

Hickory Daily Record (NC): Page 5

October 22, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Hickory, North Carolina Page: 5 OpenURL Link

@ Copyright 2024 Hickory Daily Record, Hickory, NC. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Hickory Daily Record (online), 22 Oct 2024 5 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16EC8C6FEE3BCCD8%40AWNB-19C59A77CDE18A1D%402460606-19C5A7946E996485%404-19C5A7946E996485%40>



News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC): Page 2

October 22, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Raleigh, North Carolina Page: 2 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

News & Observer, The (online), 22 Oct 2024 2 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16AA0EF3CFEBA730%40AWNB-19C5A41D5A3D89B8%402460606-19C5AD0AF6135BD9%401-19C5AD0AF6135BD9%40>



October 22, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Greensboro, North Carolina Page: 2 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

News & Record (online), 22 Oct 2024 2 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D2263C064CCEE8%40AWNB-19C5B196439F64D3%402460606-19C5B2DB27D129BB%401-19C5B2DB27D129BB%40>



October 22, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Greensboro, North Carolina Page: 1 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

News & Record (online), 22 Oct 2024 1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D2263C064CCEE8%40AWNB-19C5B196439F64D3%402460606-19C5B88C56D79F00%400-19C5B88C56D79F00%40>



October 22, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Greensboro, North Carolina

Page: 11 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

News & Record (online), 22 Oct 2024 11 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D2263C064CCEE8%40AWNB-19C5B196439F64D3%402460606-19C5B19649B92E7C%4010-19C5B19649B92E7C%40>



October 22, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Greensboro, North Carolina Page: 3 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

News & Record (online), 22 Oct 2024 3 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D2263C064CCEE8%40AWNB-19C5B196439F64D3%402460606-19C5B7868BE4356D%402-19C5B7868BE4356D%40>



News Herald, The (Morganton, NC): Page 9

October 22, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Morganton, North Carolina Page: 9 OpenURL Link

© Copyright 2024, The News Herald, Morganton, NC.

• Citation (aglc Style)

News Herald, The (online), 22 Oct 2024 9 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16F86FCBF5A2ED30%40AWNB-19C59A72E0D37D8D%402460606-19C5A233358C3526%408-19C5A233358C3526%40>



News Herald, The (Morganton, NC): Page 7

October 22, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Morganton, North Carolina Page: 7 OpenURL Link

© Copyright 2024, The News Herald, Morganton, NC.

• Citation (aglc Style)

News Herald, The (online), 22 Oct 2024 7 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16F86FCBF5A2ED30%40AWNB-19C59A72E0D37D8D%402460606-19C5A139E674E80D%406-19C5A139E674E80D%40>



Statesville Record & Landmark (NC): Page 3

October 22, 2024 | Statesville Record & Landmark (NC) Statesville, North Carolina Page: 3 OpenURL Link

 $@\ Copyright\ 2024\ Statesville\ Record\ \&\ Landmark,\ Statesville,\ NC.\ All\ rights\ reserved.$

• Citation (aglc Style)

Statesville Record & Landmark (online), 22 Oct 2024 3 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16F90E001498BC50%40AWNB-19C59A72D66D89D8%402460606-19C5A29A61BAC1FB%402-19C5A29A61BAC1FB%40>



Winston-Salem Journal (NC): Page 2

October 22, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina Page: 2 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

Winston-Salem Journal (online), 22 Oct 2024 2 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D226D1E8D3CC28%40AWNB-19C5B4F744C6A980%402460606-19C5B5F2F2F1FB9E%401-19C5B5F2F2F1FB9E%40>



Winston-Salem Journal (NC): Page 6

October 22, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina Page: 6 OpenURL Link

• Citation (aglc Style)

Winston-Salem Journal (online), 22 Oct 2024 6 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A16D226D1E8D3CC28%40AWNB-19C5B4F744C6A980%402460606-19C5B7521909B7E4%405-19C5B7521909B7E4%40>



The Latest: Trump and Harris make final pushes in key battleground states

October 21, 2024 | Associated Press State Wire: North Carolina (NC) Author: By The Associated Press | Section: Domestic | 5151 Words OpenURL Link

With just over two weeks to go before the 2024 presidential election and the race in a dead heat, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are hitting the campaign trail in strategic battleground states.

The Republican nominee made three North Carolina stops Monday, including a visit to see storm damage in Asheville. Harris is out to win over suburban voters in key Midwestern battleground states and teaming up with Republican Liz Cheney.

Follow the AP's Election 2024 coverage at: https://apnews.com/hub/election-2024.

Here's the latest: Trump's energetic crowd

There have been repeated affirmations from Trump's Concord crowd, bursts of applause and standing ovations for some of Trump's accomplishments like the appointment of three U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Many in the crowd have joined into a one-sided conversation with Trump as he has mentioned Harris, with numerous shouts of "go home, Kamala" and "the enemy" when mentions of Democrats have been made. Trump reflects on his faith, says Harris is 'very destructive to religion'

Compared to his typical rallies and town halls, Trump's faith leader event in Concord, North Carolina, has placed spirituality at the forefront. Supporters have chanted "Jesus" and "Praise God" throughout the night.

Trump spent some time reflecting on the assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, where a bullet grazed his ear. Trump shared how his parents used to take him to church in Queens and Manhattan.

"As I look back at my life's journey and events, I now recognize that it's been the hand of God leading me to where I am today," he said. "I would like to think that God saved me for a purpose. And that's to make our country greater than ever before."

Trump said his opponent Kamala Harris is "very destructive to religion." Biden shouts out Harris while honoring artists at a medal ceremony

At a White House ceremony honoring winners of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals, Biden took a brief detour in his remarks to give a shoutout to Harris' run for the White House.

"I know the power of the women in this room to get things done" and boost the next generation, Biden told the crowd that included singer and actress Queen Latifah and poet Joy Harjo. He added that female winners were "proving a woman can do anything a man can do, and then some, that includes being president of the United States of America."

The line drew a standing ovation from the star-studded crowd that also included directors Spike Lee and Steven Spielberg, and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin.

Biden also told the winners that the moment was a "very consequential time in the arts and humanities in America" because "extreme forces are banning books, trying to erase history, spreading misinformation." 6 inches of snow delay early voting in Fairbanks, Alaska

Election season has coincided with the first major cold-weather storm, leading to a delayed start for voting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The state Division of Elections canceled early voting Monday in Fairbanks after more than 6 inches of wet, heavy snow fell overnight. That snow transitioned into rain Monday morning, leaving water on top of super compact, hard snow, said Stephen Dennis, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Besides upending the first day of early voting, the ice and snow also prompted the cancelation of all in-person classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a plea from city police to avoid unnecessary travel.

The forecast calls for more accumulation Tuesday, with up to 10 inches of snow expected to fall. Pennsylvania man charged with threatening to kill a state political party employee

The Pennsylvania man has been charged with threatening to kill a state political party employee who was recruiting Election Day poll watchers, the Justice Department said Monday.

Prosecutors say John Courtney Pollard, 62, texted the state political party representative that he was interested in being a poll watcher after the person posted online last month that they were looking for volunteers.

Pollard, of Philadelphia, then sent the person a series of threatening messages, threatening to kill them in one if they didn't respond and threatening to skin them alive in another, prosecutors allege.

There was no attorney listed in the court docket for Pollard, and a voice message was left on a cellphone listed for him.

The case was brought through the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force, which was created in 2021 amid escalating threats of violence against election workers nationwide. Harris' Michigan campaign event has ended

The vice president is now heading to Waukesha County, Wisconsin, for the last event of the day, also with Republican Liz Cheney. This event will be moderated by conservative commentator Charlie Sykes. 'They're eating gummies, all sorts of things'

In her conversation with Harris, Shriver asked the Democratic nominee about what she is doing to de-stress, saying that Americans say they're turning off the news, they're doing yoga, "they're eating gummies, all sorts of things."

The crowd laughed and Harris said: "Not eating gummies," with a chuckle. Harris said she was having trouble sleeping. She says she wakes up in the middle of the night and she works out in the morning and that her family grounds her.

But she also says that Americans should not despair. Everyone in a Democracy has the ability to make a decision about the future through their votes. "Let's not feel powerless," she said. "That's not in our nature." Harris: Trump can be manipulated 'by dictators and autocrats'

Harris says Trump "has been manipulated and is so clearly able to be manipulated by favor and flattery including by dictators and autocrats."

She says if he wins the White House, Ukraine will fall to Russia and that will have terrible consequences globally.

Harris praised the bipartisan support for Ukraine in Congress and said she believes it will continue but that she worries about Trump's embrace of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Harris and Cheney haven't always gotten along

With Liz Cheney becoming one of Harris' fiercest advocates — the two are currently at a campaign event together — the Trump campaign is resurfacing a 2019 post made by a Harris campaign spokesman criticizing the former

Wyoming representative and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

The post made by Harris spokesman Ian Sams says, "Liz Cheney helped lead us into Iraq from a special State Department Middle East post her dad's administration created for her." The post was made in response to Cheney's then-criticism of Harris.

