

#### Dee Dee Bright looks to continue on Forest City Board of Commissioners

October 18, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 540 Words OpenURL Link

Dr. Dee Dee Bright said she will continue to bring a common sense approach to the Forest City Board of Commissioners if re-elected to the board.

Bright said she is ready for another term on the board.

"First of all, I want to thank everyone who has supported me during my cancer diagnosis and three year chemo journey. The cards, words of encouragement, and prayers were all very much heard and appreciated. I am doing well and running for town council," she said.

Her previous experience on the board, she said, has shown a track record of a responsible conservative.

"I have been the fiscally responsible conservative voice on the town council over the last 16 years," she said. "I have always kept the tax payer in mind when making any decisions. I want to continue to bring a common sense approach to governing Forest City."

Bright, also known as Dr. Dee Dee Griffith, has been a dentist in the town of Forest City for 34 years, and she believes her experience as a business person and a life-time resident of Forest City has allowed her to get to know the people in the town.

"Being a dentist doesn't qualify me to be on the town board, but running a business for 34 years does," she said. "I have been fortunate to know many of our past and present citizens. I know their expectations for the town, and I try to reflect their values in every decision I make. Citizens can look at my past voting record, and the progress the town has made over the past 20 years to see that I'm more than qualified to serve on the Forest City town council."

For Bright, job creation, homelessness and drugs are some of the important issues facing Forest City residents, nut she also sees the tax increase from 2022 as a major issue for residents.

"The unprecedented double tax increase levied by the town two years ago has been voiced as the major concern of many citizens," she said. "This rate increase, immediately followed by a property tax re-evaluation dramatically increased many citizens' property taxes. I was the only member of the town board that voted NO. I felt it was too much of an increase at one time for our senior citizens and our low income property owners. I was prepared then, as I am now, to make the hard decisions on spending cuts in order to keep taxes and rates low in Forest City."

Bright also recognized that, following the storm, residents will have many hurdles to face moving forward.

"There is no doubt that Forest City will have to deal with many issues in the years to come, but our town is a great place to call home," she said. "The swiftness in which our power lines were restored and trees removed in the aftermath of hurricane Helene is a true testament to this. If you see a town worker this week, be sure to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Bright received her undergraduate degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987 and her Doctor of dental surgery degree from UNC Dental School in 1990. She is currently retired. She is married to Matthew Bright and they have four boys.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Dee Dee Bright looks to continue on Forest City Board of Commissioners', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E8123306CA38>



# Justin Conner looks to continue as town commissioner in Forest City

October 18, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 553 Words OpenURL Link

Justin Conner wants to continue contributing to the governance and improvement of the town, he said.

"I truly enjoy working for the people of this town, and on a daily basis I continue to focus on our future," he said. "At times, this role isn't the most pleasant, but it's important that the elected body shape policies that will have a lasting impact on the daily lives of residents, including maintaining and improving essential services like public safety, housing, transportation and infrastructure."

He is committed to the ongoing projects in the town and serving the community of Forest City.

"I think it's important to keep fighting for things you believe in until you've exhausted all efforts. I believe in term limits, but as the youngest member on council, I owe it to my children to give this one more go," he said. "At this point, there's still a lot of fight left in me, and I can promise you that when I realize it's time to pass the torch, I'm going to stand behind the next leaders."

Town infrastructure, like water, sewer and electrical operations and their longevity, is a concern for Conner.

"Much of our underground infrastructure dates back to a century or so. One thing quickly leads to another. Hurricane Helene put this whole county on edge and forced us to think much harder about the warnings that have been presented to us over and over again," he said. "Our city has been praised for decades for the contributions, ideas, and efforts our founding leaders put in place and left for us to continue. We are foolish if we don't maintain those efforts, as so many municipalities across the state of NC wish they had."

Conner said he has always wanted to lead and support in his community. He said that starting his business right after high school, he received support from experienced community leaders which led him into education. He operated a landscaping business while working an interim position at East Rutherford High School and finished his first degree.

"Long story short, while operating my own business, working through three different college degrees, I also served in so many capacities to get to where I am today," he said. "For ten years I've been through the good, the bad, and the ugly. I'm not in this alone; my fellow council members have experienced the same challenges and we've proven to grow through the struggles," he said.

He has served as a volunteer firefighter; a summer custodian; a high school coach; a McNair mentor; a teacher; a director of IT; an instructor at ICC; a member of the Rutherford County Planning Board; a governor-appointed member of the local DSS board; president and founding member of local non-profits; manager at the NC Department of Public Instruction; and facilitator of the local Leadership Rutherford program.

Conner was born and raised in Rutherford County and is a graduate of R-S Central High School. He earned bachelor's degree in information technology from Limestone College, and a Master's in education media from Appalachian State University.

He has served on local and state boards for over 10 years.

He is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Rutherford and currently serves as the facilitator of that program under Isothermal Community College. He is a local business owner, volunteer and mentor, he said.

# His two sons both attend Forrest Hunt Elementary.

Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Justin Conner looks to continue as town commissioner in Forest City', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E81226359208>



#### VCS names October Student Spotlights

October 18, 2024 | Daily Dispatch, The (Henderson, NC) Author: VANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR THE DISPATCH | Section: Archives | 1517 Words OpenURL Link

HENDERSON — Vance County Schools recognizes four outstanding students as the October Student Spotlights for the 2024-25 academic year.

Lucas Tyburski from STEM Early High, Rihanna Williams of Vance County High, Damira Williams from Advance Academy and Fatima Ramirez Ramirez of Vance Virtual Village Academy have been honored for their exceptional contributions and leadership within their school communities.

The Student Spotlight program, sponsored by Vance County Schools in partnership with the Vance County Public School Foundation, highlights students who go above and beyond. These remarkable students embody qualities inclusive of kindness, dedication, and a strong commitment to personal growth and service to others.

Lucas TyburskiSTEM Early High School is proud to recognize 8th grader Lucas Tyburski as its 2024-25 Student Spotlight honoree. Nominated by his 8th grade teachers and school administration, Lucas embodies the qualities of a true STEM Shark — an individual who cares deeply for his school, his peers and his community.

Lucas recently took the initiative to organize a donation drive for those affected by Hurricane Helene, demonstrating his commitment to giving back. Additionally, Lucas serves as a co-president of the SAVE Club (Students Against Violence Everywhere) at STEM, participates in RoboVance and is an anchor on the school's news team.

These contributions highlight his drive to create a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom. Lucas's favorite subject, social studies, allows him to explore various cultures, geography, and history.

When asked about his future, Lucas shared his dream of becoming a sports commentator, covering games like baseball, basketball, hockey, and football — fueled by his love of sports and experience as a catcher on his baseball team.

A natural-born leader, Lucas admires the versatility and determination of Shohei Ohtani, a standout baseball player, and hopes to inspire others through his involvement in school and community initiatives.

Lucas enjoys reading, with his favorite book being Diary of a Wimpy Kid. When asked what advice he would give to other students, Lucas emphasizes the importance of being open to new opportunities — wisdom he has gained through his own personal growth over the years.

Most recently, he has enjoyed studying estuaries in science class, where he discovered that bears inhabit Pamlico Sound — just one example of his curiosity and love for learning. If he could have any superpower, Lucas says he would want to make people kind and friendly, believing that spreading positivity is essential for moving forward in life.

Lucas's academic journey is driven by the encouragement and support of his teachers, who continue to motivate him daily. As a standout student and a shining example of what it means to be a STEM Shark, Lucas Tyburski's passion, leadership and dedication make him a true asset to STEM Early High School and the greater Vance County community.

Fatima Ramirez RamirezVance Virtual Village Academy is proud to highlight the achievements of Fatima Ramirez Ramirez, a senior whose hard work, positivity and academic success make her a standout student. Nominated by

her English language arts teacher, Cynthia Schlessinger, Fatima's commitment to excellence serves as an inspiration to both students and staff.

In addition to her V3A courses, Fatima is also enrolled in Vance-Granville Community College classes, where she is working toward an associate degree. Her academic drive is matched by her involvement in extracurricular activities, including her membership in the Beta Club and her volunteer work at the VGCC daycare.

Fatima's teacher, Penny Britt, commends her for her positivity, noting that "Fatima's courteous demeanor makes every conversation enjoyable. Her work is always accurate and delivered on time, reflecting her dedication and attention to detail."

As a student who has exceptional participation in class, attends all in-person learning events, excels in her coursework and engages in extracurricular activities, Fatima is a true leader within V3A.

