minicamp practice on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Jackson, who played four seasons with the Buffalo Bills, is eager to play. He signed with Carolina largely due to his relationship and background with GM Dan Morgan.

The GM bet on Jackson, who wants to make the most of his opportunity with his new team, whether that's this week or down the road.

His 21-day window is currently in its second week. If he remains on injured reserve beyond Week 7, he'd be shut down for the season.

But, for now, he's just focusing on one day at a time. On Thursday, he was listed as a limited participant in practice, along with tight end Ian Thomas (calf) who is also designated to return from IR.

"Whenever my name is called, whenever it's my time to go out there and ball, I'm just going to be ready," Jackson said.

While the Panthers are staying mum on Jackson's status, head coach Dave Canales has been pleased with his progress in practice. On Wednesday, Canales said Jackson could "absolutely" be in line for a return against Atlanta.

The Panthers could benefit from using Jackson this weekend against the Falcons, especially with wide receivers like Drake London and Darnell Mooney coming to town.

"I think with Dane coming back, it's just going to add another element of even more physicality — his energy is upbeat," said Jonathan Cooley, the team's defensive pass game coordinator. "And so I just think it's just going to make us better. And we're excited about whenever it is his time to play again."

Panthers injury updates: Diontae Johnson still limited in practice

The Panthers are still monitoring wide receiver Diontae Johnson's ankle injury. The top receiving threat on the roster was limited in practice again on Thursday.

Johnson, who leads the team in receiving yards, has taken part in the first two practices of the week. The same can't be said for pass rusher Jadeveon Clowney (shoulder), tight end Tommy Tremble (concussion protocol), linebacker Josey Jewell (hamstring/groin) and rookie lineman Andrew Raym (concussion protocol). All four were listed as non-participants on Thursday.

Right tackle Taylor Moton (triceps), who was already ruled out for this weekend, was also sidelined. Center Austin Corbett has yet to be placed on injured reserve, so he was singled out as a non-participant as well.

In more positive news, wide receiver Xavier Legette (shoulder) was a full go for a second day in a row.

Imagn-24021668.JPGAug 17, 2024; Charlotte, North Carolina, USA; Carolina Panthers wide receiver Xavier Legette (17) during the first quarter against the New York Jets at Bank of America Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Jim Dedmon-USA TODAY SportsAug 17, 2024; Charlotte, North Carolina, USA; Carolina Panthers wide receiver Xavier Legette (17) during the first quarter against the New York Jets at Bank of America Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Jim Dedmon-USA TODAY Sports

Here is the entire injury participation report for Thursday:

Did not participate: OLB Jadeveon Clowney (shoulder), TE Tommy Tremble (concussion protocol), C Andrew Raym (concussion protocol), C Austin Corbett (biceps), LB Josey Jewell (hamstring/groin), DE A'Shawn Robinson (ankle), OT Taylor Moton (triceps)

Limited: WR Diontae Johnson (ankle), TE Ian Thomas (calf), CB Dane Jackson (hamstring), OT Ikem Ekwonu (elbow)

Full: WR Xavier Legette (shoulder)

Quick hits

« The Panthers re-signed running back Mike Boone, defensive end Jayden Peevy and defensive back Russ Yeast to the practice squad Thursday. All three players were released from the 53-man roster earlier in the week. The team came into the day with two open spots on the practice roster, so tight end Stephen Sullivan was released in a corresponding move.

MikeBoone.jpgCarolina Panthers running back Mike Boone (34) scores a touchdown as Buffalo Bills safety Kendall Williamson (36) defends in the second quarter Saturday at Highmark Stadium.

- « Week 6 will feature a pair of NFC South head-to-head matchups. Along with the Panthers (1-4) hosting the Falcons (3-2) on Sunday, the New Orleans Saints (2-3) will host the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (3-2) this weekend as well.
- « The Panthers have designed a "Keep Pounding for the Carolinas" shirt that will be available in their team store at Bank of America Stadium this week. The net proceeds for the shirts priced at \$35 will be donated to the Carolinas Hurricane Helene Relief Fund to help those impacted by the storm in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Keep Pounding shirt

« Follow Observer reporters Mike Kaye (@mike_e_kaye) and Alex Zietlow (@alexzietlow05), and columnist Scott Fowler (@scott_fowler), on X, formerly known as Twitter, for the Panthers' latest news and highlights.

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Here are the new rides coming to the 2024 NC State Fair (+ what to know about tickets)

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Evan Moore, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 505 Words OpenURL Link

The North Carolina State Fair is approaching, and fairgoers can expect to see some new rides and attractions this year.

The fair, scheduled for Oct. 17-27 in Raleigh, will feature nearly 100 rides. New attractions include a traveling musician and a spot to enjoy adult beverages made right here in the Tar Heel State.

Here's what to know about new fair rides and attractions in 2024.

What new rides will be at the NC State Fair this year?

There will be two new rides at the state fair:

State Fair Slide: A 210-foot slideCandyland Adventure: A 130-foot long funhouse

State Fair Slide.jpgThe State Fair Slide will be 210 feet long.

Candy Adventure.jpgThe Candy Adventure ride, a 130-foot funhouse, will be at the fair this year.

What else is new at the NC State Fair this year?

The Strolling Piano one of the new attractions that will be at the state fair this year. The motorized piano will travel around the fairgrounds as a piano player takes request to play and sing popular songs. The Strolling Piano can be found near Gate 2 behind Dorton Arena near the SkyGazer Ferris Wheel.

Another new attraction comes courtesy of the N.C. Distillers Association, where fairgoers 21 and older can purchase North Carolina-made spirits and cocktails at the new Stillhouse Building located down from the Gate 7 entrance near Heritage Circle. Drinks will be \$15 and capped at two per person.

How can I buy ride tickets cards?

You can purchase ride ticket cards at the NC State Fair website (ncagr.gov/divisions/ncstatefair).

Ride tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate (\$10 for 18 ride tickets) until Oct. 17. Tickets will be \$1 each beginning Oct. 18. One-day unlimited ride wristbands can also be purchased for \$30.

You can also support Hurricane Helene disaster relief efforts while purchasing your tickets. All money collected will go to the MANNA FoodBank of Asheville, which lost its distribution warehouse in the hurricane. When purchasing fair tickets online, a "State Fair Cares" boxed link will pop up on the shopping cart page before you check out.

NC State Fair Ferris wheel and sky lift tickets

There are two rides that are not included with ride ticket cards or wristbands: the State Fair Flyer and the State Fair SkyGazer.

- « The State Fair Flyer is a permanent ride at the fairgrounds that offers a 14-minute round trip ride over the midway. One-way trip tickets are \$6 and round-trip tickets are \$9.
- « The State Fair Skygazer is a 155-foot Ferris wheel that offers sight lines of up to 15 miles at the top. Tickets are \$6.

How can I check the height requirements for each ride?

You can check the height requirements for each ride online at powersgreatamericanmidways.com.

Note: Wristbands are not recommended for children under 36 inches tall, as there are a limited amount of rides they can safely ride. Parents with children under 48 inches tall should check the height requirements before purchasing to determine if wristbands offer the best value for their children.

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

New 2024 NC State Fair foods include deep fried spaghetti sandwich, hot dog-stuffed pickle

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'Practice makes permanent.' How better habits, talented QB have Charlotte Latin at 7-0

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Langston Wertz Jr., The Charlotte Observer | Section: high_school | 726 Words OpenURL Link

A year ago, Charlotte Latin's high school football team was 2-8 and finished the season with four straight losses.

