

This is what it will look like on the other side

October 19, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: PAT JOBE Columnist| Section: Archives | 402 Words OpenURL Link

This list will leave somebody out, but we're gonna get as close as we can. Adaville, Bethany, Bostic, Corinth, First Baptist Forest City, Florence, Green River Baptist Association, Harvest House, Jury Dobbins, Mount Lebanon, Mountain View, all these and more are Baptist churches who have stepped forward during the crisis of Helene. Missionary Wesleyan needs credit, too.

The list comes from Town and Country Inn manager Lisa Wilson, who oversees the comings and goings of the Spindale motel with the grace that only spirit can give.

Many of the churches on the list were involved in an effort to feed as many as 1,000 first responders after the storm.

While Chimney Rock and Lake Lure got so much of the damage, the rest of the county has been hit hard and responded nobly.

There has been nothing like it.

Rev. Travis McEntyre, who serves at both Harvest House Baptist and the United Way, was among a cadre of leaders who made the big feed happen. Several of the churches on the list provide Bible study and worship experiences for the approximately 62 children who live currently at Town and Country.

If you think living at Town and Country and surviving a hurricane have nothing to do with each other, please consider that surviving poverty is like surviving a constant hurricane.

And all of it, all of it was and is church folks doing what the Bible says they are supposed to do. When Jesus said "I was hungry and you fed me," he wasn't kidding around.

It is what things will look like on the other side. Everybody will be doing all we can to help and celebrate each other. It's a great way to live.

Wilson referred to them as "classmates from East Rutherford High School, Class of 1982." That list included McEntyre and Jon Appling, who made a generous donation to cover a truckload of supplies that went to the mountains and Kevin Heath who fed many.

Wilson emphasized that none of the work was done to see their names in the paper, but she thought it would be nice.

It is nice. But it is also extraordinary.

Beyond the churches and teacher groups who have already been recognized, there have been hundreds of people who cleared roads as private citizens, checked on neighbors, helped with rescues, shared generators, delivered hot meals, and more.

Wilson said, "Several of our classmates showed up and helped, true caring people, always rising to the occasion." Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

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Rutherford County Land Transfers

October 19, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Archives | 1178 Words OpenURL Link

Oct. 7 — 11

Marshal Allen Deval, Milena Astrid Canales Rivas, Milena Astrid Canales Rivas, Milena Canales to Marshall Blaine Robbins; Logan Store; 1.50 AC; US 64 Highway; \$500 tax; \$250,000 value. Jason Anthony Powell, Pam Powell, Robert Jeffery Powell, Karen Powell to Wendy Müller, James Müller; B H Wilkins; Cool Springs; 2 TR; 0.59 AC; Walker Street; \$310 tax; \$155,000 value. Anthony J. Walker, Melissa K. Wlaker to Christopher J. Luchuk, Lisa M. Solkoske; Deer Run Farm; Logan Store; \$760 tax; \$380,000 value.Rheugenia P. Burnette, Stephen Todd Burnette, Amanda L Burnette, Brian Chad Burnette, Nancy M. Burnette, Michael G. Billingsley, Anne B. Billingsley to Michael G. Billingsley, Anne B. Billingsley; Ellenboro; Colfax; 1.20 AC; Hoopaugh Avenue/ Spring Street; \$5 tax; \$2,500 value. Sue Sparks Family Real Estate, LLC, Linda S. Haire, The James C. Sparks Testamentary Trust, James C. Sparks Testamentary Trust, James C. Sparks, Phyllis Sparks, The Ray Marshall Sparks Revocable Trust, Ray Marshall Sparks Revocable Trust, Ray Marshall Sparks Trust, Kyle Sparks to RD3/4, L.L.C., Haywood Equity Group Limited Partnership; Undivided Interest; Forest City; 2 TR; 1.57 AC; 3.260 AC; \$1,200 tax; \$600,000 value.Kathy W. Conner to Douglas Zuendt, Mary Zuendt; Union Mills; 5.48 AC; Morgan Ammons Drive; \$1,230 tax; \$615,000 value.George O. Faber, Kenna L. Faber to Justin Robert Hummon, Kimberly Dawn Wilson; Bostic; Colfax; 2.46 AC; Terry Road; \$150 tax; \$75,000 value. Thomas J. Davis, Gloria J. Davis to James E. Lawson, Gunavathy Schoneboom; Morgan; 2 TR; 7.626 AC; 8.38 AC; \$1,050 tax; \$525,000 value. Forest Pine Properties, LLC, Benjamin Beshears, Katheryn Beshears to Tasha K. Smith, Thelma Smith; Creeping Cedar Acres; High Shoals; 2.00 AC; \$66 tax; \$33,000 value. David Keith Langley to Leslie Buckner Flack, Ryan Neil Flack; Bostic; Golden Valley; Luckadoo Mountain Road; \$0 tax.Renee Hollifield, Jeffery Scott Toms, Mark C. Toms to Kendra Brigmon; Rutherfordton; 2 TR; 6.93 AC; 3.00 AC; \$538 tax; \$269,000 value. William Stephen Gamble, Sylvia B. Gamble to Walter C. Vosburgh, Faith S. Vosburgh; Spindale; 2 Parcels; Kentucky Street; \$0 tax.Community Empowerment Project, Community Development Corporation, Stanley McEntire to County of Rutherford; Forest City/ Cool Springs; 3 TR; Hardin Road/ High Chapperal Street; \$0 tax.Debra Stallings to Alberto Garcia Lopez, Alberto Garcia Lopez, Jessica Lopez, Lopez; Rutherfordton; Union; 2 TR; Baber Road; \$740 tax; \$370,000 value.John A. Gillott, John A. Gillott Living Trust, The John A. Gillott Living Trust, John A. Gillott Living Trust to The Leboeuf Amended and Restated Trust, Leboeuf Amended and Restated Trust, The Leboeuf Living Trust, Leboeuf Living Trust; Chimney Rock; 0.06 AC; \$20 tax; \$10,000 value.Betty Jo Parker, Joann Morrow Parker, Betty M. Parker, Sheila Whiteside, Jimmy D. Whiteside, Aaron Hampton Parker to Sheila Parker Whiteside, Jimmy Dean Whiteside; Rutherfordton; Union; Mustang Trail; \$0 tax.Pastime Properties LLC, Robert F. Stealey, II to Fairfield Mountains Property Owners Association, Inc.; Quail Ridge; Lake Lure; Chimney Rock; \$0 tax.Jonathan B. Hinkle to Master Builders & Dock Co.; Chimney Rock; 2.58 AC; \$754 tax; \$377,000 value.HR Enterprise, LLC, Henrique Rezende to Beatriz A. Gonzalez, Joshua Gonzalez; Forest City/ Cool Springs; Parmer Street/ South Church Street; \$410 tax; \$205,000 value. Forest Pine Properties, LLC, Benjamin Beshears, Katheryn Beshears to Natasha Helene Garrison; Creeping Cedar Acres; High Shoals; 3.95 AC; \$84 tax; \$42,000 value.Constance C. Lipscomb, Constance Lipscomb, Rachel N. Hamilton, Glenn Hamilton, Portia N. Watkins, Ray Watkins, Spaniel Nathaniel Nero, Jr., Arevia Nero to Jonathan D. Crawford, Angela S Crawford; Rutherfordton; 0.47 AC; East Court Street; \$80 tax; \$40,000 value. Jacqueline Lorraine Visage Wilson, Jacqueline Lorraine Visage Wilson, Lorraine Visage Wilson, Estate of Kathryn Janice Hawk Young, Kathryn Janice Hawk Young, Kathryn Janice Hawk Young, Kathryn Ann Visage Young, Kathryn Ann Visage Young to Jeffrey Todd Bennick, Jeffrey Todd Bennick Revocable Trust; Cool Springs; Pleasant Grove Church Road; \$290 tax; \$145,000 value.Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to Michael Ray Guffey; Henrietta; High Shoals; Carefree Drive/ Henrietta Street; \$190 tax; \$95,000 value.Bruce e. Baynard to Martin Scott Martin; Logan Store; 1 AC; South Mountain Road/ Depriest Road; \$290 tax; \$145,000 value. Forest Pine Properties, LLC, Benjamin Beshears, Katheryn Beshears to Wilbert Stevens Barefoot; Creeping Cedar Acres; High Shoals; 3.70 AC; \$90 tax; \$45,000 value. George Stanley Ledford to George Stanley Ledford, Joyce Maria Ledford, George and Joyce Ledford Living Trust; Life Estate; Ellenboro; Colfax; 44,1000 Square Feet; \$0