When asked about her favorite subjects, Fatima expressed a particular interest in history, explaining that she enjoys learning about the stories of the world's past. She also enjoys creating sculptures out of clay and dreams of one day pursuing a career in archaeology and anthropology, where she can travel the world and explore the rich history of different cultures.

Fatima's role model is Hypatia of Alexandria, a renowned teacher and philosopher from ancient Egypt. Fatima admires Hypatia's bravery and intelligence, stating, "She was a woman too advanced for her time — she stood up for women."

Fatima's own resilience and determination are evident in her goals for the future, which include helping those in need by addressing issues such as homelessness and food insecurity.

When reflecting on her journey at V3A, Fatima shared that her favorite aspect of the school is the supportive teachers, adding she has found true success since enrolling at the school two years ago. She believes her past experiences motivate her to work hard and achieve her dreams, saying, "I want to be successful and support myself and my family in the future."

Fatima's advice to other students is to "be yourself; and if no one believes in you, you have to believe in yourself. The sky is not the limit; you can go beyond that." Fatima's dedication to her education, passion for learning, and commitment to making a positive impact in the world make her a remarkable student and a role model for her peers.

Rihanna WilliamsSenior Rihanna Williams is the Vance County High Student Spotlight honoree. School administration shared, "Rihanna's commitment to her academics and future plans sets her apart as a role model for her peers. Rihanna has already been accepted to North Carolina Central University, where she plans to pursue her dream of becoming a traveling nurse."

In addition to her academic pursuits, Rihanna is an active participant in the school's chorus, a passion she has nurtured since 9th grade under the guidance of Dr. Kowind Stokes.

Rihanna's academic ambitions and desire to make a difference in the healthcare field reflect her dedication to personal growth and service to others. She is well-known among her peers for her positive attitude and constant support. She shared that her favorite thing about Vance County High School is the support she receives from administration and teachers.

"They care and want me to be successful," she said. When asked about her inspirations, Rihanna named her mother, Alethea Williams, as her greatest role model.

"She has been with me through a lot and pushes me to stay focused," Rihanna explained. Her mom's influence has shaped her into the resilient and driven young woman she is today.

Rihanna also shared her vision for making a difference in her community. If given the opportunity, she would work to end violence and encourage greater collaboration among community members to create a safer, more supportive environment.

Rihanna's favorite movie is "Transformers" and she dreams of traveling to Bora Bora. If she could possess any superpower, she would choose invisibility to help others without fanfare.

Her advice to fellow students is simple yet powerful: "Stay focused in school and don't follow in the wrong ways."

Rihanna is a shining example of the values and excellence that define the students of Vance County High School.

Damira WilliamsAdVance Academy is excited to shine the spotlight on Damira Williams, a 7th-grade student nominated by her teachers. Damira is a member of the SAVE Club (Students Against Violence Everywhere), where she consistently demonstrates her commitment to helping others and making a positive impact. She is passionate about creating change and strives to support those around her.

Damira's favorite subject is math because of her love for calculating and problem solving. Still exploring her career goals, Damira is determined to be successful, setting high standards for herself and continuously pushing forward. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys dancing and listening to a variety of music genres.

Her favorite movie is "Scream" and she enjoys spending time with her family. Damira admires her sister, Jada, for her accomplishments and the strong bond they share, as well as her mother for being a source of strength and support. Damira enthusiastically shared her fascination with science terminology and gaining knowledge to become successful.

If she could have any superpower, Damira says she would choose the ability to teleport, allowing her to travel anywhere instantly — an exciting prospect for someone who dreams of visiting Paris and seeing the Eiffel Tower.

Damira's motivation comes from within, and she consistently works toward achieving her goals. Her advice to fellow students is to "Keep pushing, don't be a follower but be a leader. Listen to those giving you advice and stay focused."

As a student at AdVance Academy, Damira values the opportunities available to her and feels that the school truly cares about its students. She is grateful for the supportive environment and the encouragement she receives from her teachers and peers.

Looking ahead, one of her wishes is to see a reduction in violence, particularly in her hometown of Henderson, believing that creating a safer community would make a significant difference. AdVance Academy is proud to recognize Damira Williams as a student who exemplifies the school's values of excellence.

These students are exemplary representatives of Vance County Schools and the Student Spotlight program. They embody the values of kindness, dedication and a commitment to learning, serving as an inspiration to their peers and a source of pride for their school communities and the district as a whole.

Copyright 2024 Daily Dispatch, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

VANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR THE DISPATCH, 'VCS names October Student Spotlights', *Daily Dispatch, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4EB8A8C279A50">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4EB8A8C279A50</a>



#### JD Vance campaigns at Wilmington rally

October 18, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: Morgan Starling The Daily News | Section: News | 948 Words OpenURL Link

WILMINGTON — Ohio senator and Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance campaigned in Wilmington Wednesday evening just one day before the start of early voting, beginning his remarks by telling the crowd that he actually has a fun tie to the Port City.

Vance said he acted as an extra on the beloved Wilmington-filmed 2000's TV show "One Tree Hill," which got a lot of cheers and applause from the crowd of attendees.

Vance spoke just before 6 p.m. at Wilmington's Aero Center, arriving on a Trump/Vance-emblazoned plane right beside the event space. Former president Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, campaigned at the same location less than one month ago.

Many rally attendees began lining up for the event early on Wednesday morning. One person said this was her sixth rally.

Couple Jennifer Talbott and Chris Cassels wore matching campaign T-shirts.

"I believe that we are strong, I believe that we are right, I believe that Trump is doing everything that needs to be done, and I think that's why he needs to be in office," Talbott said. "I think he'll save our country."

Cassels said he doesn't really know much about Vance, so he was looking forward to getting a chance to hear from him in-person, specifically, on topics like abortion.

"I was always one of those teetotalers with abortion, under no circumstance whatsoever," Cassels said. "And then, because of Trump and JD now talking about it, they've made me understand that you know what, that's not fair for me to have that opinion without understanding that there are places where it has to be."

Prior to Vance making his grand entrance Wednesday, Republican Lt. Gov. nominee Hal Weatherman and U.S. Congressman and Republican attorney general nominee Dan Bishop took the stage.

Both candidates urged those in attendance to vote for every Republican on the ballot, Bishop adding that he'd be the first Republican attorney general in the state of North Carolina in 128 years.

Vance's remarks were kept fairly short, around 35 minutes in total, which included questions from reporters. He began by bringing up Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris' Fox News interview, which was set to begin around the same time as Vance's rally, saying she was about to do her first "non-softball" interview.

"The problem with a softball interview is you've still got to be able to hit a softball," Vance said.

He cited her interview and the cold weather as the reason for his shorter remarks. Much of his time centered around topics such as the border, immigration, and the economy.

Vance said Harris' policies have flooded not only the state of North Carolina, but the country, with millions of illegal aliens.

"Our message to illegal aliens is, if you came to this country illegally, pack your bags, because in four months,

you're going home," Vance said to much applause.

According to Vance, North Carolina families pay around 25% more in gas and groceries than they did when Trump was in office, and 53% more on housing.

Trump and Vance's plan, should they be elected, includes cutting taxes for American workers, cutting down regulations that make it harder to hire or create a business, unleashing American energy and lowering the cost of fuel and electricity, and making it harder for companies to ship American jobs overseas, Vance said.

The topic of Hurricane Helene also came up Wednesday, Vance saying the "bureaucratic incompetence that delayed resources getting to people" was "an act of Kamala Harris and failed leadership, and we can't let people forget about it."

In response to a reporter's question about how the Trump administration would handle things differently, Vance said it's important to have a leader who can delegate.

"You've got so many bureaucratic agencies, one of the things that you've got to do is just have a leader who's saying, all of you are empowered to save lives, to rescue people, go get to work and cut out worrying about the red tape," Vance said.

A reporter also asked about whether or not the Trump campaign still supported Republican nominee for governor Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who has been the subject of much controversy after a CNN report in September alleged he made explicit racial and sexual posts several years ago on a pornography website's message board.

"I think Mark Robinson did a hell of a job with those hurricanes, getting out there and helping people. I thought that was very admirable," Vance said. "I really appreciate that, but look, my view on this issue is that who the North Carolina voters make their next governor is up to the people of North Carolina."

Vance responded to a couple of other questions from reporters, one regarding the recent dockworkers' strike, saying the Trump administration plans to get back to common-sense economic policies so that they won't need to go on strike.

He also answered a question about whether or not the 2020 election was rigged, one that the crowd didn't like was asked, erupting in boos.