So second-year Hawks' coach Drew Dayton said he is a little surprised that Charlotte Latin is 7-0 this season and off to its best start in 17 years.

"You can't predict 7-0," said Dayton, whose team faces rival Charlotte Country Day Thursday. "There's too many variables. What you can predict is practice doesn't make perfect, but practice makes permanent. These kids have developed some really permanent habits that they've built from last winter through the spring and summer, and those things are showing.

"Now, when the game is in the balance, they've been able to rise to the occasion."

Lots of players on Dayton's team have made big jumps using that philosophy, but perhaps none more than sophomore quarterback Troy Logan, a 15-year-old who ranks No. 8 in North Carolina with 1,615 yards passing.

CLT_TROY_LOGAN_06Charlotte Latin QB Troy Logan on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Logan and his Hawks teammates are off to the second best start in school history.

Logan has completed 65% of his passes and has 17 touchdowns.

Only one sophomore in the state has more passing yards: Tyson Broadway of Durham's Southern School of Energy and Sustainability has 1,755.

"It's just hard work, for all of us," said Logan, who threw for 822 yards and six touchdowns in nine games as a freshman. "Starting off 2-8, it was a whole new mindset. The senior group instilled a more motivating, like energizing, mindset and we started off 1-0 and we just kept it rolling."

Logan said by the time Latin got to 4-0 last month, it was winning against teams that had handled the Hawks pretty easily the year before.

The team's confidence began to grow.

"It's like, we can compete this year," Logan said.

For coach Dayton, that was always the plan.

This is his second year as a head coach but his seventh year on the staff.

drewdayton.jpegCharlotte Latin football coach Drew Dayton

Dayton came to Latin after playing four years at Wake Forest and coaching 12 years of college ball at Lenoir Rhyne, Duke and Charlotte.

"We've got some highly motivated kids," Dayton said, "and people that you just want to be around. They value

community and they value hard work and they understand what setting goals and achieving goals looks like. It's just been a huge blessing for me and my family to be a part of this community."

Dayton said getting former Cannon School coach and former Carolina Panthers' fullback Brad Hoover to be his associate head coach has helped speed up Latin's turnaround. Hoover is full-time on staff at Latin.

Dayton is from Spruce Pines, a small N.C. town that was devastated by Hurricane Helene. Hoover's college roommate at Western Carolina played with Dayton in high school.

"He and I know a bunch of people from the mountains where I'm from," Dayton said. "Now, he coaches wide receivers and tight ends for us and it's been such a big help."

With all that coaching power and player belief, Charlotte Latin has gone from a team that scored 128 points in 10 games last season to a team that is now averaging more than 38 points a game.

CLT_TROY_LOGAN_01Charlotte Latin QB Troy Logan on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Logan and his Hawks teammates are off to the second best start in school history.

Logan said there's an easy explanation for that.

"I think in the offseason, we figured out that we had the pieces," he said. "It was mainly just (a lack of) experience. Last year, a lot of times, it was our first time playing varsity football. I think in the offseason we realized that we've got the squad. We've just got to build a bond, build a program and go out there and play."

Logan said embracing his coaches philosophy — that practice makes permanent, but not necessarily perfect — is a big part of his evolution as a QB, as well as his teammates.

"Last year," he said, "(the game) really moved fast. My footwork wasn't right. This year, I've worked a lot on trying to play fast in practice so the game moves slow, and I'm working on my footwork in practice so it's natural when it comes to game time. And coach Dayton has helped me out so much with that. I go to his office during the day and we study film and talk.

"It's really like extra practice."

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Friday's high school football rewind: NC scores, how The Sweet 16 fared, next week's schedule

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Langston Wertz Jr. and Steve Lyttle, The Charlotte Observer Section: high_school | 1461 Words OpenURL Link

It's football Friday and we've got your live scoreboard for games in North Carolina, plus Charlotte-area coverage and statewide scores from Thursday's games, which were moved up a day due to the Yom Kippur jewish holiday.

Scroll down

Quick Links

Palisades coach Jonathan Simmons: Beating Olympic "is our Super Bowl" Palisades High coach Jonathan Simmons' third-year team sits atop the SoMECK conference after beating Olympic Thursday. He discussed after.

Friday's roundup: Mooresville, South Point among area winners

Talking Preps postgame podcast

Palisades wins 5th straight, stops Olympic, eyes league title

Providence Day overcomes turnovers, stops Christian

Roundup: Berry, Catholic, Weddington, Butler among area winners

New teams join Carolinas Top 25 prep football poll

Charlotte Latin 'permanent practice,' young QB spark turnaround

NC statewide prep football rankings

NCHSAA extends football season due to Hurricane Helene

PHOTOS: Berry vs. Ballantyne Ridge

How the Sweet 16 fared

RankSchoolRecordThis weekNext week1Weddington(6-0)d. Porter Ridge 49-0at Sun Valley2Northwestern(8-0)d. Fort Mill 65-6vs. Rock Hill3Providence Day(6-1)d. Charlotte Christian 28-14at Rabun Gap4Mallard Creek(6-1)d. Harding 53-0at Hough5Hough(6-1)d. West Charlotte 40-14Mallard Creek6West Charlotte(4-2)lost 40-14 to Houghat Harding7J.M. Robinson(7-0)d. West Rowan 48-7at South Rowan8Mooresville(6-1)d. South Iredell 28-9vs. West Cabarrus9Charlotte Catholic(6-2)d. Garinger 57-0at Butler10Independence(6-1)d. Providence 42-14at East Mecklenburg11Monroe(6-0)d. Parkwood 55-6vs. Anson County12Charlotte Christian(4-3)lost 28-14 to Providence Dayat Charlotte Latin13South Pointe(5-2)d. York 42-0vs. Lancaster14South Point(5-0)d. Kings Mountain 28-21at Ashbrook(6-1)d. Stuart Cramer 44-0vs. South Point16Sun Valley(6-1)idlevs. Weddington

The picks

Talking Preps: Previewing Week 7 of NC high school footballDoes the Shrine Bowl still matter? What are the top games this week? The Talking Preps crew tackles that and more with special guest, Shawn Baker of Hough High School

School This week's scores **FRIDAY** Greater Metro 4 4A Lake Norman 43, Hickory Ridge 14 Mooresville 28, South Iredell 9 West Cabarrus 16, AL Brown 14 Big South 3A Ashbrook 44, Stuart Cramer 0 Crest 42, North Gaston 6 Hunter Huss 44, Forestview 14 South Point 28, Kings Mountain 21 South Piedmont 3A Central Cabarrus 37, East Rowan 20 Jay M. Robinson 48, West Rowan 7 Northwest Cabarrus 42, Jesse Carson 7 South Rowan 17, Concord 0 Western Foothills 3A East Lincoln 35, Fred T. Foard 0 Hickory 44, North Iredell 6 North Lincoln 42, St. Stephens 12 Statesville 26, West Iredell 0 Catawba Valley 2A Bunker Hill 34, East Burke 12 Lincolnton 63, West Caldwell 6