Democrats have long vilified Dick Cheney for his defense of the Iraq War. Liz Cheney was selected in 2005 by then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as principal deputy assistant for near Eastern affairs and to coordinate initiatives in the broader Middle East and North Africa. Harris continues to reintroduce herself

Harris and Cheney are being interviewed by Maria Shriver, the former first lady of California under Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who says many voters feel they don't know the vice president, and asked her to speak about herself "to give them a feeling for who you are."

Harris' truncated campaign — she only started running for the presidency in July when President Biden stepped aside — has limited the time she's had to introduce herself to the American public.

"I am a wife. I am a mother. I am a sister," she said. "I am a godmother. I love to cook. I started my career as a prosecutor." Harris doesn't find Trump funny

Harris says voters should take Trump's rhetoric seriously, rather than writing it off as some "sick sense of humor."

"Some people find it humorous, what he says, and it's just silly," she said. "But understand how serious it is."

She referenced that retired Gen. Mark A. Milley, who served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs under Trump, reportedly described him as "fascist to the core." Liz Cheney's message to Republicans

Liz Cheney has a message for GOP voters who don't want to see Trump in the White House but are scared to go against their party and vote for Harris.

She says Americans can "vote your conscience and not ever have to say a word to anybody."

Cheney says she thinks "millions" of Republicans will be quietly casting a vote for the Democrat.

Cheney says she's actively supporting Harris because she believes Trump is dangerous, especially because he tried to overturn the results of the 2020 election and still refuses to admit he lost. Trump has ended his speech at a rally in Greenville, North Carolina

He thanked SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk for helping him campaign in Pennsylvania. Trump's attacks against Harris are getting nastier

Trump keeps escalating his attacks on Harris at his Greenville, North Carolina, rally, calling her a "nutjob" and accusing her of lacking compassion and strength.

He criticized Harris for being at a fundraiser in San Francisco after Hurricane Helene ravaged the U.S. Southeast.

"Kamala Harris does not have the compassion, the smarts or the strength to be the president of the United States," he said. "She just can't do the job."

Trump has previously called Harris "mentally impaired," and over the weekend he added a profanity when encouraging supporters to vote Democrats out of office.

"You have to tell Kamala Harris that you've had enough, that you just can't take it anymore, we can't stand you anymore, you're a s— vice president." A secret message in the ladies' room

Harris is campaigning with Republican Liz Cheney at the Royal Oak Theater in Michigan, and inside the ladies' room, there's a secret message for women voters.

"Woman to woman — your vote is secret," the notes read. "Support reproductive rights this November."

The pink sticky notes are taped inside every stall. After Trump's campaign appearance at a McDonald's drive-thru, Harris criticized him for not supporting an increase in minimum wage

She said that someone working full time at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 would only make \$15,000 a year, which she said are "essentially poverty wages."

Harris also pointed to a nonpartisan analysis that said Trump's policies would deplete Social Security.

"Donald Trump clearly doesn't understands the needs of working people." At a North Carolina rally, Trump said Harris and the Biden administration haven't done enough to help after Hurricane Helene

At a rally in Greenville, North Carolina, Trump attacked his opponent and the Biden administration, claiming they haven't properly supported the western part of the state after it was battered by Hurricane Helene last month.

He repeated an incorrect claim that the federal government doesn't have enough money for hurricane victims because it is being used to help immigrants in the country illegally.

"They didn't have any money left for North Carolina," he said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund gets replenished every year by Congress and is used to pay for recovery from natural disasters. The agency said that money is only used for disaster-related efforts and hasn't been diverted to support border issues. Harris responded to Trump's accusations that she never worked at McDonald's while she was a college student

"Did I?" she said while getting off Air Force Two in Michigan. "I did."

Harris also gave a thumb's up. The White House pushed back against statements by Trump that the administration failed to help after Hurricane Helene

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called the Republican nominee's comments "dangerous" and said they had been debunked on a bipartisan basis.

Jean-Pierre noted that 5,500 federal personnel were in North Carolina and Florida after Helene and Hurricane Milton. And she said \$2 billion in federal assistance had been approved for those affected in North Carolina.

"They are dangerous," Jean-Pierre said of Trump's remarks. "They are unhelpful. It is not what leadership looks like." Trump supporters in North Carolina wait in line to hear him speak

Under sunny skies in Greenville, North Carolina, most of the thousands of supporters of Donald Trump seemed cheerful and upbeat while in the queue to hear the former president speak inside East Carolina University's basketball arena.

Several people interviewed said immigration and the economy, particular inflation and taxes, were among their greatest concerns. Some remain worried about the ultimate electoral outcome in North Carolina and that they expected any final Election Day result nationally to be challenged by whichever side is trailing.

"I feel like that no matter who wins there's going to be problems," said Emma Macomber, 76, of New Bern, a registered unaffiliated voter wearing a pro-Trump hat. "Yes, it bothers me, but I put it in God's hands and accept

whatever happens."

Early in-person voting historically has been favored by Democrats in North Carolina, with Republicans more inclined to cast ballots on Election Day. But GOP officials have emphasized this cycle voting during the 17-day period that began last week.

Monica Loch of Mebane, a registered Republican in her late 50s, said she tried to vote on the first day but the lines were too long for her to wait. But she was resolute to vote. Loch sounded resigned to a painful path to a final electoral result.

"I can only hope and pray that Trump does win — and I'm not sure," Loch said. "I'm not sure with the climate of everybody being quite honestly so nasty and stuff. I cannot get a good read on it." Harris got a big round of applause when she said the government shouldn't be telling women what to do with their bodies

Harris was asked a question from an audience member about maternal mortality in the U.S. She said the U.S. needs to do better and that abortion rights are one piece of better healthcare for women.

Republican Liz Cheney, who's campaigning with Harris, said she thinks there are many "pro-life people who have watched what is going on in our states since the Dobbs decision and have watched state legislatures put in place laws that are resulting in women not getting the care they need." Donald Trump has concluded his news conference in the Asheville area

Asked by a reporter how likely he felt he was to win North Carolina, the Republican nominee turned to the line of supporters behind him.

"Let me ask you, do you think I'll win North Carolina?" he asked.

"He'll win," responded one of the people behind him. Donald Trump is picking an argument with North Carolina's Democratic governor

Visiting the Asheville area Monday, Trump alleged that Gov. Roy Cooper had not done a good job responding to Hurricane Helene.

Cooper held a briefing earlier on Monday where he asked Trump to "not share lies or misinformation" about the disaster response. Harris is asked about how she'd make it easier for the 'sandwich' generation

The first question for Harris during a moderated conversation with Republican Liz Cheney was about how she'd help make it easier for people in the "sandwich" generation, who are caring for their parents and also their small kids.

The voter, Alexandra Miller, has a 7-year-old and a 72-year-old mother who she also cares for, and she teared up explaining it to the Democratic nominee. She says it's impossibly hard and expensive.

Harris says "this issue for me is a matter of dignity." She says she will restructure so Medicare covers the cost inhome healthcare for older people, so there would be assistance. Harris often says it's time to 'turn the page,' and she was asked what that looks like

She's campaigning with Republican Liz Cheney and talking to a group of voters in suburban Pennsylvania. She says Donald Trump's vitriolic rhetoric has dominated American discourse for too long.

She says it's been used "in a way that has been using the power of the presidency to demean and divide us."

She says Americans are exhausted by Trump's rhetoric and ready for a return to caring about neighbors. Trump's photo opportunity at a Pennsylvania McDonald's resonated with at least one supporter in North Carolina

Republican U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards noted he also owns McDonald's franchises and that Trump had learned to make French fries a day earlier.

He presented Trump with what he called a "French fry certification pin." Trump held up the pin affixed to a piece of paper. Donald Trump is hearing from supporters who were involved in the response to Hurricane Helene in and around Asheville

Mike Stewart, owner of Pine View Buildings, thanked the Republican nominee for visiting the region and offered to pray for him.

Putting a hand on Trump's shoulder, Stewart prayed to God, "I ask that you anoint Donald Trump." Republican Liz Cheney says she's staunchly conservative — and that's why she's supporting Democrat Kamala Harris

Cheney is campaigning with Harris in battleground states Monday. She says the most conservative value of all is to be "faithful to the Constitution." And she believes Harris will be, and more importantly, Republican Donald Trump will not be.

Cheney says Trump's actions after the violent Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol show he doesn't take the U.S. Constitution seriously.