"I answered this question a million times when I ran for the Senate, the 2022 Republican primary. I answered this question in the 2022 general election. I've answered this question 10 times recently," Vance said. "I think that Big Tech rigged the election in 2020, and if you disagree with me, that's fine."

Vance closed by saying he thinks they're going to win the state of North Carolina.

"When we make Donald Trump the next president, we are going to usher in a golden age of American prosperity for the state of North Carolina and the people all across this incredible land," he said, before walking off the stage.

The election is less than three weeks away, and early voting is now open. Trump will be campaigning in Greenville on Monday, where Harris was just last weekend.

Copyright, 2024, Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC), All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Morgan Starling The Daily News, 'JD Vance campaigns at Wilmington rally', *Daily News, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C49711322CFC68">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C49711322CFC68</a>



# Hurricane Helene: Protect Yourself After the Storm

October 18, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Josh Stein Columnist | Section: News | 558 Words OpenURL Link

The impact of Hurricane Helene on western North Carolina is devastating.

As I've traveled the western part of the state to visit with and hear from the people who were affected, at the same time I've been heartbroken by the loss, I've been inspired by their optimism and the many ways they are showing up for each other.

As relief and recovery work continues, we want to ensure our neighbors out west have the resources and support they need. You can find this information by visiting www.ncdoj.gov/helene.

If you're in western North Carolina recovering from the damage, please watch out for price gouging, when a seller charges an unfair or excessive price. Also be wary of repair scams.

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, most contractors and tree removal professionals in North Carolina pitch in to help their community recover from a disaster. However, some scammers travel to areas that have been hit by storms and other disasters to rip off desperate homeowners.

Our office's Consumer Protection Division phone line is open for people to report price gouging or other Helene-related concerns. You can reach our office to make a report at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or www.ncdoj.gov/pricegouging.

We are monitoring and reviewing price gouging complaints closely and have already sent out four civil investigative demands. We will not hesitate to take additional legal action if appropriate.

When the time comes to address repairs and needs for your own property, be safe and do not attempt to move downed power lines. It's also important to contact your insurance company before starting work.

Beware of contractors who try to rush you or come to your home offering assistance. Ask neighbors for recommendations. If possible, get three written estimates for the work and compare bids. Make sure your contract is in writing and it includes a payment schedule where you pay as the work is completed. Do not pay for work up front because you may not see the contractor again.

The outpouring of support for western North Carolina is tremendous, much needed, and much appreciated. If you're looking to donate to those impacted, make sure you're doing so safely and securely.

Choose the charities you know or research a charity's ratings and prior complaints with the Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator, Guidestar, the North Carolina Secretary of State and NCDOJ's Consumer Protection Division.

Ask how the charity will spend your donation. You want as much as possible to go to people in need. Remember that if you're feeling pressured to give immediately, don't. Legitimate charities won't pressure you.

Be particularly careful with crowdfunding campaigns — only donate if you have verified that funds are going to a good cause.

When you're making your donation, pay with a credit card through the charity's website or by calling a phone number you know to be legitimate. Credit cards are best for security and tax purposes, and you can dispute the charge later if there's a concern.

One way you can provide support is through the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund: www.nc.gov/donate.

North Carolinians' goodness shines in moments of crisis. I know it will be a long recovery, but I am so thankful to see neighbors helping neighbors, responders conducting search and rescue missions, and good samaritans everywhere helping. It's going to take weeks and months and, in some cases, years to rebuild. But we will, because in North Carolina, we're first in line to help each other.

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Josh Stein Columnist, 'Hurricane Helene: Protect Yourself After the Storm', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4971C5209CC40">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4971C5209CC40</a>



#### Editorial: Mark Robinson preaches but he doesn't practice

October 18, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Editorials | 621 Words OpenURL Link

While western North Carolinians worked to shovel themselves out of the destruction and devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson continued to dig himself into deeper holes of hypocrisy and neglect of his constitutional duties.

On Oct. 9, for just the second time this year, he actually appeared to do the job the North Carolina Constitution assigns him — preside as President of the North Carolina Senate. He attended a mere five Senate sessions in 2022 and only six sessions in 2023. He's missed 96% of the Senate meetings during the current session. Showing up to do the job taxpayers provide a \$157,400 annual salary (plus expenses) for shouldn't be a major news event.

During his unique appearance in the Senate chamber, he chastised politicians who sought to create division and cast aspersions amid the efforts to rescue and provide relief to those suffering from Helene's wrath.

His words came as the Republican-dominated legislature — in unanimous bipartisan votes — approved a relief package crafted largely by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, the state Board of Elections and the Republican-led state Department of Public Instruction.

"I stood there as an elected official and thought about the foolishness of politics, arguments that people have, the accusations that people make against elected officials, the things that we see on TV, the commercials that we make, the campaigns we run and I, quite frankly, was embarrassed," he told the state Senate. "Each and every one of us should commit ourselves — and I'm sure you have — to double down on our efforts to not be politicians, to not make empty promises, but to be the servant leaders we're supposed to be."

Words are cheap. It takes integrity to stand up and honor the platitudes of a speech with actions that provide the true testimony.

On that count — as he has regularly done in his time in office and before — what Robinson demands of others isn't what he displays in his own behavior.

When it was time to make sure those in harm's way would have quick access to the resources necessary to help, Robinson was nowhere to be found. Twice he failed to vote, as a member of the Council of State, on a request for a declaration of emergency. He was the only one of the 10-member council (six Republicans and four Democrats) who failed to vote. Both requests (minus Robinson's failure to participate) were unanimously approved.

Less than a week after the storm hit the western part of the state — at an event in Louisburg (260 miles east of the center of the devastation) — it was Robinson who went after Democrats Gov. Roy Cooper and President Joe Biden.

He described Cooper's efforts as "abysmal" and, without a shred of evidence, said: "Joe Biden told the people of North Carolina they had no more supplies for us," adding, "Ask the people of western North Carolina if Joe Biden's response has made worth a hill of beans to them."

In an op-ed, Robinson also went after Cooper and the efforts of those in state government responding as "sluggish at best." A PolitiFact check found that the claims by Donald Trump and echoed by Robinson were false.

The truth is, as Robinson was speaking, thousands of federal and state relief and rescue personnel were on the scene or headed that way with supplies and to provide assistance.

A week later, it was that same Robinson who told the Senate, "We're not here to play games," adding he'd resign if he ever engaged in such behavior.

North Carolina voters don't have to wait on an unlikely resignation from Robinson — but by their votes in about three weeks can end his tenure in a job he doesn't show up to do anyway.

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Editorial: Mark Robinson preaches but he doesn't practice', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AF57315326C8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AF57315326C8</a>



## Editorial: In rare Senate appearance, Lt. Gov. Robinson fails to distinguish himself

October 18, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Editorials | 620 Words OpenURL Link

While western North Carolinians continue working to shovel themselves out of the destruction and devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson continues to dig himself into deeper and deeper holes of hypocrisy and neglect of his constitutional duties.

For just the second time this year he actually appeared to do the job the North Carolina Constitution assigns him — preside as President of the North Carolina Senate. He attended a mere five Senate sessions in 2022 and only six sessions in 2023. He's missed 96% of the Senate meetings during the current session. Showing up to do the job taxpayers provide a \$157,400 annual salary (plus expenses) for shouldn't be a major news event.

During his unique appearance in the Senate chamber, he chastised politicians who sought to create division and cast aspersions amid the efforts to rescue and provide relief to those suffering from Helene's wrath.

His words came as the Republican-dominated legislature — in unanimous bipartisan votes — approved a relief package crafted largely by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, the state Board of Elections and the Republican-led state Department of Public Instruction.

"I stood there as an elected official and thought about the foolishness of politics, arguments that people have, the accusations that people make against elected officials, the things that we see on TV, the commercials that we make, the campaigns we run and I, quite frankly, was embarrassed," he told the state Senate. "Each and every one of us should commit ourselves — and I'm sure you have — to double down on our efforts to not be politicians, to not make empty promises, but to be the servant leaders we're supposed to be."

Words are cheap. It takes integrity to stand up and honor the platitudes of a speech with actions that provide the true testimony.

On that count — as he has regularly done in his time in office and before — what Robinson demands of others isn't what he displays in his own behavior.

When it was time to make sure those in harm's way would have quick access to the resources necessary to help, Robinson was nowhere to be found. Twice he failed to vote, as a member of the Council of State, on a request for a declaration of emergency. He was the ONLY one of the 10-member council (six Republicans and four Democrats) who failed to vote. Both requests (minus Robinson's failure to participate) were unanimously approved.

