

Small Business Administration offering disaster loans following Helene

October 1, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 394 Words

OpenURL Link

In response to the aftereffects of Hurricane Helene, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched loan programs to aid North Carolina residents and businesses impacted by the storm.

Low-interest disaster loans from the SBA are available to businesses and residents in North Carolina following the announcement of a Presidential disaster declaration that began Sept. 25.

"Our mission-driven team stands ready to help small businesses and residents in North Carolina impacted by this disaster in every way possible under President Biden's disaster declaration for certain affected areas," said SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman.

"We're committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild.

Twenty-five counties were covered by the disaster declaration, including Alleghany and Wilkes counties, for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in Surry and Yadkin counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Loans that are targeted toward alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster

The SBA advised, "Disaster survivors should not wait to settle with their insurance company before applying for a disaster loan. If a survivor does not know how much of their loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, SBA can make a low-interest disaster loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided the borrower agrees to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay the loan."

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. These loans are available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

SBA advised that with the changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency procedures. "Survivors are now encouraged to simultaneously apply for FEMA grants and SBA low-interest disaster loan assistance to fully recover. FEMA grants are intended to cover necessary expenses and serious needs not paid by insurance or other sources. The SBA disaster loan program is designed for your long-term recovery, to make you whole and get you back to your pre-disaster condition."

Interested parties can apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

The filing deadline to return applications for economic injury applications is June 30, 2025.

© 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Report, 'Small Business Administration offering disaster loans following Helene', Mt. Airy News, The (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF4CC5D13405B0



East Surry schedules tentative makeup date for football game at West Wilkes

October 1, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Cory Smith | Section: Sports | 228 Words

OpenURL Link

East Surry and West Wilkes will face each other in a makeup football game on Oct. 15...at least for the time being.

The Cardinals were originally scheduled to travel to Millers Creek to take on the Blackhawks on Sept. 27. The game was pushed back to Sept. 30 due to the impact of Hurricane Helene, but was postponed once again as both communities continued to deal with complications caused by the storm.

East Surry announced on Oct. 1 that the tentative plan is to make the game up on Oct. 15. However, the N.C. High School Athletic Association notified schools that it will meet later this week to discuss potential changes to fall sports schedules. One possibility would be to extend the regular season. The NCHSAA took a similar action in 2018 when Eastern North Carolina was heavily impacted by Hurricane Florence.

If the East Surry — West Wilkes game is played on Oct. 15, a Tuesday, each team's games originally scheduled for Oct. 18 would be pushed back one day to Oct. 19. A potential extension to the regular season could provide each team additional rest between games.

Updates will be provided later in the week.

Both teams are part of the Foothills 2A Conference. East Surry sits at 4-0 overall but hasn't competed in a conference game this season. West Wilkes is 2-3 overall and 1-0 in the FH2A Conference.

© 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Cory Smith, 'East Surry schedules tentative makeup date for football game at West Wilkes', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF4CC5DFE1BA58



Balanced attack lifts North Surry to win over Forbush

October 1, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Cory Smith | Section: Sports | 611 Words OpenURL Link

North Surry downed Forbush 51-21 in a rare Saturday afternoon game.

The Greyhounds led by nine in the second quarter before erupting for the next 28 points. The Hounds put up more than 500 yards of total offense to surpass the 50-point threshold for the second-consecutive week.

The Foothills 2A Conference game, which was pushed back a day due to Hurricane Helene, served as North Surry's second-consecutive win this season and eighth-consecutive against a conference opponent.

North Surry (4-2, 2-0 FH2A) had its most balanced offensive performance of the year while racking up a season-high 545 yards. Quarterback Kam McKnight passed for 274 yards and three touchdowns, while five Greyhounds combined to rush 36 times for 271 yards.

The defending FH2A Champs have accumulated more than 1,000 yards of offense across their past two games.

McKnight earned his 274 passing yards by completing 16-of-22 passes, which marked the senior's second game of the season with a completion percentage of at least 70%. McKnight also had his third game of the season without an interception.

McKnight connected with five receivers overall and threw touchdowns to three different Greyhounds; all five Hound receivers grabbed at least three receptions and averaged at least 12.3 yards per reception. Leading the way for North Surry's receiving corps was Fisher Leftwich with three receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown. David Schuyler added 67 yards and a touchdown in the air, followed by Jasper Wilmoth with 50 yards, Isaac Webb with 40 yards, and Owen McMillian with 37 yards and a touchdown.

Zamarri Sweatman, who ran for more than 300 yards in North Surry's Week 5 victory over Wilkes Central, continued his hot streak by rushing nine times for 115 yards and two touchdowns. The junior ran for at least 100 yards in each of his past three outings.

Leftwich, meanwhile, recorded his first career game of at least 100 rushing yards. The junior carried a team-high 12 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns. Leftwich finished the afternoon with 183 total yards.

Dayvion Duncan added 27 rushing yards, followed by Jhett Tolbert with 22 yards and McKnight with 4 yards.

The Hounds jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first quarter behind two rushing touchdowns from Sweatman. McMillen caught a pass for a 2-point conversion on the first touchdown, then threw the second 2-point conversion pass to Schuyler. Forbush (1-5, 0-2 FH2A) cut the lead to 23-12 with a passing touchdown and 2-point conversion.

Forbush quarterback Tyler Winters also had a strong showing by posting 201 yards and three touchdowns on 12 completions. Neither McKnight nor Winters threw an interception.

The Hounds and Falcons traded passing touchdowns in the second quarter as the home team extended their lead to 23-12. The Greyhounds defense buckled down following the Falcons' second touchdown and held the visitors scoreless until the fourth quarter — allowing the Hounds to score 28-unanswered points.

Duncan and Anthony Williams each recovered a fumble in the win over Forbush. Erik Cabrera led the Hounds with 12 total tackles, including one sack, followed by Schuyler with eight tackles, Peyton Sechrist with six tackles and

Gage Combs with five tackles. Sechrist had two tackles for a loss, and Jaxton Turney added one.

North's offense closed the half with an 8-yard touchdown pass from McKnight to Schuyler and a 2-point conversion run by Leftwich. Leftwich ran for two more scores in the second half, then a McMillian touchdown catch and PAT from Cabrera rounded out North's 51 points.

Forbush's Winters connected with Joseph Barnes for the game's final touchdown. Barnes led all players with 131 receiving yards and two receiving touchdowns.

North Surry continues its quest for a second-consecutive FH2A Championship by traveling to North Wilkes (1-4, 0-1 FH2A) on Oct. 4.

© 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Cory Smith, 'Balanced attack lifts North Surry to win over Forbush', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF4CC5D7F6EB10



Mount Airy victorious in Saturday Night's Main Event vs. Starmount

October 1, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Cory Smith| Section: Sports | 1404 Words OpenURL Link

BOONVILLE — Mount Airy fended off a late comeback effort to defeat Starmount 17-14 in a battle of undefeated teams.

The Sept. 27 game, which was moved back one day due to Hurricane Helene, lived up to the hype and went down to the final possession.

Starmount cut Mount Airy's lead to three points by scoring with just 2:20 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Rams attempted an onside kick that was recovered by the Granite Bears' Fletcher Gallimore. With Starmount out of timeouts, Taeshon Martin ran twice to move the chains and put the visitors in victory formation.

Saturday's game marked Mount Airy's 800th win all-time and extended the program's winning streak to 36-consecutive games – the longest active streak in North Carolina.

"Starmount's a great team," said Mount Airy coach Austin Taylor. "They kept pushing and kept fighting, so I was proud of our boys for showing a lot of toughness. It got a little crazy there at the end. Things did not go our way in the fourth at all, but we stayed with it."

Starmount (4-1, 1-1 Northwest 1A Conference) limited Mount Airy to just 18 yards of offense in the fourth quarter, and 12 of those came on Martin's final two carries. The Rams, who struggled to combat the Bears' defense for most of the night, got some momentum going on their first drive of the quarter before Luke Collins was sacked by DJ Joyce. Collins lost another eight yards on the following play, then was intercepted by Martin near midfield.

Kevon Propst and Corey Armstrong led the Rams defense as they forced a three-and-out to set up the home team's best drive of the night. Starmount covered 59 yards on the eight-play drive that spanned 1:56 of game time. The drive ended with Collins connecting with KJ Allen for a 2-yard touchdown, but the score was too little too late as Mount Airy was able to run the clock out by moving the chains after recovering the onside kick.

Mount Airy (6-0, 2-0 NW1A) used the clock to its advantage throughout Saturday's game with a time of possession of nearly 32 minutes.

Defensively, the Bears shut down the run and held the Rams in the negative. Starmount failed to score a rushing touchdown for the first time since 2022. Instead, the home team scored both of its touchdowns in the air. This included a 52-yard pass from Collins to LT Adams on the first play of the game. Following the touchdown Starmount completed just two of its next 13 passes for 9 yards and two interceptions. Collins finished the game 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Mount Airy utilized its passing game some as Landon Gallimore threw for 74 yards and the team's first touchdown, a 31-yard strike to Zach Goins, but stuck mostly to the ground game. Goins' touchdown served as the first points surrendered by Starmount all season.

Martin served as the Bears' workhorse on offense. The junior rushed for 175 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 31 carries. Martin is the first Granite Bear to record at least 30 carries in a single game since Johnathon Smith in 2019.

Four other Bears combined for 38 rushing yards on nine carries.

The Rams initially contained the Granite Bears offense. Mount Airy went three-and-out on its first drive after two negative rushes and an incomplete pass. Mount Airy forced a turnover-on-downs after Third Floyd made a big fourth-down stop on Starmount's next possession, but then the home team forced a fumble that was recovered by Kinston Crater.

Starmount started on the Mount Airy 31-yard line but quickly faced fourth-and-10 following pressure from Joyce and a swatted pass by Ethan Clabo. Floyd halted the Rams' Crater on a fake punt to set up the Bears' first scoring drive. Collins looked to counter the Bears touchdown in the air but had a pass tipped by Goins and intercepted by Bryson Taylor.

Starmount didn't record another first down until midway through the third quarter.

"I hate we gave them one early out the gate, but I did think we played great in the box," Coach Taylor said. "Our guys played with a lot of effort, and I was really proud of them. Got a little tired towards the end, but that's something we're going to work on."

Mount Airy forced the game's only lead change when Martin scored a 35-yard rushing touchdown as time expired in the first quarter. The touchdown was the longest rush by either team and it more than doubled Mount Airy's rushing yards to that point in the game.