The women were talking in a conversation moderated by a GOP strategist. They began their day in Pennsylvania. The women spoke to a crowd of voters, sitting in front of signs that read: "Country over Party." Donald Trump has arrived in Asheville, North Carolina, to see the damage caused by Hurricane Helene

He visited a part of Asheville heavily damaged by the hurricane. There were huge piles of debris near where he stopped, with abandoned cars and many buildings smashed or knocked off their foundations.

Trump again criticized the federal government for what he said was not a good enough job helping people recover. He said that if elected president, he would stand with the region until "the communities are fully rebuilt." Walz responded to Donald Trump's McDonald's stop

Walz said on "The View" that his running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris "actually worked at McDonalds. She didn't go and pander, and disrespect McDonald's workers, by standing there in your red tie: Take a picture."

Trump visited a Pennsylvania McDonalds on Sunday, gleefully working the fry station and answering questions from reporters in the drive thru.

Walz was also asked on "The View" to name one nice thing about Trump, but demurred. He offered only that one positive is, "He will not be president again." Walz was asked about his past misstatements and said it was important to be precise about his words

But he said that wasn't the same as Republican former President Donald Trump's constant, deliberate misstatements.

"I do think it's important that we're careful about how we speak," Walz said of making previously misleading statements, that he later had to correct. Those included talking about his service in the National Guard and past travel to China.

"But I think the public sees," Walz added, "Just the massive amount of misinformation that gets out there," driven by Trump. After Harris struggled on 'The View' to come up with differences between her possible administration and Biden's, Walz was ready

Walz was asked about how the Democratic ticket would bring change after Election Day.

He pointed to Harris proposing expanding Medicare funding so that it covers home-care costs for the "sandwich generation," or Americans caring for aging parents and children at the same time.

"I think she's really leaning into these issues that impact people first," Walz said, "Those are pretty big differences." Vice President Kamala Harris' running mate, Tim Walz, is appearing on ABC's 'The View'

Walz, also the governor of Minnesota, is on the same set weeks after Harris herself made a View appearance. She was asked then about what she'd do different in the White House than what's been done by President Joe Biden, but failed to name major changes.

Walz said of one of his unofficial campaign slogans, "Mind your own damn business," is a good way to live, making Americans better neighbors. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said he's asking Trump to 'not share lies or misinformation' when he visits Asheville on Monday

Western North Carolina will recover, Gov. Cooper said at a storm recovery effort briefing Monday in Asheville, but they "don't need the election process to hurt recovery efforts."

Cooper said a bipartisan bill that he signed increases opportunities to vote, giving county boards and voters more flexibility, but disinformation and misinformation that hurts the people they're trying to help "needs to stop."

Many storm survivors lost everything and they want help and truth, he said.

"We should work together to give them both," Cooper said. "Storm recovery cannot be partisan. To truly help people, we must check party politics at the door and get this job done." Arnold Palmer's daughter reacts to Donald Trump's references to her father

One of the late golf legend Arnold Palmer's daughters calls Donald Trump's references to her father's genitalia "a poor choice of approaches" to honoring his memory, adding that she wasn't upset by the remarks.

"There's nothing much to say. I'm not really upset," Peg Palmer Wears, 68, told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday. "I think it was a poor choice of approaches to remembering my father, but what are you going to do?"

On Saturday in Latrobe, Pennsylvania — the city where Palmer was born in 1929 and learned to golf from his father — Trump kicked off his rally in the campaign's closing weeks with a detailed, 12-minute story about Palmer that included an anecdote about what Palmer looked like in the showers.

"When he took the showers with other pros, they came out of there. They said, 'Oh my God. That's unbelievable,'" Trump said with a laugh. "I had to say. We have women that are highly sophisticated here, but they used to look at Arnold as a man."

▶ Read more about Trump's comments on Arnold Palmer. US Supreme Court rejects an appeal from former Trump attorney Michael Cohen

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal Monday from former Trump attorney Michael Cohen, who was trying to hold Trump liable for his jailing that he said was retaliation for writing a tell-all memoir.

The justices did not explain their reasoning in the brief, routine order.

Cohen had asked the high court to revive a lawsuit filed after his early release from prison during the coronavirus pandemic was quickly reversed. Authorities said he wouldn't accept some conditions of his release, but Cohen said he'd only asked if he could speak to the media about his memoir. He sued Trump, then-Attorney General William Barr and prison officials.

Cohen served time after pleading guilty to tax evasion and campaign finance charges in 2018. He said Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to a porn actor to fend off damage to his 2016 presidential bid. Trump has denied wrongdoing. First lady Jill Biden says it was 'the right call' for President Joe Biden to end his reelection campaign

She made the comments during an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America" about revamped White House tours. The interview aired Monday morning.

Asked by Deborah Roberts if it would be tough to leave the White House, Biden said "we're starting a new chapter of our lives, a new journey."

Roberts asked if her husband made the correct decision to stop his bid for another four years.

"It was the right call, yes," the first lady said. Harris' campaign maintains a large financial advantage over Trump's

Kamala Harris' campaign and affiliated Democratic groups raised about \$633 million for the quarter, which ended last month, pushing their total to over \$1 billion and maintaining a large financial advantage over Republican candidate Donald Trump in the election's final sprint.

The vice president's campaign, the Democratic National Committee and state parties raised more than \$359 million in September alone.

But Harris' campaign is spending heavily too. It raised about \$222 million on its own in September, only to pay out about \$270 million over the same period — helping to boost a large advertising push.

The Harris campaign and affiliated committees entered October with \$346 million on hand, according to federal filings.

Trump's campaign, the Republican National Committee and affiliated groups previously reported raising \$160 million in September. By October, they had \$283 million in the bank. How does abortion translate? Ballot measures are a challenge for interpreters

Reproductive rights measures are on the ballots in 10 states after heated debates over how to describe their impact on abortion — and that's just in English.

In 388 places across the U.S. where English isn't the primary language among communities of voters, the federal Voting Rights Act requires that all elections information be made available in each community's native language.

Such translations are meant to help non-native English speakers understand what they're voting for. But vague or technical terms can be challenging, even more so when it comes to Indigenous languages that have only limited written dictionaries.

For example, there's no single word for abortion in the native language of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in Colorado's Montezuma County. New York's referendum doesn't even use the word "abortion," making it all the more challenging to convey intent, advocates complain. And how exactly should the science of "viability" in the Florida and Nevada measures be explained in the oral traditions of the Seminole and Shoshone tribes?

The Navajo and Hopi tribes get more material translated than most, and they have more than enough voters to sway outcomes.

▶ Read more about translating ballot measures into other languages. Most voters think the economy is poor, but split on whether Trump or Harris can fix it: AP-NORC poll

Voters remain largely divided over whether they prefer Republican Donald Trump or Democrat Kamala Harris to

handle key economic issues, although Harris earns slightly better marks on elements such as taxes for the middle class, according to a new poll.

A majority of registered voters in the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research describe the economy as poor. About 7 in 10 say the nation is going in the wrong direction.

But the findings reaffirm that Trump has lost what had been an advantage on the economy, which many voters say is the most important issue this election season above abortion, immigration, crime and foreign affairs.

"Do I trust Trump on the economy? No. I trust that he'll give tax cuts to his buddies like Elon Musk," said poll respondent Janice Tosto, a 59-year-old Philadelphia woman and self-described independent.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in September found neither Harris nor Trump had a clear advantage on handling "the economy and jobs." But this poll asked more specific questions about whether voters trusted Trump or Harris to do a better job handling the cost of housing, jobs and unemployment, taxes on the middle class, the cost of groceries and gas, and tariffs.

▶ Read more about the poll. Trump takes questions at a barbershop in the Bronx

Donald Trump went to a barbershop in the Bronx section of New York for a segment with commentator Lawrence Jones that aired Monday on "Fox & Friends."

He took questions from clients at the business about immigration, energy and taxes. The barbers wore a black shirt with the phrase "Make Barbers Great Again."

One of the clients asked Trump if, once he generated enough revenue with some of his proposals, it would be possible to eliminate federal taxes.

"There is a way. There is a way," Trump said, adding that in the 1890s, people did not have to pay income taxes.

The business owner, who leases the building, told him his main challenge was paying for his energy bill, which had shot up from \$2,100 to \$15,000 in the last seven months.

"What?" Trump said. "How many heads can you take care of? That's a lot."

Trump asked how much average hair cuts cost and how much they had gone up. He was told they had gone up from a range between \$12 and \$15 to between \$30 and \$40.

Toward the end of the visit, Trump told the men "you guys are the same as me. It's the same stuff. We were born the same way." Some Jewish voters in presidential swing states reconsider their longtime devotion to Democrats

For Rona Kaufman, the signs are everywhere that more Jews feel abandoned by the Democratic Party and may vote for Republican Donald Trump.

It's in her Facebook feed. It's in the discomfort she observed during a question-and-answer at a recent Democratic Party campaign event in Pittsburgh. It's in her own family.

