

## In off-the-grid Egypt, NC, not even helicopters can get close enough to deliver relief

October 4, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north\_carolina | 647 Words OpenURL Link

Egypt, North Carolina, doesn't show up on most maps.

Less than 800 people lived there before the floods of Helene rushed roads and widened rivers on Friday. How many survived? Unknown.

On Wednesday, five people could be spotted from a helicopter lowering toward the township's tin-roofed volunteer fire department. A shoulder-width hole was sawed out of the top.

"Oh, so that's how the firefighter got out," said pilot Gary Heavin, who hovered above the cracked, cliffed road now caked with orange paste — a mixture of mountain dirt and water.

"This is a job only helicopters can do," Heavin said. But his black chopper with a United States of America seal stickered on couldn't do this job.

The ravished lanes below — the only border between total ruin and semi-salvageable devastation — were too narrow to land on. The closest field was too sloped, the next clearing too far away.

Heavin pulls up. None of the five people flag down his helicopter that's holding three others — an N.C. fire marshal, a friend and a Charlotte Observer reporter. He assumes the people visible down below have what they need to survive, for now.

He flies south, to Burnsville, to drop the supplies stacked in his "bird," as he and everyone else flying supplies west out of Hickory via Operation Airdrop call their copters.

Everyone is ready to pivot.

"The mission is to do whatever needs to be done," says Sam Parks, Heavin's friend from Statesville.

Operation Airdrop in HickoryHelicopters owned by volunteer pilots with Operation Airdrop wait at the Hickory Regional Airport on Monday, Sept. 30, 2004, for pilots to fly supplies to people cut off by Helene's flooding in western North Carolina.

Bringing people out of flooded areas

The day before, they rescued a woman with Stage 4 cancer and looked for two kids. The kids were gone, possibly dead somewhere beneath branches and sludge, he said.

In Burnsville, Gordon Higgins, a volunteer firefighter of nearly 30 years, waves the chopper into a field adjacent to powerlines. Heavin unloads some of the 300 Starlinks flown in by Ivanka Trump hours before.

And the water in the back will go to the 50 rescued from Pensacola, N.C., — a town next door, where Hurricane Helene's remnants pushed houses into rivers, says volunteer Kayti Ledford.

"It's just horrible in Florida, too," she said. "But at least there it's flat. Here, there's no quick rebuild. The landscape

isn't just changed. It's gone."

Heavin, the founder of Curves fitness franchise from Waco, Texas, volunteered to fly with Operation Airdrop, a nonprofit that drops supplies and leads rescues to help those stranded in disasters.

He and most of the other 50 volunteer pilots at Hickory Regional Airport were ready to rebel against a no-fly order as President Joe Biden descended into Asheville on Wednesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a temporary flight restriction Wednesday afternoon over the area, with some exceptions. Matt McSwain, the nonprofit's Hickory organizer, said he wouldn't abide by it. He wasn't going to stop pulling people out of the rubble for one person to visit it, he said.

A U.S. official told The Charlotte Observer flights coordinated with the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center or that otherwise make it known they intend to deliver aid could proceed without any delay. But the restrictions could have affected other types of aircraft that were "freelancing," the official said.

Heavin lifted off 10 minutes into the modified no-fly order, spotting military helicopters not showing up on his radar. Minutes after he lifted off, his radio went down; no one could hear him trying to get approval to touch down.

He called the tower on his cell, an unlit cigar between his bottom lip and the phone's microphone. They told him to land anyway, and the 73-year-old woman and her dog stepped out and into nurses hands.

IMG\_4715.JPEGA seal on Gary Heavin's helicopter. He's one of the volunteer pilots making supply runs from the airport in Hickory, N.C.

### Egypt Township locator map embed

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## Lionel Richie's image on a Chinook is a sign of hope for Western NC residents. Here's why

October 4, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Jeff A. Chamer, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north\_carolina | 773 Words OpenURL Link

A National Guard unit's helicopter has a small yet noticeable detail that often brings some levity to people in a dire situation: a sketch of singer Lionel Richie on the tail.

"Every time we've gotten out and have been able to talk to people ... they laugh, and they all say something," said Bradley Johnson, a member of Bravo Company 1-171, a National Guard flight crew out of Iowa flying on a CH-47 U.S. Army Chinook, on Thursday. "Especially if they're older."

The crew are flying supplies to flood victims in Western North Carolina.

Richie's face was initially sketched on the tail of the Chinook with "Hello" underneath back in 2011 "as a morale thing," Johnson said.

"Especially because higher leadership didn't like it, so of course that was the kind of thing we gravitate towards," he said.

LIONEL\_RICHIE\_06.JPGBravo Company 1-171 pilot in command Karson Smith, left, leads a briefing for members of the crew prior to their departure to Western North Carolina to deliver pallets of bottled water and ready to eat meals on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

The aircraft's call sign — "Night Long" — came fairly quickly after that, Johnson said. Back in 2011, previous members of the unit flew night missions in Iraq, using vision goggles to see.

They "never really saw the day," Johnson said. "Then it was an easy transition from 'Hello' to 'Night Long,' and then it became a rallying cry and a morale thing."

Richie proud to be symbol

Richie was a singer in the Commodores and launched a solo career in 1982, selling millions of albums and recording hit singles. He has won four Grammy Awards.

Although Richie's song is called "All Night Long (All Night)," the crew had to make it shorter.

"Night Long" is easier to say over the radio, Johnson said.

The Chinook became famous for the singer's image and Richie himself met with past crew members.

"This is incredible," Richie said in a 2012 CBS story when he saw the aircraft in person. "I keep waiting to be punked."

Johnson said when the crew met Richie, the artist said he was proud to be a symbol for them because his father was in the Army.

LIONEL\_RICHIE\_09.JPGCitizens of the Buladean, NC community stand near the landing zone for Chinook helicopter flown by Bravo Company 1-171 on Thursday, October 3, 2024. The company delivered pallets of bottled water and

ready to eat meals to the community in Western North Carolina suffering the effects of Hurricane Helene.

The crew also has t-shirts with Richie's face and call sign, and patches and stickers with his image.

Some other units adopted the call sign, Johnson said, including an infantry unit in Kuwait in 2021. But that's not so unusual, he said.

The guard company is now flying out of Salisbury to Western North Carolina, mainly to deliver supplies.

A reputation to uphold

They average about 14,000 pounds of food and water each mission, said Capt. Karson Smith, a pilot.

They've evacuated 34 people so far from a nursing home in Burnsville, North Carolina.

On Thursday, the unit conducted two missions to deliver food and water to residents in Buladean and Poplar, two small towns northeast of Asheville in Mitchell County.

Like other mountain towns, the people living there have been mostly isolated from the rest of the state due to damage to the roads from the storms and a lack of power and phone service.

"We're trying to do our best," Smith said.

LIONEL\_RICHIE\_01.JPGPallets of bottled water and ready to eat meals fill the interior of a Chinook helicopter as Flight Engineer Jesse Ayala works in the back during a mission to Western North Carolina on Thursday, October 3, 2024. Ayala and his fellow Bravo Company 1-171 delivered commodities to towns affected by Hurricane Helene.

And while flying a helicopter with Richie's face on the tail can provide some fun interactions, there is still a reputation to uphold, said Capt. Cody Nolan, one of the two pilots flying the aircraft that day.

"To me, specifically as a company commander, it's very important that we uphold that reputation and we continue to pull it forward," Smith said.

It's something that has not only become an insignia for the unit, Johnson said, but a source of camaraderie and pride.

"We've kind of attached ourselves to this legacy," he said. "We're all incredibly proud of it."

LIONEL\_RICHIE\_10.JPGKelton Buehner, a crew member with Bravo Company 1-171, has a Lionel Richie badge affixed to his helmet. The company has adopted the insignia of Richie as their symbol that the team takes great pride in. The crew spent Thursday, October 3, 2024 delivering pallets of bottled water and ready to eat meals to citizens in the Buladean and Poplar, NC areas. The communities are suffering the effects of Hurricane Helene.

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## A deadly mosquito virus is spreading in the US. Could it come to NC? Here's what to know

October 4, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Evan Moore, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north\_carolina | 682 Words OpenURL Link

A person in New York died Monday, Sept. 30, after a contracting a rare virus not seen in the state in more than a decade

The person died after being diagnosed with eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), a virus spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito, ABC News reported.