Maiden 37, Bandys 29

West Lincoln 14, Newton-Conover 7 Catawba Shores 1A-2A Bishop McGuinness 34, Pine Lake Prep 14 Community School of Davidson 51, Winston-Salem Prep 0 Corvian 53, Carver 24 Mountain Island Charter 34, Christ The King 15 Southern Piedmont 1A-2A Bessemer City 14, East Gaston 13 Burns 61, Thomas Jefferson Academy 0 Cherryville 22, Highland Tech 0 Yadkin Valley 1A-2A Mount Pleasant 43, Union Academy 21 South Stanly 26, Albemarle 20 Big 6 (NCISAA) Covenant Day 28, SouthLake Christian 0 Western Athletic (NCISAA) Metrolina Christian 61, Cannon 40 Nonconference Lake Norman Charter 22, North Stanly 10 S.C. Region 3 5A Indian Land 14, Catawba Ridge 7 Northwestern 65, Fort Mill 6

Rock Hill 52, Nation Ford 29

Lancaster 42, Dreher 33

South Pointe 42, York 0

A.C. Flora 44, Richland Northeast 7

S.C. Region 3 4A

S.C. Region 4 2A Andrew Jackson 32, Chesterfield 14 Cheraw 30, Pageland Central 13 S.C. Region 3 1A Lewisville 34, Lee Central 14 Lamar 40, Great Falls 0 NC statewide Alexander Central 30, Freedom 20 Alleghany 41, North Stokes 0 Apex Friendship 42, Apex 0 Ayden-Grifton 36, North Pitt 22 Bear Grass Charter 24, Hobgood Charter 12 CB Aycock 32, Fike 12 Cape Fear 51, Byrd 0 Cardinal Gibbons 40, Enloe 0 Central Davidson 56, Asheboro 28 Cherokee 27, Andrews 0 Cleveland 42, Willow Spring 12 Columbia 70, Mattamuskeet 38 Corinth Holders 22, Fuquay-Varina 21 Cummings 56, Chatham Central 0 Currituck County 40, Holmes 28

DH Conley 45, JH Rose 42 Dixon 37, Swansboro 15 Dudley 47, Northeast Guilford 0 East Bladen 12, Heide Trask 6 East Carteret 35, Northside-Pinetown 27 East Duplin 54, North Lenoir 0

Eastern Alamance 64, Cedar Ridge 0

Eastern Guilford 38, Atkins 13

Eastern Randolph 57, Trinity 13

East Forsyth 62, Parkland 6

East Rutherford 49, Hendersonville 21

East Surry 49, Forbush 0

East Wilkes 15, Elkin 10

Erwin 20, AC Reynolds 14

Franklin 45, North Henderson 6

Garner 19, Southeast Raleigh 14

Gates County 28, Bertie 26

Gray's Creek 28, Lumberton 24

Greene Central 31, Washington 29

Grimsley 49, Ragsdale 7

Harrells Christian 50, GRACE Christian 0

Havelock 21, Jacksonville 14

Hayesville 12, Swain 7

Hertford County 44, First Flight 13

Hibriten 21, South Caldwell 20

Hickory 44, North Iredell 6

Hillside 60, Northern Durham 13

Hoggard 35, Ashley 27

Hoke County 20, Southern Lee 14

Holly Springs 45, Green Level 6

Hunt 10, East Wake 7

James Hunt 10, East Wake 7

James Kenan 28, Kinston 25

Laney 45, West Brunswick 14

Leesville Road 56, Broughton 14

Lexington 35, West Davidson 16

Maiden 37, Bandys 29

Martin County 72, Washington County 8

Montgomery Central 35, Ledford 28

Mount Airy 48, South Stokes 7

Mount Tabor 52, Davie County 7

Murphy 14, Robbinsville 7

New Bern 56, Northside 12

New Hanover 41, North Brunswick 16

North Duplin 43, Lakewood 24

North Johnston 52, Beddingfield 30

North Moore 38, Seaforth 20

North Surry 42, Surry Central 7

Northhampton County 50, Rocky Mount Prep 0

Northern Guilford 17, Northwest Guilford 10

Northern Nash 49, Nash Central 9

Northeastern 49, Camden County 0

Northwood 69, Graham 2

Oak Grove 17, North Davidson 0

Page 28, Western Guilford 27

Panther Creek 31, Middle Creek 14

Pasquotank County 12, Manteo 6

Pender 68, Hobbton 30

Person 39, Orange 22

Pine Forest 33, EE Smith 14

Pinecrest 34, Lee County 16

Princeton 38, Goldsboro 30

Pungo Christian 52, Community Christian 26

Randleman 42, Providence Grove 10

Reidsville 57, West Stokes 41

Richlands 42, Croatan 14

Richmond Senior 27, Union Pines 8

RJ Reynolds 33, Glenn 16

Rocky Mount Academy 59, Father Capodanno 0

Rocky Mount 42, Roanoke Rapids 0

Rolesville 35, Millbrook 0

Salisbury 73, East Davidson 7

Sanderson 27, Athens Drive 24

Seventy-First 28, Britt 7

South Columbus 71, West Columbus 0

South View 48, Purnell Swett 0

Southeast Alamance 54, Bartlett Yancey 0

Southern Durham 57, Louisburg 7

Southern Guilford 12, Ben L. Smith 0

Southern Nash 62, Bunn 14

Southside 47, Pamlico County 26

Southwest Onslow 67, South Lenoir 8

Southwestern Randolph 42, Wheatmore 12

Starmount 55, Carrboro 6

St Pauls 44, Red Springs 6

Tarboro 62, Perquimans 22

Terry Sanford 42, Harnett Central 0 Thomasville 42, South Davidson 0 Topsail 42, South Brunswick 20 Trinity Christian 55, North Raleigh Christian 21 Triton 34, Western Harnett 15 Vance County 12, South Granville 7 Wake Forest 31, Wakefield 28 Walkertown 22, North Forysth 15 Wayne Christian 27, John Paul II Catholic 10 West Craven 45, Farmville Central 18 West Forsyth 27, Reagan 0 West Henderson 27, Pisgah 24 West Johnston 28, Smithfield-Selma 24 West Wilkes 21, Wilkes Central 14 Westover 12, Overhills 8 Whiteville 58, East Columbus 0 White Oak 63, West Cateret 42 Williams 49, Western Alamance 21 Wilson Prep 44, KIPP Pride 22 **THURSDAY**

Queen City 3A-4A

SoMeck 4A

Chambers 27, Hopewell 14

Hough 40, West Charlotte 14

Mallard Creek 53, Harding 0

North Mecklenburg 19, West Mecklenburg 14

Berry Academy 13, Ballantyne Ridge 6

Myers Park 27, Ardrey Kell 24, 2 OT Palisades 27, Olympic 14 Southwestern 4A Butler 50, Rocky River 13 Charlotte Catholic 57, Garinger 0 Independence 42, Providence 14 Big South (NCISAA) Charlotte Latin 20, Charlotte Country Day 17 Providence Day 28, Charlotte Christian 14 Southern Carolina 4A Cuthbertson 7, Marvin Ridge 6 Weddington 49, Porter Ridge 0 Rocky River 2A-3A Anson County 45, Piedmont 0 Forest Hills 35, West Stanly 9 Monroe 55, Parkwood 6 NC statewide Arendell Parrott 57, Jones 7 Chapel Hill 34, Riverside-Durham 7 Jordan 56, East Chapel Hill 0 R-S Central 34, Chase 18 Ravenscroft 48, Wake Christian 9 Upcoming schedule **SATURDAY** Nonconference Carolina Bearcats (1-3) at South Wake Lions (3-3), 3