"The family that is my generation and older generations, I don't think anybody is voting for Harris, and we've never voted Republican, ever," Kaufman, 49, said, referring to Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. "My sister has a Trump sign outside her house, and that is a huge shift."

How big a shift? Surveys continue to find that most Jewish voters still support the Democratic ticket, and Kaufman acknowledges that she's an exception.

Still, any shift could have enormous implications in Pennsylvania, where tens of thousands of votes decided the past two presidential elections. Many Jewish voters say the 2024 presidential election is like no other in memory, coming amid the growing fallout from Hamas' brutal attack on Israelis last year.

▶ Read more about Jewish voters in this election.

Copyright © The Associated Press 2024 All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

By The Associated Press, 'The Latest: Trump and Harris make final pushes in key battleground states', *Associated Press State Wire:*North Carolina (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5B742EB63FC88>



Patrick Andrew McLean

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The (NC) Section: Obituaries | 722 Words OpenURL Link

Patrick Andrew "Drew" McLean

December 23, 1978 - October 8, 2024

Black Mountain, North Carolina - Patrick Andrew "Drew" McLean, 45, entered eternal rest when swept away by Hurricane Helene's flood waters. Parents, Ron and Fori, were graciously assisted by local and out-of-state rescue personnel, as well as neighbors who sought to safely locate Drew. Volunteers, friends, family members and strangers prayed. Meanwhile, Drew's sister, Kate, who still had internet service helped from across the ocean.

Drew was born in Charlotte, NC, on December 23, 1978 and attended Mecklenburg County public schools. He was a graduate of Myers Park High School's first International Baccalaureate program. Drew appreciated his classes; Senora Casali's Spanish, Byron Baldwin's photography, Mrs. Goodloe's Literature & Film and all IB classes. Advanced Placement (AP) classes and cherished life-long friends from MPHS, especially Chris, Jonathan and Steve, were never forgotten.

Middle school and high school activities captured Drew's varied interests. He participated on the debate team, won a Scholastic Art award, tied for third place in state-wide pole vaulting, won an oratory contest and starred in local theatre presentations.

Choosing Winston-Salem's NC School of the Arts for university studies allowed majoring in filmmaking. His bucket list of viewing 100 classic movies was achieved.

During childhood Drew accepted Christ as his Savior after his Sunday School teacher explained we're all sinners in need of Jesus Christ as our Redeemer. For 30+ years Drew gravitated towards people with whom Christ's love could be shared, usually by example. He also wrote and spoke about what his Christian faith meant to him.

Throughout his life, Drew's artistic talents utilized various mediums; painting, writing, illustrating and photography. From pen and ink sketching to hand-painting gifts, Drew visions and executed ideas were unique. As an adult, Drew was the youngest person to be honored as Southern Highland Craft Guild's Volunteer of the Year.

Drew admired global peacekeepers and followed their teachings. Great literature, mostly historical biographies, were prolifically read.

His professional years included mentoring church youth in Beaufort, SC and at-risk youth in an outdoor therapeutic program in Tennessee's Cumberland Gap. Additionally, Drew worked at a year-round rustic YMCA-sponsored camp on the banks of the Tippecanoe River in Indiana. Exploring and connecting with nature was an integral portion of his work focus. Mentoring inner-city Charlotte, NC students with Pastor K. Gilliard made a lasting impression on our family.

Preceded in death by grandfathers, Harry H. McLean and T. Ben Massey; grandmothers, Stella W. McLean and Marilyn W. Massey. Drew and Kate were blessed to know two of their great-grandparents, Myrtle J. McLean and Madelaine H. Watson.

Survivors are father, Ron D. McLean; mother, Forest "Fori" M. McLean; sister, Kate McLean; aunt, Pam M. O'Quinn; best friend, Stephen "Steve" Arthur Hallmark and other extended family members.

"But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33) was Drew's favorite Bible verse.

On October 8, 2024, Drew's earthly body was located in Grove Stone & Sand Company's rock quarry; one death of 250+ residents from six states who tragically died from Hurricane Helene.

"If you feel grief over Drew's passing, may it pass quickly. If you had a part of him in your heart, be warmed by his spirit as he embraced friends and strangers with the same humor and compassion. Celebrate the time he had with you in your own way. He loved everyone he shared time with while he was here. I will carry his memories with me and have comfort in them." -Ron.

Sincere gratitude to FEMA and other federal and state agencies that executed wellness checks and to radio stations' coverage of available resources. Thank you to Mountain Mule Packer Ranch; military and private helicopter pilots; and Ingle's grocery chain. Many power and electrical workers, from multiple states, and countless volunteers are still assisting with continued clean-up efforts. Unsung heroes and heroines - all ages - are helping churches, shelters, nursing facilities, fire stations, neighbors and schools.

Interment will be at Montreat, North Carolina's columbarium. Montreat, a special community to five generations of William Everard Massey Senior's offspring, is where Drew first waded in mountain streams as a child and played among native Rhododendron.

If desiring to honor Drew, please donate to the charity of one's choice. Memorial services to celebrate Drew's life are yet to be determined.

Harwood Home for Funerals & Cremation Services is assisting the family. www.harwoodhomeforfunerals.com.

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Patrick Andrew McLean', *Charlotte Observer, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5D421AB940568



Trump Visits Western N.C. Helene Damage. Next is ECU rally, Concord faith event

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Video (NC)

Section: News 29 Words

OpenURL Link

 $https://vid.connatix.com/0f75c27b-c987-45a1-b2ec-5470fe4c5e9e/mmid-626fe07a-12b0-08ea-ec33-5f464f079d1b/1080_h264.mp4$

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Trump Visits Western N.C. Helene Damage. Next is ECU rally, Concord faith event', *Charlotte Observer, The: Video* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5DEDF6B8ED160



What's open and safe to do in Cherokee after Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina?

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Heidi Finley, The Charlotte Observer Section: c5_travel 983 Words OpenURL Link

In Hurricane Helene-struck Western North Carolina, the town of Cherokee was more fortunate than many neighboring towns and has quickly gotten back on its feet to welcome back travelers for the fall foliage season.

While the North Carolina Department of Transportation advises caution when traveling near affected areas in the region, Cherokee — home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians — is among the areas where many residents' livelihoods rely on visitors. It's also one of the Western North Carolina towns to consider visiting with safety in mind.

As we continue our series on post-hurricane traveling in Western North Carolina, you can browse our other guides here:

Beech MountainBlowing RockBooneBrevardHendersonville

Here is what you need to know about traveling to Cherokee in the near future.

Is travel to Cherokee safe?

Yes, Cherokee is open and accessible for tourism. "While some areas nearby continue to recover, we want to let you know that Cherokee, NC is open to all visitors," Visit Cherokee has posted.

"We've taken every measure to ensure your visit will be safe, comfortable, and memorable. Our local businesses, attractions, and accommodations are fully operational and eager to welcome you with open arms."

How to get to Cherokee

Travelers who plan to visit are encouraged to drive to Cherokee with caution and safety in mind.

From Charlotte, travel to Cherokee via U.S. 74 West. (Note: U.S. 74 is a detour for roads closed by Hurricane Helene, so traffic may be higher than normal.) From Raleigh or Durham, take I-40 West to U.S. 74. Near Cherokee, U.S. 441 in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has reopened for regular traffic, but remains closed to commercial vehicles.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-24.JPGSoco Creek in Cherokee rages on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Can I stay in Cherokee?

Some lodging in Cherokee may be already booked, but space remains available in the coming weeks. Properties with availability include:

Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort

Location: 777 Casino Drive, Cherokee, NC 28719

Harrah's Cherokee offers a luxury resort experience featuring table games, a spa and salon, pools and a fitness

center. Multiple restaurants serve the property, including Gordon Ramsay Food Market and Guy Fieri's Cherokee Kitchen + Bar. You can even bring your dog along.

Panther Creek Cabins

Location: 3415 Wrights Creek Rd, Cherokee, NC 28719

Panther Creek Cabins' property sits along Wrights Creek, so you can check out water and mountain views from the rocking chairs on the cabins' porches. There is a two-night minimum for its cabins, some of which have fireplaces and Jacuzzi tubs. There's a wedding chapel you can book that includes the officiant, too.

Roadway Inn & Suites on the River

Location: 44 Tsalagi Road, Cherokee, NC, 28719

The Roadway Inn & Suites offers views from its rooms and suites of the Oconaluftee River, a popular spot for fly fishing. If you're a Choice Hotels member, you can book the place with points. And there's also a perk many will appreciate: free coffee.

Stonebrook Lodge Cherokee

Location: 436 Paint Town Rd, Cherokee, NC 28719

Stonebrook Lodge fits the bill for what you'd envision for a mountain getaway, complete with a rustic lobby, a fireplace and cozy seating spots. The lodge sits right near many of Cherokee's attractions, including Harrah's, and it's down the road from Santa's Land Fun Park & Zoo. Guests can start their day with a free continental breakfast from 6:30-9:30 a.m.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-24.JPGSoco Creek in Cherokee rages on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

What restaurants are open in Cherokee?