tax.Nicholas A. Fantasia, Susan VanAlstyne to Andrew Johnson; Hearthstone Ridge; Gilkey; \$670 tax; \$335,000 value.Brendan McEnnerney, Heather McEnnerney to Janet Sims-Wood, Janet Sims Wood; Forest City; Sulphur Springs; 2.89 AC; Iverson Road/ Birch Hutchins Road; \$513 tax; \$256,500 value. Forest Pine Properties, LLC, Benjamin Beshears, Katheryn Beshears to Linda Ann Dennis; Creeping Cedar Acres; High Shoals; 2.04 AC; \$60 tax; \$30,000 value. Forest Pine Properties, LLC, Benjamin Beshears, Katheryn Beshears to Linda Ann Dennis; Creeping Cedar Acres; High Shoals; 2.06 AC; \$70 tax; \$35,000 value. Equity Trust Company, William R. Ware IRA, William R. Ware, George M. Ware IRA, Georga M. Ware to Gary Rollins, Heather Rollins; Undivided Interest; Mooresboro; High Shoals; 4.35 AC; State Line Road; \$85 tax; \$42,500 value. Ernest L. Witten, Beverly A. Witten to Lindsay Fairhurst Myers, Ashley Cuyler Myers; Union Mills; 10.886 AC; Camp Creek Road; \$600 tax; \$300,000 value. Michael R. White, Denise Cole White to Andrew C. Norville, Brooke C. Norville; Rutherfordton; Sulphur Springs; 25.012 AC; Dewitt Owens Road/ Dark Corner Road; \$370 tax; \$185,000 value.CMH Homes, Inc., Derek Vicks to Fallon La'Shay Ruff; Sulphur Springs; 0.89 AC; Big Island Road; \$442 tax; \$221,000 value.Dana L. Anderson, Cindy M. Anderson to Gregory Scott Parker, Amy Sue Parker; Millwood; Gilkey; \$950 tax; \$475,000 value. John Perry McDowell, Rosa Lee McDowell to Erika Bradley; Rutherfordton; 2 TR; 2.36 AC; 2.23 AC; Bonaire Lane; \$300 tax; \$150,000 value.Mark Taylor, Mark R. Taylor, Laura Taylor, Laura G. Taylor to Mark R. Taylor, Laura G. Taylor, The Mark and Laura Taylor Living Trust, Mark and Laura Taylor Living Trust; Black Rock Falls; Green Hill; \$0 tax.Jeffrey Scott Sappenfield, Patricia J. Sappenfield, Craig Sappenfield, Barbara G. Sappenfield to Kenneth Dellinger, Betty Dellinger; Forest City/ Cool Springs; 12 AC; Rose Park Drive/ Butler Road; \$1,050 tax; \$525,000 value.Mark Taylor, Mark R. Taylor, Laura Taylor, Laura G. Taylor to Mark R. Taylor, Laura G. Taylor, The Mark and Laura Taylor Living Trust, Mark and Laura Taylor Living Trust; Black Rock Falls; Green Hill; \$0 tax.Michael T. Guay, Michelle L. Guay, Guay Family Revocable Trust Agreement, The Guay Family Revocable Trust, Guay Family Revocable Trust to Jay Christopher Smith, Jamie Sue Smith; Bostic; Logan Store; 7.21 AC; Walker Dairy Road; \$900 tax; \$450,000 value. Sondra H Childres, Robert Steve Childres, Barbara H. Connell, Steve Connell, Susan H. Davis, Gary Davis to Toni C. Rios; Ellenboro; 0.75 AC; Sawyer Trail/ Walker Store Road; \$0 tax.Larry H. Guffey, Shay Guffey, Shay A. Guffey to Shane Anthony Overcash, Debra Cryderman Overcash; Union Mills; Camp Creek; 47.601 AC; Camp Creek Road; \$675 tax; \$337,500 value.Logan B. Welch, Gabriela C. Welch to Brandy White; Wilkins Forest; Green Hill; 2.02 AC; \$926 tax; \$463,000 value.Jerrell S. Bedford, Jr., Deborah J. Bedford to Logan B. Welch, Gabriela C. Welch; Forest City/ Cool Springs; 3.0 AC; Brookridge Drive; \$1,380 tax; \$690,000 value.

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Gene Lyons: Forecast: Extreme conspiracy theories with heavy lies

October 19, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 781 Words OpenURL Link

Chances are quite good that yet another major hurricane will come ashore in the United States sometime before the 2024 presidential election is decided, and that it will afflict mainly Republican areas of the country. And if that should happen, large parts of the country will go even crazier than they already are.

And that is seriously crazy. Barking mad.

No particular expertise is required to see how these things could happen. We're still in the midst of hurricane season, after all, and 2024 has been a particularly active one so far. Also, if you glance at a map, Southern coastal regions are where Republicans live. Damn few Democratic strongholds in the gulf states. Houston, New Orleans — that's about it. You'd think even a dunce like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene could figure that out.

But no, the Georgia Republican thinks it's all a big conspiracy. She professes to believe that "they" control the weather. "They" presumably being the same mysterious cabal responsible for "Jewish space lasers" that caused massive wildfires in California a while back.

What's more, she has lots of company. Writing in The Atlantic, Charlie Warzel documented how crackpot conspiracy theories swept the internet. Infowars' Alex Jones alleged that hurricanes Helene and Milton were "weather weapons" deployed against American patriots by the U.S. government, i.e. the Biden administration.

"Scrolling through these platforms," Warzel wrote, "watching them fill with false information, harebrained theories, and doctored images — all while panicked residents boarded up their houses, struggled to evacuate, and prayed that their worldly possessions wouldn't be obliterated overnight — offered a portrait of American discourse almost too bleak to reckon with head-on."

Remember when Vice President Al Gore used to carry on about "the information superhighway" that was going to usher in a new age of enlightenment? Well, that's not what happened.

Instead of roadside shacks at the edge of town housing palm readers, tarot card mavens, horoscope experts and other solitary purveyors of mystical mumbo jumbo and superstition, we now have websites peddling delusional nonsense to thousands. Sheer folly has gotten organized.

