

## Under the Dome: Mark Robinson's schedule, an endorsement and an ultimatum

September 27, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Avi Bajpai, News & Observer | Section: politics government | 754 Words OpenURL Link

As Western North Carolina braces for the impacts of Hurricane Helene, the N.C. Faith and Freedom Coalition is preparing to host its annual Salt & Light Conference at the Nebo Crossing Church in Marion this weekend.

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson is one of the most prominent figures speaking at this year's conference, and as of Thursday, he's still scheduled to address the gathering on Saturday afternoon, according to the coalition's grassroots director, Jim Quick.

The conference will be live-streamed on YouTube. It would be one of Robinson's first major public appearances with other Republicans since the scandal broke last week over what CNN says are his old posts on an online porn forum.

Organizers said they are monitoring the forecast for Helene, adding that the projected flooding won't impact the church where the conference is being held, or major roads leading up to the church.

They urged attendees to travel safely and check drivenc.gov to make their driving plans, and said updates will be posted on their website and Facebook page "as warranted."

I'm Avi Bajpai. Welcome to the Under the Dome newsletter. Here's more from the politics team and Stephanie Loder, correspondent.

An endorsement for Robinson

The embattled GOP gubernatorial nominee announced an endorsement on Thursday from the Oil & Gas Workers Association.

The trade association, founded in 2015, has 47,000 members nationwide, according to its website. It has endorsed former President Donald Trump, along with other high-profile Republicans like Arizona U.S. Senate candidate Kari Lake, and U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert.

In a statement, Robinson said he was proud to receive the group's endorsement, and said that if he is elected governor, he will "fight to bring down energy costs and create more jobs for middle-class families with a more common-sense approach: like responsible development of fossil fuels like coal and natural gas and clean sources of energy like nuclear power."

Matt Coday, the association's founder and president, said that under Robinson, "we can rest assured that our workers and our industry will be in good hands."

- Avi Bajpai

Here's what else the Under the Dome politics team has been working on:

Danielle Battaglia reports Sen. Thom Tillis' remarks that Robinson needs to either prove his innocence or "step aside." Tillis didn't hold back when he talked about Robinson, saying he "owes it to the people of North Carolina" to either "prosecute a case against CNN" over the explosive report attributing racist, pornographic posts to him, or step aside. Attorney General Josh Stein is getting campaign support from Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan reports. The two Democrats have a campaign event scheduled for noon Sunday at UNC Greensboro. Greensboro is also Robinson's hometown. Wake County school district officials, at a press conference

on Thursday, urged state legislators to allow a veto of a bill by Gov. Roy Cooper to stand. The bill, House Bill 10, would provide more than half a billion dollars in additional funding for private school vouchers, reports Lexi Solomon. It's the same bill that would require sheriffs to cooperate with detention requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Here's what our colleagues at other media outlets are reporting:

Robinson named Deputy Chief of Staff Krishana Polite to become his next chief of staff in the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Thursday, the day after current Chief of Staff and General Counsel Brian LiVecchi resigned, according to a report by the Associated Press. Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign is trying to use the Robinson scandal to win North Carolina, referencing him in conversations with Harris volunteers and with voters on the phone and at their doorways, the AP reported Thursday.

#### **VOTER GUIDE**

In the latest candidate questionnaires from our 2024 NC Voter Guide, see what candidates for NC Court of Appeals have to say about the issues, and learn more about their biographies. Six candidates for three seats on the court answered our questions:

Seat 12:

Tom Murry, RepublicanCarolyn Thompson, Democrat

Seat 14:

Ed Eldred, DemocratValerie Zachary, Republican

Seat 15:

Chris Freeman, RepublicanMartin Moore, Democrat

Check your inbox on Sunday for our weekly edition on the governor's race.

You can sign up to receive the Under the Dome newsletter at newsobserver.com/newsletters. Want your friends to get our email, too? Forward them this newsletter so they can sign up. We want to know what you would like to see in the Under the Dome newsletter. Do you like highlights from the legislature? Political analysis? Do you have a question you'd like The News & Observer team to answer? Tell us here. You can also email us at dome@newsobserver.comDon't forget to follow our tweets and listen to our Under the Dome podcast for more developments.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

Avi Bajpai, News & Observer, 'Under the Dome: Mark Robinson's schedule, an endorsement and an ultimatum', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5FF8DECEE1EF8>



## A day of tornado warnings across the Triangle, with 2 twisters reported on the ground in NC

September 27, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Tammy Grubb and Mary Helen Moore, News & Observer Section: weather news | 777 Words
OpenURL Link

Tornado warnings sent Triangle residents scurrying for cover for just over an hour Friday as a strong band of storms spawned from Hurricane Helene - now a tropical depression - passed through the area.

The National Weather Center confirmed two tornadoes in eastern and southeastern NC, and flash flooding and winds affected much of the Triangle.

The National Weather Service issued its first tornado warnings - for northern Chatham County and central Orange County - at 10:38 a.m. Friday, spawning a frenzy of weather updates. UNC-Chapel Hill activated its emergency siren on campus to let students and staff know to take shelter. The warning expired about 20 minutes later, but was activated within 10 minutes.

Another warning was issued at 11:06 a.m. for Orange and Durham counties, as an air siren was heard blaring across central Durham from the N.C. School of Math and Science. Tornado warnings also were issued for Lee, Harnett and Wake counties, followed by another warning for Chatham County at 11:14 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The storm moved through quickly, but weather service officials warned the risk of flooding could continue until at least 6 p.m. Friday. Flash flood warnings were issued for Orange, Durham, Wake, Harnett and Cumberland counties.

At least two people had been killed in the state so far, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said at a news briefing on the storm Friday morning. One person was killed in Charlotte when a tree fell on a house, and the other died after a traffic crash in Catawba County.

Another 15 people were injured, four seriously, when a tornado touched down in Rocky Mount, hitting two restaurants and other buildings, according to Rocky Mount Fire Chief Darvin Moore.

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Fallen trees, flooding

The hurricane was downgraded from a Category 4 storm as it passed over Georgia overnight and turned west, passing through the North Carolina mountains. On Friday, it was downgraded to a tropical storm, and then a tropical depression.

The outer bands of the rain hitting the Triangle reached Alamance and Orange counties in the western part of the area around 9 a.m. Friday morning. Weather and utility officials warned that falling trees also posed a major hazard after days of rain before the storm had already soaked the ground in many places.

Orange County officials reported two homes had trees on them from the storm, and the basement of a home in Carrboro was flooded. At least four roads in Chapel Hill - Umstead Drive, Raleigh Road, Cleland Drive and South Merritt Mill Road - were closed because of flooding or downed trees, a spokesman said.

All roads in Chapel Hill were reported open as of just after 5 p.m. on Friday.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh previously told The News & Observer that the storm could bring 1 to 3 inches of rain and sustained winds of 15 to 25 mph to the Triangle.

Schools in Wake, Durham and Orange counties were closed in anticipation of the weather, and Duke Energy expected thousands to lose power in the storm's wake.

Tornadoes touch down in eastern and southeastern NC

While the western part of North Carolina was still dealing with major flooding and dangerous road conditions after the storm, Helene only brought heavy rainfall and strong winds to most of the state.

But at least two potential tornadoes were reported Friday afternoon in Rocky Mount, an hour east of Raleigh, and in Garland, which is about 80 miles south of Raleigh in Sampson County. The National Weather Service was sending teams to both towns to assess the damage.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh issued tornado warnings for most of the Triangle as the band of storms passed through the area at midday, including in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina.