Restaurants are largely open and accessible in Cherokee, but here are a few local spots to check out:

Granny's Kitchen

Location: 1098 Painttown Road, Cherokee, NC 28719

Buffet dining for hungry travelers and people who like to try a little bit of everything is available at Granny's Kitchen. Country-style breakfast options including biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs and spiced apples are on the buffet line in the mornings. Later on in the day, the lunch and dinner offerings switch up each day so you can always find something different. The restaurant is closed Mondays, but is open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday-Saturday and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sunday.

Paul's Family Restaurant

Location: 1111 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC 28719

Paul's Family Restaurant is a all-day diner-style spot open daily from 7 a..m.-9 p.m. Popular dishes on the menu include its Indian Taco; along with elk, bison and buffalo burgers; a frybread burger; and country fried steak. While you're there, check out the native decor on the dining room fireplace and other spots in the dining room.

Peter's Pancakes & Waffles

Location: 1384 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC 28719

Peter's Pancakes & Waffles is open daily from 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., so you can start your morning off with its multigrain Backpacker Pancakes, French toast or a Ranch Hand breakfast with country ham, two eggs, grits or diced potatoes and pancakes or biscuits.

Rancho Viejo Mexican Restaurant

Location: 16 Cherokee Crossing Rd Suite 5, Whittier, NC 28789

Rancho Viejo is a family-friendly spot with fresh Mexican favorites. It's open daily 11 a.m.-9 p.m., with weekday and Saturday lunch specials and a full menu of nachos, fajitas, quesadillas and dinner plates. Vegetarian dishes are also on the extensive menu.

Wize Guyz Grille

Location: 68 Big Cove Rd Suite 8, Cherokee, NC 28719

Kid- and pet-friendly Wize Guyz Grille serves up pizza, burgers and wings, along with pasta and six kinds of chicken sandwiches. It's open daily from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., so you can sit down for lunch or pick up takeout for dinner to bring back to your room after a busy day.

Resources to check before you go

Some storm cleanup may still be underway in Cherokee and in other towns you may stop in along your route. Make sure to get the most up-to-date information you can before you head out.

Visit CherokeeEastern Band of Cherokee IndiansDriveNC.govVisitNC.com

RAL_102223-COLOR-TEL-09.JPGAn aerial photo of the sun setting along U.S. 19 in Cherokee, as fall color peaks in the North Carolina mountains in this file photo.

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Heidi Finley, The Charlotte Observer, 'What's open and safe to do in Cherokee after Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina?', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C589B21920B958>



In NC tour, Trump targets FEMA, rallies Christians, says votes could 'save America'

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC)
Author: Mary Ramsey, Nora O'Neill, Kyle Ingram and Josh Bergeron, The Charlotte Observer Section: election | 4000 Words
OpenURL Link

Former President Donald Trump spent nearly all of Monday in battleground North Carolina as he surveyed Hurricane Helene destruction, spoke with faith leaders and urged people to vote as election day looms just two weeks away.

The Republican nominee began in Swannanoa in Western North Carolina to see the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene before holding a rally across the state at East Carolina University's campus in Greenville. He ended the day by heading back west, addressing faith leaders at an invite-only meeting in Concord. At each stop, he reiterated similar claims and urged people to vote for him to "save America."

"With your vote this November, we are going to fire Kamala Harris, we are going to save America and we're going to restore the greatness of our nation," Trump said in Greenville.

Trump was accompanied by U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards, N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore and other officials in Western North Carolina, where he said he wished FEMA was doing more for victims of the storm. He repeated the same conspiracy theory in Swannanoa, Concord and Greenville that FEMA allocated funds to migrant services rather than Helene aid, a claim FEMA has called false.

"Our hearts are with you and we are praying for you, and we will come back, and we will be here on Jan. 20," he said in Greenville of those affected by the storm. "You didn't get the proper support from this administration — they spent their money on illegal migrants."

In Greenville, at the Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum, Trump spoke to rally attendees about his plans for a mass deportation of immigrants if elected, as well as his belief that Vice President Harris taking President Joe Biden's place as the Democratic nominee for president was akin to overthrowing a U.S. president.

The coliseum is the same venue where Harris held a rally a week ago. Trump was joined by Laurie Buckhout, the Republican candidate for Congress in northeastern North Carolina, and Rep. Dan Bishop, the GOP candidate for state attorney general.

His last visit of the day took place at the Concord Convention Center where he, along with his son Eric Trump and Ben Carson, the former U.S. secretary for Housing and Urban Development, addressed religious leaders. Trump spoke about his commitment to keeping discussions of race, gender and sexuality out of schools while fighting to protect religious freedom in education.

As one of the battleground states likely to determine the outcome of this year's presidential election, North Carolina has won significant attention from both the Trump and Harris campaigns.

Last week, Trump's running mate, U.S. Sen. JD Vance, campaigned in Wilmington and Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, visited Durham and Winston-Salem alongside former President Bill Clinton.

Clinton continued on a bus tour of Eastern North Carolina, making stops in Wilmington, Fayetteville, Wilson, Greenville and Rocky Mount.

Below are updates from Trump's North Carolina visit:

Trump closes by urging people to vote

8:05 p.m. Trump said he will work to keep discussions of sexuality and race out of schools.

"On day one I will sign an executive order banning schools from promoting critical race theory," Trump said. "I will take historic action to defeat the toxic poison of gender ideology and reaffirm that God created two genders, male and female. I will keep men out of women's sports. I will sign a law banning child sexual mutilation... and we will proudly say 'Merry Christmas' again."

Trump closed his remarks by urging Christians to vote early and "take back the nation that we love."

'What I've done in terms of religion'

7:52 p.m. Trump reiterated his support for Israel and spoke about his 2017 decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It was a move long-desired by pro-Israel politicians in Washington, D.C., Reuters reported in 2018.

Trump also said he has worked toward ending religious persecution worldwide.

"Nobody's done what I've done in terms of religion, in terms of Christianity," he said. "I will keep on fighting for our cherished American values."

'We don't tell Christians to get lost'

7:43 p.m. Trump was interrupted multiple times with chants of "Jesus." And he called the crowd "lively."

"At Trump rallies, we don't tell Christians to get lost. We tell Christians to get out and vote," he said in a reference to an interaction at a Harris rally in Wisconsin last week.

At that rally, Harris reportedly told student protesters that they were at the wrong rally when they yelled "Jesus is lord" at those around them.

"I'm here to deliver a simple message to Christians across America," Trump said. "It's time to stand up and save your country."

After detouring to other topics, Trump then delivered a familiar line: "Kamala, you're fired."

Trump on religion, assassination attempt

7:33 p.m. Trump spoke about growing up going to a Presbyterian church in the New York City neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens. Trump said his faith "took on a new meaning" when he survived the assassination attempt in July.

"I now recognize it's been the hand of God leading me to where I am today," Trump said. "I like to think God saved me for a purpose and that's to make our country greater than ever before."

He was told after the attempt how lucky he was to avoid the bullet. The event strengthened his and his sons' faith, Trump said.

Trump repeats false FEMA claims

7:18 p.m. Trump began his speech by speaking about the devastation left by Helene after his visit to Western North Carolina earlier Monday. He reiterated false claims for the third time Monday that FEMA allocated disaster funds to migrant services rather than Helene victims.

Trump also said voters in areas hard-hit by Helene have been turning out to vote for him.

"These are Trump people," he said. "Those are great, great people."

Ben Carson says using word 'disinformation' is like censorship

7:08 p.m. Ben Carson, the former U.S. secretary for Housing and Urban Development, said the election is not about Republicans and Democrats, but about whether the nation is secular or "one nation under God."

Carson referenced Bible verses often while on stage, saying the country is built by people of faith. Carson said labeling things as "disinformation" is akin to censorship and is as an attempt to attack Trump.

Carson urged attendees to vote, and criticized people who say the election is a choice between two evils.

"Unless Jesus Christ is on the ballot you're always choosing between the lesser of two evils," Carson said.

Franklin Graham prays for Donald Trump

6:48 p.m. Evangelical leader Franklin Graham took the stage after Eric Trump and said God is the most important factor in the election.

He asked attendees to stand and pray out loud for Trump for two minutes. Attendees created a clatter of prayer across the venue. Some asked God to protect and listen to Trump's prayers and help save America. As Graham walked off, the crowd chanted "Jesus."

"Rallies and positive poll numbers are not going to win this election," he said. "It's going to be God. There is a spiritual element at work here."

Eric Trump speaks in Concord

6:44 p.m. Eric Trump, the Republican presidential nominee's second son, said he was confident his father would win the election and spoke about the importance of religion and God in the country and in education.