Less than a week after the storm hit the western part of the state — at an event in Louisburg (260 miles east of the center of the devastation) — it was Robinson who went after Democrats Gov. Roy Cooper and President Joe Biden.

He described Cooper's efforts as "abysmal" and, without a shred of evidence, said: "Joe Biden told the people of North Carolina they had no more supplies for us," adding, "Ask the people of western North Carolina if Joe Biden's response has made worth a hill of beans to them."

In an op-ed, Robinson also went after Cooper and the efforts of those in state government responding as "sluggish at best."

A PolitiFact check found that the claims by Donald Trump and echoed by Robinson were false.

The truth is, as Robinson was speaking, thousands of federal and state relief and rescue personnel were on the

scene or headed that way with supplies and to provide assistance.

A week later, it was that same Robinson who told the Senate, "We're not here to play games," adding he'd resign if he ever engaged in such behavior.

North Carolina voters don't have to wait on an unlikely resignation from Robinson — but by their votes in about three weeks can end his tenure in a job he doesn't show up to do anyway.

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Editorial: In rare Senate appearance, Lt. Gov. Robinson fails to distinguish himself', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4971C1F2D1440">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4971C1F2D1440</a>



## VP Kamala Harris Campaign holds rally at Eastern North Carolina University

October 18, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Lauren Branch| Section: Local | 1165 Words OpenURL Link

Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to eastern North Carolina on Oct. 13 to rally residents up and down the coast. The event was hosted at Eastern Carolina University inside Minges Stadium.

Doors opened at 11:30 a.m., and people lined up early to try to get a good seat. Minges can hold up to 7,000 people and the stadium was packed almost to capacity with people holding signs and wearing light-up bracelets.

"It gives me joy to see that there is an opportunity for someone of Kamala Harris' stature to rise to the level of presidency, and I support her with my entire being," said Howard Lazoff of the Teamsters of Greensboro.

"She is educated. She is true to the law, and she abides by it and she enforces it. I think that is very important because we are a civilized society. We are a nation of laws, and her background supports everything I believe. The number one thing that is important to me is no national right to work legislation. I think that everyone should be able to collectively bargain for their just due whoever their employer should be," said Lazoff.

Before arriving at the stadium, Harris was seen in other locations in Greenville such as the Pitt-Greenville Airport and Koinonia Christian Center for a church service before her debut at ECU.

"I live in Morrisville, NC but I go to school here at ECU. I am coming here to support Kamala Harris for the first time. It's my first time voting. I'm feeling excited. There is a lot of energy coming from everywhere. My parents told me to go and everyone is excited for me. She is really an exciting person to vote for, for the first time. She is for women's rights. She is fighting for what I think is right for the first time," ECU student Priya Thornton stated.

Before Harris hit the stage several supporters spoke about why they chose to support her campaign this election. First up was District 5 Senator Candy Smith followed by Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt, Organizing Coordinator Nicole Barrett, and District 1 Congressman Don Davis who was once a student and professor at ECU.

"So often for those of us that live east of I-95, we can feel left out. We often feel forgotten, but Eastern North Carolina, not today. Please join me, Eastern North Carolina, in helping me give a warm welcome to Vice President Kamala Harris. We have the vice president in the 252," Davis said during his speech.

Eastern North Carolina Young Democrat President and first time voter Thomas Remington had the opportunity to introduce Harris.

"I grew up in a family that lived paycheck to paycheck, where we bought store brand, fixed things instead of buying new and were grateful for what we had. From my time working through high school, to now as a sophomore at ECU living on my own, I've become keenly aware of the costs of everyday life. At this stage I'm planning for my future, thinking about securing a good-paying job to support myself and saving for a house someday. That's why I'm really worried about Donald Trump and Mark Robinson's Project 2025 agenda. Experts say their plans could lead to a recession in the first year of his presidency — definitely not the job market I want to jump into after graduation. They're also warning that it could raise taxes for working folks in North Carolina by nearly \$4,000 a year, which would be a huge hit for families like mine...Harris has had one client her entire career, the people, and it is clear to me that she is the only candidate fighting for the middle class. This is the first presidential election I'll be eligible to vote in and I'm excited to support her because her vision for the future offers me and other young people something Donald Trump and Mark Robinson cannot –hope," Remington stated in his introduction speech.

Although her campaign's goal was to reach people in the eastern part of North Carolina which is a battleground

state, she opened up thanking those that have helped in Western North Carolina after the damaging effects of Tropical Storm Helene. She spoke for roughly 30 minutes about topics like reproductive rights, border security and healthcare.

"This election is really about two different visions for our nation. One, of which is focused on the past. The other which is focused on the future. Ours is a campaign that is focused on issues that matter for example to working families across America, like bringing down the cost of living, investing in small business and entrepreneurs. How many small business owners do we have here? We are focused on protecting reproductive freedom. We are focused on keeping our nation secure, but none of that is what we hear from Donald Trump. Instead, from him, we are just hearing from that same old tired playbook," Harris stated.

Throughout the event Harris looked around the room as attendees chanted support for things she said during her speech. She stated that her vision for the future is different from Trump's, and stressed throughout the speech that her campaign is transparent while his is not.

"Now Donald Trump, well he has a different plan. Just Google Project 2025. It is a detailed and dangerous blueprint for what he will do in 2025. Donald Trump will give billionaires and corporations massive tax cuts, cut social security and Medicare, make it easier for companies to deny overtime pay for workers. He will get rid of that \$35 cap on insulin for seniors. He will impose what I call a Trump sales tax, a 20% sales tax on basic everyday necessities which will cost the average American family \$4,000 more a year. On top of all of this, Donald Trump intends to end the Affordable Care Act and he has no plan to replace it. Have you seen the debate? He has concepts of a plan. So he is going to threaten the health insurance coverage of 45 million people based on a concept. Come on, and take us back to when insurance companies had the power to deny people with pre-existing conditions. You know where I'm going, but we are not going back," Harris explained further.

Recent polls posted on Oct. 17 have Harris and Trump neck and neck in North Carolina at 48% with Harris leading with 49% over Trump's 47% in the national average. Both candidates are still on the campaign trail across the country trying to take a larger lead over their opponent.

"It is amazing. It is an absolute dream come true being here today. I bought my nine-year-old daughter and she is going to be telling her grandkids about this one day. It was important for her to be here today because we are excited for Kamala but also because we are also very frightened about another Trump Administration. I want her to live in a kind of America that is inclusive, diverse, safe, and hopeful," stated Jacksonville attendee Lauren Saikkonen.

Copyright @ 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Lauren Branch, 'VP Kamala Harris Campaign holds rally at Eastern North Carolina University', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AF574C7360C0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AF574C7360C0</a>



# VP Kamala Harris Campaign holds rally at Eastern North Carolina University

October 18, 2024 | Duplin Times, The (NC) Author: Lauren Branch| Section: Local | 1165 Words OpenURL Link

Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to eastern North Carolina on Oct. 13 to rally residents up and down the coast. The event was hosted at Eastern Carolina University inside Minges Stadium.

Doors opened at 11:30 a.m., and people lined up early to try to get a good seat. Minges can hold up to 7,000 people and the stadium was packed almost to capacity with people holding signs and wearing light-up bracelets.

"It gives me joy to see that there is an opportunity for someone of Kamala Harris' stature to rise to the level of presidency, and I support her with my entire being," said Howard Lazoff of the Teamsters of Greensboro.

"She is educated. She is true to the law, and she abides by it and she enforces it. I think that is very important because we are a civilized society. We are a nation of laws, and her background supports everything I believe. The number one thing that is important to me is no national right to work legislation. I think that everyone should be able to collectively bargain for their just due whoever their employer should be," said Lazoff.

Before arriving at the stadium, Harris was seen in other locations in Greenville such as the Pitt-Greenville Airport and Koinonia Christian Center for a church service before her debut at ECU.

"I live in Morrisville, NC but I go to school here at ECU. I am coming here to support Kamala Harris for the first time. It's my first time voting. I'm feeling excited. There is a lot of energy coming from everywhere. My parents told me to go and everyone is excited for me. She is really an exciting person to vote for, for the first time. She is for women's rights. She is fighting for what I think is right for the first time," ECU student Priya Thornton stated.

Before Harris hit the stage several supporters spoke about why they chose to support her campaign this election. First up was District 5 Senator Candy Smith followed by Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt, Organizing Coordinator Nicole Barrett, and District 1 Congressman Don Davis who was once a student and professor at ECU.

