

## All state parks programming canceled across state - All programming canceled across the state

October 4, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC)

Section: news | 642 Words

OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — All North Carolina state parks west of Interstate 77 are closed through at least Oct. 31, the Division of Parks and Recreation announced. These parks include Chimney Rock, Crowders Mountain, Elk Knob, Gorges, Grandfather Mountain, Lake James, Lake Norman, Mount Mitchell, New River, South Mountains, and Stone Mountains state parks, as well as Mount Jefferson State Natural Area and Rendezvous Mountain.

In addition, all events and programs at all state parks have been canceled through Oct. 31, with the exception of Dismal Day, Oct. 12, at Dismal Swamp State Park; Fear at the Fort, Oct. 18-19 and 25-26, at Fort Macon State Park; and a Schools in Parks training, Oct. 26, at Carolina Beach State Park.

The division is assisting with the statewide emergency and rescue efforts in western North Carolina, in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. About 30 staff have been deployed on law enforcement assignments requested through the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center. Scaling back operations across the state will allow staff to continue to assist with critical deployments. In addition, the closure of western parks can help limit travel in the area while roads and other infrastructure are repaired and replaced.

"The devastation brought by Helene in many communities across western North Carolina has been profound," said State Parks Director Brian Strong. "The entire division wants to provide whatever assistance we can to our neighbors and to these areas that were hit hardest. We want to prioritize our resources, both staff and equipment, towards immediate and lifesaving needs."

State park rangers are sworn law enforcement officers, and many park field staff — rangers and maintenance technicians — are certified as emergency medical responders, are trained to operate chainsaws and large equipment, and possess a commercial driver's license. Once the vital needs of post-storm recovery efforts have been met, staff will focus on recreational facilities at parks, including trails, visitor centers, and campsites. Staff will assess conditions, clear downed trees, and address any remaining safety hazards before reopening to the public.

"In the last few days alone, we have seen the entire state come together to support each other during this difficult time," Strong said. "We know our parks are beloved by North Carolinians, but we also know our visitors are eager to help those who are grieving and those who have lost so much because of this storm."

All reservations for campsites and other facilities such as picnic shelters at western state parks through Oct. 31 have been canceled and refunded in full.

#### About North Carolina State Parks

North Carolina State Parks manages more than 262,000 acres of iconic landscape within North Carolina's state parks, state recreation areas and state natural areas. It administers the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, including its local grants program, as well as a state trails program, North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers and more, all with a mission dedicated to conservation, recreation and education. The state parks system welcomes more than 19 million visitors annually.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) manages, promotes, and enhances the things that people love about North Carolina – its diverse arts and culture, rich history, and spectacular natural areas. Through its programs, the department enhances education, stimulates economic development, improves public health,

expands accessibility, and strengthens community resiliency.

The department manages over 100 locations across the state, including 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, five science museums, four aquariums, 35 state parks, four recreation areas, dozens of state trails and natural areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, the African American Heritage Commission, the American Indian Heritage Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, the Highway Historical Markers program, the N.C. Land and Water Fund, and the Natural Heritage Program. For more information, please visit www.dncr.nc.gov.

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## LHS wrestling, NC Pride holding wrestling gear donation drive for Western NC

October 4, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC) Author: Staff report| Section: sports | 99 Words OpenURL Link

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton High School wrestling program and NC Pride Wrestling are partnering for a donation drive to send wrestling gear to areas of western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene.

The organizations are collecting new or used wrestling gear to donate to wrestling teams or clubs in that area. This includes wrestling bags, shoes, headgear, knee pads, etc.

Donations can be dropped off at the NC Pride Wrestling Club or at Lumberton High School.

For more information contact NC Pride coach John Buck at 910-740-7806 or Lumberton High School coaches James Bell at 910-740-6880 or Lauren Little at 973-294-5892.

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## John Hood: Political leaders must rise to Helene's challenge

October 4, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Bobby Burns | Section: News | 645 Words OpenURL Link

I got it wrong. Deeply wrong. Embarrassingly wrong.