Only about 11 human cases of the virus are reported each year in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Though the virus is rare, roughly a third of all people who develop a severe version of the virus die, and those who survive are left with long-term physical and mental problems, ranging from personality disorders to paralysis, the CDC says.

Could the virus make its way to North Carolina? Here's everything you need to know.

Could eastern equine encephalitis come to NC?

There's no evidence to show that EEE will be worse in North Carolina this year, but rain from recent tropical storms and Hurricane Helene could lead to more mosquito activity in the state, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Entomologist Mike Doyle told The Charlotte Observer.

"The extra rain from Debbie...has increased water significantly on the eastern part of the state, so there's more mosquito larval sites, or mosquitoes growing in the water presently, but we don't have the evidence of infection within the mosquitoes or humans so far," Doyle said.

There haven't been any human cases of EEE reported in North Carolina this year, but there have been cases in the past, CDC data show. The most recent case occurred in 2021.

North Carolina averages about one case of EEE per year, and the disease is more common in the eastern part of the state than in other geographic regions, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Historical CDC data show that at least one human case of EEE has been reported in the following counties since 2003:

Catawba Mecklenburg Pitt Perquimans Pender BrunswickCumberlandHokeRobeson

There have been 10 human cases of EEE reported in the U.S. this year, according to CDC data.

Non-human cases and infections, or cases found in mosquitoes, birds and other animals, have been reported in the majority of coastal and piedmont counties in North Carolina since 2003, CDC data show.

Who is most at-risk of contracting eastern equine encephalitis?

The CDC says the following groups are at increased risk of infection:

Residents of and visitors to areas with eastern equine encephalitis virus activity (the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states)People who work and participate in recreational activities outdoors in endemic areasPeople over 50 years of age or under 15 years of age

What are the symptoms of eastern equine encephalitis?

Most people with EEE have no symptoms, but the CDC says symptoms of severe cases include:

FeverHeadacheVomitingDiarrheaSeizuresBehavioral changesDrowsiness

The symptoms of EEE are similar to other neuro-invasive mosquito viruses, such as West Nile virus and La Crosse encephalitis, which are more common than EEE, Doyle said.

"They all start very similar," said Doyle. "It's not something that the average person or even physician, in many cases, could tell the difference early in the disease. And so we encourage people to seek medical attention from a health provider, and the provider can order a test through the state laboratory that covers all of the known viruses here."

How to prevent eastern equine encephalitis

There are no vaccines or treatment for EEE, but you can reduce your chances of contracting the virus by preventing mosquito bites, according to the CDC.

Here are some ways you can prevent mosquito bites, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

Remove mosquito habitats by eliminating standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys, or any other container where mosquitoes can breed. Use structural barriers by covering gaps in walls, doors, and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering and making sure window and door screens are in good working order. Avoid getting bitten by keeping mosquitoes away from exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks. You can also tuck your shirt into your pants and pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where mosquitoes can get to your skin. Using insect repellent can also be helpful.

#### Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

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## Prep football roundup: South Pointe crushes Camden; Rock Hill edges Fort Mill

October 4, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Steve Lyttle, The Charlotte Observer | Section: high\_school | 1493 Words OpenURL Link

South Pointe handed Camden its worst setback in many years Friday night, pummeling the visiting Bulldogs 64-0 in a Region 3 4A game.

The Stallions (4-2, 2-0) cruised to a 57-0 halftime lead against a program that has been a football power in recent years.

South Pointe's surge started slowly, as the Stallions didn't score until midway in the first quarter, on a Lorenzo Cardarelli field goal. Late in the first quarter, Cam McMillion connected on a 75-yard touchdown pass with Dailan Duncan, extending the South Pointe lead to 10-0.

A Camden interception late in the first quarter released the flood gates. Mason Hicks followed the interception with a 14-yard touchdown run and then scored from 1 yard out early in the second quarter for a 24-0 lead.

The Stallions made is 31-0 minutes later when Jaden Barnett returned an interception 45 yards, and then McMillion fired a 47-yard touchdown pass to Kaden Vassel. That made it 37-0.

Mason Pickett-Hicks broke loose on a 43-yard touchdown run with three minutes left in the half, and then K.J. Burg had a 48-yard pick-6 just 45 seconds before halftime.

That gave South Pointe a 50-0 lead, and the Stallions cruised through the second half.

Rock Hill 28, Fort Mill 23: The visiting Bearcats built a 28-3 lead, then held off a Fort Mill comeback for a Region 3 5A victory. The Yellow Jackets (1-5, 0-3) scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter and closed within five points with 1:24 remaining on a run by Bo Blankenship. But an onside kick attempt was recovered by Rock Hill (4-3, 3-0), and the Bearcats held on for the victory.

Rock Hill took a 7-0 lead just 32 seconds into the game on a 14-yard run by Zach Jackson. That capped an 82-yard, four-play drive. Two minutes later, Kaiden Watkins picked off a Fort Mill pass, and Kason Canupp scored on a 15-yard run for a 14-0 lead.

Fort Mill closed to 14-3 early in the third quarter on a Noah Hardy 36-yard field goal. But Kaiden Watkins returned the ensuing kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown. Late in the third quarter, Malik Clark caught a 32-yard touchdown pass from Canupp, and Rock Hill led 28-3.

Fort Mill narrowed the gap on a 1-yard touchdown run by Josef Anderson, an 11-yard run by Braden Mitcheson, and then Blankenship's run.

Indian Land 36, Nation Ford 27: Sequel Patterson scored three touchdowns, as Indian Land ruined Nation Ford's homecoming with a Region 3 5A victory. The host Falcons (1-5, 0-2) lost starting quarterback Carson Sanford to an injury during the game.

The visiting Warriors (4-2, 1-1) took a 7-0 lead on Omarion Davis' 25-yard run early in the first quarter, but Nation Ford tie the game midway in the period on a 12-yard pass from Sanford to Josh Ameo. Indian Land regained the lead 14-7 two minutes later on a 12-yard pass from Matt Kucia to Patterson.

Kucia connected with Lavoris Lucas from 16 yards early in the second quarter, and a two-point conversion gave Indian Land a 22-7 lead. Nation Ford narrowed the gap before halftime, scoring on a 3-yard run by Patience Andrews and a 31-yard Sanford-to-Ameo pass. The Falcons trailed 22-20 at the half.

Kucia threw a 57-yard scoring toss to Patterson with three minutes left in the third period, giving Indian Land a 29-20 lead. Nation Ford narrowed the gap to 29-27 on a 2-yard run by Andrews in the final minute of the quarter.

The Warriors scored early in the fourth quarter on Patterson's 5-yard run and held off the Nation Ford offense the rest of the way.

A.C. Flora 17, Lancaster 14: Brandon Mack scored on an 8-yard run with 5:27 left in the fourth quarter, giving (5-2, 2-1) a Region 3 4A victory. Lancaster (2-4, 0-2) drove into Falcon territory on its final drive but was stopped.

A.C. Flora took a 7-0 lead in the second quarter on a 75-yard run by Mack. The Falcons added a field goal and led 10-0 entering the final period. But Lancaster cut the gap to 10-7 on an 8-yard run by Ti'Mar Mobley with 9:56 remaining. Then the Bruins went ahead 14-10, when R.J. Brown dashed 21 yards for a touchdown with 4:57 to play.

That set up A.C. Flora's game-winning drive.

Cheraw 21, Andrew Jackson 20: The Volunteers' bid for their first victory of the season was snuffed out when an Andrew Jackson pass was intercepted in Cheraw territory with less than a minute to go in this Region 5 2A game.

Andrew Jackson (0-6, 0-1) stayed in the game behind a pair of kickoff returns for touchdowns — of 65 yards in the first quarter by Q Hall, and of 75 yards in the fourth quarter by Damias Seegars. Hall also scored on a 10-yard run with four minutes left in the third quarter.

Hall's rushing touchdown tied the game at 14-14, but Cheraw (3-3, 1-0) went ahead 21-14 on a 1-yard run. That drive apparently had been stopped earlier when the Braves missed a field goal, but Andrew Jackson was called for running into the kicker, and Cheraw got new life.

The Volunteers followed Cheraw's final score with Seegars' kickoff return. But they missed the extra point.

Pageland Central 47, Buford 0: Tray Wilson scored five touchdowns and a two-point conversion, leading the host Eagles (5-1, 1-0) to a Region 5 2A victory. Wilson scored twice on runs, twice on passes from Cody Branham, and added a third-quarter score on a punt return.