"We need God in our life, we need God in our society... we need God in our schools," he said. "We will always be a nation of faith."

Eric Trump said his father was behind a curtain just off stage as he spoke.

"He's an inspiration to our entire family," Eric Trump said. "I have never been more proud to stand on the stage with anyone, and I will stand on the stage with him until I literally die."

Congressional nominee Mark Harris leads crowd in chant

5:22 p.m. After a prayer, the pledge of allegiance and a performance of the national anthem, former NFL player Scott Turner took the stage to greet attendees and spoke about the Bible and religious rights in America. Turner previously served as the executive director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council under Trump.

"We have the freedom to assemble together, the freedom to worship together, the freedom to pray together," Turner said.

He was followed by Mark Harris, Republican nominee for the 8th Congressional District near Charlotte. Harris led the crowd in a chant of "fight, fight," the words Trump mouthed after an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"We have before us a gentleman who was actually shot and by the grace of God his life spared," Harris said. "The times are serious, the moment is now."

Crowd gathering in Concord

IMG_7041.jpgPeople file into the Concord Convention Center off of Bruton Smith Boulevard in Concord, where former President Donald Trump is expected to speak Monday evening.

5 p.m. Lively crowds lined up outside and danced to music inside the Concord Convention Center near Charlotte as they awaited Trump's remarks at an 11th Hour Faith Leaders Meeting with his son, Eric Trump, Ben Carson and faith leaders.

A news release by the Trump campaign ahead of the event said Trump is a defender of religious freedom and supporter of Jewish people.

"Under President Trump's leadership, the government reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that religious freedom remains a cornerstone of the nation," the release states. "He has consistently prioritized the protection of faith communities, whether through combating antisemitism or defending the rights on Christians."

But a spokesperson from the Democratic National Committee criticized comments previously made by Trump and faith leaders in attendance.

"Donald Trump is relying on anti-choice extremists and conspiracy theorists to make his closing pitch to voters while he goes on unhinged rants threatening our freedoms and our democracy," spokesperson Aida Ross said in a statement to The Charlotte Observer. "Trump's surrogates today include far-right MAGA allies who, like Trump, have pushed reckless lies about the response to Hurricane Helene and railed against our reproductive freedoms, even calling abortion 'the greatest evil in our country.'"

The event was organized by Clay Clark, who wrote a false claim on social media that the government manipulated weather to cause Hurricane Helene to access lithium deposits in North Carolina, Media Matters first reported.

Trump leaves stage, promising to 'save America'

4:20 p.m. Trump wrapped up his Greenville rally by making a variety of promises for his second term in office, including to end the war in Ukraine and to get "critical race theory and transgender insanity" out of schools.

"With your vote this November, we are going to fire Kamala Harris, we are going to save America and we're going to restore the greatness of our nation," he said.

RAL_102124-TRUMP-GREENVILLE-TEL-45.JPGFormer President Donald Trump acknowledges the crowd while leaving the stage following a rally speech at Minges Coliseum in Greenville on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

Trump on deportation

4 p.m.: Much of Trump's remarks centered on stopping illegal immigration and sending migrants to other countries.

"When I win on Nov. 5, the migrant invasion ends and the restoration of our country begins," Trump said.

"The United States is now an occupied country, but on Nov. 5, 2024, we will be a liberated country."

"I will launch the largest deportation program in American history," Trump said later. "I will rescue every town across America that has been invaded and conquered."

Trump also called for the death penalty "for any illegal immigrant that kills an American citizen."

RAL_102124-TRUMP-GREENVILLE-TEL-31.JPGFormer President Donald Trump takes the stage during a rally at Minges Coliseum in Greenville on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

Trump on the election

3:35 p.m.: Trump called Harris' replacement of Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket "the overthrow of a president of the United States."

Later, he spoke about how North Carolina is setting records for early voting.

And after noting that California always votes Democrat, he said: "I'd love to have God to come down and be the vote counter, just for one day, and see how well we'd do in California."

Trump claimed Harris' recent "60 Minutes" interview was election interference, calling it "the biggest scandal in the history of broadcasting." The show has denied Trump's claim that it selectively edited an answer from Harris. At the rally, Trump asked: "Can you imagine if that happened with me? It would be over — the electric chair."

RAL_102124-TRUMP-GREENVILLE-TEL-27.JPGFormer President Donald Trump takes the stage during a rally at Minges Coliseum in Greenville on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

Trump on Helene devastation

3:25 p.m.: Trump noted in Greenville that he saw the damage from Hurricane Helene earlier in the day in Western North Carolina.

"Our hearts are with you and we are praying for you, and we will come back, and we will be here on Jan. 20," he said of those affected by the storm. "You didn't get the proper support from this administration — they spent their money on illegal migrants."

FEMA has refuted the false claims that the agency diverted disaster relief funds to immigrants in order to conflate FEMA's disaster fund with other pots of money.

Trump also thanked billionaire Elon Musk for providing Starlink internet access to Western North Carolina.

RAL_102124-TRUMP-GREENVILLE-TEL-46.JPGFormer President Donald Trump acknowledges the crowd while leaving the stage following a rally speech at Minges Coliseum in Greenville on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

Trump takes the stage in Greenville

3:15 p.m.: Former President Trump appeared shortly after 3 p.m. as "God Bless the USA" played, walking around the stage for the full length of the song.

The crowd chanted, "USA," and Trump asked: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" The crowd yelled: "No."

Later, Trump got big cheers when he said: "Kamala, you're fired."

Trump said if he returns to the White House America will be "bigger, better, bolder and safer than ever before."

Trump said illegal immigration is the biggest problem the country faces, even bigger than inflation. "We want people to come into our country but they have to come in legally," he said.

Dan Bishop, candidate for AG, campaigns on 'law and order'

2 p.m. U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop told the crowd he aimed to become the first Republican elected attorney general in North Carolina in over 100 years.

"To replace woke lawfare with common sense, to restore law and order and to back the men and women of law enforcement," he said.

He's running against U.S. Rep. Jeff Jackson, a Democrat recently drawn out of his congressional seat.

Bishop went on to encourage Republicans to vote early, part of the GOP's new embrace of early and mail-in voting. In 2020, Trump and other Republicans cast doubt about the security of these voting methods and spread false conspiracy theories about fraud.

He noted that, compared to 2020, Republicans have shown up in higher numbers to vote early and by mail. As of Monday morning, nearly 342,000 registered Republicans had cast their ballot, accounting for about 33% of all votes.

Democrats have a slightly higher turnout so far, with 35% of the votes at this point.

While still slightly behind, Republicans have substantially narrowed the early voting turnout gap with Democrats, compared to 2020. At this time in that election, Democrats accounted for over 46% of all ballots cast.

"You must build a victory that is too big to rig," Bishop said.

Photos: Trump campaigns with multiple stops in NC

Candidate Laurie Buckhout speaks at ECU

1:55 p.m.: Republican congressional candidate Laurie Buckhout was one of the first speakers to take the stage in Greenville, beginning with a story about the day Trump was shot in Pennsylvania.

"I did 26 years in the Army and a year in combat and I've never seen courage like that," she said. "... You're gonna see a fighter in me too."

Buckhout's opponent, U.S. Rep. Don Davis, campaigned with Harris last week at the same arena.

Buckout and Davis' race is the only competitive congressional contest in the state and could be crucial in determining which party takes control of the U.S. House.

RAL_102124-TRUMP-GREENVILLE-TEL-17.JPGSupporters of former President Donald Trump gather outside Minges Coliseum in Greenville prior to a rally on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

In Greenville, attendees fill arena

1 p.m. Attendees eagerly awaited Trump's arrival at the Minges Coliseum in Greenville, filling the arena with several hours until the former president's expected remarks.

John Heath, a Goldsboro resident, said he considered himself socially liberal, but agreed with Trump on the economy and military.

"He can only do so much to change that kind of thing," Heath said when asked about potential changes to social policy under Trump. "He's gonna be so busy fixing other stuff that he's not even gonna worry about it."

He said his concern with Vice President Kamala Harris is that she doesn't seem prepared for the presidency,

pointing to her performance in TV interviews.

"She sounds like me trying to give a book report in sixth grade," Heath said. "If she doesn't prepare for this, why would she prepare for something bigger?"

Trump leaves Western NC

TRUMP_SWANNANOA_02.jpgLocal Swannanoa, NC business Brian Burpeau, left, addresses the media gathered for former President Donald J. Trump, right, during the former president's tour of damage caused in the local area by Hurricane Helene.

12:30 p.m. Trump departed in his motorcade after less than an hour at the news conference in Swannanoa.

Trump shook hands with his fellow speakers before getting back in his car. He's scheduled to head east for an event in Greenville before returning to the Charlotte area for an event in Concord.