Greenville Hurricanes (2-5) at Cabarrus Stallions (3-4), 3

Georgia Force (7-0) at S.C. Spartans (1-6), 4 Week off: Buford, Clover, Cox Mill, East Mecklenburg, South Mecklenburg, Sun Valley WEEK 9 FRIDAY, OCT. 18 Queen City 3A-4A Mallard Creek at Hough North Mecklenburg at Chambers West Charlotte at Harding West Mecklenburg at Hopewell South Meck 4A Ardrey Kell at South Mecklenburg Ballantyne Ridge at Palisades Myers Park at Olympic Southwestern 4A Charlotte Catholic at Butler Independence at East Mecklenburg Providence at Rocky River Big South (NCISAA) Charlotte Christian at Charlotte Latin Greater Metro 4 4A A.L. Brown at South Iredell Cox Mill at Lake Norman West Cabarrus at Mooresville Southern Carolina 4A Porter Ridge at Cuthbertson Weddington at Sun Valley

Big South 3A

Crest at Forestview, 7:30 Hunter Huss at North Gaston, 7:30 Kings Mountain at Stuart Cramer, 7:30 South Point at Ashbrook, 7:30 South Piedmont 3A Jay M. Robinson at South Rowan Jesse Carson at East Rowan Northwest Cabarrus at Concord West Rowan at Central Cabarrus Western Foothills 3A East Lincoln at St. Stephens, 7:30 Fred T. Foard at North Lincoln, 7:30 North Iredell at Statesville West Iredell at Hickory, 7:30 Rocky River 2A-3A Anson County at Monroe Forest Hills at Piedmont Parkwood at West Stanly Big 6 (NCISAA) Asheville School at SouthLake Christian Hickory Grove Christian at High Point Christian Big West (NCISAA) Christ School at Cannon School Catawba Valley 2A Bandys at Newton-Conover, 7:30 Bunker Hill at Maiden, 7:30

Lincolnton at East Burke, 7:30

West Lincoln at West Caldwell, 7:30 Catawba Shores 1A-2A Christ the King at Winston-Salem Prep Community School of Davidson at Corvian Community Mountain Island Charter at Bishop McGuinness Pine Lake Prep at Carver Southern Piedmont 1A-2A Burns at East Gaston, 7:30 Cherryville at Thomas Jefferson Academy, 7:30 Shelby at Bessemer City, 7:30 Thomas Jefferson Academy at Highland Tech, 7:30 Yadkin Valley 1A-2A Albemarle at Mount Pleasant, 7:30 South Stanly at North Stanly, 7:30 Nonconference Berry at Garinger Lake Norman Charter at Union Academy North Cross (VA) at Covenant Day North Wake Saints at Carolina Bearcats Metrolina Christian at Charlotte Country Day Providence Day at Rabun Gap (GA) School S.C. Region 3 5A Indian Land at Clover, 7:30 Nation Ford at Catawba Ridge, 7:30 Rock Hill at Northwestern, 7:30

Dreher at A.C. Flora, 7:30

S.C. Region 3 4A

Lancaster at South Pointe, 7:30

York at Camden, 7:30

S.C. Region 3 2A

Columbia at Chester, 7:30

Eau Claire at Fairfield Central, 7:30

S.C. Region 4 2A

Andrew Jackson at Pageland Central, 7:30

Cheraw at North Central, 7:30

Chesterfield at Buford, 7:30

S.C. Region 3 1A

Great Falls at C.A. Johnson, 7:30

Lee Central at Lamar, 7:30

Lewisville at McBee, 7:30

Open week: Berry Academy, Community School of Davidson, Corvian Community, Fort Mill, Garinger, Hickory Ridge, Marvin Ridge,

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Prep roundup: Mooresville rolls past South Iredell, takes sole possession of first place

October 10, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Steve Lyttle and Langston Wertz Jr., The Charlotte Observer Section: high_school | 1895 Words OpenURL Link

Brody Norman threw two touchdown passes Friday night to lead Mooresville to a 28-9 victory over South Iredell that put the Blue Devils in sole possession of first place in the Greater Metro 4 4A Conference.

Mooresville (6-1, 3-0), ranked eighth in the Observer's Sweet 16 poll, scored just three minutes into the game on a 26-yard run by Ja'Darius McCombs. Aidan Adkins kicked a 28-yard field goal for South Iredell (4-3, 2-1), but Mooresville pulled away midway in the second quarter on a 46-yard pass from Norman to Dominic Morin.

Eric Heal scored on a 3-yard run, and Norman and Morin connected on a 48-yard scoring toss in the second half.

Norman finished with 14-of-22 passing for 255 yards. Morin had five receptions for 155 yards.

No. 7 Jay M. Robinson 48, West Rowan 7: L.J. Watson ran for three touchdowns, and the Bulldogs (7-0, 5-0) crushed their South Piedmont 3A opponents. Watson scored on runs of 3, 23 and 15 yards, and quarterback Jon Bissonnette threw two touchdown passes.

Brian Rowe caught a pair of touchdown tosses, and Xavier Burnett scored on a pass reception and a 50-yard punt return. West Rowan is 3-4, 2-2.

No. 14 South Point 28, Kings Mountain 21: One week after edging Crest, South Point knocked off the other Cleveland County powerhouse and took sole possession of first place in the Big South 3A. Chancye Ford had a spectacular night, rushing 29 times for 193 yards and two touchdowns.

Ford's second score, an 11-yard run with 11 minutes remaining, broke a 21-21 tie. Patrick Blee ran for 94 yards and completed 5 of 9 passes for 73 yards and a touchdown, as South Point improved to 5-0, 3-0. The Mountaineers fell to 4-2, 2-1.

Bessemer City 14, East Gaston 13: Quarterback Gavin Chastain and running back Jayden Owens scored on second-quarter touchdown runs, and Bessemer City's defense held on for a Southern Piedmont 1A-2A victory.

Bishop McGuinness 34, Pine Lake Prep 14: The host Villains held Pine Lake Prep to 20 passing yards and 178 yards' total offense in this Catawba Shores 1A-2A contest. Johntay Gaither scored both Pine Lake Prep touchdowns.

Central Cabarrus 37, East Rowan 20: Central Cabarrus broke open a close game with two rushing touchdowns in the second half and prevailed in a battle of winless South Piedmont 3A teams. The Vikings (1-6, 1-3) had led East Rowan (0-7, 0-4) 22-20 at the half.

Community School of Davidson 51, Winston-Salem Prep 0: Jake Johnson fired four touchdown passes, and the Spartans (4-2, 3-0) remained unbeaten in Catawba Shores 1A-2A play. Johnson threw two scoring passes to Oliver Morris and one each to Zack Albert and Brandon Albert. One of the scoring tosses to Morris covered 49 yards. Caleb Rosemiller also scored on a 1-yard run.

Corvian Community 53, Carver 24: The unbeaten Cardinals (7-0, 4-0 Catawba Shores 1A-2A) rallied from an early deficit and rolled again, as A.J. Jackson accounted for five touchdowns. Carver took a 6-0 lead on a punt return, but Corvian Community tied the game on a 20-yard pass from Jackson to Noah Best. The Cardinals went ahead on a 1-

yard run by Jackson.