"Tornadoes aren't uncommon with tropical storms or hurricanes," said Jonathan Blaes, meteorologist-in-charge for the National Weather Service in Raleigh. "This is one of the threats that comes with them."

The threat of tornadoes passed by late afternoon as the sun emerged from the clouds. Wind and flood advisories will remain in effect, Blaes said, noting that flooding could continue to cause issues for several days as rivers crest.

"It's been so wet of late that much of the rain that fell is just washing and draining into creeks and streams," Blaes said. "So that is a worry."

A federal emergency declaration will provide Federal Emergency Management Agency money to help pay for evacuations, emergency shelters and other emergency protective measures in the western part of the state, The News & Observer has reported.

 $RAL\_SubmitWeatherPhoto\_EMBED$ 

Make sure you're signed up for emergency alerts in your Triangle county. Here's how

How to get internet access even when a storm knocks out power (+ wifi) at home

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Tammy Grubb and Mary Helen Moore, News & Observer, 'A day of tornado warnings across the Triangle, with 2 twisters reported on the ground in NC', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C0F34B728">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C0F34B728</a>



## NC Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson treated for burns after incident at campaign event

September 27, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Avi Bajpai, News & Observer | Section: election | 609 Words OpenURL Link

North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson was treated at a hospital after an injury at a campaign event Friday night.

Mike Lonergan, communications director for Robinson's gubernatorial campaign, told The News & Observer that Robinson was treated for burns following the incident at the Mayberry Truck Show & Parade in Mount Airy.

Lonergan said that Robinson was treated for "second-degree burns" at Northern Regional Hospital, and "is in good spirits." He said that Robinson "appreciates the outpouring of well wishes, and is excited to return to the campaign trail as scheduled first thing tomorrow morning."

It wasn't immediately clear what happened at the Mount Airy event. The Washington Post reported that Robinson "burned his hand leaning against a truck" and "is fine and home now." Lonergan did not immediately respond to additional questions Friday night.

Imagn-24360632.JPGNorth Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson speaks with media outside the Ag Center Shelter near the Asheville Regional Airport in Asheville, NC, during the aftermath of flooding caused by Hurricane Helene on Sept. 29, 2024. Robinson's left hand shows evidence of a burn injury he sustained Friday night.

Robinson, a Republican, is running against Democrat Josh Stein, the current attorney general.

Robinson has four campaign events on his schedule for Saturday. That includes address at the N.C. Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual Salt & Light Conference in the afternoon.

The truck show Friday was Robinson's fourth scheduled campaign stop of the day, and the latest in a series of meet-and-greets and events that the embattled GOP candidate for governor has been holding this week in the aftermath of the explosive CNN report revealing lewd and racist comments Robinson allegedly made on a porn website several years ago.

Robinson, who has denied making the comments, and called them "salacious lies," has spent the past week trying to regroup and restart his campaign as the fallout from CNN's reporting continues.

Mark Robinson addresses staff resignations at appearance in WilkesboroThe day after several members of his senior campaign staff resigned, the GOP candidate for governor Mark Robinson made two stops in western North Carolina on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024.

Nearly all of his campaign staff, including a longtime political consultant, resigned on Sunday. Then on Wednesday, half of Robinson's staff in the lieutenant governor's office resigned as well.

In the meantime, Robinson has continued to hit the campaign trail, and hired an attorney, Jesse Binnall, to investigate the comments reported by CNN.

All of this comes as Robinson faces pressure from multiple high-profile Republicans, including key allies like U.S. Sen. Ted Budd and U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, to prove to voters that he is not behind the comments.

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, who endorsed one of Robinson's opponents in the Republican primary in March, said this week that if the allegations in the CNN report are false, Robinson should "get a really good attorney, come up with a modicum of evidence that disproves some of it, sue them and settle in court."

NC's Thom Tillis: Mark Robinson should prosecute case against CNN, or step asideU.S. Sen. for North Carolina Thom Tillis spoke to reporters about a recent explosive CNN report attributing racist, pornographic posts to Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who is the Republican candidate for governor.

"If you're not able to do that within a reasonable period of time, then it puts weight to the likely reality that some, maybe not all, but some of these allegations are true, and if they are, they're devastating and disqualifying," Tillis told reporters.

Tillis went on to give Robinson an ultimatum, telling reporters that Robinson should disprove the report by Friday. He said that was the day "I will make a decision myself."

Washington correspondent Danielle Battaglia contributed to this report.

### Under The Dome embed (2022)

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Avi Bajpai, News & Observer, 'NC Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson treated for burns after incident at campaign event', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C653E243765270>



## RDU on the Rise: Bluegrass, Best Restaurants and Hurricane impact

September 27, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Drew Jackson, News & Observer | Section: rdu on the rise nl | 1155 Words OpenURL Link

Hey there! This is Drew Jackson, food reporter at The N&O, delivering this week's RDU on the Rise.

It's not even October and there are already three pumpkins on my porch: a funky fairytale variety with a peachy color and two large orange ones with charmingly crooked stems. That's my criteria for pumpkin picking; I need a dramatic stem. A pumpkin with a boring or missing stem might as well be a watermelon.

For me, fall starts when the Halloween Oreos start showing up in grocery stores - this year in mid-August, the earliest I've ever seen them. These Oreos, with ghosts and bats and bright orange creme, just hit different and are never stocked with the rest of the cookies. You have to stumble upon a kiosk over by the daily or HVAC filters. It's a moment of magic.

IMG 1506.jpgThree excellent pumpkins currently sitting on a Durham porch.

You may have felt it happen last weekend, the final toll of summer sounding and fall finally landing. In North Carolina, this is known as the Best Time of The Year. It's the season of weddings, of tailgates and outdoor festivals, of Oktoberfest beers by lazy firepits.

Now that we're taking deep breaths of pumpkin-spiced air, let's see what life in the Triangle looks like this week.

### Raleigh Bluegrass

If you're looking for me this weekend, I'll be in downtown Raleigh listening to as much bluegrass as possible, beer in hand, making a few passes by the Brightleaf Hot Dogs truck, which is usually offering samples of smoked sausage.

This is the swan song for the IBMA World of Bluegrass festival in Raleigh, and what a run it's been. The city's largest free festival draws hundreds of thousands of people downtown every year, centered around concerts from major bluegrass, country and Americana stars.

BLUEGRASS01-092624-EDH.jpgFrom left, Koltyn West on the banjo, Mary Parker on fiddle and Paul Grace on guitar play in front of the Sir Walter Raleigh statue outside the Raleigh Convention Center. The three are freshman at Bethel University in McKenzie, Tenn. and are in town for IBMA World of Bluegrass. IBMA Bluegrass Live! which includes free concerts on six stages and a street festival in and around Fayetteville Street occurs on Friday and Saturday. This year will be the last year the IBMA holds its event in Raleigh.

I'm from the Appalachian mountains of Virginia, but couldn't really stand bluegrass as a kid. Thankfully I finally found the twang in my heart by the time we moved to Durham nine years ago and tried to make it to the bluegrass festival every year. I loved popping into St. Roch for oysters or the departed Poole'side Pies for pizza, hearing the rapid plucks of banjos bounce off the skyscrapers. Luckily for me and all of us, Raleigh has another bluegrass festival in the works.