After a reporter shouted a question asking if he still supports Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson for governor, Trump said he hasn't been keeping up with the state's gubernatorial election.

Robinson's campaign was rocked last month after CNN reported on racist and sexually explicit comments he allegedly made years ago on a pornography website's message board.

Congress, FEMA storm response

TRUMP_SWANNANOA_01.jpgFormer President Donald J. Trump, right, is hugged by a local Swannanoa, NC business owner, left, who led Monday's group in prayer during Trump's stop in the area to see the damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

12:18 p.m. Trump said in response to a reporter's question he's in favor of Congress reconvening to allocate more federal aid for Helene victims. Congress isn't scheduled to be back in session until after the election.

He said FEMA has mismanaged its storm response.

"It's a shame ... I think it's a disgrace," he said.

Trump said FEMA spent "hundreds of millions" on things it wasn't supposed to, including undocumented immigrants. He didn't provide any additional detail during Monday's news conference about the claim, but he's made the allegation at rallies and online before. FEMA says it has not diverted disaster relief money to people living in the country without authorization.

Asked whether his continued negative comments about FEMA could be contributing to threats against the agency in North Carolina, Trump said honest people in the region are saying the agency's response has been poor.

"I think you have to let people know how they're doing," he said.

Trump talks about NC elections after Helene

12:13 p.m. Trump encouraged those impacted by the storm to still find ways to vote, including using early voting or mail-in ballots. North Carolina set records on its first day of early voting and already topped 1 million ballots cast over the weekend.

Trump expressed optimism about his chances in North Carolina.

"The early returns are phenomenal," he said.

No votes have been tabulated yet.

Michael Bitzer, a politics professor at Catawba College in Salisbury, said in a post on X that Democrats represent the largest portion of votes, with 366,580 votes. A total of 343,501 Republicans cast ballots before Monday.

Party affiliation, though, doesn't indicate who the person voted for.

Asked about his message to undecided voters, Trump said he's confident in his polling numbers.

He accused Harris of being "unfit" to be president and said he's campaigning on "full blast."

Trump claims he was 'first'

12:05 p.m. Trump claimed that he was "first" in North Carolina after Helene and that he didn't come to tour earlier because of the scale of damage.

President Joe Biden took an aerial tour of Western North Carolina and visited the emergency operations center in Raleigh days after the storm. Vice President Kamala Harris visited North Carolina in early October. Her visit was to Charlotte rather than the hardest-hit mountain counties.

U.S. Rep. Edwards, a Republican whose district covers Western North Carolina, thanked Trump for visiting, saying he did more than a "flyover" — an apparent reference to Biden's flight in the days after the storm. N.C. House Speaker Moore said he hasn't heard from the Biden administration since the storm but has heard from Trump.

Trump said he's dispersed \$7 million of \$8 million raised via a GoFundMe he started after the storm. He said charities that received money include Samaritan's Purse. He asked for local input on where the rest of the money should go.

Trump thanks NC veteran for creating airbase

11:57 a.m. Trump thanked military veteran Adam Smith for his work to set-up a makeshift airbase where helicopters bringing aid could land.

Smith presented Trump with a small wooden cross and said communities like his are afraid they'll be forgotten. He thanked Trump for visiting Swannanoa to highlight the impacts of the storm.

"We're grateful for that," Smith said.

Trump also introduced two local business owners whose properties were damaged by the storm. One said a prayer for Trump.

"It's incredible, and I appreciate it," Trump said.

Trump arrives in Western NC

IMG_3737.jpgFormer President Donald Trump arrives in Swannanoa after touring damage from Helene.

11:47 a.m. The former president exited a black SUV and was greeted by officials, including state House Speaker Moore and Rep. Edwards.

Trump said he was struck by the storm damage he saw as he arrived in Swannanoa.

"I'm with you, and the American people will continue to be with you all the way," he said.

Trump said the Biden administration's response to the storm was "not good" and said he would handle disaster relief better if reelected. He thanked first responders and nonprofits who took action in the wake of Helene.

"We have seen the extraordinary love that binds us as Americans," he said.

He repeated his claims that the federal government's response was slow, saying other groups had to step in.

Trump visiting Swannanoa

IMG_3733.jpgThis is the view in Swannanoa, a Bumcombe County community off of Interestate 40, where former President Donald Trump is scheduled to make remarks after touring damage from Helene.

10:47 a.m. In Swannanoa, where Trump is scheduled to speak about noon, the damage from Helene is still evident almost a month after the storm hit.

Debris, including washed-out cars and an uprooted red shed, were strewn near behind where Trump will speak, in front of an auto body shop on U.S. 70.

A little ways down the road, broken pews sat in piles outside the Swannanoa Free Will Baptist Church.

Democrats target Trump Helene conspiracies, Mark Robinson support

Democrats preempted Trump's visit Monday by saying he's "spread disinformation and lies that put recovery workers at risk."

Among the Trump claims: that Democrats in Washington and Gov. Roy Cooper are blocking people and money from helping Helene victims. Cooper called that "a flat out lie." Canton Mayor Zeb Smathers also called that "a 100% false statement" in a post on X, formerly Twitter. Canton is a town west of Asheville in Haywood County.

Trump and billionaire businessman Elon Musk, who's supporting Trump in the 2024 election, also claimed FEMA diverted disaster relief funds to people who are living in the country without legal authorization. But those claims conflate FEMA's disaster fund with other pots of money the agency has.

In 2019, Trump pulled money from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to pay for immigration detention space and temporary hearing locations for asylum seekers, NBC News reported.

"Donald Trump gutted FEMA and blocked disaster relief funding as president and continues to put politics over getting people the help they need," said Dory MacMillan, communications director for Democrat Kamala Harris' North Carolina campaign. "As North Carolinians work to recover in the aftermath of Helene, a second Trump term would be even worse – his Project 2025 agenda would further slash disaster funding and make it harder for the government to respond to disasters."

Separately, the Democratic National Convention said it purchased billboard space near the Interstate 85 interchange with Interstate 77 in Charlotte. The billboards point out Trump's support for Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson.

"Donald Trump and Mark Robinson are two MAGA extremists in a pod. Both are anti-choice radicals, election deniers, and have a long and disturbing history of violent and dangerous rhetoric," said DNC spokesperson Stephanie Justice. "North Carolinians deserve better. Make no mistake: Trump has repeatedly embraced and tied himself to Robinson."

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Christians, says votes could 'save America", *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5994C779CB990



Beloved Blue Ridge Parkway resembles 1800s logging road after Helene, NC photos show

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mark Price, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north_carolina | 472 Words OpenURL Link

The Blue Ridge Parkway is known as "America's Favorite Drive" — particularly during fall — but that's not the case in its current state.

Hurricane Helene's winds and inches of rain turned the internationally known tourist attraction into something akin to a logging road from centuries past, photos show.

Landslides washed away travel lanes in some spots, but far more startling are stretches where decades-old trees were folded over the road like a carpet.

Piles are forming like walls along the parkway as crews work to get the trees off the pavement.

"The hurricane left tens of thousands of downed trees across the roadway and caused nearly three dozen rock and mud slides," National Park Service officials told McClatchy News on Oct. 21.

"The slides have occurred above and below the road and have also severely damaged or swept away the roadbed in numerous places."

In some cases, the hazards remain hidden, including "weakened" road, unstable slopes and trees poised to tumble over at any moment, officials said.

The parkway extends 469 miles through Virginia and North Carolina, and much of the N.C stretch remains closed. Twenty miles near Blowing Rock reopened Oct. 23, allowing cars to travel from mile post 285.5 to milepost 305.

Closing the roadway is a major economic blow to Western North Carolina. The parkway attracted 16,757,635 visitors in 2023, and they pumped \$1.39 billion into the neighboring economy and supported 19,159 jobs, officials say.

So beloved is the site that rangers are catching people sneaking onto it, despite the dangers, officials said. As a result, rangers are issuing citations, officials warned.

"These actions are necessary to prevent accidents and injuries to the public and our crews," officials said.

Among the popular spots that were spared "significant impacts" from the storm was the Linn Cove Viaduct, park officials said.

Here are some of the images shared by the NPS of damage and ongoing restoration work.

blueridge 1_fitted.jpegIn some areas of North Carolina, the pavement is scarcely visible due to the amount of storm debris, photos show.

blueridge _fitted (1).jpegThe entirety of the North Carolina stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway remains closed as crews work to make the pavement safe for travel, officials say.

blueridge fitted.jpegTropical Storm Helene sent decades-old trees tumbling onto the road in some areas. Crews are

cutting them into pieces for removal, park officials say.

blue ridge tunne_fitted.jpegThe pavement vanished just outside one of the three Ferrin Knob tunnels, creating a potentially deadly trap for motorists emerging from the tunnel.

blue ridge 1_fitted.jpegBoth lanes of the scenic roadway washed down steep slopes in some parts of North Carolina, photos show.

blue ridge 10 roa_fitted.jpegNearly three dozen landslides were reported along the Blue Ridge Parkway during Tropical Storm Helene, park officials say.