The teams traded punts across the next two possessions, then Joyce forced and recovered a fumble for the Bears. This sparked an 8-play drive that spanned 4:18 of game time during which the Rams' Savian Billips and Kevon Probst each recorded tackles for a loss; Probst led the visitors with six tackles for a loss and 17 total tackles. The Rams' bend-don't-break defense held Mount Airy to a 27-yard field goal from Clabo.

The Bears got another shot at scoring when Kylan Mason recovered a squib kick, but the Rams defense held strong and forced another field goal attempt. The second attempt missed the mark as Mount Airy attempted to get it off before the halftime whistle.

Starmount, which became the first team since 2022 to hold Mount Airy to fewer than 20 points, stood tall as its defense stayed on the field for nearly nine minutes of game time in the third quarter. The defense set the offense up nicely when Cody Hernandez picked off Landon Gallimore and returned it to the Bears' 13-yard line. Collins found Allen for a 9-yard gain on the first play of the red zone drive, then a penalty on Mount Airy moved the home team to the 2-yard line.

Mount Airy stopped Starmount at the line of scrimmage on back-to-back plays before Crater made it to the 1. The Rams lined up for fourth-and-goal, but a false start penalty moved them back to the 6. The Rams instead attempted a 23-yard field goal that sailed wide of the uprights.

Starmount found itself up against the clock after the missed field goal with 4:32 left in the quarter. Mount Airy maintained possession through the end of the quarter but only moved forward 27 yards due to four holding penalties. The Bears' drive continued into the first 1:59 of the fourth quarter before punting. Martin regained possession for Mount Airy with the interception before the visitors punted back to Starmount.

Even with their late surge of offense Starmount couldn't overcome Mount Airy's advantage.

Mount Airy has won its past five meetings against Starmount and 10 of the past 11.

Scoring

Mount Airy -14, 3, 0, 0 -17

Starmount -7, 0, 0, 7 - 14

11:40 ST 7-0 — LT Adams 52-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

3:24 MA 7-7 — Zach Goins 31-yard TD reception on Landon Gallimore pass, Ethan Clabo PAT

0:00 MA 7-14 — Taeshon Martin 35-yard TD run, Ethan Clabo PAT

2Q

1:33 MA 7-17 — Ethan Clabo 27-yard field goal

3Q

No scoring

4Q

2:20 ST 14-17 — KJ Allen 2-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

Offensive Stats

Mount Airy Granite Bears

TEAM

74 passing yards and one touchdown on five completions, one interception

213 rushing yards and one touchdown on 40 carries, one fumble

287 total yards

INDIVIDUAL

Passing: Landon Gallimore 5-of-16 for 74 yards, one touchdown, one interception

Receiving: Zach Goins three receptions for 54 yards, one touchdown; Saul Oakley two receptions for 21 yards; Zach Goins one reception for -1 yard

Rushing: Taeshon Martin 31 carries for 175 yards, one touchdown; Landon Gallimore six carries for 42 yards, one fumble; DJ Joyce one carry for 5 yards; John Martin 1 carry for 1 yard; Zach Goins one carry for -10 yards

Kicking: Ethan Clabo 2-of-2 PATs, 1-of-2 field goals (made from 27 yards, missed from 24 yards)

Starmount Rams

TEAM

146 passing yards and two touchdowns on 10 completions, two interceptions

-1 rushing yards on 17 carries, one fumble

145 total yards

INDIVIDUAL

Passing: Luke Collins 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns, two interceptions

Receiving: LT Adams one reception for 52 yards, one touchdown; KJ Allen four receptions for 25 yards, one touchdown; Kinston Crater one reception for 23 yards; Jymir Billips one reception for 21 yards; Colton Allen one reception for 13 yards; Aamir Adams two receptions for 12 yards

Rushing: Kinston Crater seven carries for 9 yards, one fumble; Jymir Billips two carries for 4 yards; Luke Collins eight carries for -14 yards

Kicking: Yahir Angulo 2-of-2 PATs, 0-of-1 field goals (22 yards)

 $\hbox{@ 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved.}$

• Citation (aglc Style)

Cory Smith, 'Mount Airy victorious in Saturday Night's Main Event vs. Starmount', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF949D52A0F70



Where to donate, volunteer if you wish to help NC in Hurricane Helene aftermath

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Julia Coin; Staff Writer | Section: News | 677 Words

Page: 4A OpenURL Link

In Western North Carolina, many are dead, missing and cut off from the outside world - and help - in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

The Category 4 hurricane made landfall in northern Florida and was still a raging tropical storm when it passed over the Carolinas. The storm flooded North Carolina towns, wiped neighborhoods away and killed at least 11 across the state.

President Joe Biden Saturday approved Gov. Roy Cooper's request for FEMA help in 25 counties, and federal aid flocked to Asheville and Charlotte Sunday. Crews set up base camps, waiting for some of the 280 closed roads to reopen, as Red Cross planes and helicopters searched for people stranded in the towns near the Appalachian Mountains, said American Red Cross Vice President of Disaster Response Jennifer Pipa Sunday.

Floods severed towns from nearby roads, and emergency services struggled to reach those suffering without using aircraft.

How to help people affected by Helene

If your organization would like to be added to this list, please email news@charlotteobserver.com with the subject line "How to Help NC."

"Cash is best," according to FEMA's website. It's the most effective, flexible way to aid organizations. FEMA recommends donating to verified organizations directing money to on-the-ground groups that know what communities need. A list of organizations can be found on the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website. Those same organizations accept volunteers, too.

FEMA cautions people to not self deploy to affected areas - especially any still-flooded areas.

Hurricane Helene GoFundMe

GoFundMe, a crowdfunding platform that allows individuals to create their own fundraisers, launched a Hurricane Helene Relief page with verified fundraisers Friday. As of Sunday, it had nearly 400 fundraisers on the verified landing page.

In Charlotte, a tree struck down during Helene fell onto a Hoskins home and killed a man inside. That man, according to a GoFundMe page set up by his nephew, was Anthony "Tony" Taylor. His wife and four children survived, but he did not.

Neighbors said half the tree fell onto another home months before. It should have been cut down already, they said.

"For some time, we had been trying to get the tree removed, but since it wasn't on our property, there was little we could do," wrote Taylor's nephew, Stephen Taylor, in the post.

Also in Charlotte, a group of pilots is asking for money to help air-drop supplies to those in communities surrounded now by water instead of roads.

"We believe that small aircraft can deploy resources faster because we don't need to wait for roads to be cleared. We'll use funds to purchase supplies like nonperishable foods, hygiene items, and baby supplies," wrote Benjamin Spells.

In Swannanoa, host to some of the state's worst flood scenes, a couple and their children - ages 2 and 7 - took refuge in their attic as orange floodwaters moved sludge and debris through their neighborhood. The Zara Family last frantically called family at 11 a.m. Friday, after hours without contact. A neighbor with a kayak rescued them and their home was destroyed.

Jessica Allred, the wife's sister, is asking for funds to help The Zara Family. Hundreds of more families with harrowing stories are listed on GoFundMe.

American Red Cross of North Carolina

The Red Cross sent 745 responders across North Carolina and facilitated more than 500 storm rescues. People can volunteer with the American Red Cross or donate blood to help treat those injured in the storm.

Text Helene to 90999 make a donation, or visit the organization's website here.

United Way

United Way, a nonprofit that runs a 2-1-1 hotline connecting people to relief resources, accepts donations for short-term and continued relief efforts. United Way's Helene recovery fund aims to help "meet the critical needs of those impacted" as residents and officials navigate life-threatening conditions.

Local chapters are listed on the organization's website.

Americares

Americares, a global health-focused nonprofit, set up a donation page to address medical needs in areas affected by Helene.

Julia Coin: 7042189350, @juliamcoin

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Julia Coin, Staff Writer, 'Where to donate, volunteer if you wish to help NC in Hurricane Helene aftermath', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 4A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E95BEB238>



Biden says over 100 dead, - 600 people unaccounted for in Hurricane Helene devastation

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Michael Wilner; Staff Writer | Section: News | 563 Words

Page: 2A OpenURL Link

WASHINGTON At least 100 people have died and over 600 are unaccounted for across 10 states devastated by Hurricane Helene over the weekend, President Joe Biden said Monday, vowing to deploy the federal resources necessary for "as long as it takes" to help communities recover.

Inland Appalachian communities with little experience dealing with hurricane conditions faced a perfect storm in Helene, which barreled through the Gulf of Mexico and Florida's Big Bend with enough speed, breadth and intensity to bring devastation deep into the Southeast.

Biden said that over 3,600 personnel had already deployed to the region, including officials from FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers, to help restore cell service as quickly as possible, hopeful that many of those who remain unaccounted for are still alive. The number of federal personnel is expected to increase in the coming days.

"I've directed my team to provide every, every available resource as fast as possible to your communities to rescue, recover, and to begin rebuilding," Biden said.

READ MORE: 'Apocalyptic' damage: Helene kills at least 30 in Western NC, severs power, water, roads

"This is an historic storm. It's devastating. They've never seen anything like this before," he added.

Towns in western North Carolina, southern Georgia and rural Kentucky are still faced with flooding from the storm, forcing FEMA and the Defense Department to airlift supplies like meals, fresh water and tarps to those hardest hit. Power is still down in many communities that, because of the damage, remain largely inaccessible and practically isolated.

RELATED CONTENT: A new storm could form in the Caribbean this week. Florida should watch it

The crisis has prompted an all-of-government response from the Biden administration. On Monday, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas canceled planned travel to Mexico to focus on the emergency response.

FEMA officials have said that rainfall totals in North Carolina, in particular, were "absolutely extreme" and exceeded expectations. The Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency throughout much of the Southeast warning of threats to the region's water systems.

READ MORE: Hurricane Helene left thousands without power in Kentucky. How long until it's back on?

Biden said he spent hours on Sunday speaking with local leaders, including Republican Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina, and local officials in affected regions of Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"I want them to know: We're not leaving until the job is done," Biden said.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, where the storm first made landfall, told reporters at a news conference on Monday that he missed a call from Biden while he was on a plane Sunday. He did not say whether he attempted to call the president back.

For now, Florida has the situation "handled," DeSantis said, encouraging federal officials to direct resources to North Carolina.

Former President Donald Trump, who is running again for the presidency this year, has criticized the federal response and attempted to tie his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, to the fallout in battleground states.

The former president plans to visit Valdosta, Georgia, on Monday, to survey the damage. Biden said he expects to visit North Carolina in the coming days.