Jackson later scored on a 35-yard interception return and a 38-yard run, and he threw a 4-yard scoring pass to Doug Quarles III. Johnson scored on runs of 3, 10 and 48 yards.

Corvian Community faces Community School of Davidson in a first-place showdown next week.

Covenant Day 28, SouthLake Christian 0: Chris Rivens returned the opening kickoff of the second half 81 yards for a touchdown, and the Lions (4-2, 3-0) rolled to a Big 6 victory. SouthLake Christian is now 3-4, 0-3.

Hickory 44, North Iredell 6: Brady Stober threw four touchdown passes, and defending 3A state champion Hickory (7-0, 4-0) cruised to victory. North Iredell fell to 2-5, 1-3.

Lake Norman Charter 22, North Stanly 10: Lake Norman Charter remained unbeaten (6-0), as David Wignot threw two touchdown passes and Drew Johnson returned an interception 55 yards for a score. Both of Wignot's touchdown throws were to Major Leak, and one of them covered 71 yards.

Metrolina Christian 61, Cannon School 40: J.D. Williams put on a spectacular show, rushing for seven touchdowns in leading the Warriors (4-3, 1-0) to a Western Athletic Conference victory. Williams rushed for about 300 yards in the game and scored one of his touchdowns from 65 yards. Cannon School fell to 3-5, 0-1.

Mountain Island Charter 34, Christ the King 15: Grayson Harvey threw for 220 yards, and Joshua Moses ran for three touchdowns as the Raptors (3-4, 2-2) scored a Catawba Shores 1A-2A victory. Freshman Andre Ramseur Jr. returned the game's opening kickoff 85 yards for a score and then had six receptions for 121 yards. Harvey completed 17 of 24 passes in the game.

Christ the King (2-5, 2-2) scored on a 1-yard run by J.P. Zimmerman and on an 11-yard pass from Jason Ehret to Kyle Corrigan.

South Rowan 17, Concord 0: South Rowan scored on a pair of first-half runs, added a field goal in the fourth quarter, and won this South Piedmont 3A game. It is believed to be the first victory for South Rowan (3-4, 2-2) over Concord (4-3, 3-2) in four decades.

West Cabarrus 16, A.L. Brown 14: The host Wolverines (4-4, 3-1) stunned the Wonders, winning the game on Sam Mendiola's 30-yard field goal on the final play. A.L. Brown had taken a 14-13 lead in this Greater Metro 4 4A contest when C.J. Gray fired a 5-yard touchdown pass to Navariy Young with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Daylon Fuller ran for both West Cabarrus touchdowns.

West Lincoln 14, Newton-Conover 7: Jaylin Winnex scored on a pair of touchdown runs, and West Lincoln (4-3, 2-2) held on for a Catawba Valley 2A victory. Winnex scored from 1 yard out midway in the first quarter and on a 14-yard run late in the third period. Newton-Conover (1-5, 1-2) narrowed the gap on a short touchdown pass with four minutes left.

THURSDAY NIGHT

CLT_WolvesvCardinals24-1-2Ballantyne Ridge Wolves would host the Berry Cardinals on a Thursday night game October 10, 2024.

Berry Academy 13, Ballantyne Ridge 6: This time, Ballantyne Ridge's football players and fans got to see how the other half lives.

They got to experience a scoreless first quarter and a one-point game at halftime. The Wolves' fans yelled "Deefense" and rang cowbells in the fourth quarter, when it still made a difference.

And everyone on the Ballantyne Ridge side — players, coaches, fans — got to experience how it feels for the game to be on the line with fewer than 10 seconds to play.

In the end, visiting Berry Academy beat the Wolves 13-6.

But for a first-year Ballantyne Ridge team that has suffered a string of 50- and 60-point losses while playing freshmen and sophomores, Thursday night showed what the future might hold for the Wolves' program.

"Tonight, for our program, was a step we needed to take," said Wolves coach Chris Redding, who came to the new school after coaching for two years at Berry Academy. "Our kids were in a meaningful game."

Ballantyne Ridge (0-7, 0-4) got the ball at its 31 with 54.3 seconds remaining, and, behind the passing of freshman quarterback Ryder Polston, drove to the Berry Academy 10 with 3.9 seconds left. But the Cardinals (2-5, 1-3) picked off Polston's pass to end the threat.

"It was bittersweet for me, having coached those kids at Berry before coming to start this program," Redding said. "Those kids (Berry) are good kids, and they've worked hard. But we wanted to beat them."

Redding said it's difficult to learn a lot in a 50-0 game that's decided after one quarter. But, he added, close games like Thursday's are full of teaching moments.

"Our kids learned how close the margin between winning and losing can be," he said. "We're in the process of learning how to win. Tonight, I thought we showed the fruits of our labor for the first time."

Berry Academy got on the scoreboard first, on a 6-yard pass from Justin Williams to NaNa Mensah in the second quarter. Elijah Britt's conversion kick made it 7-0. But Ballantyne Ridge drove in the closing minutes of the half and scored on the second quarter's final play on a pass from Polston to Ty'Barious Young. The conversion kick failed, leaving the Cardinals up 7-6.

Berry Academy got its second touchdown on the first series of the second half, with Williams throwing a 9-yard pass to Britt.

The Cardinals got outstanding defensive play from junior edge rusher JaShawn Shaw and senior lineman Josh Jordan. And Marquise McNair picked off a Wolves pass in the fourth quarter to stop a Ballantyne Ridge drive in Berry territory.

Polston had a big game, completing 20 of 34 passes for 254 yards.

"I told our kids afterward, 'It hurts because it matters. It hurts because it was so close,'" Redding said. "And it was great for our program to be in a game that was competitive like this."

In other area games:

No. 1 Weddington 49, Porter Ridge 0: Brody Anson ran for four touchdowns, and the host Warriors (6-0, 1-0 Southern Carolina 4A) returned to action with a lopsided victory. Weddington hadn't played in three weeks, because of a bye and a Hurricane Helene-caused game cancellation.

The Warriors struck quickly, as Kelson Tate returned the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown. Gregory Fee and Anthony Barrino also scored on runs for Weddington. Porter Ridge fell to 4-3, 0-2.

No. 9 Charlotte Catholic 57, Garinger 0: Nick Bierman scored on a 59-yard punt return, and the host Cougars (5-2, 4-0 Southwestern 4A) also scored on a blocked punt against the Wildcats (0-7, 0-4).

Charlotte Catholic opened scoring with a safety, then went up 9-0 on Jake Anderson's 1-yard run and a Roman Hyland conversion kick. Garrett Nowlan and Jon Pacheco also scored on first-half runs for the Cougars, who led 43-0 at halftime.

The Cougars face Butler in a showdown for first place next Friday.

No. 10 Independence 42, Providence 14: Jayden Jones, the No. 2 rusher in North Carolina, had another huge game as the Patriots (6-1, 2-1) steamrolled to a Southwestern 4A victory. Jones rushed for 207 yards on 10 carries and scored three touchdowns. Teammate Travis Hill had 10 carries for 104 yards and a score.

Quarterback Justin Little completed 15 of 23 passes for 238 yards and a touchdown. Providence (1-5, 0-3) got a pair of touchdown passes from junior Jackson Debe.

Butler 50, Rocky River 13: Jayden Williams ran for four touchdowns as the host Bulldogs (4-4, 4-0 Southwestern 4A) rolled to victory. Damorian Thomas-Wright also ran for two Butler touchdowns, and DeQuadre Currence returned a punt for another score. Rocky River (2-5, 1-2) got two touchdown passes from Ramir Watson.