And the politicians are not far behind. Donald Trump, JD Vance and Fox News have all peddled the lie that FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) is offering only one-time payments of \$750 to homeowners who have lost their property due to the hurricanes, and that the money must be repaid.

None of that is true. Republican governors in the affected states have been unanimous in praising the federal response.

Elon Musk, owner of X, claimed — utterly without evidence, because it's absolutely false — that FEMA was "actively blocking shipments and seizing goods and services locally and locking them away ... It's very real and scary how much they have taken control to stop people helping."

Musk's post has been read a reported 40 million times.

If the United States is going to deport immigrants, maybe we should ship him back to South Africa.

Anyway, as a consequence of Musk's and Trump's lies, crazy people have been harassing and threatening to shoot FEMA workers trying to deliver lifesaving supplies to hurricane victims. Other idiots are threatening to kill TV meteorologists for debunking "weaponized weather" fables.

It's enough to make a newspaper columnist feel superfluous. I used to get death threats all the time. Haven't had one for months now. Perhaps I should become an "influencer."

Anyway, hurricane or no hurricane, when and by whom will the 2024 election be decided? It's not necessary to use your Marjorie Taylor Greene Magic Decoder Ring(TM) to understand that the signs and portents aren't good. Is there any chance that candidate Trump would concede defeat? I would say that there is no chance at all.

The man has been visibly "decompensating," as psychologists say, for months now. During his increasingly chaotic "rallies," Trump can scarcely keep a coherent thought in his head. It's all sharks, Hannibal Lecter and name-calling Kamala Harris now. At an appearance near Philadelphia the other night, he quit talking and stood listening to recorded music for fully 40 minutes. Just stood there.

That's a long damn time. Members of the Trump Cult pretended it was a genius stroke, because that's what cults do. There is pretty much no behavior so bizarre that it can't be rationalized as an expression of sheer genius. Adepts surrender to reality quietly, and one at a time. Meanwhile, Trump is much further gone than Joe Biden has been at his most confused.

That doesn't mean Trump can't try to incite an insurrection if he loses come Nov. 5. But it surely means the effort would fail.

But what do I know? I'm one of those "radical left lunatics" the great man blames for betraying America. An elitist. A guy who believes what the National Weather Service tells him.

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Ukraine refugees fall victim to Helene - Family fled war, settled into a new life in NC

October 19, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Christopher Cann; USA TODAY | Section: News | 1001 Words Page: A7 OpenURL Link

For two weeks, Lysa Gindinova clung to hope by thinking about her family's harrowing journey out of Ukraine. She tried to believe family members escaped Hurricane Helene's floodwaters before being swept away, just as they had escaped the bombarded city of Kherson in the first months of Russia's invasion.

But that hope fell apart when a North Carolina sheriff presented her family with a gold earring a search team found on the body of a dead woman. Gindinova immediately recognized it as a prized possession of her aunt, Anastasiia Novitnia Segen.

"Everyone stood quiet," Gindinova told USA TODAY. "That was the moment when there was nothing else we could come up with, no crazy scenario. There was proof they didn't make it."

A search party recovered Segen's body about 10 miles from the family's home in the mountains outside Asheville. About a mile away, authorities found the body of her husband, Dmytro, who was identified through a fingerprint. Search operations are still underway for the Segens' 13-year-old son, Yevhenii, and Anastasiia's mother, Tatiana Novitnia.

In North Carolina, at least 81 people were unaccounted for as of Tuesday, Gov. Roy Cooper said, adding he expected the number to fluctuate.

Until the Russian invasion, the Segen family enjoyed a tranquil life in Kherson, an industrial port city near the Black Sea. Dmytro worked in construction and earned a reputation as an expert handyman. Anastasiia occupied herself with her son, Yevhenii, who from a young age showed great talent in engineering, often reviving relatives' computers and gaming consoles that were thought to be unsalvageable.

Novitnia tended to her large acreage of farmland and often spent her evenings knitting socks or crafting complex cross-stitch patterns of landscapes, animals and ballerinas.

But when Kherson became the first major Ukrainian city seized by Russian forces in February 2022, the Segens packed their car with their most cherished belongings and fled.

They first drove across western Russia, a dangerous trip during wartime in which they constantly feared a stop by Russian authorities. They managed to get through the border into Latvia, then crossed Lithuania to Poland, where they stayed at the home of a family friend. For months they navigated bureaucracy.

"It was a stressful time," said Gindinova, who lived near the Segens in Ukraine before moving to New York in 2016.

"We didn't know for a long time if they would be able to come here to the U.S."

In the summer of 2022, the Segens were accepted into a U.S. humanitarian program offering temporary stays for Ukrainian refugees, Gindinova said. They moved into a manufactured home a quarter-mile from Anastasiia's sister in the small Blue Ridge Mountain community of Micaville. Outside, they hung two flags: one American, one Ukrainian.

The house, raised several feet off the ground, sat just meters from the South Toe River, where the family took up the local customs of swimming and trout fishing.

Dmytro worked for a local heating, ventilation and air conditioning company, and Yevhenii enrolled in public school. Anastasiia cared for her son and mother but also took up jobs cleaning nearby homes and Airbnbs. Novitnia made a small garden, nothing compared to her garden in Ukraine but still large enough to grow a variety of crops including parsley, onions, garlic and bell peppers.

The river, which the Segens could hear from their bedrooms, reminded Novitnia of the Dnipro River near Kherson.

"She never wanted to leave Ukraine, but when she came down to North Carolina, she was shocked," Gindinova said. "She loved the river and the views."

By the time Helene made landfall Sept. 26, days of heavy rain had already soaked much of the southern Appalachian mountains. Outside the Segens' home, the South Toe River had begun to rise.

The last time Gindinova spoke to her aunt was around 6 p.m. that day.

"She said, 'The water in the river is rising,'" Gindinova recalled. "She made a joke that she hopes their Titanic – referring to their house – is going to hold."

Early the next morning, the river surged nearly 6 feet in seven hours before the gauge was damaged.

Nearby, Anastasiia's sister and brother-in-law heard what sounded like a train. The couple grabbed their two children and fled out the back door to a house higher on the mountain.

There, they watched as water inundated their two-story home. Within hours it reached the top of the first floor and hurled all their furniture and appliances downstream. The river pulverized a nearby bridge and swallowed entire homes, sheds and vehicles.

For several days, Gindinova didn't hear from the Segens or her other relatives in Micaville.

She called out of work. At first she spent hours at her computer, listening to newscasts, connecting with people who were scouring neighborhoods for survivors and posting their names on Facebook, and calling rescue teams as well as local, state and federal authorities.

Hearing nothing, she flew to North Carolina with her mother, determined to search for the Segens herself. The luscious green mountain landscapes she'd seen during family trips looked more like war zones, she said: washing machines dangling from trees limbs, streets in which all the houses were blown out or completely flattened.

No trace of the Segen family home survived save for the concrete blocks it sat on. The garden, the flags, everything was gone. Gindinova tried to search, but it wasn't safe. And then, the earning and the fingerprint.

Gindinova still believes there's a chance Yevhenii will be discovered alive. "It's hard to let go of hope when the body isn't found yet," she said.

She has tried to maintain resolve by focusing on the logistics of the continuing search for Yevhenii and Novitnia and potential end-of-life ceremonies – instead of thinking directly about the Segens and sinking into despair.