Miami Herald reporter Ana Ceballos contributed reporting.

Michael Wilner: 202-383-6083, @mawilner

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Michael Wilner, Staff Writer, 'Biden says over 100 dead, 600 people unaccounted for in Hurricane Helene devastation', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 2A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E8EC73BD0>



Pair defy Helene - in NC mountain wedding in Lake Lure

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Martha Quillin; Staff Writer | Section: News | 478 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene whittled down the guest list by more than half. Her father couldn't get there to give the bride away. And the caterer and photographer were shut out by downed trees and power lines and submerged highways.

But the love between Sereyna Bianchi and Gavin Walker was deeper than any floodwaters, so the pair stood before 45 of their most intrepid friends Saturday night to promise it would last forever.

The wedding at The 1927 Lake Lure Inn was both a demonstration of the kind of flexibility marriage requires and a desperately needed bit of joy in the face of a natural disaster.

"It never really occurred to me we would not do it," said Bianchi, a graphic designer and project manager in Raleigh.

The remnants of Helene caused historic devastation across Western North Carolina. It killed at least 30 people in Buncombe County alone, the sheriff there announced Sunday.

Lake Lure and its close neighbor Chimney Rock were hit by a powerful flood Friday as Helene's rains filled the Broad River to overflowing. In Chimney Rock, the river went crashing down Main Street, sweeping away the pavement and more than half of the buildings that lined it, along with houses, cars and infrastructure. Much of that came to rest at the top of Lake Lure or against or on top of the bridge over the Broad that connects the two communities.

The wedding couple's original wedding venue, Morse Park, was obliterated by the flood. No problem; Bianchi simply moved it to a grassy area beside the pool at the inn.

No caterer? No servers? No worries. Bianchi's family rallied. A cousin who's a chef toured the inn's pantry and coolers and, with the innkeepers' blessings, put together a perfect reception dinner of prime rib.

Bianchi, a devoted do-it-yourselfer, had brought with her a van full of decor to create a "Great Gatsby" theme, with Art Deco gilded mirrors and floating candles on the tables. The hotel, built just before the Great Depression, provided the perfect backdrop.

Sara Walling, Bianchi's aunt, said her niece was the opposite of the petulant bride who pouts when her best-laid plans go awry.

"She had been planning this for a year, down to the last detail," Walling said. "Then this storm comes along, and that's all out the window."

During the reception, the bridal party crossed the muddy parking lot of the inn to take photos with the lake behind them. Just then, several trucks carrying uniformed troops from the N.C. National Guard rolled up, finished for the day, and stopped to wish the happy couple well.

Martha Quillin: 919-829-8989, @MarthaQuillin

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

Citation (aglc Style)



Much of western NC still without power, roads - mostly 'impassable'

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted; Staff Writer | Section: News | 823 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

Helene passed through North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 27, bringing heavy rains and strong winds that flooded parts of the state.

Days after the storm, which made landfall in Florida on Thursday, Sept. 27 as a Category 4 hurricane, many communities in western North Carolina are dealing with the aftermath.

Hundreds of thousands of Duke Energy customers in western North Carolina and South Carolina were still without power as of Sunday, Sept. 29, the company said in a press release. Meanwhile, several highways were washed out or destroyed by the storm.

As electric companies, power plants and emergency personnel continue with recovery efforts, here's what you need to know on Monday, Sept. 30.

How many people are still without power in western NC?

While Duke Energy has restored power to more than 1.1 million customers affected by the storm in the Carolinas, there are still nearly as many who are without power.

As of 6 p.m. Sept. 29, around 508,000 people in South Carolina and 396,000 in North Carolina - mostly in the western regions of each state - still lacked power.

Use Duke Energy's map to track outages.

When will power be restored in western NC?

"Based on what we can see on the ground, from helicopter and by drone, there are lots of areas across the South Carolina Upstate and North Carolina mountains where we're going to have to completely rebuild parts of our system, not just repair it," Jason Hollifield, Duke Energy storm director for the Carolinas, said in a Sept. 29 press release. "And there are stretches of damage that we still can't even assess due to mudslides, flooding and blocked roads."

Helene damaged Duke Energy's infrastructure, submerging substations and toppling utility poles and transmission towers.

Restoring power to the hardest-hit areas could take "several days or longer," according to the press release. Duke Energy restores power first to public health and safety facilities, but it also considers how to restore service to the greatest number of customers.

The company can't restore power to homes or businesses that have been flooded until the electrical system passes inspection by an electrician.

Which roads are closed in western NC?

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said all roads in western North Carolina should be considered closed, and "non-emergency travel is prohibited," The News & Observer previously reported.

Parts ofInterstate 40 are "impassable," according to NCDOT.

Near the Tennessee border, Interstate 40 has been washed out, and Interstate 26 is closed.

All of US 276 and US 64 are closed in Transylvania County, according to NCDOT.

Two bridges leading to Burnsville, a town in Yancey County northeast of Asheville, have been damaged, former N.C. Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr shared on X.

NC towns and cities destroyed by flooding

- * Roads and buildings in the village of Chimney Rock were swept away by the flooding, a resident captured in a video.
- * Many businesses in Asheville's River Arts District, a popular cultural hub, were destroyed by the flooding, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times.
- * The Old Marshall Jail Hotel in Marshall regained internet access on Sept. 29 and shared an update on the situation in the town. "We are safe but the town of Marshall is destroyed," the hotel wrote in an Instagram post. "Whole buildings are gone. All the businesses are destroyed."
- * Southeast of Asheville, the Lake Lure Dam nearly failed, the National Weather Service shared on X around 11 a.m. Sept. 27. Water crested the dam, but Josh Kastrinsky, a spokesperson for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, said it continued to hold despite structural damage, The Charlotte Observer previously reported.

Lake Lure Dam is now stable, and emergency repairs are set to begin, The N&O reported.

Recovery efforts from Red Cross, NC National Guard

As of the evening of Sept. 29, there were more than 30 shelters with more than 1,000 people looking for refuge in the Carolinas, according to a Red Cross press release, and the organization is working to increase its shelter footprint.

Along with providing refuge, the Red Cross is also increasing its mass care services such as food, health and mental health care, and relief supplies.

Around 550 North Carolina National Guard members have been deployed to help with recovery efforts, along with more than 100 vehicles and 11 aircraft, according to a press release Sept. 29 from the office of Gov. Roy Cooper.

On Sept. 28, President

Joe Biden approved a "major disaster" declaration for North Carolina, which will allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to supply additional help quicker to people who need it. Federal funding is available to more than two dozen counties along with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Death toll from Helene continues to rise

At least 30 people in North Carolina's Buncombe County have died as a result of Helene, Sheriff Quentin Miller said in a press briefing Sept. 29.

Overall, at least 107 people in six states have died, AP News reported around 11 a.m. Sept. 30.

Renee Umsted: +1 202-383-6008, @renee_umsted

• Citation (aglc Style)

Renee Umsted, Staff Writer, 'Much of western NC still without power, roads mostly 'impassable'', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 1A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E76DD97E0



'There's just nothing left.' Helene wipes - out Chimney Rock's Main Street

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Martha Quillin; Staff Writer | Section: News | 888 Words Page: 2A OpenURL Link

CHIMNEY ROCK For a while on Friday morning, it looked as if Chimney Rock and Lake Lure had been spared the worst of Hurricane Helene.

And then worse than the worst happened, as a wall of water came rushing down the Broad River, wiping out most of the structures along Main Street - and Main Street itself - in the Village of Chimney Rock, and straining the dam that holds back Lake Lure.

"I've never seen concentrated damage like we've seen here," said Chris Murray, an emergency manager in Pamlico County who came to help lead teams of rescuers as soon as Rutherford County could send an S.O.S. "There's nothing left."

"The village? There's just nothing left."

'Not so bad' at first

For a couple of days, the wreckage left the two communities as isolated as they were a century ago.

Townspeople and visitors awoke Friday morning after a restless night to more of what they had seen the day before: tree branches falling in heavy rain and wind as the remains of what became Tropical Storm Helene cut through Western North Carolina. Power had been out since Thursday.

Tracy Stevens had left her house in Chimney Rock Thursday night and gotten a room at the Lake Lure Inn, which had a generator and was staying open through the storm. The two towns, both popular tourist destinations, are walking distance to one another, joined by a bridge across the Broad River in the mountains of Rutherford County.

"I got up around 7 and went down to the lobby and got a cup of coffee," Stevens said. "I was looking at the lake out the window of the inn, and I thought, Is that all? OK. This is not so bad."

But when she checked again, it looked like the lake had risen. The next time she looked, she was sure the water was coming up. And by 8:30 a.m., it was several feet higher, nearly covering the door of a small building next to the lake.

The National Weather Service reported that in some places just west of the two communities, more than 19 inches of rain fell. And it kept falling, down the mountainsides and into the creeks and rivers.

Broad River rises

No official source has said yet how deep the water rose in the Broad River, normally so tame that bars and restaurants on that side of Main Street in Chimney Rock serve drinks and meals on patios overlooking the stream.

Some of those buildings had stood since at least the 1950s. A few had gotten wet during historic floods such as one that followed a pair of hurricanes in 1996, "but this is 10 times worse," said Patrick Bryant, a Lake Lure town commissioner who lives in Chimney Rock.

"This is Katrina-level damage," Murray said.

With the help of teams from many other North Carolina counties and some from outside the state, Murray said rescuers had fetched more than 150 people by sundown Saturday who had been stranded by the rushing water.

As the water plowed through, it carried the buildings and their contents with it, slamming all that material against the concrete bridge between Chimney Rock and Lake Lure with such force that it exploded refrigerators and trees.

It took a day of heavy equipment and chainsaw work to make one lane of the bridge passable to emergency vehicles and residents who wanted to leave Chimney Rock.

Meanwhile, water completely took out another bridge across the Broad River, this one to Chimney Rock State Park. The park was closed.

Wall of water

On Lake Lure, the water relocated the marina docks and all the boats that had been moored on them. Sunday, the boats seemed to sit on top of a spilled box of toothpicks, some of the remains of the structures swept in from Chimney Rock.

Search-and-rescue teams Sunday were reaching more remote places, and were still finding survivors, including one woman and her dog who appeared to have been pulled from a collapsed home on the riverbank.

Officials have not said whether there were deaths or if anyone still was missing by midday Sunday. Across Western North Carolina, at least 30 people were reported dead and that number was likely to climb, Gov. Roy Cooper said.