Our own Jessica Banov put together the ultimate guide to the very last IBMA World of Bluegrass.

#### New on Franklin Street

In the former Ye Olde Waffle Shoppe space in Chapel Hill, one of the Triangle's most acclaimed chefs has launched

his latest restaurant. Proximo is the cozy tapas bar from Brandon Sharp, who also owns the French bistro Bluebird and Hawthorne & Wood, which former dining critic Greg Cox called one of the Triangle's best new restaurants when it opened in 2019.

244A3260.jpgAmong the classic tapas on the Proximo menu is a plate of jamon iberico, the famous Spanish ham.

Sharp's brother happens to be Graham Sharp, a member of bluegrass supergroup Steep Canyon Rangers, who will be playing in Raleigh this weekend.

#### Asheville restaurant

For the fourth year in a row, The New York Times published a list of its 50 favorite restaurants in America, with 2024's edition including a new spot in Asheville. Good Hot Fish, the first restaurant from chef Ashleigh Shanti, opened in January as a counter service fish camp in the mountains. I was lucky enough to run into a Good Hot Fish pop-up in 2021 at Lawrence Barbecue in the Triangle, ordering absolutely perfect cornmeal breaded catfish and fried okra.

IMG\_8115.jpgGood Hot Fish made a pop-up stop in the Triangle in 2021, serving fried catfish, seen top left. This week the Asheville restaurant was named one of the 50 Best Restaurant in America by the New York Times.

### Helene

As we're waking up this morning, it's likely been a long night in Florida, where Hurricane Helene was expected to make landfall as a major storm. A state of emergency has already been declared by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, anticipating flooding and landslides in the western part of the state. Reporter Renee Umsted looked into what the storm is likely to mean for the Triangle.

#### News roundup

## College ranking

« U.S. News & World Report updated its powerful college rankings this week. Best-in-the-state higher education reporter Korie Dean breaks it all down with a helpful explainer.

## New bagels and sweet shops

« A Florida-based bagel chain opened its first Triangle spot, and two popular cake shops expanded, reports Renee Umsted in her weekly retail roundup.

#### Prince of the Canes

« Preseason hockey is here, and the Carolina Hurricanes have a new name for their same home, which is now the Lenovo Center. Canes beat writer Chip Alexander is already in mid-season form, writing a very cool feature on the Canes skipper coaching his son in an exhibition game.

### Robinson scandal

« There was more fallout this week from the Mark Robinson scandal. State bureau chief Dawn Baumgartner Vaughn reported that four top campaign officials resigned this week following a CNN report about vulgar and racist posts made years ago on a pornography website. Several high-ranking staff members in his lieutenant governor office also are stepping down.

### Candidate questionnaire

« There's a little more than a month before Election Day, and the politics team has compiled our best Voter Guide ever. Here you can see how the candidates in more than a dozen races responded to our questionnaires, with answers published in their own words.

### Spooky season

My toddler is only 2 but I think he's going to be a fan of scary movies. If you've been to Costco recently, you've seen the famous 7-foot tall werewolf towering over the crate of Squishmallows, letting out a motion-activated howl as shoppers pass by. When we're standing there, my son nervously recoils and we're quickly on our way. But a few aisles later he's asking for "more wolf," so we return and let out some howls of our own.

Have a wonderfully spooky season and enjoy next week's RDU on the Rise, penned by Adam Wagner.

### Before you go:

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Drew Jackson - Newsletter Author Card.pngDrew Jackson writes about restaurants and dining for The News & Observer and The Herald-Sun, covering the food scene in the Triangle and North Carolina.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Drew Jackson, News & Observer, 'RDU on the Rise: Bluegrass, Best Restaurants and Hurricane impact', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5FF8DE8DDB738>



### HELENE IMPACT

September 27, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: BILLY CHAPMAN wchapman@hickoryrecord.com| Section: Helene Impact | 816 Words OpenURL Link

National Weather Service Meteorologist Clay Chaney said three to five inches of additional rain are expected in other areas of Caldwell and Burke counties as well as Catawba County. Iredell County is expected to receive two to four inches of rain.

Chaney said sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph will arrive in the area around sunset and continue overnight. Winds may gust up to 50 to 60 mph.

Additional rain on the already saturated ground and winds will lead to the likelihood of falling trees and power outages.

"What we're most concerned about is if it works out that there's 10 to 15 inches of rain over the mountains, then that brings the possibility of landslides, sides of mountains sliding down into the valley," National Weather Service Meteorologist Doug Outlaw said Wednesday.

Heavy rains in McDowell County Wednesday night prompted 60 calls for service and five rescues.

Tornadoes are a possibility from the storm, but Chaney said they are not the main threat. He said "a couple of tornadoes" are expected for the area.

Chaney said most of the rain and wind is expected to move out of the area by around noon Friday.

Duke Energy is expecting Lake James and Lookout Shoals Lake to reach 110 feet by Friday afternoon, which is 10 feet above the maximum level for both lakes.

Ben Williamson, a Duke Energy spokesperson, said citizens living around the lake should prepare for flooding. As of 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Look out Shoals was at a depth of 97.9 feet, according to duke Energy's lakes database. Lake lames was at 99.3 feet.

The 110-foot mark would be the highest level ever reached at Lake James, according to Duke Energy.

Williamson said Duke Energy is working with Catawba County to monitor weather conditions and prepare for any emergency responses. Lake Hickory was below normal level as of 11:30 a.m. One gate was open on Thursday morning to allow more water to flow through the dam, Williamson said.

School systems and colleges

School systems and colleges in the area announced closures or modified schedules as Hurricane Helene approached the area.

- McDowell County Schools: Closed Thursday and Friday, option of remote workday for teachers.
- Burke County Schools: Remote learning days Thursday and Friday, YMCA day cares closed.
- Catawba County Schools: Closed Friday, optional workday for teachers.
- Hickory City Schools: Closed for remote workday for K-8 teachers Friday, remote learning day for grades 9-12.

- Newton-Conover City Schools: Closed for students, teacher workday Friday.
- Caldwell County Schools: Three-hour early release Thursday, closed Friday.
- Alexander County Schools: Early release at noon for middle schools, 12:30 p.m. for elementary and high schools on Thursday, closed Friday.
- Iredell Statesville Schools and Mooresville Graded School District: No decision made as of 10 a.m. Thursday.

### Colleges

- Lenoir-Rhyne University: No closings as of 10 a.m. Thursday.
- Appalachian State-Hickory campus: Closed Friday.
- Catawba Valley Community College: No changes to schedule as of 10 a.m. Thursday.
- Western Piedmont Community College: Closed Friday.
- McDowell Technical Community College: Closed Thursday and Friday.

# State of Emergency

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency Wednesday ahead of Helene's landfall.

"Helene threatens heavy rain, flash flooding, landslides, and damaging winds to the mountains and Piedmont areas of our state," Cooper said in a press release Thursday. "Now is the time for North Carolinians to prepare, make sure emergency kits are up-to-date and pay attention to the weather alerts in your area."

The release from Cooper's office said the state is deploying equipment, personnel and resources to support impacted communities, including swift water rescue teams and urban search and rescue teams. Resources from the NC National Guard and communications and incident management support also have been activated.

McDowell County, the city of Marion and the town of Old Fort declared a state of emergency, which went into effect at 5 p.m. Wednesday, according to a release from McDowell County.