"So often for those of us that live east of I-95, we can feel left out. We often feel forgotten, but Eastern North Carolina, not today. Please join me, Eastern North Carolina, in helping me give a warm welcome to Vice President Kamala Harris. We have the vice president in the 252," Davis said during his speech.

Eastern North Carolina Young Democrat President and first time voter Thomas Remington had the opportunity to introduce Harris.

"I grew up in a family that lived paycheck to paycheck, where we bought store brand, fixed things instead of buying new and were grateful for what we had. From my time working through high school, to now as a sophomore at ECU living on my own, I've become keenly aware of the costs of everyday life. At this stage I'm planning for my future, thinking about securing a good-paying job to support myself and saving for a house someday. That's why I'm really worried about Donald Trump and Mark Robinson's Project 2025 agenda. Experts say their plans could lead to a recession in the first year of his presidency — definitely not the job market I want to jump into after graduation. They're also warning that it could raise taxes for working folks in North Carolina by nearly \$4,000 a year, which would be a huge hit for families like mine...Harris has had one client her entire career, the people, and it is clear to me that she is the only candidate fighting for the middle class. This is the first presidential election I'll be eligible to vote in and I'm excited to support her because her vision for the future offers me and other young people something Donald Trump and Mark Robinson cannot –hope," Remington stated in his introduction speech.

Although her campaign's goal was to reach people in the eastern part of North Carolina which is a battleground

state, she opened up thanking those that have helped in Western North Carolina after the damaging effects of Tropical Storm Helene. She spoke for roughly 30 minutes about topics like reproductive rights, border security and healthcare.

"This election is really about two different visions for our nation. One, of which is focused on the past. The other which is focused on the future. Ours is a campaign that is focused on issues that matter for example to working families across America, like bringing down the cost of living, investing in small business and entrepreneurs. How many small business owners do we have here? We are focused on protecting reproductive freedom. We are focused on keeping our nation secure, but none of that is what we hear from Donald Trump. Instead, from him, we are just hearing from that same old tired playbook," Harris stated.

Throughout the event Harris looked around the room as attendees chanted support for things she said during her speech. She stated that her vision for the future is different from Trump's, and stressed throughout the speech that her campaign is transparent while his is not.

"Now Donald Trump, well he has a different plan. Just Google Project 2025. It is a detailed and dangerous blueprint for what he will do in 2025. Donald Trump will give billionaires and corporations massive tax cuts, cut social security and Medicare, make it easier for companies to deny overtime pay for workers. He will get rid of that \$35 cap on insulin for seniors. He will impose what I call a Trump sales tax, a 20% sales tax on basic everyday necessities which will cost the average American family \$4,000 more a year. On top of all of this, Donald Trump intends to end the Affordable Care Act and he has no plan to replace it. Have you seen the debate? He has concepts of a plan. So he is going to threaten the health insurance coverage of 45 million people based on a concept. Come on, and take us back to when insurance companies had the power to deny people with pre-existing conditions. You know where I'm going, but we are not going back," Harris explained further.

Recent polls posted on Oct. 17 have Harris and Trump neck and neck in North Carolina at 48% with Harris leading with 49% over Trump's 47% in the national average. Both candidates are still on the campaign trail across the country trying to take a larger lead over their opponent.

"It is amazing. It is an absolute dream come true being here today. I bought my nine-year-old daughter and she is going to be telling her grandkids about this one day. It was important for her to be here today because we are excited for Kamala but also because we are also very frightened about another Trump Administration. I want her to live in a kind of America that is inclusive, diverse, safe, and hopeful," stated Jacksonville attendee Lauren Saikkonen.

Copyright © 2024 The Duplin Times. All rights reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Lauren Branch, 'VP Kamala Harris Campaign holds rally at Eastern North Carolina University', *Duplin Times, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4ABB037C5CD30">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4ABB037C5CD30</a>



#### **Emotions become action**

October 18, 2024 | Enquirer-Journal, The (Monroe, NC) Author: Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com| Section: Enquirer Journal| 303 Words OpenURL Link

MONROE, N.C. — A child's innocence and creativity can have a big impact on people.

Monroe resident Gloria Davis, 10, was saddened when she learned Lake Lure was in devastation due to Hurricane Helene. She went to Lake Lure with her family for vacation during the last week of August.

"I wasn't quite sure anything we could do, because we don't have canned food. We don't eat canned food, and we don't have a whole bunch of new toys," she said.

Davis instead turned her emotions into action when she thought about drawing pictures and making them into homemade cards for kids who are having difficulty finding their families. She has since drawn 30 pictures for the cards.

"When I drew my first card, it was more detailed than the other cards on the cover," Davis said. "Unlike this side right here, I had a rainbow and a little to and then a from, I always add to and from with my name."

Davis leaves the "To" space blank so other can write their name on the space.

"I always pictured a hospital waiting room with kids waiting to hear what happened to their family if they lost something," Davis said.

Davis has six locations in Monroe where cards with well wishes can be dropped off: The Monroe Library on Windsor Street, the Showmars' location on Roosevelt Blvd., Chick-Fil-A on Roosevelt Blvd., Angelene's sewing boutique on Walkup Avenue, Flav's Italian Market on Highway 74, and Alice Jules' Coffee House.

Davis invites the public to draw pictures and drop them off at any location above. She also encourages the public to buy something new that is unique to a child.

Davis' mother, Rachel Davis, said Angelene's is the primary drop-off location for stuffed toys.

The family is making regular deliveries to each of the drop-off locations once a week to collect the cards.

Copyright 2024 The Enquirer-Journal, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Michael Wayne O'Neill mwoneill@theej.com, 'Emotions become action', *Enquirer-Journal, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7172037FC60">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7172037FC60</a>



#### Hurricane Helene: Protect Yourself After the Storm

October 18, 2024 | Enterprise, The (Martin County, NC) Author: Josh Stein Columnist | Section: News | 558 Words OpenURL Link

The impact of Hurricane Helene on western North Carolina is devastating.

As I've traveled the western part of the state to visit with and hear from the people who were affected, at the same time I've been heartbroken by the loss, I've been inspired by their optimism and the many ways they are showing up for each other.

As relief and recovery work continues, we want to ensure our neighbors out west have the resources and support they need. You can find this information by visiting www.ncdoj.gov/helene.

If you're in western North Carolina recovering from the damage, please watch out for price gouging, when a seller charges an unfair or excessive price. Also be wary of repair scams.

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, most contractors and tree removal professionals in North Carolina pitch in to help their community recover from a disaster. However, some scammers travel to areas that have been hit by storms and other disasters to rip off desperate homeowners.

Our office's Consumer Protection Division phone line is open for people to report price gouging or other Helene-related concerns. You can reach our office to make a report at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or www.ncdoj.gov/pricegouging.

We are monitoring and reviewing price gouging complaints closely and have already sent out four civil investigative demands. We will not hesitate to take additional legal action if appropriate.

When the time comes to address repairs and needs for your own property, be safe and do not attempt to move downed power lines. It's also important to contact your insurance company before starting work.

Beware of contractors who try to rush you or come to your home offering assistance. Ask neighbors for recommendations. If possible, get three written estimates for the work and compare bids. Make sure your contract is in writing and it includes a payment schedule where you pay as the work is completed. Do not pay for work up front because you may not see the contractor again.

The outpouring of support for western North Carolina is tremendous, much needed, and much appreciated. If you're looking to donate to those impacted, make sure you're doing so safely and securely.

Choose the charities you know or research a charity's ratings and prior complaints with the Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator, Guidestar, the North Carolina Secretary of State and NCDOJ's Consumer Protection Division.

Ask how the charity will spend your donation. You want as much as possible to go to people in need. Remember that if you're feeling pressured to give immediately, don't. Legitimate charities won't pressure you.

Be particularly careful with crowdfunding campaigns — only donate if you have verified that funds are going to a good cause.

When you're making your donation, pay with a credit card through the charity's website or by calling a phone number you know to be legitimate. Credit cards are best for security and tax purposes, and you can dispute the charge later if there's a concern.

One way you can provide support is through the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund: www.nc.gov/donate.

North Carolinians' goodness shines in moments of crisis. I know it will be a long recovery, but I am so thankful to see neighbors helping neighbors, responders conducting search and rescue missions, and good samaritans everywhere helping. It's going to take weeks and months and, in some cases, years to rebuild. But we will, because in North Carolina, we're first in line to help each other.