While rescuers looked for people, the N.C. National Guard and local chainsaw-wielding volunteers began cutting trees to allow people to leave their homes and neighborhoods. Power was expected to be out in Chimney Rock and Lake Lure for several days at least, but with trees cleared to open at least one lane, residents whose cars weren't too damaged to drive began making their way out.

Word spread quickly about spots outside of Lake Lure where there might be a cellphone signal, and people congregated in those, calling relieved relatives or reaching out to insurance adjusters with bad news.

Nick Stamper, who lives in Green River Cove, a few miles from Chimney Rock and Lake Lure, had to make some difficult phone calls Saturday night. His house was moved several feet off its foundation by what he estimated was a 20-foot wall of water that came down the Green River, normally more than 100 yards from his house.

He counted 13 other homes that disappeared in the flood.

"Washed completely away," he said. "Just, gone."

He was calling the owners to let them know.

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Martha Quillin, Staff Writer, "There's just nothing left.' Helene wipes out Chimney Rock's Main Street', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 2A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E8570C2E0>



NCDOT says all roads - in Western NC should be considered closed, even the big ones

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Richard Stradling; Staff Writer | Section: News | 373 Words Page: 4A

OpenURL Link

If you're thinking of traveling to or through Western North Carolina in the coming days, better think again.

The N.C. Department of Transportation repeated Monday that all roads in the region should be considered closed and that "non-emergency travel is prohibited." Torrential rain from Hurricane Helene flooded many roads and washed out others. Landslides and downed trees and wires were also blocking the way.

"Motorists should not travel in this area, should not attempt to drive through standing water, and must respect barricades and road closure signs," NCDOT wrote on its travel advisory website, drivenc.gov.

It's not just local roads or city streets that are overwhelmed. Interstates 40 and 26 remain closed in several places near Asheville and the Tennessee line, and NCDOT says some stretches of interstates may not reopen until sometime Tuesday, if then.

Interstate 40 is closed in both directions near the Tennessee line after the eastbound lanes of I-40 washed into the Pigeon River Gorge. NCDOT spokesman Jamie Kritzer says it's not clear how long repairs there could take.

An alternative route, I-26, is also closed in Tennessee, between Exit 37 (TN 107) and Exit 43 (U.S. 19W). NCDOT says it's likely to remain that way a while.

Westbound I-40 is closed west of Statesville to all but emergency traffic.

NCDOT was able to reopen I-26 south of Asheville over the weekend, providing the first major access to the city since the storm.

"But we want people to avoid unnessary travel," Kritzer said. "We need an opportunity to have those roads, any roads, open to emergency response, and that includes utilities and the countless volunteers who are trying to get food, water and necessary supplies to people who may be stranded."

NCDOT usually tracks and lists all closed roads and highways on its travel advisory website, drivenc.gov. On Monday, it said about 240 roads remained impassable in places but offered this caveat: "There are many closed roads that are not listed on this site as many areas are not able to report at this time."

Richard Stradling: 919-829-4739, @RStradling

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Richard Stradling, Staff Writer, 'NCDOT says all roads in Western NC should be considered closed, even the big ones', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 4A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E9F3E2758>



Reasonable expectations - Major college football in North Carolina is in a rough state

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)

Author: Andrew Carter; Staff Writer | Section: Sports | 2092 Words

Page: 1B OpenURL Link

Anyone who's a fan of a North Carolina college football team had to have a couple of thoughts Saturday night, if they were watching the Alabama-Georgia game. And it's not hard to imagine what those thoughts were.

Thought No. 1: Wow - this is an incredible college football game.

Thought No. 2: The team I root for (North Carolina, N.C. State, Duke, Wake Forest, ECU, etc., etc., etc.) has no shot, ever, of competing at this level.

And you know what? It's true, on both counts.

Indeed, the Crimson Tide's victory made for incredible theater. Alabama raced out to a huge lead. Georgia came back and took a late lead, itself. The Tide went back ahead on a dramatic touchdown pass and reception that will be replayed forever. Georgia threatened. Alabama held on.

Amazing. What a game. Big-time college football at its best.

But also: something of a reality check, if your rooting interests lie with any school in North Carolina (or, really, if your rooting interests lie with a lot of schools that aren't, say, among the half dozen or so with a real chance of competing for a national championship in any given year).

As great as the Alabama-Georgia game was, it also underscored the truth that a select few schools, at the very top, are simply playing a different sport than everyone else. The version of college football those teams played in Tuscaloosa was not the same as, say ... what UNC and Duke offered in Durham earlier in the day. Or what N.C. State and Northern Illinois offered in Raleigh.

Or Wake Forest-Louisiana. Or ECU-UTSA.

And the list goes on.

And yes, college football has always been this way, to a degree, with a few teams at the very top of the sport separating themselves. Miami of the 1980s. Florida State of the 1990s. Those Urban Meyer-led Florida teams of the mid-to-late 2000s. A lot of Nick Saban's Alabama teams. Clemson, at its peak, in the not-so distant past.

But doesn't it feel like the best teams are somehow even better than they used to be, relative to the rest of the sport? Doesn't it feel like the gap is somehow widening between the UNCs and N.C. States of college football, and those schools at the very top? Shoot, the Wolfpack thought it had put together a team capable of competing with the best of the best this season - and then lost by 41 against Tennessee, before suffering a similarly lopsided defeat at Clemson.

The question has to be what is the reasonable hope for a lot of schools playing FBS college football, because competing nationally at the highest level is out of the realm for the vast majority of them. It's just never going to happen for about 90% of these teams, and that might even be a generous estimate of the schools capable of reaching that level.

A lot of the focus these days among fans and media is on that widening revenue gap, attributable to television

money, between the Big Ten and SEC and everyone else. And undoubtedly, it's significant. It's why Florida State and Clemson are trying to sue their way out of the ACC. But here's another truth, too: No amount of TV revenue is transforming a lot of these schools into some kind of football power.

UNC, which surrendered a 20-0 lead against Duke on Saturday, hasn't won the ACC since 1980. N.C. State hasn't won it since 1979. It does not look like that drought will end this season. Duke hasn't won it since 1989, when the Blue Devils finished in a tie with Virginia. Wake Forest last won it in 2006, which is downright recent compared to the rest of the ACC schools in this state.

But for different reasons, none of these schools really has all that much of a chance of ever reaching the sort of level we witnessed in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Saturday night. And that's perfectly OK. But in this football-mad era, in which school and conference administrators and practically everyone else seems to be going all-in on prioritizing the sport, it begs the question of why schools are throwing tons of money at something that's ultimately a losing enterprise (or, at least an enterprise that is going to end up causing a lot of frustration, the vast majority of the time).

And also, on a similar note: At what point do fans stop propping up a sport - through television viewership, booster contributions, NIL donations, buying tickets and everything else - that is so exclusive, and growing more so? The few schools at the very top of college football are simply playing a different game. And it can be wildly entertaining and compelling, as Alabama and Georgia proved. But it's a different game, nonetheless, and the gap between them and everyone else is only growing.

If the goal of college football is to become a two-conference version of the NFL then, well, good luck with that. Such a thing just doesn't seem sustainable. Part of the sport's draw has always been that your school - any school - might just have a shot at glory, regardless of how much of an illusion that's always been. But now, it's growing more and more impossible to believe that illusion. And the people running the sport seem to want it to become even more geared toward the elites.

ONE BIG THING

Meanwhile, the Blue Devils are partying like it's 1994 again. Bring back those puffy Starter jackets. The Zubaz pants. Call your friends on their home telephones, and ask whomever picks up if Johnny is there, because you've got some news to share: Duke is 5-0, with victory No. 5 coming in dramatic, come-from-behind fashion Saturday against UNC.

Indeed, this is the first time Duke has won its first five games since '94. Last time it happened, 30 years ago, Fred Goldsmith was head coach. Manny Diaz, Duke's current head coach, was a 20-year-old college student at Florida State. The schedule toughens from here, but the Blue Devils are owed their due, especially after that gutsy rally against a rival on Saturday.

THREE TO LIKE

1. The aforementioned Blue Devils, showing some grit.

An understandable thought manifested early Saturday evening at Wallace Wade Stadium, while Duke dug itself into a 20-point hole against the Tar Heels. That thought: Well, looks like Duke's first four wins came against some pretty suspect teams. And that's probably true. Nonetheless, the Blue Devils came alive over the final quarter and a half, and rallied for a memorable 21-20 victory. The Victory Bell is back in Durham for the first time since 2018, and it's a darker shade of blue.

2. Salty Dave is back.

Is there a coach anywhere who likes poking his fans more than N.C. State's Dave Doeren? It has to be something of a bit these days, with Doeren leaning into character. And, in fairness, he showed some modesty after those lopsided

losses against Tennessee and Clemson. But after something of an uninspired victory against Northern Illinois Saturday, there he was, with a classic Dave-ism: "Don't be mad about winning," he said. And you know what: He's actually right. Would you have rather lost, State fans?

3. The vibe of Duke's "Devil's Deck."

For a lot of folks around here (me included), Saturday offered a first-look, of sorts, for Duke's new fan-centric "Devil's Deck" - a space for spectators to gather, hang out, eat, drink, play cornhole and occasionally maybe even watch the game going on down on the field. The space replaced what normally had been swaths of empty or lightly-filled seats. The deck works. It looks fun. It adds to the environment. More and more schools will likely be adding amenities like it. This is the future.

THREE TO ... NOT LIKE AS MUCH

1. A meltdown of a different kind for UNC.

The debacle at home against James Madison was bad. Historically so. Blowing a 20-point second-half lead at Duke on Saturday somehow felt worse for the Tar Heels. Mack Brown is arguably the best coach in school history. He has done a lot for UNC. He brought stability and hope when he returned in late 2018. But the trends are not good here, and fair or not it's looking more and more like his second tenure at UNC will not end well.

2. Florida State: an ACC embarrassment.

So, to recap: The Seminoles are attempting to sue their way out of a conference its administration and fans claim to be beneath them, but now FSU is 1-4 after a 42-16 loss against SMU? Got it. There's some kind of irony here, or at least a hilarious juxtaposition: FSU is trying to leave the ACC because it thinks it deserves more money. SMU, meanwhile, agreed to take no share of conference revenue for seven years, just to be a part of the ACC. Maybe FSU should try asking for less.