It was a few days after Hurricane Floyd struck the coast on Sept. 16, 1999. I'd been covering North Carolina politics for more than a dozen years by then, penning my syndicated column and appearing regularly on radio and television. Our discussion program "N.C. Spin" had debuted the previous fall on the Triangle's Fox affiliate and was in the process of expanding to some two dozen TV and radio stations across the state.

During a segment of the show devoted to the destruction wrought by Floyd, I said something to the effect that North Carolina's emergency personnel, government agencies, utilities, private contractors, and relief organizations knew what to do and how to do it. They didn't need politicians holding press conferences and yapping incessantly about matters beyond their ken.

I thought I was praising the skill and determination of those at the forefront of the response to Hurricane Floyd, which devastated much of eastern North Carolina and killed an estimated 85 people, including 51 North Carolinians. I thought I was championing policy expertise over political exploitation.

What I was really doing was exhibiting my ignorance.

One "N.C. Spin" viewer was particularly incensed: then-Gov. Jim Hunt. One of the targets of my criticism, he let it be known through a mutual acquaintance that he considered my argument poorly reasoned. I don't remember the specifics of what got passed on to me, but it was something to the effect that in times of crisis, political leadership is crucial.

Emergency responders aren't necessarily sure what to do when. Agencies butt heads. Harried public and private actors misinterpret, miscommunicate, and inadvertently misinform. Sometimes they move too slowly, making people wait too long for rescue and relief. At other times they react recklessly, misspending scarce resources on lower priorities rather than waiting to make wiser decisions with a firmer grasp of the facts on the ground.

It is the task of leaders, elected and appointed, to make such judgment calls, to focus minds and referee disputes, to comfort the suffering, and to offer hope and reassurance to a panicky public.

Now, as North Carolinians grapple with the tragic aftermath of another monstrous storm, Gov. Roy Cooper and other political and civic leaders must rise to the challenge Hunt helped me grasp a quarter of a century ago.

Helene has ravaged western North Carolina. Her path of destruction is broad, deep, and jaw-dropping. Homes, businesses, entire towns crushed or swept away. At this writing, hundreds of thousands of people remain without power, some trapped in place by gaping holes or raging rivers. The death count, already heart-rending, will grow as more of the missing are found.

North Carolina will recover. We will rebuild. We've done it before. But there's nothing automatic about the process. And we all have parts to play in it, whatever our roles, wherever we live.

If you have family or friends in the affected areas, keep trying to reach them. Once you do, offer help and comfort. If you'd like to contribute money, supplies, or volunteer time to relief and recovery efforts, there are many organizations well-situated to deploy your gifts effectively, including Samaritan's Purse, Baptists on Mission, Catholic Charities USA, and Operation Airdrop.

At the state level, lawmakers have prudently accumulated \$4.75 billion in our rainy-day fund plus billions more in unreserved credit balance. That rainy day is here. Localities will spend additional dollars from their own reserves, as will utility companies, cooperatives, and municipal agencies.

There are many tough decisions to be made, some now, some weeks or months from now as the full extent of the needs and priorities come more clearly into view. That's something else I learned from past disasters. Some funds originally earmarked for reconstruction after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 have still not been expended.

Through it all, North Carolinians will look to our leaders for guidance and reassurance. Pray for them, and for us all. Copyright © 2024 Rocky Mount Telegram. All rights reserved.

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## City crews work on storm cleanup

October 4, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC)

Author: Bill West | Section: Local | 159 Words

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Motorists using the eastbound one-way segment of Sunset Avenue in the direction of downtown Thursday morning had to take alternate routes upon approaching the intersection with Pine Street.

That was because city crews were removing a tree that fell in front of the Beth Temple El building amid stormy weather the afternoon of Sept. 27.

City Manager Peter Varney said over the phone earlier this week that there was extensive rot in the middle of the tree and that, as it fell, the tree knocked down a utility pole that supported the adjacent traffic signal.

Varney said that crews got the tree cleared from the pavement and got the traffic signal back in service by about 5 p.m. that day.

Late last week, a tornado associated with Hurricane Helene touched down in Nash County and damaged businesses and an apartment complex in the northwestern part of the city, injuring several people.

City officials said 14 buildings were damaged, but there were no fatalities.

