

Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen distribute thousands of meals in Western NC

BY DREW JACKSON

jdjackson@newsobserver.com

Two thousand meals were on their way to Banner Elk Wednesday when a closed road rerouted them to Boone.

"The most amazing thing happened — 2,000 meals were just dropped off from Raleigh," said Emily Brinker, who owns the Rhode's Motor Lodge in Boone.

The meals were part of World Central Kitchen's massive feeding mission in Western North Carolina in response to the region's devastation from Hurricane Helene. Prepped in the Raleigh kitchen by Rocky Top Catering and driven across the state, the trays of pork barbecue, mac and cheese and baked beans will later be airlifted and possibly driven or walked into the hands of someone in need of a warm meal.

As the region continues reconnecting the broken wires and pipes that have unmoored the western mountains from normalcy,

a meal remains the most essential need and can mean the first step forward.

"I think this is all you can do, to try and understand why you're okay," Brinker said. "We're okay so we can help everyone who's not okay."

Rhode's Motor Lodge was expecting World Central Kitchen on Thursday, but the detour meant a helicopter was on its way to her boutique hotel in Boone and the meals would be air-lifted to a hospital site in Banner Elk. This is an expansion of the feeding operation the group had already set up in downtown Asheville.

Comparatively unscathed by the storm, Brinker said once her family was able to get from their house to the hotel she had a better sense of the storm's toll on the region and what it might take to recover.

"It's complete and total destruction," she said. "You can't get many places, most roads are collapsed, most people have



World Central Kitchen founder José Andrés is in Asheville as the aid group partners with local restaurants to feed those in need following storms in Western N.C.

zero cell phone service....Everybody who can do something to do, something to contribute. It's the only thing that makes you feel okay — to help."

World Central Kitchen has become a global leader in humanitarian aid, a stabilizing symbol in the midst of disaster. The group, founded and led by world-famous chef José Andrés, was last in North Carolina in 2018, responding to Hurricane Florence with about 150,000 meals in and around a flooded Wilmington area.

Operations for World Central Kitchen typically look to the restaurant kitchens in impacted areas as sites to prepare and distribute meals.

ANDRÉS IN ASHEVILLE

In the early morning hours on Monday, Andrés posted a video from a Waffle House in Abingdon, Va., saying that he was on his way to Asheville.

The video has been seen 1.7 million times, that, along with others he's shared since landing in

Asheville, speak to the chef's role in shining a light on a crisis as much as delivering a helping hand.

Since he's been on the ground in the mountains, he's surveyed flooding from a helicopter, delivered meals to fire departments working the disaster and sent food to cut-off communities.

The World Central Kitchen site in Asheville has been set up at Bear's Smokehouse downtown. On Wednesday, a line of tanker trucks sat parked on the street with 100,000 gallons of potable water to hand out.

Bear's co-owner Cheryl Antoncic said that with

the power out Saturday, but the restaurant unharmed, workers made the decision to start cooking what was in the walk-ins for anyone who might need a meal. When World Central Kitchen landed later that weekend, operations escalated.

Antoncic said World Central Kitchen isn't the sort of help you want your community to need.

"It's been very surreal; honestly there aren't really words for it," she said. "There's this sense of gratitude that World Central Kitchen brings, but also, 'Oh my gosh,' I don't want you here because I know what that means. It means mass devastation."

By Tuesday night, more than 60,000 meals had been served by WCK between North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida.

Beyond World Central Kitchen, numerous groups and restaurants in the Triangle have collected donations and supplies, prepared meals and shopped for groceries to deliver to the Western mountains. For a complete list of aid groups you can help, follow this link.

Drew Jackson:
919-829-4707,
@jdrewjackson

Ukraine pulls out of mining town that long defied Russia

BY MARC SANTORA

NYT News Service

LVIV, UKRAINE

The Ukrainian military said Wednesday that it was ordering the last of its forces to retreat from the ruins of Vuhledar, a mining town that had served as a vital defensive bastion for nearly three years in eastern Ukraine, after it was stormed by Russian troops.

Ukrainian soldiers fighting in Vuhledar said they had already been largely forced out, and combat footage geolocated by military analysts showed Russian forces in nearly every corner of the town Tuesday.

The loss of Vuhledar will complicate the defense of the southwestern part of the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, allowing Russia to step up attacks in the direction of Pokrovsk, a rail and road hub, soldiers and military analysts said. Pokrovsk is also a gateway to the economically important Dnipro region.

However, it has taken Russia nearly three years to capture the stronghold and Ukraine still controls more than a third of the Donetsk, including an agglomeration of the region's largest cities, experts say. There are signs both armies are exhausted after years of fighting, raising questions about Russia's capacity to exploit its gains as well as Ukraine's ability to continue fending off relentless attacks.