3. Maybe Clemson shouldn't have played that game.

The first season of this new coast-to-coast ACC has actually gone better than anticipated. Cal has been an entertaining and good fit. SMU is proving worthy. But this weekend underscored the challenges of this cumbersome arrangement. For one thing, Stanford had a heck of time making it to Clemson, given the catastrophic effects of the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

But more than that, maybe Clemson shouldn't have played that game, anyway, with so many nearby communities under water, and devastated. It wasn't about whether the game could be played, remember - but about how many resources (in public safety, especially) hosting a game requires, that could have been diverted to places in need.

THIS WEEK'S BEST PROGRAM IN THE STATE

Look, this category is an inside joke about the uproar that resulted a couple of years ago when I wrote that Appalachian State had the best college football program in the state - but it's not going to work anymore if only one team (Duke) is actually worth mentioning. And yet ... that's what continues to happen. UNC can't get out of its own way. N.C. State has, um, not looked all that great. Wake Forest is going through it. ECU and App State and Charlotte are not standing out.

So Duke it is, again. Can anyone else in North Carolina rise to the occasion? (And yes, we see you, Pirates, with the nice victory against UTSA on Saturday.)

CAROLINAS RANKING

1. Clemson (don't look now, but the Tigers have done nothing but blow people out since that Week 1 loss against

Georgia); 2. South Carolina (can't win during an off week but, even better - can't lose, either); 3. Duke (can the Blue Devils match that 7-0 start from '94); 4. N.C. State (maybe? Sure.); 5-9. Some combination, in any order, of UNC, Wake Forest, ECU, Coastal Carolina and App State, which has a lot more important things going on than football.

10. Charlotte (but the 49ers did get a nice win at historic Rice Stadium on Saturday).

FINAL THOUGHTS, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

- * I think it's becoming something of a worst-case scenario for UNC and Mack Brown. It's like Florida State and Bobby Bowden all over again, except without the national championships. The important, well-monied boosters at UNC love Brown. It's why they brought him back. But it has now become a fair question of how ugly this gets.
- * I think to the question posed in the opening, about reasonable expectations: for Duke, State and UNC, it's probably to occasionally compete for a conference championship and win eight or nine games. In other words, what N.C. State has done for a while under Doeren and what UNC has mostly done under Brown. Breaking through to a higher level does not seem feasible.
- * I think you have to appreciate the Charlotte 49ers rolling into Rice and walking out with a 21-20 victory. Some trivia: Rice Stadium is where JFK in 1962 delivered one of his most important and memorable speeches, about how the United States would one day land on the moon. Can 49ers coach Biff Poggi take his program to the moon, in a metaphorical sense? Time will tell.
- * I think football will be the least of App State's concerns for a while, and rightfully so. We've not yet really started to get a sense of the devastation in Western North Carolina after the flooding from Helene. A lot of mountain cities, towns and communities will need a lot of help. The early images and reports of the destruction are heartbreaking.

Andrew Carter: 919-829-8944, @_andrewcarter

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Andrew Carter, Staff Writer, 'Reasonable expectations Major college football in North Carolina is in a rough state', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 1B https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E7AB1E4E8>



Panthers show promise vs. Bengals, but it wasn't enough

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Scott Fowler; Staff Writer | Section: Sports | 890 Words

Page: 1B OpenURL Link

The home fans at Bank of America Stadium saw another loss Sunday for the Carolina Panthers, and there was nothing unusual about that.

But the way the Panthers lost? That was actually encouraging. Yes, the Panthers have fallen far enough that they are allowed to have encouraging losses, and that's what Cincinnati's 34-24 win over Carolina was.

"A day of near misses," Carolina head coach Dave Canales would call it later, and that's true. But it was the right type of near misses, the "you did the right thing and it still went wrong" sort of errors that you can live with - especially if you're a supporter of a team that went 2-15 and looked hopeless throughout 2023.

The Panthers went for it on fourth-and-inches inside the Cincinnati 1 on their first drive. Didn't make it. They called a fake punt and had a first down all but assured after punter Johnny Hekker threw a great pass. Reserve tight end Feleipe Franks dropped it.

"I loved the mindset, the mentality," quarterback Andy Dalton said.

And yet despite those critical fourth-down misses, the Panthers kept coming. And in doing so, a little of their fraught relationship with their fans was repaired.

"The energy is just different," said Panthers wide receiver Diontae Johnson, who scored one touchdown but had his hands on another that he said later he should have caught as well. "To me, I feel like it's a different team."

After the Panthers got bombarded with boos in their home opener Sept. 15 - a 26-3 loss to the L.A. Chargers that was also the last game Bryce Young started at quarterback - this time the Carolina fans were far more positive with Dalton in charge. And they should have been.

In danger of being blown out when they went down 31-14 in the late in the third quarter, the Panthers instead scored 10 straight points.

Then, with the deficit cut to 31-24, Carolina forced a punt and got the ball back. With 4:42 to go, the ball was in Dalton's hands - albeit at the Panthers' 8-yard line - with a chance to tie the game if Carolina could go 92 yards.

Alas, that's where it fell apart. Jonathan Mingo dropped an easy 7-yard pass on first-and-10. Then Dalton threw two more incompletions and the Panthers punted when Canales chose to trust the defense instead of go for a fourth-and-10 at his own 8 with 4:31 to go. Cincinnati ran the clock down and kicked a game-clinching field goal, and that was that.

Still, much like last week and the win in Las Vegas, there was some hope for Carolina.

Dalton threw for 220 yards and two touchdowns, including the first career TD for rookie Xavier Legette and a dart of a 21-yarder to Johnson. Chuba Hubbard rushed for 100-plus yards again behind a steady offensive line that also didn't allow a sack. Dalton's only interception came when left tackle Ickey Ekwonu allowed Cincinnati defensive end Trey Hendrickson to hit the quarterback's arm as he threw, resulting in a flutterball that was easily picked off.

Otherwise, though, the offense was pretty good. The Panthers scored 24 points and none of them came cheap. All

three of their TD drives covered at least 65 yards. Except at the 1-yard line, they ran the ball well again. "This is exactly my dream of how this thing works from an offensive standpoint," Canales said.

It was the defense and the fourth-down misses that let Carolina down in this one.

The Bengals scored touchdowns on four straight drives spanning the second and third quarters, On one remarkable play, wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase pinballed through and around three Carolina defenders for a 63-yard TD that made all the Bengals fans in attendance (and there were a lot of them in the lower deck) roar in glee.

Panthers safety Xavier Woods had the most egregious missed tackle on that play, as he lowered a shoulder and hit Chase, but didn't wrap him up. The Panthers saw their fundamentals lacking on several similar plays. Woods would make up for some of that, however, by intercepting Joe Burrow in the fourth quarter and returning the ball 33 yards to set up a field goal.

Of course, nothing that happened on a football field in Charlotte matters a bit compared to what's going on in western North Carolina right now. It was an incongruously sunny day where football seemed secondary after the devastating flooding and loss of life caused by Hurricane Helene in the Carolinas over the past several days. Canales acknowledged that tragedy at the beginning of his news conference.

But if you're only talking about football, the Panthers lost one the right way Sunday. If they had scored on that first drive, as they should have - they ran four straight plays at the Cincinnati 2- or 1-yard line - things might have been different. My only quibble is that fourth-down play was run out of the shotgun when they only needed a few inches. Still, Carolina should have been able to bang that one in.

"That's going to haunt me tonight,"Panthers offensive guard Robert Hunt said.

The belief in this team is there," Canales said. "But we just have to pair it with our execution."

That's right. The Panthers hit rock bottom a couple of weeks ago, getting outscored 73-13 in their first two games.

At least, for now, they've stopped digging.

Scott Fowler: 704-358-5136, @scott fowler

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

Citation (aglc Style)

Scott Fowler, Staff Writer, 'Panthers show promise vs. Bengals, but it wasn't enough', *News & Observer, The* (online), 1 Oct 2024 1B https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF283E815BE298



Stephen Colbert asks 'Late Show' viewers to help NC & the Southeast after Helene

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 238 Words OpenURL Link

Late-night show host Stephen Colbert asked "The Late Show" viewers Monday night to consider donating to help the communities affected by Helene, specifically calling out the destruction in North Carolina.

Colbert, a South Carolina native, asked his bandleader Louis Cato how friends and family in Cato's home state of North Carolina were doing following the storm during an episode that aired Monday, Sept. 30. Cato grew up in Albemarle and has been a member of the band since 2015 and its leader since 2022, Charlotte Magazine previously reported.

"I'm really grateful. My immediate family is all well and OK," Cato said. "I've got a lot of friends in Asheville who we're still waiting to hear from. They got hit really hard."

During the show, which aired on Sept. 30, an emotional Colbert described the aftermath of the storm, including challenges with power outages, food and water availability and lack of cell service.

He also showed footage of flooding in Asheville. Buncombe County is one of a couple of dozen counties in Western North Carolina affected by Helene.

"The situation in that entire region is dire," Colbert said.

Colbert directed viewers to colbertlateshow.com/hurricanehelene for a list of charities.

Colbert Helene

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

Tuesday updates from western NC after Helene: Power outages, road closures, recovery efforts

How Apple, T-Mobile & Verizon customers can access Wi-Fi & phone signals after Helene

Stephen Colbert lost 3 family members in Flight 212 crash. He rarely talks about it.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Renee Umsted, News & Observer, 'Stephen Colbert asks 'Late Show' viewers to help NC & the Southeast after Helene', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C8BFA3920>



How Apple, T-Mobile & Verizon customers can access Wi-Fi & phone signals after Helene

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 464 Words OpenURL Link

Hundreds of thousands of people in western North Carolina are without power days after Helene swept through the state, bringing rain and winds that left roads impassable and downed trees and power lines.

As a result of the storm, many people in the mountainous region have been unable to access the internet, call or send texts.

But several large phone companies are working to provide cell signal and Wi-Fi to affected communities.

Important tip: As cell towers come back online, turn your phone off and back on to help your phone regain cell service.

How Apple customers can send texts without cell coverage or Wi-Fi

Anyone with an iPhone 14 (or later version) with iOS 18 can send iMessages or SMS messages via satellite, even if they don't have cellular or Wi-Fi coverage.

To connect to a satellite, go outside, and make sure you have a clear view of the sky and the horizon.

Open Connection Assistant either from the Control Center or in the Settings app to access satellite features and connect to a satellite. Once Connection Assistant is open, you'll be prompted with instructions to connect.

Read more about how to connect to satellites here.

How T-Mobile customers can access Wi-Fi

T-Mobile is setting up stations in North Carolina to allow people to charge their devices and access Wi-Fi.