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## Hurricane Helene aftermath - Fort Liberty soldiers to assist with relief efforts

October 4, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Rachael Riley; Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 444 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

President Joe Biden has directed the Department of Defense to deploy 1,000 regular Army soldiers as part of a Fort Liberty-based infantry battalion task force to deploy in support of Hurricane Helene relief efforts, the White House announced Wednesday.

These soldiers are under the 18th Airborne Corps and include members of the 82nd Airborne Division and other Fort Liberty units, Pentagon spokesman Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said in a statement Wednesday.

The task force includes a forward support company with support structures like fuel, water and mechanics, a White House news release stated.

The Department of Defense announced Monday that a team for command and control for high water vehicles and air operations support for rotary wing aircraft has been established at Fort Liberty.

Eight Army helicopters and 10 Navy helicopters were at Fort Liberty, while 30 high-water vehicles were staged at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Ryder said Monday.

The White House news release stated that the infantry battalion task force is deploying in addition to DOD service members already supporting FEMA in response to Hurricane Helene, which includes:

Army and Navy helicopters, soldiers and sailors helping move people and supplies.

Army soldiers and high-wheeled vehicles to move people and supplies over damaged roads

Air Force aircraft and airmen helping with search-and-rescue efforts.

The Army Corps of Engineers supporting temporary power, water and wastewater management, bridge inspections and debris removal.

The North Carolina National Guard also has 700 of its guardsmen supporting with debris removal, airlifts and search and rescue, while more than 6,000 National Guard personnel from 12 states are providing support to those affected by the natural disaster, the White House said.

FEMA and other agencies have more than 1,200 personnel in North Carolina, with more resources and staff arriving daily.

A team of 18 first responders from the Fayetteville Fire Department, Fayetteville Police Department and Cape Fear Valley EMS and deployed to Brevard to assist with rescue missions, the city announced Friday.

During a press briefing Tuesday, Ryder said U.S. Northern Command is providing active duty support efforts to FEMA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing emergency power planning and response teams.

In his statement Wednesday, Ryder said NORTHCOM commander Gen. Gregory Guillot appointed Brig. Gen. Charles Morrison of the North Carolina Army National Guard as the dual-status commander for North Carolina.

A dual-status commander is an officer who is allowed by law to command active duty and National Guard troops

and serve in federal and state roles simultaneously, he said.

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## Need legal help after Tropical Storm Helene?

October 4, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Shelby Star | Section: News | 435 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

A toll-free legal aid hotline is now available for survivors of Tropical Storm Helene in North Carolina. Disaster Legal Services, which allows callers to request the assistance of a lawyer, is a partnership between the North Carolina Bar Association and Foundation, Legal Aid of North Carolina, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Low-income survivors with disaster-related legal questions may call the disaster legal assistance hotline at 866-219-5262.

Callers should identify that they are seeking storm-related legal assistance, ask for Disaster Legal Services assistance, and identify the county in which they are located. Survivors who qualify for assistance will be matched with North Carolina lawyers who have volunteered to provide free legal help.

Legal assistance is available for the following issue areas:

FEMA appeals

Disaster Unemployment Assistance and other disaster benefits

Insurance claims

Home repair contracts and contractor disputes

Contractor fraud and consumer protection matters

Replacement of wills and other important legal documents destroyed in the disaster

Mortgage-foreclosure

Landlord/tenant problems

Individuals who qualify for assistance will be matched with North Carolina lawyers who have volunteered to provide free, limited legal help. Survivors should be aware that there are some limitations on disaster legal services. For example, assistance is not available for cases that will produce a fee (i.e., those cases where fees are paid part of the settlement by the court).

Major Disaster Declaration

A total of 26 North Carolina counties and tribes have been approved to receive federal assistance in the wake of Tropical Storm Helene. The counties are: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (additional counties may be added later).

People who sustained property damage, need immediate emergency assistance for essential items (like food, baby formula, or water), or need immediate housing assistance as a result of Tropical Storm Helene are urged to apply

for FEMA assistance, as they may be eligible for federal and state disaster assistance. People can apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov. Applicants may also call the FEMA Helpline (800-621-3362). Tropical Storm Helene survivors are also encouraged to review Legal Aid of NC's resource website at legalaidnc.org/disaster.