Burke County also issued a state of emergency declaration Wednesday for the county and all municipalities.

Caldwell County declared a state of emergency Wednesday at noon.

Catawba County issued a state of emergency declaration Thursday morning.

"The declaration enables Catawba County Emergency Services to implement coordinated response and recovery efforts in all affected unincorporated areas of the county," Catawba County Strategic Operations and Communications Director Amy McCauley said in a statement.

The statement also said all Catawba County parks (Bakers Mountain Park, Mountain Creek Park, Riverbend Park and St. Stephens Park) are closed until further notice.

## Warnings

A tropical storm warning was in effect for McDowell, Burke, Catawba and Caldwell counties as of 11 a.m. on Thursday.

A tropical storm warning means sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are expected in an area in 36 hours or less.

A flood warning is in effect for McDowell County until 1 p.m. Thursday.

At 7 a.m. Thursday, the National Weather Service said three to six inches of rain fell overnight in McDowell County. Stream gauges at Mill Creek, Pleasant Gardens and Ashford were elevated but were no longer rising.

Billy Chapman is a reporter for the Hickory Daily Record.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

BILLY CHAPMAN wchapman@hickoryrecord.com, 'HELENE IMPACT', *News Herald, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA7872591A530">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA7872591A530</a>



# Nakina firefighters deploy to mountains for hurricane relief efforts

September 27, 2024 | News Reporter, The (Whiteville, NC) Author: NR Staff news@nrcolumbus.com | Section: Meteorology | 255 Words OpenURL Link

"We normally serve the people of Nakina, but we'll go where we're needed," said Chase Soles, chief of Nakina Fire and Rescue, just before 11 a.m. Friday. Four members of the 40-person department were loading up to drive to Buncombe County. Their mission will be to help firefighters around the Asheville area with problems arising from Hurricane Helene. The Category 3 storm was at that time concentrated over western North Carolina.

Soles said the four men are Captain Bobby Nichols and firefighters Adam Voyales, Joey Santos and Chris Chinni. They have agreed to remain in the mountains until Tuesday, Oct. 1.

"We'll definitely try to help [Buncombe County's firefighters] out," Soles said. "They would do the same for us if we were in a bind." The chief said he wanted Nakina area residents to know that the remaining members of NFR will continue covering local needs in the meantime.

Shortly after midnight, an e-mail went out from the Office of the State Fire Marshal requesting aid, Soles said. By 12:30 a.m. the Nakina squad had registered as willing and able to help.

At 9:06, the chief said, NFR received a call specifying that it should deploy "an engine and four personnel." Within less than two hours, the crew was readying for departure.

Soles took over as chief in November 2023 after county government had suspended NFR in October due to management problems. He said Friday that NFR had "come a long way" since then, and being able to assist their western North Carolina counterparts represented "a big step forward."

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

NR Staff news@nrcolumbus.com, 'Nakina firefighters deploy to mountains for hurricane relief efforts', *News Reporter, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDC53928109F50>



## Wolfpack, Stallions travel to Pender County and bring home victories

September 27, 2024 | News Reporter, The (Whiteville, NC) Author: Franklin Davis franklindavis@nrcolumbus.com| Section: Sports | 1259 Words OpenURL Link

The Whiteville Wolfpack's and South Columbus Stallions' Thursday evening trek into Pender County was a successful one on the gridiron. The Wolfpack dwarfed the Trask Titans 54–0. The Stallions held on for a 21–16 win over the pesky Pender Patriots.

After just two weeks of league play, South Columbus (2–0) and Whiteville (1–0) are the only two remaining undefeated teams in conference play.

Additional photos from the Whiteville at Trask game may be viewed HERE.

Note: Since I was also serving as photographer at the Whiteville/Trask game Thursday night, this original version of the game summary will lack some of the details that will be available later Friday.

WHS 54, Trask 0

The host Titans had designs on picking up their first football win over Whiteville in school (since 2002) history. After a promising start it all fell apart as the Wolfpack ran away with the victory.

Trask received the opening kickoff and picked up its initial first down on a dubious unsportsmanlike penalty called on the Wolfpack. The drive continued to midfield. On third and three Whiteville's Caleb Johnson swooped in to pick off a Titans pass, returning it down the Wolfpack sideline 60 yards for a touchdown. Price Wheatley booted his first of six consecutive made extra points.

Trask's next drive featured the Titans longest gainer of the night as Sherrod Henderson ran for 42 yards. However, the Wolfpack defense would stiffen and Trask turned the ball over on downs on the Pack 32-yard line. Six plays later Nallegem Powell scored on an 11-yard run to up the lead to 14-0 with 51 seconds to play in the first quarter.

The Wolfpack offense really exerted its will on the Titans defense following a Titans punt. A 15-play, 85-yard drive was capped off by Cameron McKvian's 4-yard plunge with 3:59 left before halftime.

Whiteville's defense forced another three and out with the wolfpack taking over with under two minutes before halftime. Pack quarterback Layton McLean and receiver Will Fisher perfectly executed a hitch and go pass pattern with Fisher collecting McLean's spiral in full stride at the Trask 3-yard line and then stepping in the end zone with exactly one minute left on the game clock in the first half.

Whiteville received the second half kickoff and marched down the field, aided by Trask penalties as the game became chippy. McLean would sneak for a touchdown, pushing the advantage to 35–0.

Whiteville faithful were hoping for another quick Wolfpack score and a continuously running game clock as tempers continued to flare and no one wanted to see an ejection effect the following week's contest.

Trask obliged with a center snap over the quarterback's head that the Wolfpack recovered deep in Titans territory. McKvian would power in from 3 yards out to make the score 41–0 and Wheatley's kick made it the needed 42-point margin to initiate the running clock with 4:18 to play in the third quarter.

Whiteville would substitute liberally in the final quarter. Cody Rice contributed a 6-yard scoring run midway the final quarter. KcKvian scooped up a Trask fumble and returned it for a touchdown on the final play of the game.

Other than Henderson's one long run, the Trask offense could not generate any other explosive plays. Whiteville's defense typically had a half dozen or more players rally to the ball and gang tackle the Titans running backs.

Trask had been enjoying its best ever beginning to a football season with five consecutive wins. With the victory, Whiteville is now 8–0 against the Titans.

SCHS 21, Pender 16

Onside kicks, penalty flags and rushing touchdowns were the key factors in South Columbus' 21–16 win at Pender Thursday night. The Stallions came out ahead in all three categories to secure the win and move atop the Waccamaw Conference football standings.

#### First half

Pender's onside kick to open the game did not travel the required 10 yards, leaving the Stallions with excellent field position on the Pats 45. A nine-play drive, all runs, culminated in Briar Johnson's 1-yard plunge for a score with 6:11 to play in the first quarter. Oscar Valdez's first of three successful extra point kicks made the score 7–0.

Pender would manage two first downs on its first drive, but had to punt . The punt rolled to the SC 18.

A festival of penalty flags on both teams followed during the next several minutes. The Stallions faced a fourth and seven when Pender jumped offside. Logan Todd's run then picked up the first down. Rush Blackwell followed with a burst straight up the gut of the Pender defense for 41 yards and a score. The Stallions led 14–0 with 8:06 to play before halftime.

South recovered its onside kick following the touchdown to maintain possession. A 6:20 drive that started at the Pender 46 would end with Blackwell scoring from 3 yards out, pushing the South lead to 21–0. With 1:46 left to play in the second quarter, the Patriots had yet to run an offensive play in the period.