Copyright © 2024The Enterprise. All rights reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Josh Stein Columnist, 'Hurricane Helene: Protect Yourself After the Storm', *Enterprise, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C493BCC1FBF328">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C493BCC1FBF328</a>



#### Meteorologists face death threats after recent storms

October 18, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Mary Boyte; USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA Section: News | 440 Words Page: A3 OpenURL Link

In the wake of recent destruction from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, conspiracy theories regarding human-made weather have floated around social media leading to many meteorologists receiving backlash and even death threats.

Among other conspiracy theories, including widely-spread falsehoods regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts, many have taken to social media to spread theories that the recent hurricanes were manmade and that the U.S. government played a part in their creation or manipulation.

Many meteorologists throughout the nation have reported receiving hate comments and death threats from citizens who believe the weather forecasters are intentionally spreading lies or aiding the government in a mass cover-up.

Katie Nickolaou, meteorologist for WLNS news in Lansing, Michigan, has received several threatening comments after posting social media videos debunking the conspiracy theories.

On Oct. 8, Nickolaou posted a screenshot of one of these social media interactions on X. The caption accompanying the screenshot says. "Murdering meteorologists won't stop hurricanes. I can't believe I just had to type that." The screen shot shows a comment on one of Nickolaou's posts in which she says hurricanes are not man-made. The comment says, "Stop the breathing of those that made (the hurricanes) and their affiliates."

Greenville-based meteorologist Chris Justus posted on social media Thursday responding to messages about human-controlled weather. Justus, chief meteorologist with WYFF News, was one of several meteorologists reporting on the front lines during Helene.

"I've been asked if the government or mankind in general is controlling the weather," the post says. "Let me clarify; I firmly believe God Almighty is the ONLY one in control. ... Personally, I believe we are an imperfect world and unfortunately we also have an imperfect atmosphere that causes radical changes in our environment that results in severe weather."

Justus goes on to say although his job as a meteorologist is rooted in scientific explanation, his Christian faith leads him to believe something larger is also at play.

Most meteorologists agree weather events are natural and do not involve any kind of human manipulation.

Politicians have added to the growing mistrust of meteorologists. In an X post, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said, "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done."

President Joe Biden called the theories a "reckless and irresponsible and relentless promotion of disinformation."

Republican North Carolina Rep. Chuck Edwards released a statement responding to what he called "outrageous rumors that have circulated online."

"Nobody can control the weather ... Current geoengineering technology ... cannot be used to create or manipulate hurricanes," Edwards said.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Mary Boyte, USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA, 'Meteorologists face death threats after recent storms', *Fayetteville Observer, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A3 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CDAACD449B0>



## High school football - WEEK 9 - Fayetteville high school picks and predictions

October 18, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Monica Holland; Fayetteville Observer| Section: Sports | 752 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

We're in the home stretch of high school football's regular season, and the slate of upcoming games will solidify standings and set seedings for state playoffs, which start Nov. 15.

That NCHSAA playoff start date is a week later than originally scheduled, with time added to the season to allow for schools in western North Carolina affected by historic flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene to recover.

Terry Sanford took control of the All American Conference standings last week, dealing Harnett Central its first league loss to leave the Bulldogs as the only AAC team without a conference loss. Seventy-First did the same, beating Jack Britt for the Bucs' first United 8 loss and leaving the Falcons alone at No. 1 in the league with four teams tied for second place.

This week, the conference battles continue with several intriguing matchups on the Week 9 slate.

Here are The Fayetteville Observer's picks and predictions headed into this week's competition.

Terry Sanford (5-2, 4-0 AAC) at Westover (5-2, 2-2), 7 p.m.

This could be a trap game for the Bulldogs, who took sole possession of first place in the AAC last week in search of their first conference title since 2017. Led by 6-foot-3 junior quarterback Richard Vanderhost, who likes to sling it, the Wolverines rebounded from a two-game slide that started with an overtime loss to Pine Forest, with a two-game winning streak sealed by Ethan O'Neil Hubbard's game-winning 60-yard punt return last week at Overhills. Terry Sanford has won all of its league games handily as junior QB Jacob Moore and the offense look sharper every week. A conference title within their grasp should motivate the Bulldogs to keep focused for this one.

Radio: WFNC 640 AM

The pick: Terry Sanford

Western Harnett (0-7, 0-4 AAC) at E.E. Smith (1-6, 0-4), 7 p.m.

The Golden Bulls are coming off a hard-fought 52-32 loss to Pine Forest, and the Eagles haven't won a game since Oct. 14, 2022 — when they beat E.E. Smith 21-18. That should be enough fuel for the Bulls to put this one away.

Radio: WIDU 1600 AM/99.7 FM

The pick: E.E. Smith

Jack Britt (5-2, 3-1 U8) at Cape Fear (6-1, 3-1), 7:30 p.m.

Cape Fear got back on track last week with a 51-0 blowout at Byrd after falling to Seventy-First by 40 points in Week 7 for its only loss. The Colts have allowed just two teams to score more than a touchdown against them this season, and the Bucs come in averaging 25.6 points per game behind a balanced offense led by junior quarterback Gavin Stokes. They've had a big season already, notching a win over Scotland early on, but the Bucs face a tough challenge against a stout Colts squad playing their homecoming game.

Radio: Mid-South Sports Network 94.3 FM

The pick: Cape Fear

Lumberton (3-4, 0-4 U8) at Douglas Byrd (1-6, 0-4), 7:30 p.m.

One of these teams will get its first United 8 Conference victory this week. The Pirates average 22.1 points compared to Byrd's 13.0, but the Eagles have shown the ability to score on tough defenses, like South View and Jack Britt — both of whom shut out the Pirates this season. If Byrd's defense can step up and get some stops behind tackles leader Kymani Atiles and Justin Richardson has a good night running the ball, the Eagles could have their first win since Week 1.

The pick: Douglas Byrd

South View (5-2, 3-1 U8) at Gray's Creek (5-2, 3-1), 7:30 p.m.

Four teams are tied for second place in the U8, and they all face off this week. South View will need to lean on a physical defense to keep pace. The Tigers haven't given up a point since September, but they'll need to dig in to stop Gray's Creek's brutal rushing attack led by junior RB Zeke Reed, one of the top rushers in the state who's posted 106 points already and sits poised to surpass 1,000 on the season this week. South View has its own playmaking RB in Rashad Dockery, also set to top the 1,000-yard mark this week.

The pick: South View

Purnell Swett (2-5, 0-4 U8) at Seventy-First (7-0, 4-0), 7:30 p.m.

The Falcons go for their 38th straight regular-season win this week, on a three-season-and-counting tear dating back to their last regular-season loss in 2021 during the COVID spring season. They beat Swett 40-6 that year, and they've outscored the Rams by a combined 152-6 since. This isn't a fair fight.

The pick: Seventy-First

Copyright 2024, The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Monica Holland, Fayetteville Observer, 'High school football - WEEK 9 - Fayetteville high school picks and predictions', *Fayetteville Observer, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 B1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CDAB1008A58>



#### Helene damage in TN affecting supply chain

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Myron Thompson; Knoxville News Sentinel Section: News | 501 Words Page: A11 OpenURL Link

As the focus shifts from emergency response to the long-term work of rebuilding from Hurricane Helene, reestablishing supply chains is a top priority. Rebuilding a regular flow of goods to flood-ravaged communities will allow residents to get back to daily life, help workers get back to their jobs and once again make homes habitable.

Supply chains are the work and planning it takes to create goods and get them to customers. Manufacturers, vendors, warehouses, transportation and retail shops are all involved, and a disruption in one place has cascading effects.

Closed roads and bridges are an obvious hurdle. So are other problems, including employees who are blocked from getting to work or sharp spikes in demand for water or building supplies. They all can disrupt the normal flow after a disaster.

Here's what needs to happen to get the private sector supply chain back into action.

First, "when there has been catastrophic damage to critical infrastructure, such as the electrical grid and telecommunications systems, there will be an urgent need to resume – and possibly redirect – pre-existing flows of life-preserving resources," according to the FEMA Supply Chain Resilience Guide.

Companies and agencies must find ways to talk and transport items on their own when the power is out, communications lines are severed and roads have washed away. And they do.

Helene's after-effects are especially challenging because "it is these very localized and isolated areas that are hard to get to anyway," said Lance Saunders, a professor in the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's supply chain management program. "You talk about some of these local mountain communities, how in the world could they get these big pieces of lumber up here? Well, you're doing this on a massive scale."

Syfan Logistics, a Georgia logistics company, has delivered tractor-trailers full of donation supplies across the Southeast.