Charlotte Latin 20, Charlotte Country Day 17: Holden Freno kicked a 40-yard field goal on the final play of the game, lifting unbeaten Charlotte Latin to its eighth victory of the season. Fresno earlier kicked a 30-yarder for the Hawks (8-0, 1-0 Big South).

Troy Logan fired a 54-yard touchdown pass to Joe McGirt in the first quarter for Charlotte Latin, which was 2-8 a year ago. Charlotte Country Day fell to 4-4, 0-2.

Forest Hills 35, West Stanly 9: Zach Dillworth fired three touchdown passes, and Rodney Smith and Kylan Polk ran for scored in leading the Yellow Jackets (4-3, 1-1 Rocky River 2A-3A) past the Colts (1-6, 1-1). Dillworth connected on a 30-yard scoring toss to Jerel Bolder, and on passes of 30 and 41 yards to Kemarion Massey.

PHOTOS: Berry vs. Ballantyne Ridge

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How could Hurricane Helene affect the election in North Carolina?

October 10, 2024 | Chronicle, The (Duke University) (Durham, NC) Author: Zoe Kolenovsky and Ana Despa| Section: News | 2180 Words OpenURL Link

When Hurricane Helene began to form in the Gulf of Mexico late last month, few were prepared for the extreme devastation that would ensue — including how infrastructure damage would impact voting logistics ahead of Election Day.

Any change in voter turnout in the affected regions may have an impact on the presidential race, which is currently polling near even in the swing state. As of Wednesday, the 538 polling average shows Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump leading Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris by one point in North Carolina, holding one of the closest margins of any state.

Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson is trailing Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein by 13 points in the state's gubernatorial race as of Wednesday.

In North Carolina, the state's westernmost counties took the brunt of the impact.

As of Monday, over 230 deaths were recorded across the region, making Helene the deadliest storm to hit the mainland United States since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Several roads connecting mountainous communities to the rest of the state — including significant portions of Interstate 40 — were washed out or made impassable due to mudslides. Many communities also took significant damage to their water systems and electric grids, with officials estimating repairs would likely take at least a few weeks.

President Joe Biden visited the state last week to observe the damage, where he announced that the federal government would fund recovery efforts for six months. Communities across the state — including Durham — have pitched in to support residents of western North Carolina amid the tragedy, and N.C. lawmakers approved \$273 million in relief aid to affected communities Wednesday.

As recovery efforts continue and the rebuilding process begins, The Chronicle broke down how damage to voting infrastructure may affect election turnout and how the campaigns are responding to the natural disaster.

Which voters were actually affected?

Biden granted North Carolina a federal major disaster declaration to provide federal aid for 25 counties in the western part of the state.

These largely rural counties, which encompass over 1.2 million registered voters, have historically leaned Republican in presidential contests. An independent analysis by The Chronicle using voting data from the North Carolina State Board of Elections found that a Republican presidential candidate has consistently carried all but three of these counties in every election since at least 2004. The earliest election for which data broken down by county can be accessed from the NCSBE.

Concerns have arisen over possible lower voter turnout in the region caused by damage to polling sites and other election infrastructure. On Monday, the NCSBE exercised its emergency powers to unanimously approve a slew of measures designed to ensure "accessible, safe and secure" voting options remain available to North Carolinians most affected by the hurricane.

The new provisions apply to 13 counties "where infrastructure, accessibility to voting sites and postal services remain severely disrupted after Helene": Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

In a Monday afternoon press conference, NCSBE representatives explained that they had been in contact with all 100 county boards of elections since the storm swept across the state and only the 13 included in the emergency provisions expressed a need for additional election readiness assistance.

Per The Chronicle's analysis, around 60% of voters in the 25 counties on the disaster declaration voted Republican in every presidential election since 2004, suggesting that lower voter turnout may negatively impact the Trump campaign. However, the political leaning of the 13 counties receiving election assistance by the NCSBE is significantly different than those 12 counties not receiving the support.

Support for the Democratic presidential candidate is higher in the counties receiving election assistance, with approximately 44% of voters backing the Democratic candidate in the past five election cycles. In comparison, only about 33% of voters in the 12 counties not receiving support did the same.

The largest contributors to this partisan gap are Buncombe and Watauga counties: two of the three counties — among the 25 in the disaster declaration — that have voted blue in at least one presidential election in the past five cycles. Combined, Buncombe and Watauga counties accounted for approximately 20% of ballots cast within the 25 counties, voting 61% and 54% Democrat, respectively, in the 2020 presidential election.

Buncombe contains the city of Asheville, which historically votes blue, and is one of the most densely populated counties impacted by the hurricane.

Watauga contains Boone, another city that has swung blue multiple times in the last few election cycles. A Democratic presidential candidate has carried Buncombe in every election since 2008 and carried Watauga in 2008, 2016 and 2020.

Voting infrastructure and election turnout

The emergency resolution approved by the NCSBE includes a number of changes to in-person and absentee voting processes.

NCSBE Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said during the Monday board meeting that the state is "committed" to commencing early voting as planned on Oct. 17 in all 100 counties within North Carolina.

"It may look a little different in these affected counties, but we fully intend to offer early voting starting on [Oct. 17]," she said. "We also plan to provide as much voting opportunity as we can for Election Day voting sites as well, recognizing that we may need to take voting to the people because they may not be able to access their voting sites equally."

Local boards of elections within the 13 affected counties are allowed to "modify" their early voting plans by a bipartisan majority vote that does not require approval from the state board. Such modifications can include changing the hours and days of operation for polling locations to improve accessibility and adding or removing polling sites.

The state board did not extend the deadline for North Carolinians to register, which is 5 p.m. Oct. 11. However, same-day registration is available at polling locations during the early voting period from Oct. 17 to Nov. 2.

"We have a wide opportunity for folks to still get registered even if they've been displaced," Brinson Bell said.

North Carolina has a 30-day residency requirement for voter registration, and the deadline to establish a new residence in advance of Election Day passed Oct. 6. Brinson Bell noted that voters who are only temporarily

displaced due to the storm can register in their home county and vote by mail, and those who intend to remain permanently relocated can register in their new county of residence.

County boards can also modify their Election Day polling sites by bipartisan majority vote, though any modifications must be presented to the state board in a written resolution explaining that they are "required by the effects of the recent disaster."

Such modifications could include the transfer of voters from one precinct to another within the same county, the establishment of multiple polling sites within the same precinct, the establishment of "out-of-precinct" polling locations that could possibly be located outside the county and the approval of central polling locations to be used by any voter within the county.

The resolution mandates that notice of any modification to Election Day polling locations will be given to the affected voters by mail, posted on the county's website and delivered to all local media outlets and the chairs of county political parties. Board members shared during a Monday afternoon press conference that notices would also likely be posted in disaster relief shelters.

To address staffing shortages in light of the disaster, the emergency resolution allows county boards to appoint election officials who are registered in other counties to oversee voting in the 13 included in the resolution. Local boards are also empowered to appoint emergency assistants for Election Day and reassign poll workers "to ensure there is sufficient knowledge and experience at each voting site."

Brinson Bell shared that the state is coordinating with federal relief agencies to establish temporary polling sites, such as National Guard tents or trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in areas where the previously designated locations suffered significant damage.