Pender mistakes thwarted its scoring chances. A long run to the SC 26 was brought back due to a holding call. A fourth down pass for an apparent touchdown with 20 seconds remaining was negated due to offensive pass interference. A second fourth down pass fell incomplete and South ran out the remaining seconds before halftime.

#### Second half

The Stallions returned the favor of a failed onside kick when their onside kick to open the second half failed to go the mandatory 10 yards. Pender thought it had scored on a 46-yard quarterback keeper, but again a penalty kept the Pats off the scoreboard. However, Pender finally experienced success with a 13-yard run and 2-point conversion with 8:30 left in the third quarter.

The Stallions next drive was halted when Pender intercepted a pass at its own 4-yard line. The Patriots would overcome penalties to drive 96 yards, scoring on a quarterback sneak. The 2-point play made the score 21–16.

South Columbus drove to the Pender 33 before an incomplete pass on fourth down turned the ball back over to the Patriots with 6:36 to play in the game. The Stallions defense held, forcing a punt that rolled dead at the South 32.

A trio of plays allowed South to run out the remainder of the game clock. Johnson made Coach Russell Dove's decision to go for the first down on fourth and one the right one with a 12-yard run. Jake Cribb maintained possession for the Stallions with a fumble recovery. The final nail in the coffin came on fourth and five when Stallions quarterback Jaxson Greene passed eight yards to Johnson to convert a fourth and five play. Three "kneel down" plays by Greene ran off the remaining time.

South Columbus improves to 13–1 all-time against Pender.

#### Sandhills at West Columbus

The Sandhills Titans game scheduled for Friday night at West Columbus was canceled. The game was originally scheduled to be played on Aug. 30, but inclement weather just before game time caused the contest to be rescheduled for the Vikings' open date on Sept. 27.

The cancellation was necessary after Columbus County Schools announced that students were not going to attend schools in-person on Friday due to possible weather-related issues from Hurricane Helene. According to WCHS Athletic Director and Head Football Coach LaMonte Williamson, the game could not be played on Thursday due to another event taking place on campus. The details for possibly playing on Saturday or Monday could not be worked out, therefore the non-conference tilt was canceled.

#### East Bladen at East Columbus

With Columbus and Bladen County Schools not holding in-person classes Friday, the Waccamaw Conference matchup between the Eagles and Gators was moved to Monday at 7 p.m.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Franklin Davis franklindavis@nrcolumbus.com, 'Wolfpack, Stallions travel to Pender County and bring home victories', *News Reporter, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDC53942D4B370>



## Caldwell County issues curfew due to Tropical Storm Helene, shelter open

September 27, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 141 Words OpenURL Link

Caldwell County has issued a curfew from 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27, to 7 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, in response to Tropical Storm Helene, with the curfew potentially remaining in place Saturday night. The county encourages residents to stay off the roads due to county-wide flooding and downed power lines.

In a Facebook post, the county said, "Power lines down across the county, over 10,000 people without power. For your safety and the safety of first responders, stay off the roads."

In addition, the county has opened an emergency shelter to those displaced by the storm. The shelter is located at West Caldwell High School, 300 West Caldwell drive in Lenoir. The county advised those using the shelter to enter the cafeteria where the busses are parked. Additional information and shelter rules are posted on the Caldwell county Facebook page.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com, 'Caldwell County issues curfew due to Tropical Storm Helene, shelter open', *News-Topic, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDF9D0B931B940>



## Damage from Helene in Caldwell County exceeds that of Hurricane Hugo, county says

September 27, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 557 Words OpenURL Link

Tropical Storm Helene landed in Caldwell County the evening of Thursday, Sept. 26, where heavy rain led to widespread flooding across the county, while high winds have downed trees and power lines across the area. The county has issued a state of emergency effective Wednesday, Sept. 25, and has advised residents to stay off the roads.

Power outages have affected a large number of Caldwell residents, with Duke Energy reporting 297 active outages with 21,378 of its 24,064 customers in the county without power as of noon, Friday. Blue Ridge Energy has reported 15,561 members affected by outages as of the same time. Emergency responders have been stretched thin between emergency response efforts and the need to direct traffic along areas such as 321 where power outages have taken down stoplights. Many residents have also lost internet access.

Blue Ridge Energy, according to a Friday press release, has its line technicians working "tirelessly" to restore power to its members, though the cooperative anticipates full recovery to take several days. Public relations director Renee Walker said the damage was worse than the 2009 ice storms and similar to Hurricane Hugo.

"Flooding, mud slides and downed trees are blocking access to many of the damaged locations we need to reach to repair lines, replace broken power poles and rebuild some sections of the electric system. Line crews are using chainsaws and removing a multitude of downed trees to reach damaged locations, often in very remote areas," Walker said. "In many cases, more trees are falling onto power lines just as we get power restored. Crews are working in very dangerous conditions and damage is continuing as trees fall from saturated ground."

Although many areas of the county are experiencing flooding, the Colletsville community has been hit especially hard, according to county public information officer Paige Counts, with heavy flooding and downed lines effectively turning the community into an island. Counts also shared that Wilson Creek, as of 2 p.m. on Friday, was seeing water levels 16 feet higher than normal, leading to at least one swiftwater rescue in which two individuals were pulled from the water in the area, according to Counts.

"There is an expectation for rain and winds to continue into the evening, so there is potential for continued damage," Counts said. "The floodwaters have not crested yet, so again there is potential for more damage."

Counts added that the damages, at this time, have exceeded those inflicted by Hurricane Hugo when it landed in 1989.

An emergency shelter has been opened at West Caldwell High School for those displaced by the storm, those in need may enter through the cafeteria where the school buses are parked, according to a Facebook post from the county. The shelter has some limited kennel spots for dogs and cats.

The county is also implementing a curfew from 7 p.m. on Friday to 7 a.m. on Saturday, with potential to extend the curfew to Saturday or Sunday, if the emergency conditions persist. The county continues to advise residents to stay off the roads if at all possible, for their own safety and for the safety of emergency responders.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said, "all roads in Western NC should be considered closed ... do not travel unless it's an emergency or looking for a better shelter. Don't drive through stagnant water. Respect all barricades and road closures."

## • Citation (aglc Style)

SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com, 'Damage from Helene in Caldwell County exceeds that of Hurricane Hugo, county says', *News-Topic, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFED113CD8CB0>



## Spectrum opens Wi-Fi access points during Hurricane Helene

September 27, 2024 | North State Journal (NC) Author: North State Journal Staff| Section: Article | 136 Words OpenURL Link

As North and South Carolinians prepare for Hurricane Helene, which is already causing severe damage to the Southeast, including high winds, flash flooding, and power outages, Spectrum has opened more than 33,800 WiFi Access Points in the two states. These access points allow wireless devices to connect to a wired network in case of power outages and loss of internet service. They act as a bridge between devices and the network, enabling wireless access to network resources. Spectrum's 38,000 WiFi access points are open to all users across both states until further notice.

Visit spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots for more information on the location of Spectrum WiFi Access Points. To connect your device, look for the "SpectrumWiFi" network under your device's Wi-Fi settings.