"We have not had any trouble getting supplies to locations. We've delivered about 38 loads, and we knew where we were going, and the address, and contact, and everything," Syfan Logistics CFO Denise Nix said.

Drivers coordinated routes primarily by working with local churches to learn which streets could handle trucks after the storm.

After the basics are covered and people are safe, companies can take a midterm step of learning how to operate under a new normal.

Once communication is stabilized, a flow of inventory can move into these areas, but that takes square footage. Damaged warehouses are a big problem in storm zones. Construction supplies are needed to rebuild, of course, and they're large and have to be kept out of the elements.

"They're going to need the ability to store all this inventory that's going to be needed to rebuild," Saunders said.

The final step is for companies and governments to really study how to best rebuild roads, bridges, housing and

# businesses, and it all goes hand in hand.

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Myron Thompson, Knoxville News Sentinel, 'Helene damage in TN affecting supply chain', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A11 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC14DF7D98">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC14DF7D98</a>



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

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Christopher Cann; USA TODAY | Section: News | 1001 Words Page: A7 OpenURL Link

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Christopher Cann, USA TODAY, 'Ukraine refugees fall victim to Helene - Family fled war, settled into a new life in NC', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A7 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC27FCF040>



# Help with Helene - Community members assist securing kayak business

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Chloe Collins; Gaston Gazette | Section: News | 398 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

"They knew before we did that his business was going to be in trouble."

Viviana Brunnermer

After graduating high school roughly 10 years ago, Michael Brunnemer said his father told him he could either start a business or work in service, the choice was his.

So, merging his love of paddleboarding and his parents' encouragement, Brunnemer opened Riverside Paddle and Row at Riverside Marina on Lake Wylie, and has enjoyed creating his own schedule and making people happy when they visit ever since, he said.

When Hurricane Helene passed over Gaston County, Brunnemer was faced with the possibility of losing inventory.

The afternoon of the storm, following hours of rain, the city of Mount Holly issued a statement urging residents at Mountain Island Lake to evacuate immediately as Duke Energy prepared to open flood gates at Cowans Ford Dam.

After hearing the news, Brunnemer said he and his mother, Viviana Brunnemer, rushed to the marina in hopes of saving his business.

Michael Brunnemer keeps many of his kayaks, paddle boards and pedal boats on the lake's shore.

With water rising, he knew the lake might claim his equipment.

When the Brunnemers arrived at the marina that day, they found several regular customers and marina members were already moving the kayaks and equipment up the hill to safety.

"They knew before we did that his business was going to be in trouble," Viviana Brunnemer said.

According to Viviana Brunnemer, those who showed up to help were loading equipment into the backs of trucks to move several at a time.

When all was said and done, Michael Brunnemer lost only a couple of kayaks and pedal boats, thanks largely to the community, he said.

"I felt so blessed," he said.

Aside from the small losses at the marina, the family also felt the effects of the storm at their other home in Asheville, Viviana Brunnemer said.

Since the storm, they have worked in partnership with Convoy of Hope to collect donations in addition to personally donating to relief efforts, but Michael Brunnemer wants to do more.

For the rest of October Michale Brunnemer plans to donate all of his business profits to relief efforts in Western North Carolina.

"It's time for me to return the favor," he said.

"They knew before we did that his business was going to be in trouble."

#### Viviana Brunnermer

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Chloe Collins, Gaston Gazette, 'Help with Helene - Community members assist securing kayak business', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC2AD63B78>



#### Meteorologists face death threats after recent storms

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Mary Boyte; USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA Section: News | 440 Words Page: A11 OpenURL Link

In the wake of recent destruction from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, conspiracy theories regarding human-made weather have floated around social media leading to many meteorologists receiving backlash and even death threats.

Among other conspiracy theories, including widely-spread falsehoods regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts, many have taken to social media to spread theories that the recent hurricanes were manmade and that the U.S. government played a part in their creation or manipulation.

Many meteorologists throughout the nation have reported receiving hate comments and death threats from citizens who believe the weather forecasters are intentionally spreading lies or aiding the government in a mass cover-up.

Katie Nickolaou, meteorologist for WLNS news in Lansing, Michigan, has received several threatening comments after posting social media videos debunking the conspiracy theories.

On Oct. 8, Nickolaou posted a screenshot of one of these social media interactions on X. The caption accompanying the screenshot says. "Murdering meteorologists won't stop hurricanes. I can't believe I just had to type that." The screen shot shows a comment on one of Nickolaou's posts in which she says hurricanes are not man-made. The comment says, "Stop the breathing of those that made (the hurricanes) and their affiliates."

Greenville-based meteorologist Chris Justus posted on social media Thursday responding to messages about human-controlled weather. Justus, chief meteorologist with WYFF News, was one of several meteorologists reporting on the front lines during Helene.

"I've been asked if the government or mankind in general is controlling the weather," the post says. "Let me clarify; I firmly believe God Almighty is the ONLY one in control. ... Personally, I believe we are an imperfect world and unfortunately we also have an imperfect atmosphere that causes radical changes in our environment that results in severe weather."

Justus goes on to say although his job as a meteorologist is rooted in scientific explanation, his Christian faith leads him to believe something larger is also at play.

Most meteorologists agree weather events are natural and do not involve any kind of human manipulation.

Politicians have added to the growing mistrust of meteorologists. In an X post, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said, "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done."

President Joe Biden called the theories a "reckless and irresponsible and relentless promotion of disinformation."

Republican North Carolina Rep. Chuck Edwards released a statement responding to what he called "outrageous rumors that have circulated online."

"Nobody can control the weather ... Current geoengineering technology ... cannot be used to create or manipulate hurricanes," Edwards said.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Mary Boyte, USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA, 'Meteorologists face death threats after recent storms', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A11 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC1210FC18>



## Leaders collect coats, blankets - Lowell officials want to donate items for WNC

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Chloe Collins; Gaston Gazette | Section: News | 222 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

The city of Lowell is working with several Gaston businesses and organizations to host a coat drive for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

Lowell Mayor Larry Simonds dubbed the event, "1000 Coats and 1000 Blankets for Western North Carolina."

Though he hopes to collect more than 1,000 coats at the October event, he said.

The Lowell Police Department has spent time in recent weeks working to collect donations to aid in ongoing Western North Carolina relief efforts.

A trailer is parked in front of the police department and will remain there until it is once again filled with donations and ready for another trip to WNC, Town Manager Tyler Cobb said.

On Oct. 26 starting at 7:30 a.m., a 53-foot trailer will be parked at Lowell City Hall, 101 W. First St. until it is completely filled with coats, blankets, marshmallows, instant hot chocolate, mittens, hats and scarves according to Simonds.

With colder weather already moving in and requests from officials for donations of warm clothing, Simonds said he thought the city should work to collect those items in addition to basic essentials they are already collecting at the police department.

Simonds, who has been actively involved in planning collection events in Lowell, said he is confident the coat drive will be successful.

"I love to help people," he said. "I think we can get more than 1,000 coats myself."

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Chloe Collins, Gaston Gazette, 'Leaders collect coats, blankets - Lowell officials want to donate items for WNC', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC2E489E18>



#### Bacterial infections surge in Florida - Hurricanes bring warm floodwaters, raising risk

October 18, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: C. A. Bridges; USA TODAY NETWORK – Florida | Section: News | 895 Words Page: A11 OpenURL Link

Bacterial infection cases have surged in Florida over the last few weeks since Hurricanes Helene and Milton swept through, according to data from the state Department of Health.

Vibrio vulnificus, a naturally occurring but potentially fatal bacterial infection, thrives in warm floodwaters when hurricanes and tropical storms push brackish water along the coast and into rivers and canals, filling them and low-lying areas with rainwater, pollutants, sewage and debris.

There have been 37 cases and four deaths reported just since mid-September, according to Florida Department of Health data, with 13 cases and one death in Pinellas County.

That more than doubles the number of cases before the storms and brings the year's total to 70 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, the FDOH said. Last year, there were 46 cases and 11 deaths.

"Vibrio bacteria, commonly found in warm coastal waters, can cause illness when ingested or when open wounds are exposed to contaminated water," the FDOH warned in a release on Oct.8, before Milton made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane, pushing a wall of water ashore and dumping rain across the state. "After heavy rainfall and flooding, the concentration of these bacteria may rise, particularly in brackish and saltwater environments."

If Vibrio vulnificus bacteria infects a person, such as by floodwaters coming in contact with a cut or other open wound, it can cause the skin and soft tissue around the wound to quickly break down. Treatment may require limb amputation to stop the rapid flesh deterioration, and the infection can be fatal.