The NCSBE also made a number of changes to how voters in the affected counties can receive and return absentee ballots.

The state began distributing absentee ballots Sept. 20, and many still in transit were lost amid the hurricane. Brinson Bell advocated for voters "concerned about the status of their ballot" to check BallotTrax, a state-provided service that tracks ballots through the mail stream.

Voters in the affected counties can now request or receive their ballots in person at their county board of election office up until Nov. 5. In the event that they are unable to access their local board's office, they can deliver their completed ballot to another county's board or the state board.

All absentee ballots still must be received by a county board of election by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 5.

Brinson Bell reported that the postal service is now operating in all 100 counties within the state, though she acknowledged that some communities within individual counties are still facing accessibility issues around the delivery and receipt of mail.

Campaign strategies

Despite the state's efforts to ensure that voter turnout is not reduced as a result of infrastructure damage caused by Helene, campaigns are adjusting their approach to engaging North Carolinian voters.

"Our hearts are with the North Carolinians impacted by Hurricane Helene and we are working closely with our legal and voter protection teams and the N.C. Democratic Party to ensure that every eligible voter is able to safely make their voices heard in this election," wrote Dory MacMillan, communications director for Harris for N.C., in a Wednesday email to The Chronicle.

The N.C. for Harris campaign is operating a voter protection hotline — which representatives touted as one of the

most robust in the nation — with hundreds of operators on standby to answer voters' questions. North Carolinians can call 1-833-VOTE4NC to get information on voting in person or by mail. The hotline is now available by text for the first time, and campaign representatives shared that assistance will soon be available in Spanish.

The campaign is tracking changes to polling locations in western North Carolina amid recovery efforts and engaging directly with voters to communicate those updates.

Representatives from Harris for N.C. shared that the campaign has also spent over \$30,000 on relief aid to communities in the affected region. Campaign staff and volunteers have been delivering supplies to community centers in Asheville and Boone, and the campaign also hosted a free dinner last week for 120 families in Boone.

"We're with western North Carolina for the long haul, and in addition to our efforts to keep voters educated, we will continue to provide hands-on support, delivering water, supplies and funding to the relief efforts," MacMillan wrote.

The N.C. Republican Party did not respond to The Chronicle's inquiry about changes to campaign strategy in the aftermath of Helene in time for publication.

Both major presidential candidates visited North Carolina last week in the aftermath of Helene.

Harris stopped in Charlotte Saturday, attending a FEMA briefing to hear from state officials about ongoing relief and recovery efforts and visiting a resource distribution center to speak to volunteers and affected residents.

The previous day, Trump gave an address in Fayetteville, where he condemned the Biden administration's response to the hurricane.

"They are doing the worst job on a hurricane that any administration has ever done," Trump said.

However, critics of Trump have pointed to his own complicated history on disaster response, including delaying hurricane relief to Puerto Rico in 2019 and limiting FEMA's ability to provide aid to states during his time in office — using the funds instead to return undocumented immigrants to Mexico.

Trump has faced condemnation from members of his own party for spreading misinformation about the federal government's response to the storm. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., reiterated this sentiment in a Sunday statement to constituents.

"The destruction caused by Helene is incomprehensible and has left many communities in western North Carolina absolutely devastated," he wrote. "The last thing that the victims of Helene need right now is political posturing, finger-pointing or conspiracy theories that only hurt the response effort."

Brinson Bell also denounced misinformation about election fraud in the aftermath of the disaster.

"It is a disservice to these people who have already faced disaster and have been put in harm's way and are hurting — what a disgrace for anyone to try to provide misinformation or disinformation affecting their ability to vote," she said.

Republican Board Member Stacey Eggers, who is based in Boone, emphasized that the changes enacted by the emergency resolution are not meant to serve partisan interests.

"I'm generally very hesitant to make changes to the normal running of our elections, but these have been tailored to give flexibility to the county boards to meet those specific needs," he said, also pointing out that any changes made require a bipartisan majority vote. "... A change is not going to be a Republican change or a Democrat change."

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Hurricane Helene causes IV fluid shortages affecting Duke Health

October 10, 2024 | Chronicle, The (Duke University) (Durham, NC) Author: Vikram Sambasivan| Section: News| 382 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene left a devastating mark on much of western North Carolina, but the storm's long-term impact extends well beyond the region — including the Duke University Health System.

Due to damage inflicted upon health care manufacturer Baxter International's North Cove facility in Marion, N.C., Duke Health is experiencing a shortage of intravenous (IV) fluids and other specialty sterile fluids.

"Our teams have been working to assess inventory, deploy conservation strategies and triage future distribution in an equitable manner across the health system," wrote Gregory Pauly, group president of Acute Care Services for DUHS, president of Duke University Hospital and vice dean of clinical and academic integration of the School of Medicine, in a Monday email to The Chronicle.

During this shortage, DUHS has had to make various changes to protocol in order to conserve IV fluids. In an Oct. 4 statement from Baxter, the company outlined many helpful strategies to conserve these fluids, such as considering oral hydration strategies as alternatives, limiting the time that sterile fluids are used in procedures, using smaller volume bags where possible and more.

In his statement, Pauly highlighted some actions that DUHS has already enacted.

"At this time, we are making case-by-case assessments of our ability to safely perform certain surgeries and procedures going into the weekend and next week," he wrote.

This shortage is not unique to Duke, or even N.C. hospital systems in general. Per the Oct. 4 statement, the affected manufacturing facility produces about 60% of North America's IV solutions, and hospitals nationwide are "anticipating significant shortages" of Baxter IV fluids.

Baxter is working to restore its North Cove facility to previous production levels, but it is still working to recover from storm damage.

In an Oct. 9 statement released by Baxter, the company stated that it is "increasing the current U.S. allocation levels of [its] highest demand IV fluids for direct customers from 40% to 60%, and for distributors from 10% to 60%." The company pointed to children's hospitals as an exception, which have been increased to 100% allocation levels due to their "vulnerable patient population." Baxter is aiming to restore customers to full allocation levels by the end of 2024.

In the meantime, DUHS and many other hospital systems nationwide are forced to adapt to these IV and sterile fluid shortages.

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Bipartisan state board approves measures to help WNC voters affected by Helene

October 10, 2024 | Clay County Progress (NC) Author: Patrick Gannon; State BOE| Section: News| 550 Words Page: A2 OpenURL Link

The bipartisan State Board of Elections on Monday unanimously approved a long list of emergency measures to help Helene victims vote in the 2024 election and ensure election officials can provide accessible, safe and secure voting options for residents of western North Carolina. Read the final, signed resolution (PDF).

The 5-0 vote of Democrats and Republicans on the state board came after extensive plan- with county election officials, public safety and emergency management officials and the U.S. Postal Service. Watch recording of the State Board meeting (MP4).

The measures will apply to the following 13 counties, where infrastructure, accessibility to voting sites and postal services remain severely disrupted after Helene: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Mc-Dowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey.

Measures approved by the state board do all the following and more in the 13 counties: In-person voting Facilitate in-person early voting by allowing county boards of elections to modify their approved early voting sites, days and hours through a bipartisan, majority vote.

Allow county boards to modify Election Day polling places by bipartisan, majority vote. This provision also allows county boards of elections, with the approval of the state board executive director, to open a polling place in another county, provided that materials, tabulators and voting processes are kept separate for each precinct's voters at that location.