Russia has been on the offensive for nearly a year, and while the last four months of the war have been the deadliest for Moscow since it launched its invasion in February 2022 — with more than 1,000 soldiers killed and injured every day, according to the British military — it has made steady gains in recent months. Russian forces are pressing up against several other Ukrainian strongholds across the east, and brutal battles have been raging as the defenders try to thwart the onslaught.

While Ukrainian military officials had expressed hope that the pace of attacks would have eased by now, Russia continues to

mount headlong assaults in a furious effort to gain as much territory as it can before the expected rains in the fall turn cratered fields into thick mud, hindering the movement of heavy armor.

Ukrainian soldiers described a harrowing effort to escape the town as Russian forces closed in from three directions last week.

Hunted by drones loitering overhead ready to drop grenades, under fire from mortars and rockets and with the constant threat that a powerful guided bomb will kill them in an instant, soldiers described how the only way out of Vuhledar for some was on foot.

"It took us an hour to walk 500 meters," Maksym, 23, said as he was being evacuated. "On top of that, the battery commander was wounded, and we were dragging him. We pulled him out, gave him aid."

They were able to get the commander to an armored vehicle for evacuation, but the rest of the soldiers had to wait for nightfall before moving again, he said.

"There was a kilometer of open field ahead that we needed to cross. We nearly made it, 60 meters away from the forest line, and then we got hit," Maksym said. "And the craziest part was that it dropped three grenades, and all three hit their targets. The three of us were walking, and all three got wounded."

He spoke as he was evacuated last week and asked that only his first name be used in accordance with military protocol.

"Fueled by adrenaline, we ran," Maksym said.

They spotted a trench and dove for cover just as another drone dropped more explosives on their positions. They eventually reached the medics, but he said other soldiers were not so fortunate.

The Ukrainian eastern military command said it was issuing the formal order to retreat because of "a threat of encirclement."

It was not clear how many civilians in the town survived the final battle.

A colonel in a Ukrainian evacuation unit, Artem

Shchus, estimated last week that there were around 50 people still trapped in Vuhledar, a fraction of the 14,000 who once lived there.

Taking Vuhledar is also likely to ease pressure on Russia's supply lines across southern Ukraine to Crimea, by pushing Ukrainian forces farther from critical Russian rail and road links in occupied territory.

Petro Andriushchenko, an adviser to the exiled Ukrainian government of

Mariupol, a port city in eastern Ukraine occupied by Russia, said Wednesday that holding the town would allow the Russians to restore their logistics in southern Ukraine. This would include "the systematic operation of the railroad" running from Russia to Mariupol's port, he said.

The capture of Vuhledar

also opens up some areas in the region that will be difficult to defend against Russian attack, Ukrainian soldiers said.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

The loss of Vuhledar, at the intersection of two fronts, would strengthen Russian supply lines, Ukrainian soldiers say.

Obituaries

OBITUARY INDEX

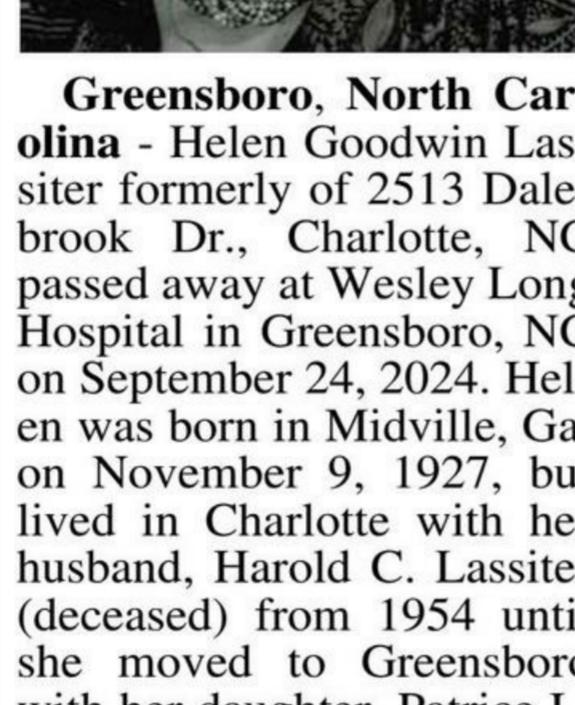
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NAME, AGE	CITY	DEATH	ARRANGEMENTS
Brown, Joyce Katherine, 59	Indian Trail	Sep 27	Heritage Funeral Home - Indian Trail
Drye, May Sue, 93	Kings Mountain	Sep 30	Harris Funeral Home - Kings Mountain
Lassiter, Helen Goodwin, 96	Greensboro	Sep 24	--
Wall, Shannon, 55	Charlotte	Aug 27	--

Bold Listings indicate expanded obituaries

Helen Goodwin Lassiter November 9, 1927 - September 24, 2024



Greensboro, North Carolina

Helen Goodwin Lassiter formerly of 2513 Dalebrook Dr., Charlotte, NC passed away at Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro, NC on September 24, 2024. Helen was born in Midville, Ga. on November 9, 1927, but lived in Charlotte with her husband, Harold C. Lassiter (deceased) from 1954 until she moved to Greensboro with her daughter, Patrice L. Bryant, in 2011. Helen taught in the Gaston County School System for 30 years. While in Charlotte, she was active in the community as well as her church New Emmanuel Congregational UCC. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at New Emmanuel, 3546 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte. Helen is survived by daughter, Patrice L. Bryant (Kelvin); three grandsons; one granddaughter; one sister-in-law; and a host of other family and friends.

