

LOCAL

Tornado hit mountain tourist town before Helene, NWS says

BY JOE MARUSAK
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A tornado packing 90 mph winds hit the N.C. mountain tourist town of Blowing Rock ahead of Hurricane Helene, a National Weather Service team confirmed Thursday.

A separate severe weather system spawned the EF-1 tornado that uprooted and snapped trees for just over a half-mile before dissipating, investigators said.

No injuries were reported, according to a report by the team from the NWS office in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The tornado touched down at 6:38 p.m. Wednesday near the intersection of Birch Drive and Hill Street and raced northeast before lifting near Chetola Lake Drive, the team found.

A few tents near Bass Lake Drive and Chetola Lake Drive also were blown down, according to the NWS report.

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ANDREW HARNIK Getty Images/TNS

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks on stage during the third day of the Democratic National Convention at the United Center on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, in Chicago.

Penn. Gov. Josh Shapiro to campaign in NC for Democrat Josh Stein in governor's race

BY DAWN BAUMGARTNER VAUGHAN
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RALEIGH Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat who was on Vice President Kamala Harris' short list as a potential running mate

this summer, is coming to North Carolina to campaign for Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein.

Stein is the Democratic nominee in the governor's race against Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson.

Shapiro will join Stein for a meet-and-greet cam-

paign event on Sunday in Greensboro.

Shapiro and Stein will appear together at noon on Sunday to rally supporters and talk to voters on campus at UNC Greensboro in the Cone Ballroom, 507 Stirling St. It is open to the public.

Shapiro's the second Democratic governor whose name was on the veepstakes list — before Harris chose Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — to campaign with Stein in recent weeks.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear joined Stein at a

campaign event in Chatham County this past week, saying that Stein would lead the state forward.

Beshear told supporters at an event in Pittsboro that Stein's "leadership should be where we need to be to get beyond this anger politics that we're seeing, to get to that better day where we recognize that we might disagree with our neighbor, but we want them to do well."

And of course N.C. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has long been a supporter of Stein's campaign.

NO ROBINSON CAMPAIGN EVENTS ON HORIZON

Greensboro is the hometown of Stein's opponent, Robinson, whose campaign continues to receive fallout after the CNN report, and subsequent reporting, tying Robinson to a series of hateful, sexually explicit and racist posts on a pornography website. Robinson denies the allegations.

Most of his campaign staff quit on Sunday, The News & Observer previously reported, and half of his staff in the lieutenant governor's office, who are state employees and had been with Robinson since he took office, also quit. Robinson promoted Deputy Chief of Staff Krishana Polite to chief of staff on Thursday, replacing longtime former Chief of Staff Brian LiVecchi, who resigned.

Robinson does not have any upcoming campaign visits scheduled as of Thursday afternoon.

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