Allow county boards - by bipartisan, majority vote - to set up their board of elections office to permit any voter in the county to vote at that site, in the event voters are unable to get to their Election Day precinct voting site or are unsure of their voting location. Some county offices may also serve as an early voting site, which allows any voter of the county to vote during the early voting period.

Absentee voting Allow voters to request and receive an absentee ballot in person at their county board of elections office up until Nov. 4 - the day before the election. As always, the voter or voter's near relative or legal guardian is required to complete an absentee request form with the required personal information for the voter and that information must be verified by the county board as with any absentee request.

Allow voters to drop off completed absentee ballots at Election Day polling places operated by the voters' county board by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

Allow voters or their near relatives or legal guardians to hand-deliver completed absentee ballots to another county board of elections in North Carolina or the State Board of Elections office, as long as the ballot is received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. The county or state board then would ensure that those ballots are delivered to each voter's county board of elections by Nov. 14 - the by on another in of are the day before county canvass - to be counted. A log and chain of custody will be maintained to secure these ballots. Poll worker recruitment and assignment Allow county boards -by bipartisan, majority vote -to appoint election officials who are registered to vote in other N.C. counties, to appoint emergency Election Day assistants and assign them to precinct and to reassign poll workers to different locations than their original assignment to ensure sufficient knowledge and expertise at each voting site. For comprehensive information on Voting After Helene, visit: www.ncsbe.gov/Helene.

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"hank you American Red Cross for your humanitarian aid

October 10, 2024 | Clay County Progress (NC) Author: Joyce Portik; Community Correspondent | Section: News | 491 Words Page: B5 OpenURL Link

Since Hurricane Helene came up from the Gulf of Mexico absolute havoc, devastation, destruction and loss of life were wreaked throughout Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The American Red Cross has pulled their resources to these areas to do what they can.

The American Red Cross is a nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief and disaster preparedness education in the United States. Some of the activities they do include helping provide shelter, food and comfort to victims of disaster. Most of the time I think of them helping a family who has just lost everything they own in a fire or working to maintain the nation's blood supply. However, they also teach life-saving skills, distributing humanitarian aid as well as supporting veterans, military members and their families.

When a disaster like Helene happens we all pull together to do what we can to help. If you would like to help you could contact a Red Cross office and donate bottled water, nonperishable food and even a monetary donation. It will all be put to good use.

For many months now the American Red Cross has been clamoring for blood donations. This writer is a blood donor who has donated more than 15 gallons of blood over many years. I am a member of the Western North Carolina Chapter (https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/aboutus/ locations/western-northcarolina.html) which serves more than 775, 000 people in the counties of Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey. The office for this chapter is located in Asheville and we are all fully aware of the devastation and flooding that hit them. We were spared what could have been a disaster here.

Being a blood donor became important to me many years ago when I gave birth to my first child. I hemorrhaged during birth. If someone else hadn't donated their blood and it wasn't there when I needed it, what would have happened to me? What about my newborn child and how would she have been impacted? So, I became a donor. I have had three children and am very proud to say all three of them have been raised to appreciate the importance of donating blood and all three are donors. Our blood type is 0 negative which means we are universal blood donors for all blood types.

Many people have reasons why they are unable to donate, mostly due to their own medical issues and/or the medications they are on, but if you believe you can donate look into it. Your donation of blood could mean the difference between life and death in a family. Go to the link included above for more information. The link also gives you information on becoming a volunteer if you want to help that way. Thank you for listening. I'm off my soapbox now. If you have questions or comments email: joyceportik@gmail.com

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Clay continues reaching out to neighbors in need

October 10, 2024 | Clay County Progress (NC) Author: Becky Long; Publisher | Section: News | 599 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

Clay County residents continue to count their blessings from being spared Hurricane Helene's wrath, but in many cases, volunteers have become blessings themselves as they work to help western North Carolina neighbors.

At least 215 people are known to have died as a result of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene since it made landfall in Florida a week ago. Half of the deaths were in North Carolina, according to the Associated Press.

Many local churches, businesses and civic organizations have served as drop-off sites for donations and supplies. The Progress is compiling a list of these sites. Send your information to: publisher© claycountyprogress.com so we can provide a complete listing in the weeks to come or stop by our office, 450 Business Hwy 64, suite 4. Gov. Roy Cooper's office listed this address for donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit: nc.gov/donate.

If you are seeking information on volunteer opportunities, please visit nc.gov/working/volunteer-opportunities/volunteernc.

Pastor Chris Rumfelt with First Freewill Baptist Church said in a video while in Spruce Pine delivering supplies on Tuesday that submersible 110 pumps are badly needed.

DOT workers, EMC and others continue helping out in the flood deluged areas as well as local law enforcement.

Sheriff Mark Buchanan said he has three officers and and their chaplin working with the Haywood County Sheriff's Office.

"They are working 12-hour shifts at night throughout this week," he said. 'They are supplementing that sheriff's office with law enforcement related duties. We are also making regular runs with donated supplies to the eastern North Carolina counties in need."

According to Congressman Chuck Edward's website, these items are needed: Items needed: Food, bottled water, contractor-size trash bags, blankets, first aid supplies, feminine hygiene products, diapers and baby clothes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels, bleach, shovels, brooms, gloves, coolers, propane, cook stoves, flashlights, batteries, fans, dehumidifiers, and generators, pet food/items, blankets, shower and bath items, cleaning supplies, paper products, toiletries, medicine cabinet items, non-perishable foods, batteries, something loving for a child to hold, non-perishable food (canned goods, dried foods) -food that doesn't need to be cooked, clothing -new or gently used, gasoline and gas cans, first aid kits, water filters and purification tablets, tarps, plastic storage bins, personal protective equipment (gloves, masks), LP tanks, charcoal, charcoal, manual can openers.

The Sheriff's Association sent out this list of where supplies can be taken, among others: · Avery County Distribution Center: Feeding Avery Families -189 Old Vale Road, Newland, NC 28657 · Buncombe County Distribution Center: Carolina Cargo -108 Monticello Road, Weaverville, NC 28787 · Haywood County Distribution Centers: Jonathan Valley Elementary School -410 Hall Drive Waynesville NC 28785 ·Bethel Elementary School -4700 Old River Road Canton, NC 28716 · Smoky Mountain Events Center -758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville, NC 28785 · Henderson County Distribution Center -18 McAbee Court, Flat Rock, NC 28731 · Madison County Distribution Center: Madison County Extension Office -248 Carolina Lane, Marshall, NC 28753 · McDowell County Distribution Center: McDowell Technical Community College -632 College Drive, Marion, NC 28752 · Mitchell County Distribution Center: Bowman Middle School -410 South Mitchell Avenue, Bakersville, NC 28705 · Polk County Distribution Center: Tryon International Equestrian Center -25 International Boulevard, Mill Spring, NC 28756 · Rutherford County

Distribution Center: Rutherford County Health Department -221 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale, NC 28160 · Watauga County Distribution Center: The Summit Pickleball -278 Industrial Drive, Boone, NC 28607 · Wilkes County Distribution Centers: North Wilkesboro Motor Speedway -381 Speedway Lane, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659 · Wilkes County Agricultural Center -416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697 · Yancey County Distribution Centers: Mountain Heritage High School -333 Mountain Heritage High School Road, Burnsville, NC 28714

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