Branham finished with three touchdowns passes. Buford fell to 2-5, 1-1.

Lewisville 21, C.A. Johnson 14: Zach Rogers ran for a touchdown and threw for another, leading the Lions (5-1, 1-0) to a Region 3 1A victory. The visiting Hornets scored first and led 6-0 midway through the first quarter, but Lewisville tied the score on a 6-yard run by Riquarius Harris late in the period.

A 27-yard pass from Rogerrs to De'Adrian Robinson and Marcel Fee's conversion kick gave Lewisville a 13-6 lead midway in the second period, and the Lions added a safety for a 15-6 edge. C.A. Johnson (1-5, 0-1) narrowed the gap to 15-14 by scoring on a blocked punt shortly before the half.

Rogers finished the scoring with a 1-yard run with three minutes left, and Jordan Strong insured the victory by intercepting a Hornet pass with two minutes left.

Lee Central 54, Great Falls 12: Joseph Anderson scored three first-half touchdowns as Lee Central (4-2, 1-0) rolled to a Region 3 1A victory. The visitors led 36-0 at halftime. Great Falls (2-4, 0-1) got a big play in the fourth quarter, when Tremaine Caldwell threw a 71-yard touchdown pass to Jalyn Sanders.

Chester 56, Eau Claire 0: The Cyclones got their sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season from Hudhaifah Taylor and rolled to a Region 3 2A victory. Chester (2-4, 1-0) led 48-0 at halftime. Eau Claire dropped to 1-6, 0-1. Weekend scoreboard S.C. Region 3 5A Indian Land 36, Nation Ford 27 Northwestern 57, Clover 23 Rock Hill 28, Fort Mill 23 S.C. Region 3 4A A.C. Flora 17, Lancaster 14 Dreher 35, Richland Northeast 34 South Pointe 64, Camden 0 S.C. Region 3 2A Chester 56, Eau Claire 0 Fairfield Central (5-1, 0-0) at Mid-Carolina (3-3, 0-0) S.C. Region 5 2A Cheraw 21, Andrew Jackson 20 North Central 40, Chesterfield 35 Pageland Central 47, Buford 0 S.C. Region 3 1A Lamar 56, McBee 7 Lee Central 54, Great Falls 12 Lewisville 21, C.A. Johnson 14 **SATURDAY** Nonconference S.C. Spartans (1-5) at Cabarrus Stallions (2-4), 6 STATEWIDE SCORES Note: numerous games in the western part of the state were postponed, due to recovery efforts from Hurricane

Helene

**FRIDAY** 

Andrews 42, Academic Magnet 6

Ashley Ridge 48, Fort Dorchester 35

Atlantic Collegiate 27, Marion 0

Bamberg-Ehrhardt 47, Hardeeville 0

Barnwell 38, Lake Marion 16

Battery Creek 48, North Charleston 17

Belton-Honea Path 55, West-Oak 6

Berkeley 30, Stratford 22

Bethesda Academy 40, Beaufort Academy 20

Bluffton 42, Beaufort 35

Blythewood 37, Lugoff-Elgin 24

Calhoun County 30, Williston-Elko 29

Carolina Forest 37, Socastee 3

Crestwood 28, Wilson 9

Cross 70, St. Johns 0

Dixie 40, Calhoun Falls Charter 6

Dutch Fork 63, Chapin 10

First Baptist 41, John Paul II 22

Florence Christian 36, Christian Academy of Myrtle Beach 20

Goose Creek 21, Wando 20

Greenwood 35, Mauldin 22

Hammond 65, Laurence Manning Academy 14

Hampton County 44, Edisto 12

Holly Hill Academy 2, Conway Christian 0

Hunter-Kinard-Tyler 22, Orangeubrg-Wilkinson 20

Irmo 34, Lexington 8

Jefferson Davis Academy 46, Cathedral Academy 16 Johnsonville 50, Hemingway 0 Lake City 49, Mullins 14 Lake View 30, Hannah-Pamplico 7 Latta 34, Carvers Bay 28 Loris 30, Dillon 27 Lucy Beckham 30, Cane Bay 22 Manning 28, Kingstree 22 Marlboro County 41, Aynor 8 May River 42, Colleton County 6 Myrtle Beach 37, St. James 14 Ninety-Six 41, Pelion 8 North Myrtle Beach 24, Conway 14 Northside Christian 14, Providence Athletic Club 12 Northwood Academy 49, Cardinal Newman 31 Oceanside Collegiate 49, Hanahan 7 Pee Dee 42, Hilton Head Prep 15 Philip Simmons 22, Woodland 16 Pinewood Prep 49, Wilson Hall 7 Ridgeland 19, Denmark-Olar 8 Ridge View 54, Spring Valley 14 River Bluff 24, White Knoll 21 St. John's Christian 28, Dillon Christian 27 South Florence 60, Darlington 6 Summerville 77, Stall 6

Sumter 7, Clarendon Hall 6

Thomas Heyward Academy 51, Patrick Henry Academy 33

Timberland 53, Burke 6

Trinity Collegiate 34, Camden Military 0

Union County 37, Mountain View Christian 23

Waccamaw 36, Georgetown 20

West Ashley 10, James Island 6

**SATURDAY** 

Hartsville 55, Lower Richland 20

Swansea 44, Keenan 38

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## North Carolina lawmakers returning to pass Helene aid package

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 656 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Lawmakers in North Carolina are returning to Raleigh to pass legislation next week securing fiscal aid and lawful allowances in other areas of daily life to the western part of the state devastated by Hurricane Helene flooding.

Past precedent includes not only appropriating money but also working with election law, education attendance requirements and educators' pay, and fees associated with driver's licenses. The storm that came ashore Sept. 26 in the Big Bend of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mph sustained winds stalled out over the Appalachian Mountains and Tennessee, causing catastrophic flooding that killed 72 in Buncombe County.

Six states collectively have lost more than 220 lives to the fourth most deadly hurricane of the last three-quarters of a century, and rescue workers are yet to say they have accounted for all the missing. Friday marked the eighth day of rescues. Power remained out for more than 249,000 in North Carolina at 5:30 Friday afternoon, with utility companies explaining that some houses or businesses no longer physically sit where they once did, same as with paved roads.

Some areas may go another week without electricity.

A joint statement from Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, and House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, said in part, "Our hearts are broken for the communities that have been ravaged by Hurricane Helene. Despite the destruction, it has been incredible to see how North Carolinians have stepped up to help. We cannot let up on those efforts or forget about the small communities that have been effectively closed off because of this storm.

"The General Assembly is preparing to come back next week to vote on an initial disaster relief package to facilitate the state's response to Hurricane Helene. We are still working to determine what needs to be included in that legislation. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims of this storm and those who have lost loved ones, as well as the aid workers, volunteers, and rescue teams supporting the region."

Aid has poured in from multiple states, and in remarkable ways. Helicopters have found people by mirrors reflecting the sun; mules have carried medicine and supplies up muddied slopes and through flooded terrain. In some communities, communication is akin to a town crier on a picnic table amid where people can safely gather for updates.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler pleaded for fencing supplies from other farmers throughout the state to help with livestock. Agriculture is a \$111.1 billion industry, biggest in the state, and an estimate on damage is unclear.

Republican U.S. Reps. Virginia Foxx, Dr. Greg Murphy and Chuck Edwards led authorship with other members of Congress of a letter to President Joe Biden, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and EPA Administrator Michael Regan asking for the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to be "interpreted as loosely as possible, so the federal government provides support, not interference in the recovery effort."

For the first time since the storm hit, there was no daily update release from Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper.

Edwards, the congressman who along with Foxx represents the portion of the state most severely impacted, said in

a release 49 water treatment plants still have no power and 43 are out of water. He said water systems on a boil advisory is down from 142 on Thursday to 91.

Edwards said more than 130 roads have been reopened. Late Friday, DriveNC.org reported 617 closed. That includes three interstates, 44 federal highways, 56 state roads and 514 secondary roads. The total number, courtesy of secondary roads, has climbed each of the last three days of the workweek.

Eight hurricanes since 1950 have killed 100 or more people. Helene is only eclipsed – so far – by Katrina (2005, deaths 1,392), Audrey (1957, deaths 416) and Camille (1969, deaths 256). On Friday the toll eclipsed Sandy (2012, deaths 219), and on Thursday it went past Diane (1955, deaths 184).