The post Spectrum opens Wi-Fi access points during Hurricane Helene first appeared on The North State Journal.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

North State Journal Staff, 'Spectrum opens Wi-Fi access points during Hurricane Helene', *North State Journal* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD07C95A07FC0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD07C95A07FC0</a>



### Raiders rout undefeated Patriots 36-7

September 27, 2024 | Richmond County Daily Journal (Rockingham, NC)
Author: JIMMY POTTS Editor | Section: community high-school-football highschool localsports localsports1 news news-main news\_education scores sports Top 1 Top Main top-stories Video | 680 Words
OpenURL Link

SOUTHERN PINES - The Richmond Senior High School Raider Football Team is off to its best start in three years after demolishing the Pinecrest Patriots 36-7 to remain undefeated Sandhills Athletic Conference at 2-0.

Despite rescheduling the game in order to avoid Hurricane Helene, pouring rain significantly impacted the game with every throw and toss potentially resulting in a turnover.

"We didn't execute very well at crucial times. Honestly, it should have been a 7-7 game going into half, then they get a bounce on an interception, and the next thing you know they're scoing a touchdown to make it 15-0. That was huge," Pinecrest coach Nicholas Eddins said.

TLast Thursday's victory seemed a statement game for the Raiders, who came into the contest on a two game win streak with previous victories over Southern Lee and Myers Park. The Patriots came into the contest as the reigning SAC champion and an undefeated record at 4-0. All of that change after a returner Jayden Hamilton set up the Raiders well within Patriot territory. After working down to the goal line, a loose ball luckily fell into the hands of senior Zach Garner, which gave Richmond a lead it would not relinquish.

"I was blocking, and I looked from the other side and saw someone pop the ball out. I saw it in the air, and I tried to get to it as fast as I can and get on it," Garner said.

That seemed the trend throughout the evening as the Patriots found themselves on the wrong end of turnovers. With rain forecasted through the evening both teams focused on the run, which worked in Richmond's favor thanks to a strong performance by the Raider linemen.

"I think it went great. We had a really good week of practice. We were paying attention, knowing our assignments in game and executed well," said Richmond center Lincoln Smith, who navigated the task of snapping a sopping wet ball throughout the evening. Once the weather briefly cleared in the second quarter, the Raiders went to the air with quarterback Evan Hodges finding Keyonta Davis on a 61-yard TD pass.

A successful 2-point conversion run by Hodges made it a three score game with Richmond leading 15-0 going into halftime. Well ahead after the break, the Raiders refocused on the run game, eventually leading to a banner night for running back Chance Crowder, whose 37 yard run set up a 5-yard Crowder TD run, sealing the victory before the fourth quarter.

"I just listened to my coach, put trust in my O-line and stayed patient," Crowder said.

While the offense found a way to reach the end zone, the defense found a way to stop what until last Friday seemed an unstoppable offense. The Patriots utilized the height of 5-6 senior quarterback Cody Hansen to high their misdirection runs, but with the lineman and linebackers making penetration off of the snap throughout the evening, the Pinecrest did not have time to put the miss in misdirection.

"The coaches were telling us all week - he's shifty. In the open field, he's going to juke you. Just keep your hips under you and watch his hips. You'll be good," Garner said.

With Garner and crew causing havoc in the backfield, that set up defensive back such as A.J. Covington, who seemed to close out the evening for the varsity with an interception, prompting coaches to begin pulling starters in

order to rest up for next week against Hoke County.

"They hadn't tried me all game. I saw them all run deep, then a saw the last dude do an out-route, and I just jumped it," Covington said.

With the win, the Raiders improve to 4-2, and next host the 1-4 Hoke County Bucks next Friday. Despite facing a team with a losing record, Coach Brad Denson has no plans to undermine any SAC team.

"I'm extremely happy to get back home. We need those stands full. We need every person in the bleachers and get there early. You have no idea what these kids go through and what they do. Please come out and support them," Denson said.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

JIMMY POTTS Editor, 'Raiders rout undefeated Patriots 36-7', *Richmond County Daily Journal* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD1139F5898E0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD1139F5898E0</a>



## Braves seeking 1st win - UNCP heads to Glenville State

September 27, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC) Author: Chris Stiles The Robesonian | Section: sports | 680 Words OpenURL Link

GLENVILLE, W.Va. — Through three games, the UNC Pembroke football team has come up empty so far in the 2024 season.

As they head to West Virginia for the second straight week, they'll look to change that Saturday when the Braves face Glenville State. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

"It's going to be a game we need to try to play well," UNCP coach Mark Hall said. "Glenville's got a lot of guys back from last year's team, and they won their last game against Fairmont (State) in a rivalry game, and they've had a couple of extra days of prep for us because they played on a Thursday night, so just looking to get our first win of the season."

The Braves were able to safely travel to Glenville on Friday, driving through some rain from Hurricane Helene but staying north and east of the areas of the North Carolina mountains most affected by the storm.

UNCP (0-3, 0-1 Mountain East Conference) lost its league opener 58-36 last week at Charleston, dropping its third straight after close nonconference losses to Wingate and Fayetteville State. The Braves are 0-3 for first time in the program's 18-year history.

"It's obviously a challenge," Hall said. "First time in my career as a head coach being 0-3, so it's kind of new territory for me. We've got a lot of football left; there's still 75% of our season left, we've got eight games, and I think we've just got to get our first one to get that winning feeling in the building."

Glenville State (1-2, 1-0 MEC) earned its first win of the season by beating Fairmont State on the road in a Thursday night game last week. The Pioneers lost 38-7 to Emory & Henry on Aug. 31 and 31-9 to Lock Haven on Sept. 7 in nonconference play.

The Pioneers are averaging 11.0 points and 256.0 yards per game offensively. Anthony Garrett has completed just 41.9% of his passes, gaining 420 yards through the air thus far this season with four passing touchdowns against seven interceptions. Tariq Miller is his leading target with 151 receiving yards and three touchdowns.

Glenville State has yet to score a rushing touchdown this season; Markquan Rucker (168 rushing yards) is the team's only 100-yard rusher for the season.

The Braves will look to continue the Pioneers' offensive struggles while also looking to rebound from last week when they allowed 58 points and 569 total yards at Charleston.

"Obviously we played pretty bad last week against Charleston, and we've just tried to figure out internally," Hall said. "It really doesn't matter what Glenville does or doesn't do if we don't tackle and we don't run to the football, and we don't do the things we've got to do to play good defense, which we've done in the past. The last two games haven't been up to standard, so we've challenged those guys and we'll see how they respond."

Defensive back Shaun Sterling leads Glenville State's defense with 23 tackles and two interceptions; Jamair Diaz has been the team's leading threat up front, with 3.5 sacks and 4.5 tackles for loss.

The Braves played decently well on offense in their last two games, scoring 31 against Fayetteville State and 36 against Charleston, but look to limit some of the mistakes that hurt the team's overall chances in those games.

"I think our biggest thing offensively is just finding consistency," Hall said. "I think last week's game was really a microcosm of our first three games; obviously, we scored 36 points, but especially in the first half, we were playing really well, and when we didn't score it was 100% mistakes on our own. And then the second half it got away from us and we had a couple of costly turnovers. But I think we've shown signs the last two games, and now we're really fighting to just see if we can play four quarters rather than half the game."