"I don't think it's settled in all the way, what has happened," she said. "But what can we do? We just need to cherish their memory as a great, happy family."

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NCAT's Martin to receive state's highest civilian honor

October 19, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: NANCY MCLAUGHLIN Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 308 Words Page: 3A

OpenURL Link

GREENSBORO - Recently retired N.C. A&T Chancellor Harold Martin Sr., is one of eight honorees including NASA astronaut Christina Koch, to receive the state's highest civilian honor this year, the North Carolina Award.

The eight including Martin, whose tenure saw A&T rise to be ranked the number one HBCU, or historically black college, in the country and to be named one of the best of all colleges across the country for the money by various groups, will receive the honor in November from Gov. Roy Cooper.

All proceeds from ticket sales for the awards ceremony will go to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from Hurricane Helene.

The award was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to recognize significant contributions to the state and nation in the fields of fine arts, literature, public service and science. The awards have been presented annually since 1964 and this year marks the 60th anniversary of the awards ceremony.

The other honorees are The Avett Brothers (Scott Avett, Seth Avett and Bob Crawford) for Fine Arts, Frank A. Bruni Jr. for Literature, William Henry Curry for Fine Arts, Thomas W. Earnhardt for Science, Koch for Science.

"Over the past six decades, the North Carolina Award has been given to many remarkable North Carolinians," said Reid Wilson, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. "This year's awardees join an illustrious list of people who have benefited North Carolina through their impressive accomplishments in public service, literature, science, and the arts. This year's event will benefit our neighbors in Western North Carolina who were harmed by the devastating storm."

Since the award's inception, more than 300 notable men and women have been honored by the state of North Carolina. Past recipients include William Friday, James Taylor, Etta Baker, Charles Kuralt, Maya Angelou, Lee Smith, Eric Church, Selma Burke, and Branford Marsalis.

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Newton writer: In aftermath of Helene, Hickory was hub of hope

October 19, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: Tammy Wilson | Section: Column | 810 Words

OpenURL Link

I never lost power during Hurricane Helene.

When friends and family called me about the hurricane, I had to tell them I was extremely lucky.

The storm was bad. A lot of North Carolinians lost family and friends, their home, their cherished belongings, their pets. Some saw their real estate literally washed away.

But I can't claim any of those stories.

I've tried to imagine the terror of seeing a wall of water crashing toward me, sweeping away my home and neighbors, pets, virtually everything I own.

Being a near miss — or even a far miss — leaves its mark. Last week a Facebooker from Louisiana said she understood. She lived through Katrina, and could relate to the relief of being spared, but, at the same time, the overwhelming feeling of anxiety, numbness and profound sadness.

That's how it is with trauma. It takes different forms, and in one way or another, we've all been traumatized by being so close to destruction. In the end, I don't know why we were spared and why the folks west of here were not.

Perhaps TV's Mister Rogers responded best when he explained disasters in a way kids could understand. When there are scary things in the news, he said, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

In the wake of Helene, ordinary people dropped everything to come to North Carolina's rescue. Men and women, young and old, helped turn Hickory into a hub of hope. Private pilots, many of them ex-military, arrived with their helicopters to make air drops to hard-hit areas. Community members rallied to organize places to bring necessary supplies and cash to support the effort.

On my way to the collection point in the parking lot of Appalachian State University in Hickory, I found myself behind a horse trailer and a flatbed. On the flatbed was a generator and power tools. In the trailer were cases of bottled water, packages of diapers, toilet paper and more. Obviously, he was on a relief mission. Had I not been caught by a traffic light I would have given the driver a thumbs up.

Surely Helene will be one of those calamities by which we mark time.

Two days after Helene's wretched visit, I opened my T-shirt drawer to see, neatly folded, my shirt from Lake Lure. I remember the day I bought it. Cousin Renee was visiting from Illinois and wanted to see where "The Last of the Mohicans" was filmed. She's a Daniel Day-Lewis fan and wanted to tour the famous waterfall.

We enjoyed a sandwich lunch, poked around the Lake Lure Inn, and browsed the gift shop.

Later, we took the boat ride of the lake with its narration of how the lake was formed in Hickory Nut Gorge into a place where "summer" is a verb. The Morse family, who founded Carolina Mountain Power Company, paid to build a dam on the Broad River to create the lake back in 1927.

Our boat captain indulged us in movie lore, too, including spots used to shoot "Dirty Dancing," the film that made stars of Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. We drifted past Firefly Cove and the stone steps where Jennifer Grey

practiced her dance steps in cutoff shorts.

It's not that I have spent that much time at Lake Lure, but I've made enough visits to envy those who have. It had cottagey surroundings, stunning views, and laid-back ambiance. It was a place lost in time, a poignant reminder of a time and place that's been erased.

Lake Lure sprouted up as a tourist attraction with a striped awning vibe. The affluent built lakeside cottages with screened porches and walls of windows. They pondered the looking glass water and lore about the outline of the mountain ridge that looks like a sleeping lady.

My first visit to Lake Lure was about 30 years ago, when I attended a conference at the Inn. I remember imagining how the hotel would have appeared during the Gatsby era. In fact, Gatsby's creator, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and wife Zelda stayed there back in the day.

A recent attraction was the Flowering Bridge. When it became known that the state would decommission the 1925 bridge, a group of citizens with green thumbs urged the structure to be saved and used as a garden space. They called it the Flowering Bridge. They say it attracted as many as 18,000 visitors a year.

Two years ago, the garden was expanded for pet owners and their furry friends to snatch a chewable from the Doggie Stick Library and enjoy a drink of water. Pet owners, wracked in grief, would visit the Rainbow Bridge, and pay tribute to departed pets, placing collars on the bannisters. People came from far and wide to memorialize pets that had passed on.

No one could imagine that a monster storm could churn its way northward and demolish the Flower Bridge, much less Lake Lure itself.

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FEMA opens disaster recovery centers

October 19, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: BILLY CHAPMAN wchapman@hickoryrecord.com| Section: News| 179 Words OpenURL Link

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has opened disaster recovery centers in Caldwell and McDowell counties

The recovery centers can assist those aff ected by Hurricane Helene with applying for assistance and finding out what kind of assistance is available.

Residents from disaster areas can meet face to face with FEMA representatives at the sites. Residents can learn about financial assistance that may include money for basic home repairs, personal property losses, childcare, transportation and other needs. In addition to the 28 areas in the state already eligible for disaster assistance, FEMA announced Wednesday that residents of Iredell County and 11 other North Carolina counties were eligible for assistance with uninsured damages.

The center in Caldwell County is located at 2345 Morganton Blvd., Lenoir, at the Caldwell County Health and Human Services Center.

The center in McDowell County is located at the McDowell County Senior Center, 100 Spaulding Road in Marion.

Both disaster centers are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information about FEMA disaster assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov.

Billy Chapman is a reporter with the Hickory Daily Record. wchapman@hickoryrecord.com

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Cross country rivals split 1st two races

October 19, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: JASON KOON jason.koon@lee.net| Section: News| 374 Words OpenURL Link

Hickory Christian Academy's Cate Hata jumped out to an early lead over University Christian's Madison Sledge in the Foothills Athletic Conference Championship meet on Monday.

It's the second time that has happened in the past two weeks. At the county race on Oct. 2, Hata held on to her early advantage, finishing nearly a minute ahead of her rival.