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## North Carolina's No. 1 industry takes severe hit from Helene

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: David Beasley | The Center Square contributor | Section: State | 417 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) - Among the massive damage to western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene has been the loss of farm livestock fences, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said.

He called for donations to help farmers. Damage estimates are unclear to the state's No. 1 industry, a \$111.1 billion juggernaut of an economic engine.

"We have seen time and time again our agriculture community support one another in times of need, and this is no different," Troxler said. "We are seeing an outpouring of support with hay, animal feed, fencing and other supplies that are going out to those needing these resources. In the days ahead, we know we are going to need even more fencing supplies, especially solar fence chargers to help livestock producers. If you have resources to donate, please go to our website to let us know."

A portal for donations is set up by the Agriculture Department.

"The form asks if you need help or want to help," Troxler's office said. "To donate click on the 'Want to Help' button, then you will be asked for contact information and items you have to donate."

The portal can also be used by farmers to request help such as someone temporarily caring for animals or providing food and supplies for them.

"We are working with local authorities to determine routes for moving livestock within and from the area," the portal states. "PLEASE DO NOT ACT ON YOUR OWN! Many roads are not safe or passable and unauthorized access will slow down rescue and restoration efforts."

Troxler toured the damaged areas on Thursday.

"Around anything that flows water, there is mass destruction," he told the Southern Farm Network. "And, you know, we've been familiar with hurricanes in eastern North Carolina, but this is different, to kind of put it in perspective. It's the damage. It looks more like tornadoes. I mean, it's utter water flow, utter devastation. Buildings are gone. We've lost a lot of lives so far. So it is totally devastating for ag up here."

Some of the area's best farmland was in river bottoms, the low-lying areas around rivers, Troxler said.

"So that's what forged away," he said. "It's pitiful, and apple trees that have been there for a long time blown out of the ground. So we got a lot of pieces to pick up to get these people back on their feet, and it's not going to be an overnight thing. This is a marathon."

The Agriculture Department also has a link, operating in real time adjustments, for livestock donation supply sites.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

David Beasley | The Center Square contributor, 'North Carolina's No. 1 industry takes severe hit from Helene', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F9D383B5708">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F9D383B5708</a>



## Mountains average state's highest gas prices

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 404 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – One week after the remnants of Hurricane Helene ravaged the mountains, some of North Carolina's highest gas prices by county average are in the region most challenged.

Statewide, the average for a gallon of unleaded gasoline is \$2.89 on Friday morning, a good 29 cents below the national average of \$3.18, according to the website of the American Automobile Association. Diesel average is \$3.47, and premium gasoline is \$3.72.

The prices are down from a month ago across the board - regular was \$3.08, diesel \$3.61, and premium \$3.91.

Buncombe County, where more deaths from the storm occurred than anywhere else in the Southeast, has average gas price of \$2.92. Neighboring counties Madison (\$3.17), Haywood (\$2.97), Transylvania (\$2.97) and Yancey (\$2.93) are higher, and Henderson (\$2.85), Rutherford (\$2.89) and McDowell (\$2.88) are lower.

For Tennessee border counties, running south to north, Cherokee is \$2.97, Graham is \$3.09, Swain is \$2.96, Haywood is \$2.97, Madison is \$3.17, Yancey is \$2.93, Mitchell is \$2.84, Avery is \$2.97, Watauga is \$2.63 and Ashe \$3.00. In the southwestern tip of the state, Clay is \$2.85, Macon \$3.05 and Jackson \$3.06.

Most of the areas have dealt with power outages for seven or more days since Helene hit the area. Friday morning, there were just more than 230,000 without power – down significantly from the previous 48 hours.

Regular unleaded gasoline prices, says petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan of GasBuddy, is like most other goods bought by Americans. General economic principles have the greatest impact on pricing, and automotive fuel also trickles in the blends used in summer and winter.

Only 12 states have lower unleaded gasoline averages as of Friday morning. For diesel, 22 states are lower.

Of the three major metros, Raleigh and Wake County (\$2.97) is higher than Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (\$2.92) and Greensboro and Guilford County (\$2.91).

North Carolina this year taxes gasoline at 40.4 cents per gallon, up 2 cents from last year and the fifth-highest in the country. States higher are California (57.9); Pennsylvania (57.6); Washington (49.4); and Illinois (45.4).

Among 14 major metro areas, unleaded gas is the least expensive in New Bern at \$2.74. Most expensive is the Durham-Chapel Hill metro area (\$3.05).

Diesel is the most consumer-friendly (\$3.33) in New Bern.

In a state with the ninth-largest population of 10.8 million, roughly 8 million vehicle registrations are combustion engines, either gas or diesel. Total zero-emission vehicles registered is about 100,000, or 1 in 80 on the highways.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

Alan Wooten | The Center Square, 'Mountains average state's highest gas prices', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0100810526010">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0100810526010</a>



## "Tentative agreement' keeps ports open and economy running, for now

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 544 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Dockworkers on the East and Gulf Coast are returning to work and reopening U.S. ports for new shipments after reaching a deal with the Maritime Alliance that boosts workers pay.

The International Longshoremen's Association, which represents 45,000 dockworkers, released a statement Thursday saying they had reached a "tentative agreement," preventing a major supply chain and cost issue just weeks before the U.S. election.

"Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease and all work covered by the Master Contract will resume," ILA said in a statement.

The deal gave workers a 62% raise over the next six years and extends the current contract until Jan. 15, beyond Election Day. Biden-Harris administration officials reportedly helped mediate the deal, which also includes promises to avoid automation, though those details are not yet finalized and public.

Negotiators will keep hammering out the details of that agreement in the weeks to come, and there is a small chance the deal, which has not been signed off on by workers, could fall through.

Workers rejecting union deals is not uncommon. Last month, Boeing workers in the Pacific Northwest rejected a union leadership-negotiated pay raise of 25% over four years and are currently on strike, even after Boeing has since offered to up the raise to 30%.

Vice President Kamla Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, praised the deal. If it were to fall through before Election Day, she could have a political liability on her hands. Prices would begin to rise steeply after already rising more than 20% since she took office.

"This step indicates progress toward a strong contract and represents the power of collective bargaining," Harris said in a statement. "As I have said, this is about fairness – and our economy works best when workers share in record profits. Dockworkers deserve a fair share for their hard work getting essential goods out to communities across America."

The longshoremen had brought much of the U.S. economy to a halt this week with a workers strike that effectively closed the entire East Coast and Gulf Coast's shipping capabilities.

Many experts warned earlier this week of the high cost of the strike, predicting escalating prices on all kinds of goods, from groceries to alcohol to cars and more.

President Joe Biden lauded the agreement on Thursday.

"I applaud the International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance for coming together to reopen the East Coast and Gulf ports and ensure the availability of critical supplies for Hurricane Helene recovery and rebuilding," Biden wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Collective bargaining works."

The strike had sparked criticism for the Biden-Harris administration for not acting sooner to avert it as well as critiques of the longshoremen, many of whom are well paid compared to the average American salary. Negotiators had been trying to find an agreement since June.

The potential shipping disruption came amid the recovery from Hurricane Helene, a disaster that has caused billions in damage, destroyed infrastructure, caused food and water shortages, and left many dead or missing.

"Disrupting the distribution of food, equipment, and supplies as the Southeast U.S. recovers from Hurricane Helene is unacceptable," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis wrote on X.

"Floridians need a reliable, steady supply of resources and building materials to keep their families fed and rebuild their homes and businesses," he added.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

Casey Harper | The Center Square, "Tentative agreement' keeps ports open and economy running, for now', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C010079BA28DF0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C010079BA28DF0</a>



## Trump blasts Harris for FEMA help to migrants as hurricane budget runs low

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 663 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – The Biden-Harris administration took a tidal wave of criticism this week after U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters that the Federal Emergency Management Administration did not have enough funds to cover the rest of this hurricane season.

Those comments drew criticism from Republican lawmakers, billionaire Elon Musk and former President Donald Trump because FEMA has spent at least hundreds of millions of dollars on resettling migrants in the U.S. since President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took office.

"The Biden-Harris Administration's self-inflicted border crisis has wasted American taxpayer dollars on services for illegal immigrants and is now struggling to help Americans suffering in the wake of natural disasters like Hurricane Helene," House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., told The Center Square after it reported on the FEMA's migrant spending.