Family Visitation: 11:00 a.m. Service: 11:30 a.m. Interment: Oaklawn Cemetery, Charlotte, NC.

Joyce Katherine Brown September 27, 2024

fill their stomachs!

Anyone who knew Kathy knew how much she loved her three German Shepherds (Wrecker, Bear, and Bruno) and her late American Bulldog (Blue). Above all else, she loved God and had a spirit of faith stronger than anyone.

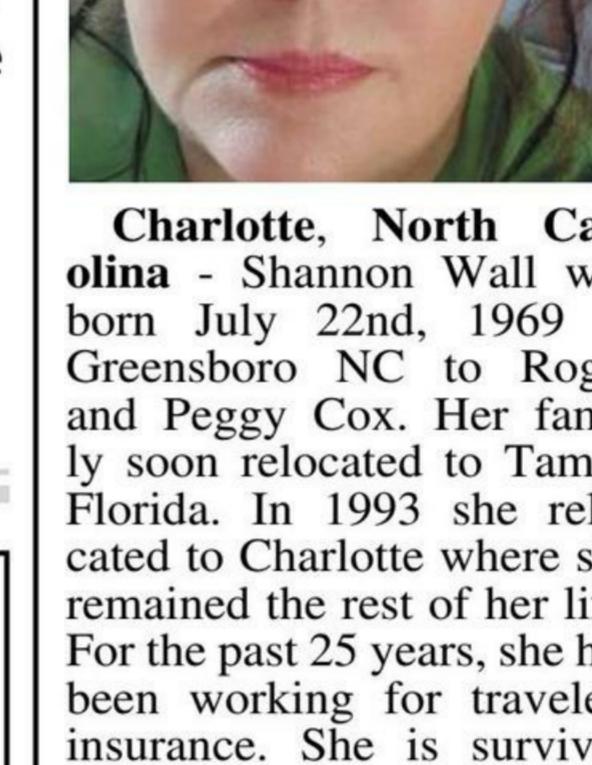
Kathy will be remembered as a selfless, loving, and brave mother and wife who always smiled even through the darkest times. She had a heart of service and always

saw the best in the world around her. Her presence and smile would light up a room and bring peace to every heart she encountered. Kathy was a source to be reckoned with and the most courageous woman. Her love was the glue that kept the family together, and her superpower was her ability to make everyone feel important. Kathy is survived by her children: Natalie Douglas, Ashton Leary, Kendra Johnson, John and Amanda Blackmond, Madison Brown, Adam Brown, Arthur Blackmond, and Erica and Mark McCaine. She leaves behind her grandchildren: Jonah, Henry, Evan, Wyatt, and Carson. Services will be held at Heritage Funeral Home on October 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. In lieu of

flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Humane Society of Charlotte, an organization that Kathy felt passionate about.

Obituaries

Shannon Wall July 22, 1969 - August 27, 2024



Charlotte, North Carolina

Shannon Wall was born July 22nd, 1969, in Greensboro NC to Roger and Peggy Cox. Her family soon relocated to Tampa Florida. In 1993 she relocated to Charlotte where she remained the rest of her life. For the past 25 years, she has been working for travelers insurance. She is survived by her daughter Megan (Los Angeles) and her son Griffin (Charlotte) and boyfriend of 13 years Matthew Flippin in Charlotte. A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

May Sue Drye November 30, 1930 - September 30, 2024



Kings Mountain, North Carolina

May Sue Hambright Drye of Kings Mountain, NC, formerly of Blacksburg, SC and Charlotte, NC, went to meet her Lord on September 30, 2024. A native of Cherokee County, SC. She was born November 30, 1930, to the Late Thomas Alfred Hambright, Sr. and Mable Weir Hambright. She was a graduate of Blacksburg High School and Kings Business College in Charlotte, NC. She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph Alexander Drye, Jr., her parents, her three brothers, and three sisters. She is survived by her sister, Bess-Alice Hambright Phiper of Kings Mountain and many nieces and nephews. A Graveside Service will be held at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery (839 Antioch Road, Blacksburg, SC) on Friday, October 4, 2024, at 11:00 AM followed by a Celebration of Life held at Boyce Memorial ARP Church (111 Edgemont Road, Kings Mountain, NC) at 2:00 PM with Reverend Robert Patrick officiating. In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials be made to Antioch Baptist Church, 839 Antioch Road, Blacksburg, SC 29702.

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