Nationwide, vibriosis from Vibrio vulnificus and other Vibrio bacteria causes an estimated 80,000 illnesses and 100 deaths every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 52,000 of these illnesses are believed to come from eating contaminated food, but the bacteria are also often found in floodwaters, something Florida has seen a lot of lately.

Between 2008 and 2023, 155 people in Florida have died from Vibrio vulnificus, according to FDOH records.

This year, the state is on track to break its record of cases (74) and deaths (17) set in 2022, when Hurricane Ian flooded large parts of southwest Florida.

What is Vibrio vulnificus?

The Vibrio vulnificus bacteria can be found in saltwater, brackish water (which is created when fresh water from a river or lake meets the salty water of the sea), and raw or undercooked seafood.

Flooding spreads brackish water into places it doesn't usually get to, and people working in floodwaters during and after storms are susceptible.

Some Vibrio vulnificus infections lead to necrotizing fasciitis, a severe infection in which the flesh around an open wound dies. Without treatment, death can occur in just a few days.

People with compromised immune systems, liver disease or open wounds are at higher risk for Vibrio vulnificus, the FDOH said.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms of Vibrio infection may include:

Watery diarrhea, often accompanied by stomach cramping, nausea, vomiting and fever

Bloodstream infection: fever, chills, dangerously low blood pressure and blistering skin lesions

Wound infection, which may spread to the rest of the body: fever, redness, pain, swelling, warmth, discoloration and discharge (leaking fluids)

Anyone who experiences these symptoms after being exposed to floodwaters should seek medical attention immediately. Health care professionals can treat the infection with antibiotics, but in extreme cases, arms and legs may need to be amputated to remove dead or infected tissue.

"Many people with Vibrio vulnificus infection require intensive care or limb amputations," the CDC says on its website, "and about 1 in 5 people with this infection die, sometimes within a day or two of becoming ill."

Does it actually eat flesh,

and is it contagious?

The infection does not actually eat flesh, but it does kill it. Vibrio vulnificus can cause necrotizing fasciitis that kills human tissue, including the skin and outer layer surrounding muscles, nerves, fat, blood vessels and organs.

Calling it "flesh-eating bacteria" is inaccurate because it kills tissue, but does not eat it; and it cannot penetrate intact skin, but must enter through an existing break in the skin.

The Florida Department of Health also points out it is not considered contagious. "There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission of Vibrio vulnificus," the FDOH said.

How to avoid Vibrio vulnificus

According to the FDOH and CDC:

Avoid exposure of open wounds or broken skin to warm salt or brackish water, especially floodwater, or to raw shellfish harvested from such waters. Stay out of the water or cover any wounds with a waterproof bandage.

Immediately wash wounds and cuts thoroughly with soap and water after they have contact with saltwater, brackish water, raw seafood or its juices.

Seek immediate medical care if a wound develops redness, swelling, oozing or other signs of infection such as fever, increasing pain, shortness of breath, fast or high heart rate, confusion or disorientation.

Do not eat raw oysters or other raw shellfish.

Cook seafood thoroughly: Boil shellfish in the shell until the shells open and then for five more minutes, or steam them until the shells open and then for nine more minutes. Boil shucked oysters for at least three minutes or fry them in oil for at least 10 minutes at 375 degrees.

Do not eat shellfish that does not open during cooking.

Avoid cross-contamination of cooked seafood and other foods with raw seafood and juices. Wear protective clothing

when handling raw shellfish.

Eat shellfish promptly after cooking and refrigerate leftovers.

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

C. A. Bridges, USA TODAY NETWORK – Florida, 'Bacterial infections surge in Florida - Hurricanes bring warm floodwaters, raising risk', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 A11 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C48CFC19749230>



#### JD Vance campaigns at Wilmington rally

October 18, 2024 | Goldsboro News-Argus, The (NC) Author: Morgan Starling Paxton Media Group| Section: Local | 948 Words OpenURL Link

WILMINGTON — Ohio senator and Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance campaigned in Wilmington Wednesday evening just one day before the start of early voting, beginning his remarks by telling the crowd that he actually has a fun tie to the Port City.

Vance said he acted as an extra on the beloved Wilmington-filmed 2000's TV show "One Tree Hill," which got a lot of cheers and applause from the crowd of attendees.

Vance spoke just before 6 p.m. at Wilmington's Aero Center, arriving on a Trump/Vance-emblazoned plane right beside the event space. Former president Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, campaigned at the same location less than one month ago.

Many rally attendees began lining up for the event early on Wednesday morning. One person said this was her sixth rally.

Couple Jennifer Talbott and Chris Cassels wore matching campaign T-shirts.

"I believe that we are strong, I believe that we are right, I believe that Trump is doing everything that needs to be done, and I think that's why he needs to be in office," Talbott said. "I think he'll save our country."

Cassels said he doesn't really know much about Vance, so he was looking forward to getting a chance to hear from him in-person, specifically, on topics like abortion.

"I was always one of those teetotalers with abortion, under no circumstance whatsoever," Cassels said. "And then, because of Trump and JD now talking about it, they've made me understand that you know what, that's not fair for me to have that opinion without understanding that there are places where it has to be."

Prior to Vance making his grand entrance Wednesday, Republican Lt. Gov. nominee Hal Weatherman and U.S. Congressman and Republican attorney general nominee Dan Bishop took the stage.

Both candidates urged those in attendance to vote for every Republican on the ballot, Bishop adding that he'd be the first Republican attorney general in the state of North Carolina in 128 years.

Vance's remarks were kept fairly short, around 35 minutes in total, which included questions from reporters. He began by bringing up Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris' Fox News interview, which was set to begin around the same time as Vance's rally, saying she was about to do her first "non-softball" interview.

"The problem with a softball interview is you've still got to be able to hit a softball," Vance said.

He cited her interview and the cold weather as the reason for his shorter remarks. Much of his time centered around topics such as the border, immigration, and the economy.

Vance said Harris' policies have flooded not only the state of North Carolina, but the country, with millions of illegal aliens.

"Our message to illegal aliens is, if you came to this country illegally, pack your bags, because in four months,

you're going home," Vance said to much applause.

According to Vance, North Carolina families pay around 25% more in gas and groceries than they did when Trump was in office, and 53% more on housing.

Trump and Vance's plan, should they be elected, includes cutting taxes for American workers, cutting down regulations that make it harder to hire or create a business, unleashing American energy and lowering the cost of fuel and electricity, and making it harder for companies to ship American jobs overseas, Vance said.

The topic of Hurricane Helene also came up Wednesday, Vance saying the "bureaucratic incompetence that delayed resources getting to people" was "an act of Kamala Harris and failed leadership, and we can't let people forget about it."

In response to a reporter's question about how the Trump administration would handle things differently, Vance said it's important to have a leader who can delegate.

"You've got so many bureaucratic agencies, one of the things that you've got to do is just have a leader who's saying, all of you are empowered to save lives, to rescue people, go get to work and cut out worrying about the red tape," Vance said.

A reporter also asked about whether or not the Trump campaign still supported Republican nominee for governor Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who has been the subject of much controversy after a CNN report in September alleged he made explicit racial and sexual posts several years ago on a pornography website's message board.

"I think Mark Robinson did a hell of a job with those hurricanes, getting out there and helping people. I thought that was very admirable," Vance said. "I really appreciate that, but look, my view on this issue is that who the North Carolina voters make their next governor is up to the people of North Carolina."

Vance responded to a couple of other questions from reporters, one regarding the recent dockworkers' strike, saying the Trump administration plans to get back to common-sense economic policies so that they won't need to go on strike.

He also answered a question about whether or not the 2020 election was rigged, one that the crowd didn't like was asked, erupting in boos.

"I answered this question a million times when I ran for the Senate, the 2022 Republican primary. I answered this question in the 2022 general election. I've answered this question 10 times recently," Vance said. "I think that Big Tech rigged the election in 2020, and if you disagree with me, that's fine."

Vance closed by saying he thinks they're going to win the state of North Carolina.

"When we make Donald Trump the next president, we are going to usher in a golden age of American prosperity for the state of North Carolina and the people all across this incredible land," he said, before walking off the stage.

The election is less than three weeks away, and early voting is now open. Trump will be campaigning in Greenville on Monday, where Harris was just last weekend.

Copyright 2024 The Goldsboro News-Argus, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Morgan Starling Paxton Media Group, 'JD Vance campaigns at Wilmington rally', *Goldsboro News-Argus, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7A009037EC0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7A009037EC0</a>