FEMA is subject to DHS' authority and under the Biden-Harris administration has been focused on helping the recent influx of more than 14 million migrants settle in the U.S.

As The Center Square previously reported, FEMA announced \$640 million in new funding for helping migrants in April of this year, \$300 million for "direct funding" to help immigrants, and \$340 million for cities via grants to help migrants, part of a larger FEMA focus on resettling migrants in the U.S. under the Biden-Harris administration. These amounts don't include FEMA tax dollars spent on migrant relocations earlier in Biden's term.

"We are meeting the immediate needs with the money that we have," Mayorkas told reporters earlier this week, adding that "FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season" and that they expect another hurricane to hit.

The FEMA cash crunch for hurricane victims while FEMA has more than enough for migrants became a stark example of controversial prioritization in the Biden-Harris administration, which continues to take fire for its handling of the border crisis.

The FEMA example proved to have political utility amid the ongoing battle over illegal immigration in an election year.

"There's nobody that's handled a hurricane or storm worse than what they're doing right now," Trump said at a rally Thursday.

"Kamala spent all her FEMA money, billions of dollars, on housing for illegal migrants, many of whom should not be in our country," Trump continued, exaggerating the figure.

The White house has strongly pushed back on Trump's comments, calling them "false" and arguing that the funding sources for migrants and disaster relief come from separate sources.

Critics have argued it is a problem of mission drift at FEMA and prioritizing funding for migrants when disaster relief funding is running low, though Congress appropriates the funding in the first place.

A White House spokesperson told The Center Square that Hurricane Helene victims will be well taken care of and that there is no danger of running out of funds to help with this hurricane recovery.

"FEMA has what it needs for immediate response and recovery efforts," said Director of Public Affairs and FEMA spokesperson Jaclyn Rothenberg. "As FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell has said, she has the full authority to spend against the President's budget, but we're not out of hurricane season yet so we need to keep a close eye on it. We may need to go back into immediate needs funding and we will be watching it closely."

Critics online took issue with the \$750 in emergency assistance for individual Helene victims touted by Harris, arguing it is not enough when so much money is going elsewhere.

A White House spokesperson told The Center Square that the \$750 is just immediate assistance for victims and does not mean they will not receive more money to help with damage to their homes and other standard emergency assistance.

Critics argued FEMA has become distracted focusing on noncitizens because of the fallout of an unaddressed border crisis instead of American citizen storm victims.

"President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris must put Americans first and take action now to reverse their open borders policies that are bleeding Americans dry," Comer told The Center Square.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Casey Harper | The Center Square, 'Trump blasts Harris for FEMA help to migrants as hurricane budget runs low', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F9CF01013CO>



# Shipping container crushed like a soda can in flood waters

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Talker News| Section: National | 69 Words OpenURL Link

Footage from a resident's third-floor apartment shows enormous damage from Hurricane Helene in Swannanoa, North Carolina.

A shipping container stunned onlookers when it floated rapidly down the town and was crushed like a soda can upon hitting a large pylon.

Floodwaters destroyed the Asheville Tea Company building, though all employees are said to be safe, but the city remains without water or power.

The footage was filmed on Friday, September 27.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Talker News, 'Shipping container crushed like a soda can in flood waters', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C01007ED33B378">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C01007ED33B378</a>



## Biden says 'not confident' of peaceful US election

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Frankie Taggart and Danny Kemp| Section: National | 618 Words OpenURL Link

President Joe Biden said Friday he was not confident the US election in November would be peaceful, citing incendiary comments by Republican contender Donald Trump, who still rejects his 2020 defeat.

Biden's warning came with lawmakers and analysts voicing concern over increasingly bellicose campaign language ahead of the vote.

Trump -- who survived an assassination bid in July and another apparent plot in September -- alleged widespread fraud after his defeat to Biden, and pro-Trump rioters riled up by his false claims ransacked the US Capitol.

"I'm confident it will be free and fair. I don't know whether it will be peaceful," Biden told reporters as he discussed the election.

"The things that Trump has said and the things that he said last time out when he didn't like the outcome of the election were very dangerous."

Trump was impeached in 2021 for inciting the insurrection after hundreds of his supporters -- exhorted by the defeated Republican to "fight like hell" -- battered police as they smashed windows at the Capitol and broke through doors.

- 'They cheat like hell' -

He has been indicted over what prosecutors allege was a "private criminal effort" to subvert the election that culminated in the violence.

Trump -- who is due to return to the venue of his first assassination bid in Butler, Pennsylvania on Saturday -- has long been assailed over his violent rhetoric.

Biden made his comments during what was the first appearance of his presidency in the White House briefing room, where he touted his administration's achievements as his vice president, Kamala Harris, battles Trump.

Harris and Trump meanwhile were barnstorming the battleground states that are likely to decide who wins the White House.

Trump campaigned Friday in North Carolina, where he reprised his claims of 2020 voter fraud: "We should get elected, but remember this, they cheat like hell," he said.

He also visited neighboring Georgia, a swing state narrowly claimed by Biden four years ago but won by Trump in 2016 -- and one of the biggest prizes of the 2024 election map.

The Republican inserted himself aggressively into Georgia politics after his 2020 defeat, pushing for state officials to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's victory.

Trump, 78, was charged by state prosecutors with racketeering, in a case that is on pause and expected to start up again after the election. He denies wrongdoing.

- 'Biggest loser' -

On Friday Trump joined Georgia Republican Governor Brian Kemp after receiving a briefing on the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Helene, the deadliest storm to hit the US mainland since Katrina in 2005.

Trump has repeatedly spread misinformation about the federal response to the disaster, falsely alleging that funding for relief has been misappropriated by Harris and redirected towards migrants.

Harris, who is neck-and-neck with Trump in all seven swing states, rallied Friday in Michigan -- a union stronghold that epitomized the US manufacturing decline of the 1980s.

The Democratic contender accused Trump of jeopardizing Michigan auto jobs.

"This is a man who has only ever fought for himself. This is a man who has been a union buster his entire career," she said at a stop in Detroit.

Later, in the city of Flint, she branded Trump "one of the biggest losers of manufacturing jobs in American history."

Flint is a majority Black city where a 2010s scandal over lead-tainted water highlighted government mismanagement and the disproportionate damage to poor and non-white communities.

She reminded rallygoers that the election is just one month away, and early voting has already begun in several states.

"Folks, the election is here. And we need to energize, organize and mobilize," Harris said.

Earlier her campaign announced the country's first Black president, Barack Obama, would stump for her in Pennsylvania and other swing states from next week as she woos undecided voters in the US heartland.

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Frankie Taggart and Danny Kemp, 'Biden says 'not confident' of peaceful US election', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F9CE6FEA698">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F9CE6FEA698</a>



## US dockworkers return to ports after three-day strike

October 4, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Elodie MAZEIN| Section: National | 607 Words OpenURL Link

Thousands of dockworkers returned to work Friday, the day after a longshoremen's union reached a preliminary deal with shippers, ending a three-day strike weeks before the US presidential election.

At the Port of Mobile in the Gulf Coast state of Alabama, terminal operator APM resumed operations at 7:00 am (1200 GMT), while the Port of Virginia in Norfolk said it will reopen Saturday, according to online postings.

At the giant Port of New York and New Jersey, the second-largest container port in the United States after Los Angeles and Long Beach, the Port Liberty terminal in Bayonne plans to resume work on Monday morning.

"I do expect that by this time next week, we will have serviced all of the vessels that were delayed and that cargo will be flowing into the economy," Bethann Rooney, port director of New York and New Jersey, said at a briefing with reporters.

The staggered reopening covers US ports from Maine to Texas following Thursday night's preliminary agreement between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX). Workers had walked out Tuesday morning with the expiration of their contract.

The parties "reached a tentative agreement on wages and have agreed to extend the Master Contract until January 15, 2025," said a joint statement.

"Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease and all work covered by the Master Contract will resume."

The strike was the first involving these ports since 1977.

Talks between the two sides had been dormant for months. But negotiations resumed Monday as the contract's expiration deadline approached.

In recent days, Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su and other officials in President Joe Biden's administration urged the parties to hash out differences and called on USMX to boost its offer.

- Wage hikes -

The stoppage involved some 45,000 workers at 36 facilities.