UNCP leads the all-time series 5-1; after Glenville State's only win in 2022, a 45-17 win in West Virginia, the Braves beat the Pioneers 49-0 last year in Pembroke.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Chris Stiles The Robesonian, 'Braves seeking 1st win - UNCP heads to Glenville State', *Robesonian, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD1030AF35840">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD1030AF35840</a>



## Cougars grind out win in the muck over conference rival Smith

September 27, 2024 | RockinghamNow (NC) Author: Jim Sands | Section: Sports | 699 Words OpenURL Link

WENTWORTH — Once again Rockingham's lights-out defense was stellar as they made three critical goal line stands. Meanwhile, the offense came through with a couple of big plays for scores in monsoon-like conditions to notch a 9-6 Mid-State 3A Conference win over Smith on Thursday night at Cougar Pride Stadium.

The approach of Hurricane Helene, which made landfall in Florida on Thursday, already had saturated the field before the 6 p.m. kickoff. But what started out as poor conditions at the beginning of the game kept getting worse as the rain began coming down in sheets in the second quarter which carried through for the remainder of the game.

Both teams had problems holding onto the ball over the course of the night, but in two game-changing situations, Rockingham was clutch with the outcome on the line.

Rockingham junior quarterback Parker Upchurch went deep and connected over the top with Brady Ross near the Eagles 30. Ross wrestled the ball away from the Smith defender then turned and raced to the end zone for the first score of the night to give the Cougars a 6-0 lead with 8:50 to go in the third quarter.

"Our offensive coordinator, coach T (Charlie Robinson) has been saying we had that open. Brady Ross is one of our best football players, and we were going to give him a chance to make a play, and he made it," Rockingham head coach Doug Robertson said. "We just haven't made any of those and finally made one for the first time in a long time. We expect Brady to make those type of plays, and he made a big play for sure."

The lead was short-lived, however. Following a turnover inside the Cougars 10-yard line, Smith scored after scooping up their own fumble for a touchdown to tie the game at 6-6 with 2:09 to go in the third period.

On the ensuing drive, the Cougars began a 13-play drive that carried over to the fourth quarter. With fourth and goal at the 1-yard line, junior Jaxon Wray hit a 19-yard field goal that just cleared the uprights by inches for the 9-0 advantage with 7:16 to go in the game as the rain continued to pour.

"We practice it a lot, so we do have confidence," Robertson said. "We tried three last week and only made one, and tonight we were one-of-one on kicks. Obviously we did change kickers. Diego Abad Martinez missed the first extra point, so I gave Jackson Wray a try and he made it.

"It don't matter if it goes a foot over or 10 feet over; it counts the same as three, and that was the game-winner."

Smith had several opportunities to take control of the game. On three separate occasions, the Eagles had the ball near the goal line over the course of the night, but the defense came through with three fourth-and-goal stops.

Rockingham's defense forced Smith to punt on the Eagles' ensuing possession following the field goal, which allowed the Cougars to run out the clock down the stretch to lock up the team's second consecutive win.

"The defense played lights-out again as they did last week," Robertson said. "I think they had the ball inside the 10 three times and didn't score. They wouldn't have if we didn't fumble and let them scoop one up. Really, that's how our team is geared. We play our best guys on defense, and they've got to carry us."

The Cougars defense held the Eagles to 64 yards rushing and 35 passing yards.

Upchurch did a solid job stepping in for starting quarterback Luke Strittmatter, who was out due to a high ankle sprain he suffered in the first half versus Southern Guilford Sept. 20.

Upchurch completed 4 of 5 passes for 63 yards while the Cougars compiled 127 yards rushing by committee.

The Cougars also defeated Smith by a 29-13 margin Sept. 22, 2023 in Greensboro.

Rockingham is now undefeated in the Mid-State 3A Conference standings.

UP NEXT: Rockingham (2-0, 4-1) travels to take on Eastern Guilford (2-0, 2-3), which shutout High Point Central by a whopping 60-0 margin Sept. 26. Ben L. Smith (0-2, 2-3) hosts Dudley (1-0, 4-0) Oct. 4.

OTHER COUNTY SCORESNorth Forsyth 59, McMichael 0

West Stokes 24, Morehead 6

### Reidsville, bye

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Jim Sands, 'Cougars grind out win in the muck over conference rival Smith', *RockinghamNow* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFA723A71DA60">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFA723A71DA60</a>



## Down East Partnership sets new date for Family Fun Day carnival

September 27, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Eugene Tinklepaugh | Section: Local | 332 Words OpenURL Link

The Down East Partnership for Children has set a new date for its planned Family Fun Day carnival, which was slated to be held Saturday on the campus of N.C. Wesleyan but was postponed in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Officials with the nonprofit organization said Friday that due to the recent catastrophic tornado that struck Nash County as part of Helene's extreme weather event, the carnival will be postponed until Nov. 2.

"We will work to support our community in whatever way we can," said Monica Dood, communication and development coordinator with the partnership. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those impacted by this event."

At a press conference Friday afternoon, Nash County officials said several people were injured — and four people were critically injured — from a tornado associated with Helene touching down in the area.

Around 1:30 p.m., the tornado struck two restaurants — Hing Ta Restaurant and El Tapatio Mexican restaurant — both of which had people inside. Two other buildings near North Wesleyan Boulevard and Benvenue Road in Rocky Mount were also damaged, emergency officials said.

The partnership's Family Fun Day is slated to be a free community event. There will be inflatables, games, demonstrations and opportunities to win prizes. Hands-on activities at the carnival will promote health, wellness and literacy.

The first 50 families to arrive will receive a bag full of resources, including a writing tablet, sensory ball, large bubble wand, play dough and fidget toy.

Food trucks will be on site for those who wish to purchase food.

Ripe for Revival will be on site with its mobile market. The first 50 to visit the market will receive free fresh produce.

Book Harvest and the Down East Partnership for Children will provide free books to participants.

A Hispanic dance team will perform at 12:45 p.m.; and families will have a chance to meet a beekeeper in an outdoor classroom at 1:30 p.m.

There will be a hula hoop contest and stomp rockets as well.

The event is part of the partnership's 30th anniversary celebration.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Eugene Tinklepaugh, 'Down East Partnership sets new date for Family Fun Day carnival', *Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFD7CD5A5AFE0>



## Biden approves NC emergency declaration

September 27, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Chandler Inions | Section: News | 295 Words OpenURL Link

Biden approves NC emergency declaration

Published 12:00 am Friday, September 27, 2024

By Chandler Inions

WASHINGTON — FEMA announced today that federal disaster assistance is available to the state of North Carolina to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Helene beginning Sept. 24 and continuing.

The president's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

Federal funding is available to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures including direct federal assistance for Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Federal funding is also available for emergency protective measures limited to direct federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support for Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Watauga and Wilkes counties.

Finally, federal funding is also available for emergency protective measures limited to direct federal assistance for Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson and Yadkin counties.

E. Craig Levy, Sr. has been named the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

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# Citation (aglc Style)

Chandler Inions, 'Biden approves NC emergency declaration', *Salisbury Post* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD964DC75D96F0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD964DC75D96F0</a>



## Helene brings danger, memories of peril - Gulf Coast is no stranger to massive storm surges

September 27, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Dinah Voyles Pulver; USA TODAY | Section: News | 1041 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

Strong winds around the eye of a hurricane cause ocean water to circulate. As a storm arrives in shallower waters along the coast, the ocean bottom disrupts that circulation and forces water upward and inland. Other influencing factors are the timing of high tide, shape of the sea floor and coast, and the angle of the storm's approach.