This time, however, Sledge chased Hata down to win by 7 seconds. She finished in 19:14.42. Hata clocked in at 19:21.30.

"So, it's basically one round to each of them with the state meet ahead," said Cate's coach Jon Hata.

Hata and University Christian High School coach Jim Frizzell have both been predicting a one-two finish for Sledge and Hata at the state meet on Oct. 25. The big question: Who will be first?

The state meet was originally slated to take place in Hendersonville. It has been moved to Cary due to the impact of Hurricane Helene on western North Carolina. Frizzell said he believes the adjustments he made for Sledge in the run up to the conference meet will give her a good chance to win her third meeting with Hata and take home the state title.

"We feel pretty good about the course in Cary," Frizzell said. "We had a good showing there last year. We've had a number of PRs on that course. There is one pretty good hill at the end line that they have to cover twice. We feel pretty good about how we've prepared for it."

Hata and Sledge are not the only two runners from Hickory Christian and University Christian who will be in the hunt for a state title on Oct. 25. Hickory Christian sophomore Ben Graham won the boys' race with a time of 17:08.38. He finished 12 second ahead of University Christian's Conner Frizzell.

University Christian's Ellie Adams finished third in the conference meet at 20:37.82. She has been improving steadily this season and seems poised to make a good showing at the state meet.

Hickory Christian seventh-grader Madelyn Jane Carter finished fourth with a time of 21:09.71. Seventhand eighth-graders are allowed to compete at the varsity level in the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA).

Jason Koon is the Sports editor for the Hickory record and can be reached at jason.koon@lee.net.

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JASON KOON jason.koon@lee.net, 'Cross country rivals split 1st two races', *Hickory Daily Record* (online), 19 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4EC9D3218DC10



Meat recall expands after listeria found

October 19, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 220 Words OpenURL Link

A nationwide recall of meat and poultry products potentially contaminated with listeria expanded this past week to nearly 12 million pounds and now includes ready-to-eat meals sent to U.S. schools, restaurants and major retailers, federal officials said.

The updated recall includes prepared salads, burritos and other foods sold at stores including Costco, Trader Joe's, Target, Walmart and Kroger. The meat used in those products was processed at a Durant, Oklahoma, manufacturing plant operated by BrucePac, which sells precooked meat and poultry to industrial, foodservice and retail companies.

Routine testing found listeria bacteria in samples of BrucePac chicken, officials with the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

US ECONOMY: Retail sales rose 0.4% from August to September, the Commerce Department said Thursday, up from 0.1% the previous month and the third straight increase. Also on Thursday, the Labor Department reported that applications for jobless claims fell 19,000 to 241,000 for the week of Oct. 12, below the 262,000 analysts were expecting.

HURRICANE AID: The federal government approved nearly \$2 billion in assistance across six states to help people hit hard by hurricanes Helene and Milton, the White House said Wednesday.

DRUGSTORE CLOSURES: Walgreens announced Tuesday that it will close about 1,200 locations over the next three years as the drugstore chain seeks to turn around a struggling U.S. business that contributed to a \$3 billion quarterly loss.

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Staff Writer, 'Meat recall expands after listeria found', *Hickory Daily Record* (online), 19 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4EC9D0066C880



What's next for Old Fort?

October 19, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: ERIC MILLSAPS emillsaps@hickoryrecord.com| Section: News| 358 Words OpenURL Link

When will Old Fort's sewer system be repaired?

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes said Wednesday the answer lies in three more questions:

How will the system be repaired?

When can it be repaired? What will it cost to repair the system? Snypes said the sewer system was badly damaged by the floodwaters brought on by the rains of Hurricane Helene.

Snypes was in her Old Fort office on Wednesday working with officials from across the state, including Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, a North Carolina coastal town that has recovered from several hurricanes.

Zapp said the storm flooded the Old Fort sewer plant, with as much as 15 feet of water inside the plant. The plant is currently operating on a standby generator, and many sewer lines were damaged in the storm, Zapp said.

He added that Old Fort does not yet have a count on the number of water and sewer lines damaged by flooding.

Snypes noted 95% of water customers have service restored and the boil advisory for the town should end soon.

What will it cost to repair water and sewer issues in Old Fort? Zapp said the town's total annual budget is less than \$2 million. He said repairs could end up being \$10 million or more.

What about the debris?

Jeff Parker owns a number of buildings in Old Fort. His frustration was showing Wednesday as workers repaired the building that houses the Purrfectly Pampered Pet Spa.

"It makes no sense that so much debris is still sitting around," he said when asked about what needs to happen next in Old Fort. He said crews had hauled off 60 loads of debris but there was still much to be done.

He called the current situation a nightmare.

Mayor Snypes said Old Fort is working with McDowell County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials on the cleanup. Zapp said help is here and the next step is to decide where the material will go.

He said that having the Corps of Engineers on hand to help is "unprecedented."

Snypes said no timeline has been finalized for the removal of debris. Zapp said the town lost a trash truck and other vehicles in the flooding.

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ERIC MILLSAPS emillsaps@hickoryrecord.com, 'What's next for Old Fort?', *Hickory Daily Record* (online), 19 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4EC9D2D4C92A8



Forsyth among counties eligible for FEMA assistance

October 19, 2024 | High Point Enterprise (NC) Author: NEWS STAFF| Section: Local | 279 Words OpenURL Link

Homeowners and renters in Forsyth County and 11 other North Carolina counties (Cabarrus, Cherokee, Graham, Iredell, Lee, Nash, Rowan, Stanly, Surry, Union and Yadkin) who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Tropical Storm Helene are now eligible to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster assistance.

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs.

The quickest way to apply is to go online to DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply using the FEMA App for mobile devices or calling toll-free (800) 621-3362.

The telephone line is open every day, and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance — YouTube.

If you applying for FEMA assistance you will need the following:

A current phone number where you can be contacted. Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying. Your Social Security number. A general list of damage and losses. Banking information if you choose direct deposit. If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name. If you have homeowners, renters' or flood insurance, you should file a claim as soon as possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance.

If your policy does not cover all your disaster expenses, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

For the latest information about North Carolina recovery, visit Hurricane Helene NC DPS or fema.gov/disaster/4827.

One can also follow FEMA on X at @femaregion4 or on Facebook at facebook.com/fema.

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It is well with my soul

October 19, 2024 | Laurinburg Exchange, The (NC) Author: Rev. George Ellis Pastor's Corner | Section: lifestyle lifestyle-religion | 927 Words OpenURL Link

Today at some churches we sang one of the most popular hymns ever written. It was written by Horatio Spaffold after several traumatic events in his life.

The first was the death of his only son in 1871 at the age of 4, shortly followed by the great Chicago fire which ruined him financially (he was a lawyer.) In 1873, Horatio had planned to travel to Europe with his family via boat but sent them ahead while he was delayed on business. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sailing ship and all four of his daughters died. Only his wife Anna survived.

Shortly afterward, as Horatio traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write the song's words as the ship he was on passed near where his daughters had died. The family later had three more children, one of whom (a son) died in infancy. So, to recap their lives as parents: eight children born, six of whom died young. We can't even fathom that. They moved to Jerusalem and helped found a missionary group called the American Colony. The group later became the subject of a Nobel prize-winning book. How could they do this? Because God saw them through!

Personally, I saw a picture of the original hymn manuscript with the original words that he wrote this song on. His words from this song have blessed countless people down through the years — this is GRACE in action — and a testimony that what God brings us to, no matter how bad... He will see us through!