The contract pertained only to 14 large ports, including New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, Savannah, Miami and Houston. However, additional workers at ILA-represented facilities in the region joined the stoppage.

The talks centered on wages and ILA efforts to prevent job loss due to automation. ILA leaders argued that a big wage hike was merited after dockworkers kept the economy running during the pandemic, boosting shipper profits.

"The two sides have agreed to return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues," said the joint statement.

It did not offer terms of the deal, but The Wall Street Journal, citing sources close to the matter, said USMX had proposed a 62 percent salary increase over six years, allowing the deal to be reached.

The strike had loomed as a major potential political problem for Democrats heading into the presidential election.

After the agreement, Biden praised both sides for working together to "ensure the availability of critical supplies for Hurricane Helene recovery and rebuilding," the White House said Thursday.

But Biden acknowledged Friday that "there's more to do," referring to automation issues that still need to be ironed out by mid-January.

"There's more to resolve," he said.

Analysts had cautioned that, with the November 5 presidential election nearing, a lengthy strike could have posed a major headwind to the US economy, leading to shortages of some items and lifting costs at a time when inflation has been moderating.

Oxford Economics said it doesn't plan to update its economic forecast in light of the quick resolution of the strike.

"The port strike ended fairly quickly, removing any significant downside risk to the economy this quarter," said the Oxford note.

"It will take a little time" to work through any backlogs that developed, it said. "But any lost output that occurred during the strike will be made up through the remainder of this quarter, therefore no change to our forecast for Q4 GDP is needed."

### elm-jmb/mlm

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Elodie MAZEIN, 'US dockworkers return to ports after three-day strike', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0100732D2DD40">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0100732D2DD40</a>



## Edenton churches collect supplies for Helene victims in western NC

October 4, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Vernon Fueston| Section: Local | 483 Words OpenURL Link

EDENTON — A steady stream of cars, sometimes several deep, lined up in the parking lot at Edenton Baptist Church on Thursday to be unloaded.

Each was loaded with non-perishable food items, toilet paper, first aid kits, bottled water, and anything else needed by victims of Tropical Storm's Helene's devastating floods in western North Carolina.

Pastor Stephen Hill of Macedonia Baptist Church was managing the unloading efforts. Items were then repackaged into boxes by type — food, toiletries and water — and loaded into a small truck. Large trucks are discouraged for making deliveries to areas devastated by Helene because of poor road conditions.

The project's goal is to send as many vehicles of supplies, driven by the men's group at Edenton Baptist, to the disaster area as possible by Thursday, Oct. 17.

According to The Associated Press, Helene dumped trillions of gallons of water across several states on Sept. 27, leaving a trail of destruction spanning hundreds of miles. More than 220 deaths have been confirmed from the storm, making it the deadliest to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in August 2005.

Western North Carolina was hit especially hard by the storm, as flooding wiped out homes, buildings, roads and utilities. Few were prepared for the breath of its destruction.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 136,000 people in the Southeastern U.S. were still without an operational water provider as of Thursday, and more than 1.8 million were living under a boil water advisory, the AP reported. Nearly 700,000 homes and businesses, most of them in Georgia and the Carolinas, were still without electricity on Friday, the AP reported.

An as-yet unknown number of western North Carolina residents have no home to go back to — their residence have been destroyed by flooding or mudslides in the storm.

To help assist Helene's victims, Edenton Baptist Church, Edenton Methodist Church, Cornerstone, Access Point, and Saint Paul's churches organized the local relief project. Items being accepted include: first aid kits, bottled water, feminine products, diapers (infant and adult,) baby formula (ready to use, no powder,) baby spoons, paper plates and utensils, batteries, flashlights, charger packs, candies, lighters, non-electric can openers, non-perishable foods (granola bars, cereal, pop tarts, nabs, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, dog and pet food, and other supplies.

Crews are accepting donations from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day in the parking lot of Edenton Baptist Church at 200 N Granville Street.

Donations were brisk on Thursday, and the truck was half full by 5 p.m.

"This is people helping people, and I'm thankful for the heart of all these churches, not just our own church," Hill said. "We can do great things when God's people pull together and work together. We can change the world."

The collections actually had to stop on Thursday because the truck had exceeded its weight limit. Another was ordered for the following afternoon, and Hill said organizers will keep ordering trucks through Oct. 17.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Vernon Fueston, 'Edenton churches collect supplies for Helene victims in western NC', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C10CE1E626EC08">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C10CE1E626EC08</a>



## John Hood: Political leaders must rise to Helene's challenge

October 4, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Bobby Burns | Section: News | 645 Words OpenURL Link

I got it wrong. Deeply wrong. Embarrassingly wrong.

It was a few days after Hurricane Floyd struck the coast on Sept. 16, 1999. I'd been covering North Carolina politics for more than a dozen years by then, penning my syndicated column and appearing regularly on radio and television. Our discussion program "N.C. Spin" had debuted the previous fall on the Triangle's Fox affiliate and was in the process of expanding to some two dozen TV and radio stations across the state.

During a segment of the show devoted to the destruction wrought by Floyd, I said something to the effect that North Carolina's emergency personnel, government agencies, utilities, private contractors, and relief organizations knew what to do and how to do it. They didn't need politicians holding press conferences and yapping incessantly about matters beyond their ken.

I thought I was praising the skill and determination of those at the forefront of the response to Hurricane Floyd, which devastated much of eastern North Carolina and killed an estimated 85 people, including 51 North Carolinians. I thought I was championing policy expertise over political exploitation.

What I was really doing was exhibiting my ignorance.

One "N.C. Spin" viewer was particularly incensed: then-Gov. Jim Hunt. One of the targets of my criticism, he let it be known through a mutual acquaintance that he considered my argument poorly reasoned. I don't remember the specifics of what got passed on to me, but it was something to the effect that in times of crisis, political leadership is crucial.

Emergency responders aren't necessarily sure what to do when. Agencies butt heads. Harried public and private actors misinterpret, miscommunicate, and inadvertently misinform. Sometimes they move too slowly, making people wait too long for rescue and relief. At other times they react recklessly, misspending scarce resources on lower priorities rather than waiting to make wiser decisions with a firmer grasp of the facts on the ground.

It is the task of leaders, elected and appointed, to make such judgment calls, to focus minds and referee disputes, to comfort the suffering, and to offer hope and reassurance to a panicky public.

Now, as North Carolinians grapple with the tragic aftermath of another monstrous storm, Gov. Roy Cooper and other political and civic leaders must rise to the challenge Hunt helped me grasp a quarter of a century ago.

Helene has ravaged western North Carolina. Her path of destruction is broad, deep, and jaw-dropping. Homes, businesses, entire towns crushed or swept away. At this writing, hundreds of thousands of people remain without power, some trapped in place by gaping holes or raging rivers. The death count, already heart-rending, will grow as more of the missing are found.

North Carolina will recover. We will rebuild. We've done it before. But there's nothing automatic about the process. And we all have parts to play in it, whatever our roles, wherever we live.

If you have family or friends in the affected areas, keep trying to reach them. Once you do, offer help and comfort. If you'd like to contribute money, supplies, or volunteer time to relief and recovery efforts, there are many organizations well-situated to deploy your gifts effectively, including Samaritan's Purse, Baptists on Mission, Catholic Charities USA, and Operation Airdrop.

At the state level, lawmakers have prudently accumulated \$4.75 billion in our rainy-day fund plus billions more in unreserved credit balance. That rainy day is here. Localities will spend additional dollars from their own reserves, as will utility companies, cooperatives, and municipal agencies.

There are many tough decisions to be made, some now, some weeks or months from now as the full extent of the needs and priorities come more clearly into view. That's something else I learned from past disasters. Some funds originally earmarked for reconstruction after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 have still not been expended.

Through it all, North Carolinians will look to our leaders for guidance and reassurance. Pray for them, and for us all. Copyright © 2024 The Daily Advance. All rights reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Bobby Burns, 'John Hood: Political leaders must rise to Helene's challenge', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFF6F1EF6095F8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFF6F1EF6095F8</a>



## What's Up

October 4, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Julian Eure | Section: Whats Up | 1523 Words OpenURL Link

**TODAY** 

Red Cross blood drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Family Life Center at Holy Family Catholic Church in Elizabeth City from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Word 2 today; one-on-one computer help on Wednesday; and Excel 2 on Thursday. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Donations for western NC

Food Bank of the Albemarle is accepting donations of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for delivery to western counties in North Carolina hard hit by Tropical Storm Helene. Items will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 252-335-4035.