With catastrophic storm surge expected along Florida's coast from Hurricane Helene, northern Gulf Coast residents Gene and Margaret Taylor understand better than anyone about the tragedy that water can bring.

As Hurricane Katrina approached in August 2005, the Taylor family fled their Gulf front home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, fleeing miles inland to his brother's home. The now-legendary hurricane pulverized their home and community with a record-breaking 28-foot-storm surge.

Gene Taylor first thought his bare street looked like it did "when the French first arrived" in Mississippi during the late 1600s. "We could never have imagined the house would be gone," he recalled.

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

Dinah Voyles Pulver, USA TODAY, 'Helene brings danger, memories of peril - Gulf Coast is no stranger to massive storm surges', *Star, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 A1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD9EFF70FB46B0>



## 'We want to reclaim this league': Whiteville football pummels Trask in Waccamaw opener

September 27, 2024 | StarNews (Wilmington, NC) Author: Michael Cuneo, Wilmington StarNews| Section: Sports | 378 Words OpenURL Link

It might have been a short week for the Whiteville football team as it opened up Waccamaw Conference play against Trask on Thursday, but the Wolfpack were more than ready.

Pummeling their conference foes in a game that was moved up one day to avoid the possible side effects of Hurricane Helene, Whiteville left no doubts about their desire for the 2024 Waccmaw Conference title as they outpaced Trask 54-0 in Rocky Point.

"We want to reclaim this league," Whiteville coach JP Price said after the win. "Our goal after today was to be 1-0 in conference play, and that's what we are."

WEEK 6 SCORES Wilmington, NC high school football Week 6 Live updates: Who plays Thursday, Saturday?

MIDSEASON STARS Midseason stars: These Wilmington-area high school football players are off to a hot start

Trask entered the matchup a red-hot, 5-0 start for the first time in school history, averaging 48 points a game, but that didn't faze the Wolfpack. Setting the tone on the game's first drive, Whiteville's Caleb Johnson intercepted a Titans pass and returned it for a touchdown.

"We take every game with the same approach each week, and I thought the pick-six really set the tone for the rest of the game," Price said.

From there, the Wolfpack kept pounding the ball home, eventually forcing a running clock as running back Cameron McKvian scored three times on the night.

Whiteville's (4-1) first taste of Waccmaw Conference action has been long awaited. After winning the split 1/2A conference in 2021 and 2022, the team fell short of West Columbus last fall.

The loss is the first of the season for Trask (5-1), which offered glimmers of hope early on as Virginia Tech commit Sherrod Henderson dashed down the sideline for a 41-yard gain.

Finding a way past a steadfast Wolfpack defense, however, proved harder as the game progressed. On the Titan's final drive of the game, Mckvian picked up a fumble and ran it back for the team's second defensive touchdown of the night.

For Price, it's moments like those that show just how far his defense has come in the last few weeks.

"Earlier in the year, we got exposed a little bit (defensivley), and it made us change personnel," Price said of the unit. "We've gotten better and better every week on defense."

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# Helene lashes South with wind and floods

September 27, 2024 | Times-News (Burlington, NC) Author: TIMES-NEWS WIRE SERVICES | Section: Local | 593 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene roared ashore as a powerful Category 4 hurricane in Florida and then raked a path of destruction hundreds of miles to the north, with flooding as far away as North Carolina, and knocking out power to millions of customers in several states.

At least 30 people were reported dead in four states, including two in North Carolina.

More than a foot of rain fell in much of the North Carolina mountains — nearly 30 inches was recorded at Busick Raws in Yancey County — with up to 14 inches more possible before the deluge ends, setting the stage for flooding that forecasters warned could be worse than anything seen in the past century.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood emergency for Rutherford County, saying that a failure at the Lake Lure Dam was imminent and people below the dam should move to higher ground.

Buncombe County issued a mandatory evacuation order for people along the Swannanoa River from the North Fork Reservoir to Biltmore Village. Waters have gone over the spillway, the county said.

"Do not delay — take action to protect your loved ones," County Manager Avril Pinder said. "We understand that evacuation can be challenging, but the safety of our residents is our top priority. We urge everyone in the affected areas to take this order seriously and evacuate as soon as possible."

The sheriff's office in Haywood County declared all roads closed.

The storm made landfall late Thursday in a sparsely populated region with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph in the rural Big Bend area, home to fishing villages and vacation hideaways where Florida's Panhandle and peninsula meet.

Video on social media sites showed sheets of rain coming down and siding coming off buildings in Perry, Florida, near where the storm arrived. One local news station showed a home that was overturned, and many communities established curfews.

Nearly 4 million homes and businesses were without power Friday morning in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

One person was killed in Florida when a sign fell on their car, and two people were reported killed in a possible tornado in south Georgia as the storm approached. Trees that toppled onto homes were blamed for deaths in Charlotte and in Anderson County, South Carolina.

The hurricane came ashore near the mouth of the Aucilla River on Florida's Gulf Coast, only about 20 miles northwest of where Hurricane Idalia hit last year at nearly the same strength and caused widespread damage.

As the hurricane's eye passed near Valdosta, Georgia, a city of 55,000 near the Florida line, dozens of people huddled early Friday in a darkened hotel lobby. The wind whistled and howled outside.

Electricity was out, with hallway emergency lights, flashlights and cellphones providing the only illumination. Water dripped from light fixtures in the lobby dining area, and roof debris fell to the ground outside.

Helene is the third storm to strike the city in just over a year. Tropical Storm Debby blacked out power to thousands in August, while Hurricane Idalia damaged an estimated 1,000 homes in Valdosta and surrounding Lowndes County a year ago.

Soon after the eye of the hurricane crossed over land, Helene weakened to a tropical storm.

Forecasters expected the system to continue weakening as it moved into Tennessee and Kentucky and dropped heavy rain over the Appalachian Mountains, with the risk of mudslides and flash flooding.

Helene is the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season this year because of recordwarm ocean temperatures.

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## Helene brings danger, memories of peril - Gulf Coast is no stranger to massive storm surges

September 27, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Dinah Voyles Pulver; USA TODAY | Section: News | 927 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

With catastrophic storm surge expected along Florida's coast from Hurricane Helene, northern Gulf Coast residents Gene and Margaret Taylor understand better than anyone about the tragedy that water can bring.

As Hurricane Katrina approached in August 2005, the Taylor family fled their Gulf front home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, fleeing miles inland to his brother's home. The now-legendary hurricane pulverized their home and community with a record-breaking 28-foot-storm surge.

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## No injuries reported due to storm

September 27, 2024 | Tribune, The (Elkin, NC) Author: Kitsey Burns Harrison | Section: News | 121 Words OpenURL Link

Just before 3 p.m. on Friday, the Surry County Emergency Services Department issued a press release saying no injuries have been reported during the extreme weather incident in the area due to effects of Hurricane Helene.

Surry EMS reported 332 calls related to the storm since midnight.

According to the release, public safety personnel are working to address and clear downed trees across Surry County.

Surry Yadkin Electric is reporting 6,500 without power and Duke Energy is reporting 12,100 without power.

Surry EMS issued the following warnings:

Citizens should stay away from all downed lines.

Please use caution if you must travel at night.

911 should only be used for emergency situations and not to report downed trees or powerl ines.

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Kitsey Burns Harrison, 'No injuries reported due to storm', *Tribune, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFD249F06C3A8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFD249F06C3A8</a>