Three stations are available at:

Hendersonville County Parks & Recreation Center: 708 S. Grove St., HendersonvilleAsheville Middle School: 211 S. French Broad Ave., AshevilleDr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Community Center: 285 Livingston St., Asheville

How Verizon customers can access Wi-Fi

Any member of the public can use Verizon's wireless emergency command centers to charge their devices and access Wi-Fi. These are located at:

First Baptist Church: 5 Oak St., AshevilleGrace United Methodist Church: 954 Tunnel Road, Asheville

Verizon is offering free, unlimited calling, texting and data to any of its prepaid and postpaid customers who live in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and have been affected by Helene. The offer is valid through Saturday, Oct. 5.

Disaster Roaming now available

People in western North Carolina can use Disaster Roaming, which allows any phone on any cellular network to tap

into any available network, according to a Saturday, Sept. 28 press release from the office of Gov. Cooper.

Starlink systems sent to western NC communities

Starlink satellite systems have been sent to western North Carolina, with 40 systems available to help responder communications and 140 systems to assist with communications infrastructure restoration, the White House announced Sept. 30.

Racecar driver Greg Biffle, who has been helping deliver supplies to communities affected by Helene, shared on X (formerly Twitter) that three pallets of Starlink systems and multiple generators were donated.

Biffle Starlink embed

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

Tuesday updates from western NC after Helene: Power outages, road closures, response efforts

Want to donate to people in NC affected by Helene? Here's how to help

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Renee Umsted, News & Observer, 'How Apple, T-Mobile & Verizon customers can access Wi-Fi & phone signals after Helene', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C695591BA8B428>



Tuesday updates from Western NC after Helene: Power outages, road closures, recovery efforts

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Renee Umsted, Adam Wagner and Richard Stradling, News & Observer Section: north carolina | 1224 Words
OpenURL Link

Recovery efforts are underway in Western North Carolina, where responders are working to restore power to hundreds of thousands of people, clear roads and deliver needed supplies, days after the region was struck by Helene.

Hundreds of thousands of people in North Carolina and South Carolina are without power, according to Duke Energy. Local, state and federal agencies are focused on search and rescue operations, and delivering food, water and other supplies to communities.

"The devastation was beyond belief, and even when you prepare for something like this, this is something that's never happened before in Western North Carolina," Gov. Roy Cooper said during a press conference Monday, Sept. 30 in Asheville.

Here's what you need to know Tuesday, Oct. 1.

This story will be updated throughout the day.

What is the death toll from Helene?

CNN reported on Oct. 1 that 56 people have died from Helene in North Carolina, but the NC Dept. of Health and Human Services only confirmed 42. At least 143 people in the Southeast have died from Helene, CNN reported the afternoon of Oct. 1.

There will be a "significant number of fatalities" in North Carolina as a result of the recent storm, Gov. Roy Cooper said in a press conference Monday, Sept. 30 in Asheville.

RAL_092922-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-29.JPGSwannanoa residents share rolls of toilet paper on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

How many people are still unaccounted for?

About 600 people are missing in Asheville alone as of Sept. 30, Mayor Esther Manheimer told CNN.

Trying to reach a missing person impacted by Helene in NC? What to do and who to call

How many people are without power in North Carolina?

As of 2:30 p.m. Oct. 1, more than 277,000 Duke Energy customers did not have power, according to the company's website.

Outages were affecting more than 100,000 customers in Buncombe County as of early afternoon Oct. 1. Duke Energy also reported that about 51,000 of 69,300 people served in Henderson County and about 400 of 655 in Madison County did not have power.

Nearly all of Duke Energy's customers in Polk County were dealing with outages.

Keep track of outages here.

When will power be restored in Western North Carolina?

Duke Energy expects to restore power for most people by Friday, Oct. 4, the company announced in a press release Sept. 30. However, it may take longer to restore service in areas that are inaccessible.

NC Gov. Cooper: Devastation from Helene is 'beyond belief'North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper on Tuesday said recovery efforts are underway in western North Carolina, where responders are working to restore power to hundreds of thousands of people, clear roads and deliver needed supplies, days after the region was struck by Helene.

Which roads are closed in Western North Carolina?

The North Carolina Department of Transportation continues to amplify the message that all roads in the western part of the state should be considered closed.

"We don't want you here if you don't live here and you're not helping with the storm," Joey Hopkins, the secretary of transportation, said during a press conference at Asheville Regional Airport on Sept. 30.

There are 425 known road closures with 700 damage sites, Hopkins said during an Oct. 1 press conference.

"We believe there are more road closures than have been shown on the Drive NC website, however that's the best information we have at this time," Hopkins said.

NCDOT has more than 1,600 employees from across the state and dozens of contracting companies working to clear debris and make repairs, The N&O's Richard Stradling reported. Some repairs will take months.

I-26 is closed at the Tennessee state line, and eastbound lanes of I-40 in the Pigeon River Gorge collapsed into the river in several places near the Tennessee line.

A few roads have been reopened, as of early afternoon Oct. 1:

Interstates 26 and 40 south and east of Asheville can be used by people trying to evacuate the area. Westbound I-40 is expected to reopen sometime Oct. 1U.S. 421 is open through Boone

RAL_GYvIOZ7WkAAZB5z (1).JPGSoldiers assigned to the Connecticut, Maryland and North Carolina National Guard work to distribute food and water to local first responders in Avery County.

North Carolina National Guard mobilizes hundreds of personnel

The North Carolina National Guard, which has called about 800 people to assist with recovery efforts in the mountain region following Helene, is focused on search and rescue operations, said Maj. Gen. Todd Hunt, the adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard, during a press conference Sept. 30.

The National Guard is also working to deliver water and commodities to communities in western counties.

During an Oct. 1 press conference, Hunt said the National Guard has been able to get into every affected county, including a liaison officer.

There are also 21 aircraft flying in the valleys around Asheville, helping shuttle goods and personnel from a staging point at the Asheville Regional Airport into areas where roads are still cut off. As aircraft move food, water and fuel into damaged communities they are also participating in the ongoing search and rescue mission.

Hunt gave the example of a flight Sept. 30 that was moving 75 first responders and commodities but also rescued 20 people and six dogs en route.

"They're our eyes and ears on what's going on out there," Hunt said.

See drone footage of flood-damaged western NC townsNews & Observer visual journalist Travis Long shows the damage fromHelene in the towns of Clyde and Canton in Haywood County, out in the western part of North Carolina.

Additional military aid planned for Western NC

The federal government is working to make military assets available to help with the response, potentially from North Carolina's large bases like the U.S. Army's Fort Liberty, Cooper said Oct. 1.

Initially, those would likely be air assets like helicopters that are capable of moving food and water to locations that are hard to reach over land because of significant damage to Western North Carolina's roads and bridges.

"We know that this crisis will likely be a sustained crisis because of water system issues so we know that this is going to have to be a continuing operation," Cooper said.

Cooper added that there is still "some work that needs to be done" before the military's equipment is available for the response.

See the devastation Helene left in western NCNews & Observer photojournalist Travis Long and Charlotte Observer photojournalist Khadejeh Nikouyeh document the destruction left in the path of Helene as it ravaged the western mountain region of North Carolina over the weekend.

North Carolina's price gouging law is in effect

Attorney General Josh Stein said during an Oct. 1 press conference that his office has received about 70 price gouging complaints, with about a third each related to fuel, groceries and hotel rooms.

As of late morning Oct. 1, three of those had led to the Attorney General's Office issuing civil investigative demands.

"We simply will not allow price gougers to take advantage of you when you're in need," Stein said.

The price gouging law, which makes it illegal for businesses to charge too much for goods and services during a crisis, has been in effect since a state of emergency was declared.

To report potential price gouging, call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or go to ncdoj.gov/pricegouging.

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

Want to donate to people in NC affected by Helene? Here's how to help

A county by county look at Helene's devastation in western NC

Baptists on Mission among helpers at work in Western NC after Helene devastation

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

outages, road closures, recovery efforts', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C69559ACD445C8



Under the Dome: Governor's race goes on after Helene, but another campaign pauses

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, News & Observer | Section: politics government | 713 Words OpenURL Link

Good morning and welcome to the Under the Dome newsletter. I'm Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan. The catastrophic impact and destruction in areas of Western North Carolina because of Hurricane Helene, which reached the state on Friday, is still being measured.

Over the weekend, the major party candidates for governor held campaign events. Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein campaigned in Greensboro with Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday. He also posted photos on social media at a campaign event Saturday in Chapel Hill.

On Friday, Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson held multiple campaign events. He was treated for burning his hand at the Mayberry Truck Show & Parade in Mount Airy that night. He posted video on social media the next day with his hand bandaged, and another on Monday with no bandage. A conference in Marion where Robinson was scheduled to speak Saturday was canceled, but Robinson posted photos Saturday of campaign events in Caswell County and Randolph County, including of him thanking supporters, and posted campaign photos from Hickory on Sunday.

Both Robinson and Stein shared messages about how to support Western North Carolinians amid the devastation. Robinson also posted about working, as lieutenant governor, to help gather and send supplies with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. On Monday afternoon, Robinson posted a video of himself with law enforcement officers near a washed-out road, telling people not to travel there.

Stein has not announced any campaign events this week. Robinson has two meet-and-greet events planned for Friday, in Person and Alamance counties. Former President Donald Trump announced over the weekend that he will campaign in Fayetteville on Friday.

In at least one Western North Carolina campaign, the approach to Helene has been different from those in the governor's race.

House Republicans have suspended campaign ads in a competitive state House race in Buncombe County. House GOP Caucus Director Stephen Wiley told The N&O on Monday that they have paused digital and television ads in the House District 115 race, in which Republican candidate Ruth Smith is trying to unseat incumbent Rep. Lindsey Prather.

Here's what else the Under the Dome politics team has been working on as we cover the fallout from Hurricane Helene:

- « President Joe Biden defended Gov. Roy Cooper and the response to Helene after comments by former President Donald Trump. See what's actually happening in our Reality Check and in the newsroom's full coverage of the storm's aftermath.
- « See what Western North Carolina Reps. Virginia Foxx and Chuck Edwards said about what they're seeing on the ground in this story from Danielle Battaglia.
- « Biden says he expects to be in North Carolina on Wednesday. Michael Wilner of McClatchy DC reports on what Biden said Monday as he updated the country on Helene's destruction.
- « In another Reality Check, Kyle Ingram explains why the storm could make voting more difficult for people in

Western North Carolina - and how new laws play into that.