We remember the words that read like this, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like SEA billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know, it is well, it is well, with my soul."... It said, "Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well, It is well with my soul!"

Can you imagine community the pain that this father felt? When his ship of life started to sink, he anchored himself to his anchor Jesus Christ and he did it while the sun was yet shining. It kept him from sinking.

Friends, to all of us I say today, we don't know when our ship will be struck and began to sink. We need to make sure that our anchor is gripped around a solid rock, and make sure that, that rock is Jesus!

Folks, How can you handle having lost four daughters at one time when some people have a problem losing one child? you need to have an anchor and it is this that kept Horatio in that moment and caused him to write the words of the hymn and say in spite of this turmoil and tragedy in his spirit "It is well with my soul!" This doesn't mean that he was glad that it happened. He wasn't happy that tragedy had come into his life. He didn't welcome that which broke his heart and no doubt caused tears to run down his face. That no doubt tore his wife to pieces and broke her heart to have this many losses in one lifetime but no doubt he could say like Job, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15)."

How many this morning can be a witness, you can't even fathom in your mind what you or me would do if this kind of misfortune happened to us? It's hard for you to even think about it, but we need to realize that according to John 1:16, there is "grace for grace" giving to us daily. This means that whatever we are called to face each and every day, there is grace given to us for it. We need to acknowledge the same GRACE that brought us to the spot where we are right now is PROOF that we can go through anything if God gives the grace to go through it!

I am so glad to be saved this morning because through salvation life has been so different. I have had the pleasure of walking with my blessed savior these many years. "I've been up and I've been down. I've had some good days,

and I've had some bad days. I've had losses, had to say goodbye to people that I love; and some of you have as well.

But, at the end of the day, because God has been faithful, we can truly say sometimes with tears running down our faces, "It is well with our soul! Why? Because God saw us through. It may be a struggle but we're making it! The hymn "It is well with my soul" is based on Psalm 46. "God is our refuge and strength; a present help in the time of trouble (Psalms 46:1)."

I was watching on TV how Hurricane Helene affected the lives of the people in Asheville. So many lost their lives. Some people, who lost everything — destruction, devastation everywhere, no power, little food — didn't know what to do. They experienced depression, anxiety, stress at having to leave everything and run for their lives.

Psalm 46 encourages us to trust in God. I say to some grieving fathers and mothers; it is well! To some hurting discouraged Christian, it is well! To somebody going through bereavement, though it hurts deeply, it is well; to somebody at their wits end, it is well! God will see us through.

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Old Fort's EMS station damaged in Hurricane Helene

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: FROM STAFF REPORTS | Section: News | 676 Words OpenURL Link

The EMS station in Old Fort was damaged by flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Helene, according to an update from McDowell County Emergency Management.

During Helene's onslaught on Sept. 27, flash flooding from Curtis Creek affected EMS Station 2 in Old Fort and caused water damage inside the crew living area, emergency management said in a news release Wednesday.

Restoration efforts are ongoing. EMS officials hope to fully restore the station.

Since the storm, the Old Fort Fire Department has housed the EMS crews from the damaged station, emergency management said. A temporary trailer was brought in so McDowell County EMS could continue to work from East Main Street in Old Fort until the EMS station is back in operation.

"We wanted to pass this information on to you as the exterior of the station looks a little different right now," the news release said. "Thanks to everyone for your continued support as we all work together to recover from this disaster."

Debris removal update

Over the next several weeks, contractors hired by McDowell County will begin removing storm debris from public roads in Old Fort, Marion and along state secondary roads in the county, the county said in a release. The cost of debris removal will be covered by state and federal funds, the release said.

Residents can move debris to within 10 feet of the right of way for collection.

Debris should be separated into six categories: "

- Large appliances
- " Construction debris
- " Vegetative debris "
- · Hazardous waste
- " Electronics
- " Household waste

A start date for collection has not been set.

Missing people, storm fatalities

As of Wednesday, there is only one active missing person case under investigation. There is one confirmed fatality with one additional death pending investigation, emergency management said.

FEMA help after Hurricane Helene

There are several ways people in McDowell County can get help applying for FEMA assistance.

Marion: The Disaster Recovery Center is open at the McDowell County Senior Center, 100 Spaulding Road, Marion. The center is open daily 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Old Fort: FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams are going door to door in Old Fort to help residents sign up for disaster assistance. FEMA representatives are also available at the Old Fort Post Office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pop Up Events: MATCH, West Marion Inc. and Foothills Food Hub are providing assistance with FEMA registrations and application, food stamp applications, Medicaid, emergency home repairs and other types of assistance. Food, water, and other supplies will be available. No appointment needed.

Help with power: Duke representatives are at the McDowell County Senior Center helping people make payment arrangements for bills, getting information regarding the process of getting services restored and answering questions. Representatives will be there Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

McDowell County residents impacted by Hurricane Helene can apply for help buying food through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The program will begin on Friday, Oct. 18, and is available to residents of McDowell County, among other counties.

Online preregistration begins Oct. 15 at epass.nc.gov.

Register by phone by calling 1-844-453-1117.

Register in person Oct. 18-24 at the Corpening Memorial YMCA in Marion, 348 Grace Corpening Drive. Registration is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends.

Food and water distribution centers

For food, water and supplies, visit a distribution center:

- " Restoration Church, 2344 Ashworth Road, Marion, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- " New Manna Baptist Church, 245 E. Court St., Marion, 10 a.m. to noon and 4-6 p.m.
- "Centro Unido, 79 Academy St. Marion, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- " First Baptist Church of Marion, 99 N. Main St., Marion, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- " Cherry Springs Baptist Church, 6 Bull Walker Road, Old Fort, Sundays 2-6 p.m. and Wednesdays 4-7 p.m. "
- First Baptist Church of Old Fort, 203 E. Main St., Old Fort, 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday
- •, Camp Grier, 985 Camp Grier Road, Old Fort, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.
- " Tom Johnson Campground, 348 Resistoflex Road, Marion, weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Newton writer: In aftermath of Helene, Hickory was hub of hope

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Tammy Wilson | Section: Column | 810 Words OpenURL Link

I never lost power during Hurricane Helene.

When friends and family called me about the hurricane, I had to tell them I was extremely lucky.

The storm was bad. A lot of North Carolinians lost family and friends, their home, their cherished belongings, their pets. Some saw their real estate literally washed away.

But I can't claim any of those stories.

I've tried to imagine the terror of seeing a wall of water crashing toward me, sweeping away my home and neighbors, pets, virtually everything I own.

Being a near miss — or even a far miss — leaves its mark. Last week a Facebooker from Louisiana said she understood. She lived through Katrina, and could relate to the relief of being spared, but, at the same time, the overwhelming feeling of anxiety, numbness and profound sadness.

That's how it is with trauma. It takes different forms, and in one way or another, we've all been traumatized by being so close to destruction. In the end, I don't know why we were spared and why the folks west of here were not.

Perhaps TV's Mister Rogers responded best when he explained disasters in a way kids could understand. When there are scary things in the news, he said, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

In the wake of Helene, ordinary people dropped everything to come to North Carolina's rescue. Men and women, young and old, helped turn Hickory into a hub of hope. Private pilots, many of them ex-military, arrived with their helicopters to make air drops to hard-hit areas. Community members rallied to organize places to bring necessary supplies and cash to support the effort.