For more information, individuals may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/hurricane-helene. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.

For more information on North Carolina's recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4827 and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety website at ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/hurricane-helene.

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# Dad walks 17 miles to make wedding - Hurricane couldn't keep Tenn. man from being there for his daughter

October 4, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Jonathan Limehouse; USA TODAY | Section: News | 1019 Words Page: A9 OpenURL Link

The catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Helene's forceful winds and heavy rainfall was not enough to deter a father from traveling hours, including on foot, from South Carolina to Tennessee to walk his daughter down the aisle for her wedding.

David Jones did the impossible when he managed to make it to his daughter's wedding on time Saturday morning. What would have been a two-hour drive from Boiling Springs, South Carolina, to Johnson City, Tennessee, turned into an almost 27-mile overnight journey, the 64-year-old father told USA TODAY on Monday.

"I think every dad would do everything they could to get to their daughter's wedding," Jones said. "Like the scripture says, 'With God, anything is possible.' I think this was a prime example of that."

The Southeast is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Helene, including the millions without power, thousands whose homes are flooded, and families of the more than 100 people who have been confirmed dead.

At one point during Jones' travels, he said the conditions looked like a "Hollywood disaster movie times 10."

Jones did not know 'extent of the devastation' before setting out

Before Hurricane Helene made landfall, Jones was in the process of moving from Johnson City to Boiling Springs with his wife and her mother. The original plan was for them to drive to Johnson City on Friday so he could walk his daughter down the aisle by 11 a.m. Saturday.

Out of caution, Jones decided to get a generator up and running in his Boiling Springs home and head out on his own.

"I had no cellphone service, no internet or anything like that so I had no idea the extent of the devastation that laid ahead," Jones said, adding that he has lived in Tennessee for 42 years and did not expect the degree of destruction caused by the storm.

Once Jones began driving out of South Carolina, he kept getting diverted by hours of traffic and detours.

"At one point, it took me three hours to go 10 miles," he said.

Bridge to Johnson City 'completely washed out'

Thanks to road crews clearing Interstate 26 quickly, Jones was able to continue on the highway until he got to the state line and into Tennessee. Once there, state authorities had the exit he needed to get off on blocked because the bridge up ahead was "completely washed out," Jones recalled a trooper telling him at 2 a.m. Saturday.

The only other way into Johnson City was a bridge in Erwin, Tennessee, which troopers were not letting anyone cross because they were not certain of its stability, Jones said.

Jones decided to get as close to Johnson City as he could so if worst came to worst, he could be "FaceTimed" into the wedding and walk his daughter down the aisle virtually. To do this, he left behind his Ford Explorer at the exit on

Interstate 26 and began traveling on foot toward the bridge that troopers said was washed out.

"I grabbed my backpack, threw in my shaving kit and a couple days of socks and underwear, grabbed my windbreaker and off I went," Jones said.

Jones made it thanks to a reflector, an old co-worker

About 3 to 4 miles into his walk, Jones began encountering washed-out roads with debris everywhere, including from farms, fences and huge trees, he said.

Jones would eventually come across a bulldozer that was clearing a debris field, and when he told the operator about his plan, he recalled the man looking at him like he was "nuts."

Despite the debris and "quicksand-like" mud ahead of Jones, he got through the wreckage and back on the interstate. The only issue is that about half a mile down the highway, the bridge he needed to cross was "completely wiped out," just as the troopers had said back at the exit.

Jones' only other option was in Erwin, so he headed to that bridge and managed to cross because the troopers in charge of blocking it weren't there at the time, he said. Once over the bridge, Jones said, a trooper gave him a ride to Erwin's town hall, and from there he began traveling on foot again.

While walking along the dark back country roads in east Tennessee, Jones said a car almost hit him. This prompted him to grab a red reflector so drivers could see him. With the reflector in hand, he went 8 miles farther down the road until a former co-worker from 20 years ago stopped and gave him a ride the rest of the way.

In total, Jones traveled 26.82 miles, which included 10 by car and about 17 by foot.

'A full circle moment'

When Jones made it to his home in Johnson City, he was welcomed to darkness and cold water because his heat and lights were not working. Nonetheless, he was able to take a cold shower, get a backup suit and make it to Elizabeth's wedding on time.