« Have you been affected by Helene? What you need to know to apply for FEMA aid, from Luciana Perez Uribe Guinassi.

Poll watch

East Carolina University is out with a new poll on Monday, the first we've seen as fallout continues for Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson in the wake of a bombshell CNN report tying him to a series of antisemitic, racist and explicit posts on a pornography website.

Robinson has dropped significantly not just in the race, but among Republican voters. Read more about the poll in my story.

VOTER GUIDE

In the latest candidate questionnaires from our 2024 NC Voter Guide, see what candidates for secretary of state have to say about the issues, and learn more about their biographies. Two candidates answered our questions:

Republican Chad Brown

Democrat Elaine Marshall

Check your inbox tomorrow for more questionnaires, and lots more #ncpol news.

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

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, News & Observer, 'Under the Dome: Governor's race goes on after Helene, but another campaign pauses', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C695590E0055D8>



UNC Asheville, App State, WCU extend class cancellations for weeks due to Helene's impacts

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Korie Dean, News & Observer | Section: education | 858 Words OpenURL Link

As Western North Carolina continues to grapple with the destruction and devastation left by Hurricane Helene, classes at some of the region's universities won't resume for several weeks.

UNC Asheville Chancellor Kimberly van Noort announced Tuesday that classes will be suspended at least until Oct. 28 as a result of the storm and its lingering impacts.

Appalachian State University announced Wednesday that classes won't resume on that campus until after Oct. 15.

Western Carolina University announced Thursday that classes there will be canceled until Oct. 21.

All three campuses had originally planned to remain closed for about a week, but then extended their respective closures and cancellations as recovery efforts in the area continued.

UNC Asheville

UNC Asheville first canceled classes on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 26, as Helene approached the area, and the university has remained closed since then.

UNCA will remain in Condition 3, or closed, until at least Oct. 14. Under Condition 3, campus operations are suspended and only essential employees are permitted on campus. If the university moves to another, less-severe condition level after Oct. 14, some operations may resume and additional employees may be permitted on campus, but classes will remain canceled until Oct. 28.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-40.JPGThe French Broad River breaks its banks in Asheville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

The campus "sustained minimal structural damage" from the storm, but has been without power, running water or internet since Friday, Sept. 27, van Noort said.

"Communication with our campus and the broader community has been extremely limited due to impaired communications infrastructure, but slowly, we are gradually regaining our ability to connect," she said.

All on-campus students were relocated within 72 hours of the storm hitting Asheville, van Noort said. The university assisted students in finding safe travel routes off campus and providing them with gas for their cars, she said. "A very small number of students" were relocated to another UNC System campus.

The university was housing about 1,600 students on-campus prior to the storm, and about 1,300 students remained during the storm, a total that was confirmed "through a coordinated door-to-door and room-to-room effort" led by the university's student affairs division. Students that remained during the storm "were provided daily with drinking water, three meals and support services" until they relocated.

"Throughout the last few days, we've worked diligently to ensure we knew where every student was on campus and to meet their needs," van Noort said.

Though students are not on the Asheville campus, they can continue to access mental health care through all other

UNC System schools.

"Bulldogs, you are resilient and we look forward to when we can welcome you home," van Noort said.

Further updates from UNC Asheville regarding Helene's impacts are available at new.unca.edu/bulldogalert.

Appalachian State

Appalachian State will not hold classes until Oct. 16 at the earliest, according to an emergency alert message from the university. The university's fall break was originally scheduled for Oct. 14-15, and classes will remain canceled until the break ends.

Any updates about the "modality and locations" of classes will be communicated by Wednesday, Oct. 9.

The university will remain in Condition 3 status, meaning the university is closed and only mandatory employees report to work, until Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. If the university moves to a less severe status after Oct. 11, the university may open on a limited basis, but classes would remain canceled until at least Oct. 16.

No residence halls are "structurally compromised" and campus dining, health and recreational services remain operational.

The main impact to campus from the storm was "unprecedented levels of flooding," interim Chancellor <person value="APIN:3135797922">Heather Norris said at a press conference Tuesday. Norris added that "several academic buildings have significant water damage."

Further updates from Appalachian State regarding Helene's impacts are available at appstatealert.com.

Western Carolina University

Western Carolina University plans to resume classes at its main Cullowhee campus and its Asheville instructional site at Biltmore Park, as well as online, on Oct. 21, according to a campus emergency update.

The university initially canceled classes until Oct. 4, but has now extended the cancellations and campus closure through Friday, Oct. 11. The university's fall break, set for Oct. 14-18, will continue as planned, furthering the time classes are out until the conclusion of that break.

"This will allow our faculty and staff - many of whom have experienced and continue to experience significant life disruptions - time to recover in their personal lives, revise course syllabi, and prepare to resume normal university operations," the university's update read.

If the university extends the class cancellations beyond Oct. 21, it will make that announcement "as soon as possible."

While classes are canceled, the university will operate in a limited capacity. The following units will remain operational during the closure: administration, university public safety, dining, health services, counseling and psychological services, residential services, the recreation center and the university center.

The extended closure will not impact course credits, and the university's fall commencement remains scheduled for Dec. 14.

University disaster relief

The universities have established disaster relief funds.

- « UNC Asheville's fund is available online at giving.unca.edu.
- « App State's fund is available through the homepage of its website: appstate.edu.
- ${\it w} \ {\it Western Carolina's student emergency fund is available at give campus.com/campaigns/12526/donations/new}.$

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Korie Dean, News & Observer, 'UNC Asheville, App State, WCU extend class cancellations for weeks due to Helene's impacts', News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C8EB02990>



A 30-truck convoy rides through Helene's worst in Avery County, feeding the forgotten

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Josh Shaffer, News & Observer | Section: weather news | 933 Words OpenURL Link

The long climb to Banner Elk follows switchbacks tangled with power lines, blocked by tree trunks and complicated by a two-lane highway reduced to a pile of boulders, and when you reach the top, you find a town living without running water for the last five days.

The police lieutenant saw his house float away, so he's been sleeping on the couch at Town Hall.

For days, food, water and diapers have arrived by helicopter.

Some parts of town may go without water for months because Hurricane Helene took the pipes.

RAL_100124-HELENE-KLM-01.JPGVolunteers unload donated supplies at Spear Country Store & Hardware in Avery Country as residents recover from the effects of Hurricane Helene on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, in Newland, N.C.

"How are we holding up?" asked Town Manger Rick Owen. "You can ask me when I'm tearing up or when I'm feeling strong."

And yet on Tuesday, a convoy of volunteers loaded Banner Elk's supplies and headed down the mountain in a 30-truck convoy.

Because down in Avery County, people fared far worse.

Want to donate to people in NC affected by Helene? Here's how to help

People missing in Avery County, NC

Driving in Avery County, known for its ski resorts, gets tricky on a normal day.

But post-Helene, the roads lay scattered with rocks and river mud, cratered with sinkholes and sudden dropoffs - all passing through landscapes marked by pulverized houses and cars floating upside-down.

The convoy made its first stop in the tiny community of Frank, population 158, just down the road from tinier Minneapolis, where fire Capt. Kacey Hughes pointed out two houses that slid down a hillside and smashed into tall oak trunks. They remained there in a thousand dangling pieces.

RAL_100124-HELENE-KLM-02.JPGA person walks next to a demolished building in Frank, N.C. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, days after Hurricane Helene brought heavy rain and flooding to the western part of the state.

"We have one person missing from that," he said. "It's just devastating. We have people who can't get their insulin. We have people who can't get their inhalers. Welcome to the Metropolis of Frank."

To these far-flung communities, bigger and more tourist-friendly cities like Asheville take all the attention.

Around Frank and Minneapolis, churches set up folding tables on the side of the road, handing out donated water. Signs get tacked to trees, saying, "Food here."

RAL 100124-HELENE-KLM-09 (1).JPGVolunteers load food, clothes and other supplies in Banner Elk, N.C. on

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, to be delivered to communities in Avery County impacted by Hurricane Helene.

In Banner Elk, chain saws, generators and the need for toilets

In Banner Elk, Lowe's opened its doors to all takers, handing out chain-saws, generators and batteries.

They fear the attention will fade.

RAL_100124-HELENE-KLM-06 (1).JPGJustin Chew loads pet food onto a truck in Banner Elk, N.C. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024. A team of volunteers delivered food, clothes and other supplies to communities in Avery County impacted by Hurricane Helene.

This catastrophe will last months, if not years. Meanwhile, the town needs trash bins for spoiling food.

"Portable toilets would be phenomenal," said Police Chief Kevin Hodges.

"Let's be honest," said Fire Chief Tyler Burr. "We're the stepchild of the nation. If Taylor Swift gets engaged tomorrow, we're an afterthought."

Trying to reach a missing person impacted by Helene in NC? What to do and who to call

After losing their homes to Helene, they helped others

On its second stop, the convoy pulled into the even tinier community of Spear, where trucks donating food and clothing formed a rural traffic jam.

Erin and Derek Buchanan have five employees at their country store who lost their houses in Helene, and all five were helping gather donations.

"One of them is living in a tent," she said.

Asked if that person was available to talk, she said, "He's on a grading crew right now, working in the roads."

Her sister is the local mail carrier, though Helene's flooding tore through the nearby post office in Plumtree, reducing it to study and insulation.

She knows everyone on her route, and she made her rounds making a tally of who was still there.

How many?

"Most of them," Buchanan said.

RAL_100124-HELENE-KLM-08.JPGVehicles and machinery sit underneath debris near the North Toe River in Avery County on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, days after Hurricane Helene brought heavy rain and flooding to the North Carolina mountains.

Smashed cars in corn fields, live wires on roads

For their last stop, the convoy pushed on to Spruce Pine, past smashed cars in corn fields, past a Dollar General shoveling out from under two feet of mud.

They passed country lanes few ever travel - Licklog Road and Tatertown Lane - knowing many people now missing will not be turning up with a story to tell.

IMG_1183.jpgFlipped cars and debris are part of the devastation and damage left behind by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina's Avery County on Oct. 1, 2024.

Then a few miles from Spruce Pine, the convoy stopped dead. Nobody moved for 30 minutes. Finally, a patrol car flew past with blue lights flashing.

Live wire on the road.

Everybody turned around, back into the ruins they passed.

They dropped what canned goods and condensed milk they had with a church and its folding tables, and they drove back to Banner Elk, which now seemed like civilization.

"Nobody's talking politics," said Mike Dunn, a town councilman and one among 100 volunteers working 14 hours a day.