On my way to the collection point in the parking lot of Appalachian State University in Hickory, I found myself behind a horse trailer and a flatbed. On the flatbed was a generator and power tools. In the trailer were cases of bottled water, packages of diapers, toilet paper and more. Obviously, he was on a relief mission. Had I not been caught by a traffic light I would have given the driver a thumbs up.

Surely Helene will be one of those calamities by which we mark time.

Two days after Helene's wretched visit, I opened my T-shirt drawer to see, neatly folded, my shirt from Lake Lure. I remember the day I bought it. Cousin Renee was visiting from Illinois and wanted to see where "The Last of the Mohicans" was filmed. She's a Daniel Day-Lewis fan and wanted to tour the famous waterfall.

We enjoyed a sandwich lunch, poked around the Lake Lure Inn, and browsed the gift shop.

Later, we took the boat ride of the lake with its narration of how the lake was formed in Hickory Nut Gorge into a place where "summer" is a verb. The Morse family, who founded Carolina Mountain Power Company, paid to build a dam on the Broad River to create the lake back in 1927.

Our boat captain indulged us in movie lore, too, including spots used to shoot "Dirty Dancing," the film that made stars of Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. We drifted past Firefly Cove and the stone steps where Jennifer Grey

practiced her dance steps in cutoff shorts.

It's not that I have spent that much time at Lake Lure, but I've made enough visits to envy those who have. It had cottagey surroundings, stunning views, and laid-back ambiance. It was a place lost in time, a poignant reminder of a time and place that's been erased.

Lake Lure sprouted up as a tourist attraction with a striped awning vibe. The affluent built lakeside cottages with screened porches and walls of windows. They pondered the looking glass water and lore about the outline of the mountain ridge that looks like a sleeping lady.

My first visit to Lake Lure was about 30 years ago, when I attended a conference at the Inn. I remember imagining how the hotel would have appeared during the Gatsby era. In fact, Gatsby's creator, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and wife Zelda stayed there back in the day.

A recent attraction was the Flowering Bridge. When it became known that the state would decommission the 1925 bridge, a group of citizens with green thumbs urged the structure to be saved and used as a garden space. They called it the Flowering Bridge. They say it attracted as many as 18,000 visitors a year.

Two years ago, the garden was expanded for pet owners and their furry friends to snatch a chewable from the Doggie Stick Library and enjoy a drink of water. Pet owners, wracked in grief, would visit the Rainbow Bridge, and pay tribute to departed pets, placing collars on the bannisters. People came from far and wide to memorialize pets that had passed on.

No one could imagine that a monster storm could churn its way northward and demolish the Flower Bridge, much less Lake Lure itself.

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Tammy Wilson, 'Newton writer: In aftermath of Helene, Hickory was hub of hope', *McDowell News, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E908360CF9A0



Events scheduled for McDowell during Helene recovery

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Local | 428 Words OpenURL Link

If you are a customer with Duke Energy, Duke representatives are also at the McDowell County Senior Center helping people will payment arrangements for bills, and getting your information regarding the process of getting services restored in your area if you are still without power and can answer any questions you may have about that. They will be here Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is at 100 Spaulding Road in Marion.

Due to the recent tragic events and out of respect for our community, families and friends, the Rotary Club of Marion postponed the Oct. 17 auction until February 2025. At that time, 100% of the proceeds will go to support needs in McDowell County and city of Marion. Rest assured all monies raised will fund local needs.

Early voting in the 2024 general election began Thursday, Oct. 17, and will continue through Saturday, Nov. 2. The early voting will take place at the McDowell County Board of Elections office at 2458 N.C. 226 South in Marion. Due to Tropical Storm Helene, the early voting at the Old Fort Depot will not take place. Early voting will take place from Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early voting will continue Monday, Oct. 21, to Friday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early voting will continue from Monday, Oct. 28, to Friday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The last day for early voting is Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at both locations. For more information, call the Board of Elections at 659-0834.

The regular meeting of the Greenlee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution scheduled for today, Oct. 19, has been canceled.

U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards' Carolina Cruiser, will be at 40 E. Main St. (near the credit union) in Old Fort on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. His staff will be parked outside with the Carolina Cruiser to help answer questions about the disaster and assist with federal agencies.

Loving Hearts, BEAR Closet is asking for donations of blankets, charcoal, batteries (all sizes), flashlights and cleaning supplies. Contact them at 828-767-2385 or 828-803-8790 at 337 Garden Creek Road, Marion.

The McDowell Democratic Party's next meeting is on Monday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. in the Marion Community Building. A complimentary meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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McDowell Tech nursing students switch gears

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: MICHAEL LAVENDER Director of Communications, MTCC Section: News | 449 Words OpenURL Link

McDowell Technical Community College students continue to show resilience and a spirit of generosity and togetherness following local and regional devastation from Hurricane Helene in the mountains of western North Carolina.

When college classes were canceled in the aftermath of the storm, students from throughout the college volunteered daily in the relief efforts and supply distribution coordinated by McDowell Tech President J.W. Kelley and McDowell County Schools Superintendent Tracy Grit in a warehouse near the college's Universal Advanced Manufacturing Center.

When the college reopened last week, students had to return to classes, labs, work-based learning and other educational settings. For several students in the college's associate's degree nursing program, the return to required clinical experiences became yet another opportunity to serve those impacted by the storm.

An agency with which the nursing students typically practiced clinical skills was not quite ready for students to return to the facility after the disaster. But McDowell Tech nursing instructor and simulation coordinator Kim Crawley helped students pivot to assist in a regional distribution center in a neighboring community.

Crawley and her nursing students worked alongside other volunteers in a converted ware house at Maynard Electrical Company in Morganton. Students unloaded trucks filled with donated relief supplies and assembled pallets filled with essential provisions bound for hard-hit areas throughout western North Carolina. Over 20 pallets were packed and shipped to Asheville, Boone and Banner Elk during their time at the center.

In addition to basic necessities — diapers, baby wipes, baby food, hygiene products, clothes, tents, tools, grills, charcoal and sleeping bags — students packed outbound pallets with children's toys, coloring books, crayons, books and board games.

"In disaster situations, it is just as important to provide comfort items for children to support their emotional health as it is to provide physical necessities," said Dr. Kim Amos, director of nursing education at McDowell Tech. "It helps bring some sense of normalcy to their lives, as well as relief to their parents and caregivers during difficult and stressful times." In addition, students packed Bibles to provide spiritual support to those in need.

Crawley and her students demonstrated teamwork, collaboration, and provided love and support to those suffering through this crisis, Amos said.

The staff at Maynard Electric Company took special notice of the hard work and dedication of nursing student Cassandra Burgess and even offered her a job that day. The experience was not traditional bedside nursing, it evolved into a rewarding community health experience.

"I couldn't be prouder of my students for their hard work, compassion and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those affected by Hurricane Helene," Crawley said.

For volunteer opportunities or donation information, email McDowell Cares at victoria@ graceforall.org or contact Maynard Electric Company at 828544-5056.

• Citation (aglc Style)

MICHAEL LAVENDER Director of Communications, MTCC, 'McDowell Tech nursing students switch gears', *McDowell News, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E9089390E170>



7 BILLION LOSS?

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: CHRISSY MURPHY cmurphy@morganton.com| Section: News| 640 Words OpenURL Link

Jeff Houk is a third-generation farmer. His family has lived on land around Morningstar Church Road in Morganton since his grandfather bought it in 1920.