NC's Christmas tree industry — the second biggest in US — may be impacted by Helene

Helene flooding left dog stuck for days in top of tree, TN rescuers say. 'A miracle'

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Mark Price, The Charlotte Observer, 'Beloved Blue Ridge Parkway resembles 1800s logging road after Helene, NC photos show', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5948E552E2650>



Traffic expected in Concord area for Trump's event with faith leaders, Ben Carson

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Jeff A. Chamer, The Charlotte Observer | Section: politics_government | 118 Words OpenURL Link

Charlotte region motorists can expect heavier traffic and possible delays Monday afternoon when Donald Trump holds a campaign event at the Concord Convention Center.

Trump's 11th Hour Faith Leaders Meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. at 5400 John Q. Hammons Drive NW, according to the event's registration website. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. The convention center is off I-85 near I-485.

Eric Trump, the former president's son, and Ben Carson, the former U.S. secretary for Housing and Urban Development, are scheduled to appear.

The Concord event is the last of three stops in North Carolina for Trump on Monday. He planned a visit to Asheville to see the Helene-damaged areas, and Greenville where he will hold a rally.

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jeff A. Chamer, The Charlotte Observer, 'Traffic expected in Concord area for Trump's event with faith leaders, Ben Carson', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C59B6917D08ECO>



Endorsements: Our choices for NC treasurer, labor and agriculture commissioners

October 21, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: the Editorial Board, The Charlotte Observer | Section: opinion | 698 Words OpenURL Link

Voters have strong candidates to consider in the race to replace North Carolina treasurer Dale Folwell, who ran unsuccessfully for governor. Democrat Wesley Harris has a Ph.D in economics and has worked in international tax accounting, and he's a three-term member of the NC House. Republican Brad Briner is a member of the UNC Board of Trustees and a retired financial investor with a quarter-century of financial and investment experience.

Both candidates have run refreshingly non-partisan campaigns, and both believe North Carolina's pension fund has underperformed under Folwell. Briner's vision for the office is more narrowly focused on growing investments without taking on unnecessary risk, and he offers a meticulous blueprint on how he would get there. Harris wants the treasurer to take on a more active role advocating for state employees and laying out an economic vision for the state.

We share Briner's vision for the office, and we believe he brings a deeper experience and a more sophisticated knowledge in the financial and investment sector. We recommend Brad Briner for NC Treasurer.

Labor commissioner

Voters are choosing between two Commissioner of Labor candidates who would bring distinctly different backgrounds and approaches to the job.

Republican Luke Farley is a Wake County lawyer who works with companies cited by the state labor department for workplace safety violations. "I'm going to always approach this job with balance," he told the editorial board.

Democrat Braxton Winston, a former Charlotte City Council member and mayor pro tem, is a union member and a stagehand and grip by trade. "I think it's high time we had an actual worker be an advocate for workers across the state," he told the editorial board.

Both candidates agree that too many N.C. workers, particularly construction workers, are dying on the job. Each believes that the office would benefit for more robust staffing and proactively working with businesses on workplace safety.

Farley touts the endorsement of former labor commissioner Cherie Berry, and like Berry, he would approach the job with a more business-centric focus. He told the Editorial Board that what's good for businesses is also good for the workers they employ.

Winston wants the department to perform more inspections and hold businesses accountable for workplace safety. He also wants to expand the reach of the office with a "whole worker approach" that calls for collaborating with other agencies on issues such as affordable housing and transportation.

This board appreciates Winston's intent with his whole worker approach, but we believe the commissioner and his staffing-challenged department should instead concentrate on its core, constitutional responsibilities. We also believe that North Carolina's labor department, particularly under Berry, was too aligned with businesses on workplace issues and unfair wage practices. We were disappointed that Farley, in his conversation with the editorial board, so fully embraced Berry's tenure and her endorsement.

Winston's experience as a worker would be transformative to an office that needs change. We endorse Braxton Winston for labor commissioner.

Agriculture commissioner

The Democratic and Republican candidates for agriculture commissioner would bring vastly different experience to an office that maintains and protects the state's agribusiness industry and regulates food, animal health, the state fair and other areas.

Republican Steve Troxler is hoping for a sixth term as agriculture commissioner. He's long had a strong rapport with farmers and success in promoting North Carolina's diverse agriculture industry, which is contributing more than \$100 billion to the state's economy in 2024. His experience and relationship-building also is valuable in challenging times, as he's shown with his leadership in marshaling resources to help farmers and others in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Democrat Sarah Taber has worked with family farm holdings and helped launch a series of vegetable greenhouses and indoor farms that are now worth over \$4 billion. She told the editorial board that the agriculture commissioner should more actively advocate for diversifying what we grow in North Carolina, and that the office has underinvested in fire safety under Troxler. (The commissioner also leads the N.C. Forest Service.)

We believe Troxler should be open to new ideas that might help slow the farmland loss our state is experiencing. But Troxler is a capable leader and advocate for North Carolina agriculture, which continues to thrive under his watch. We recommend Steve Troxler for another term.

Copyright (c) 2024 The Charlotte Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

the Editorial Board, The Charlotte Observer, 'Endorsements: Our choices for NC treasurer, labor and agriculture commissioners', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5A06E75B8CECO>



Trump heads to hurricane-hit N. Carolina, Harris in swing state push

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Jim Watson, with Asad Hashim in Washington | Section: National | 622 Words OpenURL Link

Former US president Donald Trump hits the campaign trail in hurricane-hit North Carolina on Monday, having heavily criticized the government's disaster response after at least 124 people were killed there by storm Helene.

Emergency services are still distributing food and water in the worst-affected parts of the state almost a month after Helene slammed into the southeastern United States, leaving more than 240 dead in its wake, according to an AFP tally.

Trump will hold a campaign rally in the city of Greenville, while his Democratic rival Kamala Harris is set to address supporters in other battleground states Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

The two candidates are locked in a neck-and-neck race for the White House with just over two weeks until Election Day. Polls show the contest is too close to call, including in the seven swing states that decide US elections.

In North Carolina, emergency services continue to address the storm's aftermath, with urban search-and-rescue teams still at work in some areas.

On Sunday, the White House said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had "approved more than \$300 million in assistance across the state, including \$118 million in individual assistance to more than 87,600 households."

The immediate aftermath of the storm left many without access to power, drinking water or shelter, leading Trump to sharply criticize US President Joe Biden and his vice president, Harris.

Biden and Harris have rejected the allegations, accusing Trump of spreading misinformation about the response for political gain.

"There's been a reckless, irresponsible and relentless promotion of disinformation and outright lies," Biden said after Helene and before a second major storm, Milton, slammed into Florida.

As of Sunday, power had been restored to most of North Carolina, barring about 5,000 customers in remote western counties, according to poweroutage.us.

Schools are due to reopen in some of the hardest hit areas this week, and municipal services say water supply has been restored in many areas -- although some continue to face "boil water" advisories.

Shelley Hughes, 64, lives near the city of Asheville, and said as of Friday the water at her residence was "still brownish (in) color."

"It still kind of looks like, I guess, for lack of a better word, like a war zone," she said of her town of Swannanoa.

Harris and Trump are virtually tied in the battleground states, according to a New York Times polling average, and North Carolina is no different -- Harris stood at 49 percent in the state, to Trump's 48 percent, on Sunday.

Early voting is already underway in several states, including North Carolina, where more than a million people had cast their ballots as of Sunday, according to official data.

- 'Deserve better' -

Harris on Sunday appeared to acknowledge the closeness of the race, saying she would leave "nothing on the field" in her push to win the election.

The 60-year-old -- who celebrated her birthday on Sunday -- also lambasted Trump's increasingly disparaging language on the trail, saying in an interview on MSNBC that Americans "deserve so much better."

"Donald Trump should never again stand behind the seal of the president of the United States. He has not earned the right," Harris said.

Trump's campaign has painted a dark image of a United States gripped by crime and illegal immigration, describing some undocumented migrants as animals and accusing them of "invading" the country.

At campaign events, he has increasingly gone off-script, using bizarre and sometimes expletive-laden language -- often to the delight of his supporters.

Harris -- almost 18 years Trump's junior -- has increasingly drawn attention to the former president's age, raising questions about his fitness to serve for a second term.

On Sunday, Trump insisted his age was not slowing him down, telling a Pennsylvania town hall that "we've had some of the greatest leaders in world history that are in their 80s."

bur-aha/sn

Copyright 2024, The Courier-Times, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jim Watson, with Asad Hashim in Washington, 'Trump heads to hurricane-hit N. Carolina, Harris in swing state push', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5922B5B7C1260>