**NEAAAT** ground breaking

The Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies will host a ground breaking ceremony for its new aviation, advanced manufacturing and fabrication labs at 1413 W. Ehringhaus St., Elizabeth City, at 10 a.m.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Dance, Dance, Dance" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday. All classes at 10 a.m.

Green Saves Green

The Green Saves Green group will meet at the Pasquotank County Library at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

**Programming Room** 

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a basic computer skills class at the Pasquotank County Library from 10 a.m. to noon. Students will learn how to use the basics of a computer, word documents, and how to set up email. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw.

Texas Roadhouse

The Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Texas Roadhouse at 3720 Patrick Way, Elizabeth City, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY**

#### Shrimp by the Bay

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce will host the 23rd annual Shrimp by the Bay fundraiser on the green of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets sold only in advance. Call: 252-482-3400.

#### ECHNA's Ghost Walk

The Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association's Ghost Walk will be held in Elizabeth City Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at Arts of the Albemarle, which will serve as Ghost Walk headquarters during the event, as well as at Muddy Waters Coffeehouse, The Recycled Reader, and the EC Mailbox Center. The latter only accepts cash.

#### **SATURDAY**

'Trial by Fire' at COA

College of The Albemarle will host "Trial by Fire: Journey Tribute" in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for military personnel and senior citizens, and \$6 for students and staff.

### VFW Oyster Roast

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6060 will host its annual Oyster Roast at 1433 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, from noon to 3 p.m. Doc Perkins will perform live music. Advance all-you-can-eat oyster tickets are \$35; the fried oyster sandwich plate tickets are \$20; and fried chicken plate tickets are \$15. All tickets day of the event will cost \$5 more.

### **SUNDAY**

### Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives at Durants Neck Ruritan Club in Hertford, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Camden Middle School auditorium Monday from noon to 5 p.m.; and Fellowship Baptist Church fellowship hall in Moyock, Thursday, Oct. 17, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### **MONDAY**

### Alzheimer's support

The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers and Family members meets at Hertford United Methodist Church, 200 Dobbs St., Hertford, at 1 p.m. Contact: 252-404-7090 or 252-333-7774.

### **UPCOMING**

### Secure Access Self Storage

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for Secure Access Self Storage at 1100 Megan Drive, Elizabeth City, Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Excel Monday, Oct. 14; Google Drive on Tuesday, Oct. 15; Google Docs on Wednesday, Oct. 16; and Word 1 on Thursday, Oct. 17. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

### Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cats" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 15; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 16; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 17. All classes at 10 a m

### **Programming Room**

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host an online safety and privacy program at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

#### Medicare outreach

The North Carolina State Health Plan will host a 2025 open enrollment Medicare outreach event at Museum of the Albemarle Friday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon.

#### Hertford Ghost Walk

Masonic Lodge 106 and Church of the Holy Trinity will host the Historic Ghost Walk in Hertford Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Office at 118 W Market St., Hertford; Tommy's Pizza at 309 Ocean S. Hertford; and Church of the Holy Trinity both nights of tour.

#### Red Cross blood drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive in the main room at Albemarle Area Association of Realtors in Elizabeth City, Monday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on PowerPoint Monday, Oct. 21; PowerPoint on Tuesday, Oct. 22; Google Docs 2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and Word 2 on Thursday, Oct. 24. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

### Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cake" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 22; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 24. All classes at 10 a.m.

## **Programming Room**

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to search for trusted online sites at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

#### Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives in the Sentara Albemarle Medical Center education rooms Wednesday, Oct. 23 from noon to 5 p.m.; JP Knapp Early College High School gym in Currituck Monday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; the B&M Contractors, Inc. training room in Elizabeth City on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the City Road United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Elizabeth City Thursday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### **Programming Room**

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to use healthcare online at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. Students will learn how to use telehealth. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

### **Community Olympics**

The Boys & Girls Club will host its Community Olympic Games at 108 East Ward St., Elizabeth City, Thursday, Oct. 24. Contact: ejmitchell@bgc-albemarle.org or call 252-216-5966.

#### YMCA Golf Classic

The 18th annual YMCA Golf Classic to benefit the Y's All Kids Swim Program will be held at the Pines of Elizabeth City, Friday, Oct. 25. Donations raised by the tournament will allow Albemarle Family YMCA to offer free swim lessons to area children. Check-in is 11 a.m. and shotgun start tee-off is at noon. Team of four costs \$450, individuals are \$113, and mulligans are \$10 each with a limit of two per player. Register and payment due Oct. 15. Send to Jane Snyder, Albemarle Family YMCA, 1240 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, 27909 or email jsnyder@ymcashr.org.

### Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Google Docs Monday, Oct. 28; mouse and keyboarding on Tuesday, Oct. 29; Google Drive on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and PowerPoint on Thursday, Oct. 31. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

### Soil and water programs

The Northeast Ag Expo will sponsor a workshop for farmers on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. at the Pasquotank Extension Office in Elizabeth City. Attendees will learn from FSA, Soil and Water and NRCS about various available programs and deadlines as well as the resources these agencies offer area farmers. To register, contact the Perquimans Center of NC Extension at 252-426-5428.

### Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Halloween" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 29; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 31. All classes at 10 a.m.

### Landslide to perform

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Appreciation & Celebration Extravaganza featuring Landslide, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, at Sagos on the River Nov. 9 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Drew Gregory and Chris Betts will be guest performers. Tickets are \$100, corporate tables are \$900.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Julian Eure, 'What's Up', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C10CE1F92F4C28>



## Forest City woman organizes laundry brigade for utility workers

October 4, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: SCOTT CARPENTER scarpenter@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 775 Words OpenURL Link

FOREST CITY — In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, hundreds of emergency responders, law enforcement, rescue personnel, aid workers, and utility company employees descended on Rutherford County.

Tina Yelton, a retired public school teacher, thought about a lot of things after the storm passed, including the conditions the utility workers are enduring. She thought about her own son, who works for a utility company in Hickory.

And, she thought of the many, working to put Rutherford County infrastructure back together. That includes those who work for NeXGen, a new energy company that formed just over a month ago.

Tina's husband Jeff Yelton is Chief Finance Officer with NeXGen. The company contracts with larger utilities, when there is an emergency need for extra workers, as is the case with the many counties affected by Helene.

When the NeXGen workers deploy to an area in crisis, Tina says her husband helps make sure the personnel get all the support they need, in order to focus on their work.

The Yeltons were raised in Rutherford County, and now live in Forest City. While some of the linemen with NeXGen live here, most do not.

Just prior to the storm, NeXGen was positioned in Florida, thinking that area would take the brunt of the storm. But with Helene wreaking havoc in Rutherford and nearby counties, REA contracted with NeXGen, to help reconstruct power lines here.

"Trailers were brought in, where they are staying, about five per trailer," Tina said. "In talking with Jeff, I knew that there guys would not have an easy way, or have the time, to do laundry. And I just thought well, maybe that is something I could help with. All I had really planned, was making sure their laundry was done."

Tina's good intentions, turned into a major effort, involving dozens of other volunteers. She and her team are supporting linemen with NeXGen, as well as another electric energy company called Cruse, that is working in Rutherford County.

Each lineman is assigned a number, and given a laundry bag. Their clothes are put in their bag every couple of days. Tina and her volunteers collect the laundry bags, and either wash the clothes at their homes, or go to a commercial laundry, and then return the clothes to the workers.

Beyond that, Tina now stocks large bins for each of their sleeping trailers. These contain snacks like protein bars, cookies, energy drinks and other snacks, as well as personal hygiene products, and even over-the-counter pain and allergy medicine.

Also, when the workers gather for a nightly meal, Tina makes sure they have plenty of tasty desserts.

"I am not an extrovert at all," Tina said. "I never thought I would be doing something quite like this, involving so many people."

"But I am a good organizer," she continued. "That is a skill that I have. And I am so happy to be doing this."

The linemen themselves are happy with Tina and her team of volunteers. But Tina is also hearing directly from family members.

"These workers are of different ages. And some are the ages of my own adult children. I heard from one young man's mother, who said she is so thankful, so glad that we are helping take care of these guys," Tina said. "This whole experience is very humbling.

She is impressed and humbled by how eager people in Rutherford County have been to help with the laundry project. The support comes from people of all income levels. Some are her former students.