In the 60 years Houk has farmed the land, he's never seen flooding like what came during Hurricane Helene's onslaught.

"The other day when I was down here, I was crying and stuff," Houk said.

Flooding carved wider banks for the nearby Silver Creek, taking a chunk out of the land where Houk plants his corn. Of the 7 acres planted, Houk thinks he lost about 2 acres of the crop. Some of his soybean crop was damaged, but not as much as the corn.

In his cow pastures, trees toppled onto the fencing. Houk had to put down one of his cows after he believed she broke her hip or back trying to get over a fallen log.

But looking at the damage Oct. 9, nearly two weeks after the storm, Houk said he now feels grateful the damage to his farm was limited.

"Now that I've went other places and seen the loss, mine ain't nothing," Houk said.

Houk, president of the Burke County Farm Bureau, said he hasn't been able to make it out to many of the farms in the county to see how widespread damage is.

Mike Causey, N.C. Insurance Commissioner, said early estimates showed there could be about \$7 billion in crop losses.

In Burke, Caldwell and McDowell counties, damages for the agriculture industry are estimated to be about \$70 million in plant nurseries alone, N.C. Cooperative Extension Burke Center Director Spring Williams-Byrd said.

At Fitzgerald Nursery, just north of Morganton on N.C. Highway 181, this is usually the busiest time of the year. Owner Mike Fitzgerald said workers are usually loading up three or four tractor trailers full of plants a day.

But since floods from Helene caused waterways like Upper Creek to rise, workers are spending time cleaning up the fields instead.

Flooding destroyed many of the nursery's 1-gallon plants that were ready to be sold. Other plants are littered with trash and debris that was swept downstream with the flooding. Some plants still have roots in the ground, but Fitzgerald said it could take a couple weeks before signs of damage show.

The impact of the flooding on the nursery could be seen for years, Fitzgerald said. Most of the plants the nursery grows take four to six years before bring harvested and sold.

He estimated property damages and lost revenue to be more than \$1 million. He said at least 50% of the nursery's farms were damaged.

"That's just us, and everybody else is in pretty much the same boat, or worse," Fitzgerald said. "We're lucky to have

some farms on higher ground."

Despite the losses here and to the west, Houk said he feels confident farmers will recover. He said he's passed truckloads of farming supplies like hay, gates and fencing materials headed west on Interstate 40 when he's transported supplies to towns that were hit hard by the hurricane.

"The farming community's going to come together and take care of each other," Houk said. "There's outreach all over. The farmers will stick together and help each other out, and the majority of the people will overcome."

At Houk's Green Hill Farm, he's hopeful he can salvage most of his crops and has faith things will be better next season.

"My daddy never got excited," Houk said. "He'd pick up the pieces to what was left and just rebuild and do whatever it takes to move back on. You can't quit. When you farm, you get in it to stay in it.

"If you're a true, dedicated farmer, you gotta get in it to stay. You've just got to take the good with the bad."

Chrissy Murphy is a staff writer and can be reached at cmurphy@ morganton.com or at 828-432-8941.

Help for farmers

If you are a farmer who needs help after Helene, visit ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu.

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What's next for Old Fort?

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: ERIC MILLSAPS emillsaps@hickoryrecord.com| Section: News| 359 Words OpenURL Link

When will Old Fort's sewer system be repaired?

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes said Wednesday the answer lies in three more questions:

How will the system be repaired? When can it be repaired? What will it cost to repair the system? Snypes said the sewer system was badly damaged by the floodwaters brought on by the rains of Hurricane Helene.

Snypes was in her Old Fort office on Wednesday working with officials from across the state, including Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, a North Carolina coastal town that has recovered from several hurricanes.

Zapp said the storm flooded the Old Fort sewer plant, with as much as 15 feet of water inside the plant. The plant is currently operating on a standby generator, and many sewer lines were damaged in the storm, Zapp said.

He added that Old Fort does not yet have a count on the number of water and sewer lines damaged by flooding.

Snypes noted 95% of water customers have service restored and the boil advisory for the town should end soon.

What will it cost to repair water and sewer issues in Old Fort? Zapp said the town's total annual budget is less than \$2 million. He said repairs could end up being \$10 million or more.

What about the debris?

Jeff Parker owns a number of buildings in Old Fort. His frustration was showing Wednesday as workers repaired the building that houses the Purrfectly Pampered Pet Spa.

"It makes no sense that so much debris is still sitting around," he said when asked about what needs to happen next in Old Fort. He said crews had hauled off 60 loads of debris but there was still much to be done.

He called the current situation a nightmare.

Mayor Snypes said Old Fort is working with McDowell County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials on the cleanup. Zapp said help is here and the next step is to decide where the material will go.

He said that having the Corps of Engineers on hand to help is "unprecedented."

Snypes said no timeline has been finalized for the removal of debris. Zapp said the town lost a trash truck and other vehicles in the flooding.

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Meat recall expands after listeria found

October 19, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 220 Words OpenURL Link

A nationwide recall of meat and poultry products potentially contaminated with listeria expanded this past week to nearly 12 million pounds and now includes ready-to-eat meals sent to U.S. schools, restaurants and major retailers, federal officials said.

The updated recall includes prepared salads, burritos and other foods sold at stores including Costco, Trader Joe's, Target, Walmart and Kroger. The meat used in those products was processed at a Durant, Oklahoma, manufacturing plant operated by BrucePac, which sells precooked meat and poultry to industrial, foodservice and retail companies.

Routine testing found listeria bacteria in samples of BrucePac chicken, officials with the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

US ECONOMY: Retail sales rose 0.4% from August to September, the Commerce Department said Thursday, up from 0.1% the previous month and the third straight increase. Also on Thursday, the Labor Department reported that applications for jobless claims fell 19,000 to 241,000 for the week of Oct. 12, below the 262,000 analysts were expecting.

HURRICANE AID: The federal government approved nearly \$2 billion in assistance across six states to help people hit hard by hurricanes Helene and Milton, the White House said Wednesday.

DRUGSTORE CLOSURES: Walgreens announced Tuesday that it will close about 1,200 locations over the next three years as the drugstore chain seeks to turn around a struggling U.S. business that contributed to a \$3 billion quarterly loss.

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Get your Helene questions answered with Haywood hotline

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: News | 244 Words OpenURL Link

Do you have questions about debris cleanup or getting your home mucked out? Want to know how to get in touch with FEMA, or where to donate? Look no further than the Haywood County Emergency call center — a line of communication that streamlines you to the information you need about anything Hurricane Helene related.

"If the community has a question, we want to be able to help them. We want to be able to get their questions answered. I think it's very important to have this resource for folks to feel like, they're not just on their own, that the county is here working for them," said Dillon Huffman, public information officer for the county.

Staff from all types of county positions — from library workers to parks and recreation — are dialed in from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week by calling 828-356-2020.

"They log every call, so we're keeping a record of who's calling and what their question is, so we're able to make sure that we're able to get everybody's questions answered," Huffman said.

If the liaison doesn't know the question, they'll jot down the caller's name and information and get back to them as soon as they find the answer. A Spanish interpreter is available to assist as well.

The call center will be set up indefinitely.

"As long as there's a need, and we see that there's a need, it's something that we will try to make available," Huffman said.

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