"Nobody's talking religion. Nobody's talking anything else," Burr, the fire chief, chimed in.

"A week ago," he said, "I was worried about my credit score. Now we've got to save the town."

RAL_100124-HELENE-KLM-07 (1).JPGA sign offers encouragement along Highway 421 in Boone, N.C. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, days after Hurricane Helene brought heavy rain and flooding to the North Carolina mountains.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Josh Shaffer, News & Observer, 'A 30-truck convoy rides through Helene's worst in Avery County, feeding the forgotten', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C87DC5828>



Triangle businesses and organizations collecting donations for Helene storm victims in NC

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Chyna Blackmon, News & Observer | Section: local | 1234 Words OpenURL Link

As local, state and federal agencies continue recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene hit North Carolina, communities across the state are also stepping up to help those heavily affected by the storm.

In addition to the state's North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to support nonprofits working to collect emergency supplies for victims, many local businesses and organizations have also set up fundraisers for those desperately in need of help, including several in the Triangle area.

Also, the Raleigh non-profit Activate Good has compiled a list of volunteer opportunities and trusted sites needing help.

Here is a list of local groups, restaurants, sports teams and more that you can contribute or make donations to for families struggling after the storm.

Bad Daddy's Burger Bar

Bad Daddy's is hosting a supply drive at all its North Carolina locations. Customers are encouraged to drop off any of the following necessities at their nearest location now through Friday, Oct. 11:

Non-perishable FoodHygiene Products Baby Formula/DiapersFood/Pet Supplies Blankets/Bedding Powdered Hydration Packets

All donations will be transported and delivered across western North Carolina. You can find a list of Bad Daddy's North Carolina locations at baddaddysburgerbar.com/find-us.

Bull City Burger and Brewery and Bull City Solera and Taproom

Location: 107 E Parrish St, Durham, NC 27701

Location: 4120 University Dr, Durham, NC 27707

Bull City Burger and Brewery and its sister restaurant, Bull City Solera and Taproom, have set up donation bins to utilize beer trucks to deliver products for storm victims in Western North Carolina. You can drop off bottled water, personal wipes, canned foods, baby formula, feminine products, first aid items, diapers and more at both locations.

Carolina Hurricanes

Location: Lenovo Center, 1400 Edwards Mill Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

To help those impacted by the storm, all ticket revenue from the Carolina Hurricanes game Oct. 2 will be donated to relief efforts in Western North Carolina. General admission tickets for the game against the Nashville Predators start at \$10.

Carolina Junior Hurricanes

Location: Invisalign Arena, 111-100 Competition Ctr Dr, Morrisville, NC 27560

The Carolina Junior Hurricanes have set up donation bins at Invisalign Arena for items to be collected through Oct.

4. Non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, plastic tarps, toiletries, baby formula and more will be accepted.

Catering Works

Location: 2319 Laurelbrook St, Raleigh, NC 27604

Catering Works, Bloom Works and Ella's Popcorn are accepting donations through Oct. 5 to be delivered to Operation Airdrop. Non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, toiletries, pet food and other essential items can be dropped off at the catering company anytime from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dingo Dog Brewing Company

Location: 410 N Greensboro St # 150, Carrboro, NC 27510

Dingo Dog Brewing Company is collecting donations to give to animal rescue groups in the mountain areas recovering from the storm. The nonprofit craft brewery and cidery is accepting pet food, litter, clean water, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, soap and unopened veterinary supplies.

Duke University Football

Location: Scott Family Athletics Performance Center, 110 Whitford Dr, Durham, NC 27705

Duke University's football team is running a donation drive through Oct. 11 at the Duke athletics ticket office from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The team will be accepting non-perishable food, bottled water, contractor-size trash bags, blankets, first aid supplies and more.

Triangle college football teams collecting supplies to help western NC storm victims

Eastcut Sandwich Bar

Location: 3211 Old Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, NC 27707

Location: 1101 E Whitaker Mill Rd Suite 126, Raleigh, NC 27604

Eastcut Sandwich Bar will be donating 10% of all sales through Oct. 4 from both of its locations to the NC Disaster Relief Fund. The Triangle restaurants will also be allowing customers to round up orders to the nearest dollar for additional donations for the state's relief fund.

MoJoe's Burger Joint

Location: 620 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh, NC 27603

MoJoe's Burger Joint is donating all restaurant sales on Oct. 2 to local organizations providing aid to storm victims in Western North Carolina.

N.C. State Football

Location: Close-King Indoor Practice Facility, 4550 Trinity Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

The N.C. State football team is collecting supplies to help provide relief for those in Western North Carolina. The team has set up a donation bin on the east side of Close-King Indoor Practice Facility, across from Carter-Finley Stadium to deliver items on Oct. 3.

Rise Donuts

Rise Donuts shops will donate 10% of sales on Saturday, Oct. 5, to help those affected by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.

The company, Rise Southern Biscuits & Righteous Chicken, which started in Durham and has expanded across the nation, said that all ten Rise locations in the Triangle as well as stores in Richmond, Savannah, Orlando and San Diego will donate 10% of sales to the MANNA FoodBank in Asheville. MANNA is distributing food and water in Western NC. Triangle locations are in Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Durham (Southpoint), downtown Durham, Morrisville, Cary, Raleigh (Village District), Raleigh (Brier Creek), Raleigh (North Raleigh) and Holly Springs. In addition to the sales donation on Oct. 5, participating Rise stores will have a donation option for online and in-store kiosk orders through the month of October.

Southern Sugar Bakery

Location: 4517 Lead Mine Rd Suite B, Raleigh, NC 27612

Southern Sugar Bakery is offering special "Our Hearts Are With Western NC" cookies with all proceeds going towards relief efforts with Samaritan's Purse. The sweet treats are available for purchase online with shipment or pick-up from the Raleigh bakery.

Triangle Young Professional Civitan

Location: Multiple

Triangle Young Professional Civitan has set up donation bins at various businesses around the Triangle area to be transported to Operation AirDrop. Essential items can be dropped off at the following locations:

Beer Tooth Taproom: 105 NC-54 Suite 263, Durham, NC 27713Bond Brothers Beer Company: 202 E Cedar St, Cary, NC 27511Burial Beer Co.: 500 E Davie St #170, Raleigh, NC 27601Cocoa Cinnamon: 2627 Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC 27705; 2013 Chapel Hill Rd Suite A, Durham, NC 27707; 420 W Geer St, Durham, NC 27701East Bower Cider Company: 2020 Progress Ct Suite 160, Raleigh, NC 27608Fullstream at Boxyard RTP: 900 Park Offices Dr Suite 125, Durham, NC 27703The Glass Jug Beer Lab-RTP: 5410 NC-55 V, Durham, NC 27713The Glass Jug Beer Lab-Downtown: 545 Foster St Suite 10, Durham, NC 27701Raleigh Brewing Company: 3709 Neil St, Raleigh, NC 27607Raleigh Brewing at The Arboretum: 2036 Renaissance Park Pl, Cary, NC 27513

Trophy Brewing

Location: 207 Bickett Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27608

Trophy Brewing is collecting supplies at its future Five Points location through Oct. 4 for Operation Airdrop to deliver to victims in Western North Carolina. Non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, toiletries, diapers, hand sanitizer and more will be accepted.

Union Special

Location: 2409 Crabtree Blvd #102, Raleigh, NC 27604

This week, Union Special is donating a portion of all sales to World Central Kitchen's efforts in Western NC to help those impacted by Helene. In addition to contributing a percentage of sales, the bakery is also giving all funds from its pay-it-forward loaves to World Central Kitchen.

Wegmans

Wegmans grocery stores in North Carolina will hold a "checkout scan campaign" to aid a Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief food bank fund. Wegmans has four stores in the state: in Raleigh, Cary, Wake Forest and Chapel Hill. Customers can donate \$1, \$3, \$5 or any other amount at checkout with 100% of the money dedicated to Feeding the Carolinas, which has launched a shared fund dedicated to disaster relief efforts in 25 affected counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. A statement from the NY-based grocer said, "Wegmans will continue to work with its food bank partners to evaluate how to best support those impacted by Hurricane Helene."

Did we miss a local organization or business collecting items for Helene storm victims in North Carolina? Let us know.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chyna Blackmon, News & Observer, 'Triangle businesses and organizations collecting donations for Helene storm victims in NC', News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C69559B52C1B38>



A cart of flowers lifts spirits and brings color back to Western NC's dire landscape

October 1, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Martha Quillin, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 364 Words OpenURL Link

Leslee Serdar came to work at the Whole Foods Market on Tuesday and saw one more thing going bad in a place where too much already was rotten, and decided to turn it into something good.

Downtown, dozens of people were standing in line with 5-gallon buckets and YETI cups to gather drinking water from a tanker truck because their spigots are dry, because the remnants of Hurricane Helene wrecked the city's water system.

Across Asheville, residents have been told not to flush their toilets.

Electricity was slowly being restored, but many were expecting to spend another night - or more - in the dark.

"We had these flowers, and they were just going to wilt," Serdar said, reaching into a grocery buggy full of bundled daisies and roses that had sat in the store for a few days while everything was closed.

"And I thought, here's something we can do to try to keep people's spirits up."

helene_tuesday_01.JPGEmmaleigh Argonauta, second from left, and Leslee Serdar give out free flowers at Whole Foods in Asheville, N.C. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Serdar loaded the flowers into the buggy and pushed it toward the front of the Merrimon Avenue store, where she offered them free to people coming in for bottled water and organic hummus.

"Some of them cry," said Emmaleigh Argonauta, who took a turn with the flower cart Tuesday afternoon.

helene_tuesday_08.JPGVolunteers fill containers of water for the community at a water distribution site at Pack Square in Asheville, N.C. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Nerves are frayed in this corner of the state as residents confront the scope of the damage from Helene and begin to guess at how long recovery is going to take. Power restoration is a top priority, along with running water. Without those, most schools will remain closed and many businesses can't operate.

Meanwhile, in communities across Western North Carolina nearly broken by flood damage, people are making do with what they have and sharing if there's enough: sandwiches here, Mexican dinners there, a bouquet of slightly past-their-prime blooms.

"It just brings a little color," Argonauta said.

helene_tuesday_03.JPGPrema Posner, left, becomes emotional after Emmaleigh Argonauta offered her free flowers at Whole Foods in Asheville, N.C. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Martha Quillin, News & Observer, 'A cart of flowers lifts spirits and brings color back to Western NC's dire landscape', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027C927EDD00>