"I put it out on Facebook, explained what I was doing, and asked if anyone was interested in helping...The response was just amazing," Tina said.

Volunteers immediately offered to help with the clothes washing, some send money, some buy supplies. In all, Tina estimates about 150 individuals have been involved, including her two adult daughters.

Tina has long been a caring person. She is also known for giving small gifts, regularly to the daycare staff attended by her grandchildren. The caring heart of a teacher, remains, though she is retired from the teaching profession.

"All of these workers, the linemen, they are so appreciative. Most are far away from their own homes. So it makes them a little more comfortable while they work here," Tina said.

The crisis period, at least for the extra utility workers, will come to close in another week or two. At that time, Tina says whatever donated money, or supplies, will be then given to a local church or nonprofit that is continuing to be involved in storm relief efforts.

Tina is encouraging others to find ways to help their communities.

"There are a lot of people out there, doing good work, trying to help," Tina added. "Rutherford County is full of great people."

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

SCOTT CARPENTER scarpenter@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Forest City woman organizes laundry brigade for utility workers', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04C1AFA895A00>



# Links for donations and missing persons reports

October 4, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Helene | 51 Words OpenURL Link

According to Rutherford County Emergency Management, tax deductible monetary donations can be made to United way of Rutherford at www.unitedwayofrutherford.org, or to the RHI legacy foundation at www.rhilegacyfoundation.com. RHI will match donations up to \$50,000.

To support volunteer disaster recovery efforts, please email volunteer@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Missing persons reports can be made to EOC@rutherfordcountync.gov.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'Links for donations and missing persons reports', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C00D705198D648">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C00D705198D648</a>



## Four HFD personnel off to western NC

October 4, 2024 | Daily Dispatch, The (Henderson, NC) Author: Tyler Davis tdavis@henderson dispatch.com 252-436-2839 | Section: Archives | 575 Words OpenURL Link

HENDERSON — Early Friday morning, four city firefighters set off to McDowell County to lend a helping hand.

Emergency workers have access to a statewide radio frequency — Payne Watson recalled listening to some of the chatter from out west as officials were gauging Helene's impacts.

"I felt a tug in my heart," he said.

What with the dozens of agencies at every level assisting with the efforts out west, they felt the Henderson Fire Department had to do something.

There's a real brotherhood among firefighters, he explained.

The department wanted to go out and help, Charlie Mills recalled. Firefighters are trained for disaster situations like the one out west — there's no better opportunity to put that training to work and, in doing so, help their state and its people in their time of need.

It's tough out there, to say the least. Recalling what they heard on the airwaves, members of rescue crews in Asheville haven't been home in days, nor do they know if there's a home to which they can return.

Watson and Mills, along with compatriots Devin Sherrod and Colin Pruitt, will be working in McDowell County, which has been devastated by mudslides, according to a WRAL report. The fellows from Vance will work on an as needed basis and return this coming Wednesday.

"We're grateful for the city for allowing us to send people," said Chief Tim Twisdale. They've wanted to for past disaster situations but lacked the proper staffing. Nowadays, with all 42 positions filled, they can offer a greater degree of mutual aid.

In other fire-related news, fire prevention week begins Monday. That was the focus of a Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce event held at HFD's Dabney Drive station on Thursday.

The angle this year is smoke alarms — folks with a functioning one are 55% more likely to survive in the case of a fire, according to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Smoke alarms ought to be tested once a month and replaced entirely once a decade. When the batteries are close to dying, they chirp or beep every few minutes until those are replaced.

On Oct. 9, the HFD is hosting an open house at 211 Dabney Drive on smoke alarms from 5-8 p.m. Get ready for free food, truck tours and a fire extinguisher exhibition, at the very least.

At that same event, Ayana Fritz-Lewis and husband June Lewis spoke for a spell about their nonprofit organization Abria's Chase Foundation.

They lost two kids to a house fire and afterwards, founded the organization to promote fire safety and offer material and emotional support to others in their position. The idea is to ensure what they endured never happens again.

HVCC President Sandra Wilkerson brought them out to speak because fire prevention works, but sometimes a

 $\label{eq:disaster} \mbox{ disaster happens anyways} - \mbox{ such as what's happening out in western NC}.$ 

Abria's Chase will host a support group for kids dealing with grief — not necessarily fire-related grief — on Oct. 10, starting at 6 p.m. at their office at 205 Dabney Drive.

Returning to Thursday's event, Twisdale shared some interesting numbers. This year, HFD responded to 2,424 calls for service — the majority of which were medical calls.

On average they get eight calls every 24 hours. The department serves an area of only 8.6 square miles that contains 15,000 folks.

Vance County Fire Chief Chris Wright gave some remarks on the county department as well, and ended by saying there wasn't much more to say beyond: "Call us and we'll be there!"

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Tyler Davis tdavis@henderson dispatch.com 252-436-2839, 'Four HFD personnel off to western NC', *Daily Dispatch, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F7D6B3D4660">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C04F7D6B3D4660</a>>



## Pender County delivers over 70 tons of supplies to western North Carolina communities

October 4, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: The Daily News Staff | Section: News | 291 Words OpenURL Link

In a mobilization of Pender County community resources, more than 70 tons of essential supplies have been delivered this week to areas severely impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Over three days, 92 pallets of goods, including 100,000 bottles of water, were sent to distribution points in Black Mountain and Hendersonville, two regions hardest hit by the storm, the county said in a Thursday press release.

Thanks to the efforts of local volunteers, donors, and logistics teams, three transfer trucks successfully delivered food, water, medical supplies, and other necessities to address the urgent needs of affected residents. The community's generosity raised more than \$24,000, with all funds benefiting local relief organizations.

"We recognized the urgent need for emergency supplies in western North Carolina, and swiftly activated a plan to ensure they were delivered to those in need," said Pender EMS & Fire Chief Everett Baysden. "Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, we will be sending two to three more truckloads of supplies on Monday. At this time, we will no longer be accepting donations, allowing our staff to focus on local response efforts."

"These communities were devastated by Hurricane Helene, and we knew we had to act quickly to provide relief," added Pender County Fire Marshal Amy Burton. "The outpouring of support from Pender County has been overwhelming, and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed."

More than 20 residents and volunteers from various county departments are working at Pender EMS & Fire Station 1 in Burgaw, sorting and preparing additional supplies for shipment to WNC.

Additionally, multiple first responders from Pender County agencies are currently on the ground in WNC providing direct assistance.

Those looking to donate or help are encouraged to visit https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/hurricane-helene for the most updated and comprehensive list of trusted nonprofit organizations.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

The Daily News Staff, 'Pender County delivers over 70 tons of supplies to western North Carolina communities', *Daily News, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0120ADCFBEC00>



## Jacksonville Board of REALTORS delivers essential supplies to western North Carolina

October 4, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: The Daily News Staff | Section: News | 298 Words OpenURL Link

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina, the members of the Jacksonville Board of REALTORS have united in an effort to provide relief to those impacted.

The realtor community organized a supply drive to gather essential items for families and communities who have been left reeling in the wake of the storm, according to a Friday press release from the board.

On Wednesday, Jacksonville Board of REALTORS President-Elect Jeb Brown personally delivered the collected supplies, which included water, non-perishable foods, hygiene products, baby supplies, cleaning materials, and other critical necessities.

These donations were distributed to local shelters and relief centers in Banner Elk, where residents have been displaced and are facing the long process of recovery.

"We're proud to be a part of a community that steps up in times of need," Brown said in the release. "Hurricane Helene has had a devastating impact on our neighbors in the western part of the state, and as realtors, it's part of our duty to not only serve our clients, but also to support our fellow North Carolinians in times of crisis."

The supply drive, which ran from Sept. 30 through Oct. 1, saw overwhelming support from both realtors and the Jacksonville community, who contributed generously to the cause, the release said.

Local businesses also pitched in with donations, helping to make the drive a resounding success.

"We know the road to recovery is long, but we hope these supplies will provide some immediate comfort and help families get back on their feet," Brown added. "We are committed to continuing our support as the recovery efforts progress."

The Jacksonville Board of REALTORS extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who donated and volunteered, as well as to the first responders and local officials working tirelessly to assist those affected by Hurricane Helene.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

The Daily News Staff, 'Jacksonville Board of REALTORS delivers essential supplies to western North Carolina', *Daily News, The* (online), 4 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0120AE0E31140>