Jones said he decided not to tell his daughter about his adventure until after the wedding so she would not have thoughts about "her dad being lost in the wilderness" on "her" day.

It was not until Jones' reception speech, in which he brought out the red reflector he had grabbed during his journey, that his daughter truly understood what he did to make it that day.

"I presented (the reflector) to them and said, 'I want this to be a remembrance for you, and whenever you see it, to remember that you need to protect each other in life, especially in your darkest moments, as this reflector did for me. That's when you need it the most,'" Jones recalled.

The entire experience was a "full circle moment" that ended with Jones, his daughter and their family hugging and shedding tears, he said.

Jones recalled his daughter telling him, "If my father could love me this much, imagine how much our Father in Heaven loves us."

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## Port strike stokes some panic buying - Many likely getting items they don't need to get

October 4, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Betty Lin-Fisher; USA TODAY| Section: News| 981 Words Page: A9 OpenURL Link

During her lunch break Tuesday – the day 45,000 East Coast port workers went on strike – Shayna Turbovsky went to the grocery store to stock up on meat, rice, beans, bananas and toilet paper. She also filled up her gas tank and plans to keep it topped off.

Turbovsky, who lives in Fort Worth, Texas, had not been planning to go to the store, but when a co-worker told her she should stock up since there could be shortages and price increases due to the strike, she decided to go.

"I don't know how bad it's going to get, but the south east just got smacked by a hurricane and now the supply chain is going to be impacted through this strike," Turbovsky posted on X. "I would rather be overprepared than scared."

During lunch hour Wednesday at a Costco in Arlington, Virginia, shelves that are normally stocked to the ceiling with paper towels and toilet paper still had supply, but the amount appeared lower than usual. Meanwhile, at a Los Angeles-area Costco, a worker said there had been an uptick in toilet paper sales, though it was nothing close to the pandemonium that occurred during the COVID-19 lockdown.

But consumers may be stocking up on the wrong things - and panic buying when they don't need to.

Economic effects of strike

On Tuesday, 45,000 union workers went on strike when negotiations for a new contract broke down, shutting down 36 East and Gulf Coast ports. It was the first International Longshoremen's Association strike since 1977.

Half of all U.S. ocean imports flow through the East Coast and Gulf ports, which means consumers may face higher prices and shortages, experts have previously told USA TODAY. But those shortages would be for items like bananas, alcohol, seafood, electronics, pharmaceuticals, cars, auto parts and machinery parts.

Officials for President Joe Biden said in a previously reported USA TODAY story that the strike's impact on consumers would be "limited," including "in the important areas of fuel, food and medicine."

But some economists have told USA TODAY that the strike could cost the economy up to \$5billion each day as imports and exports are blocked.

'PTSD of the pandemic'

Turbovsky said she knows that most of the things she stocked up on may not be affected by the port strike.

"But what I thought in my mind was the pandemic. ... Once people are scared, once this country feels the fear of anything, we will all feel the PTSD of the pandemic, so immediately people think of toilet paper, paper towels, food supply," she told USA TODAY.

"People feel the fear and want to overconsume and buy everything they can," she added.

Turbovsky spent \$280 buying more than 30 pounds of meat to stash in her freezer, along with bananas, which she also froze, and other essentials. Turbovsky said she had a hard time finding meat during the pandemic when there

were supply chain issues.

She felt guilty buying so much meat, "but at the end of the day, I slept better at night knowing that I was prepared for the days to come," Turbovsky said.

Different supply chain issues

The reasons the port strike might cause product shortages differ from those that sparked the shortfalls during the pandemic when there were production shutdowns, said Josh Stillwagon, an associate professor and chair of the economics department at Babson College in Massachusetts.

"If all of the ports in the U.S. closed and we didn't have the West Coast (ports), I think you'd see something more like that (COVID-19 supply chain issues), where you'd have to worry about stockpiling," Stillwagon told USA TODAY.

Instead, Stillwagon thinks any strike-related shortages will mirror what occurred in 2021, when ports became congested as supplies started coming back online, delaying deliveries. Depending on how long the strike lasts, consumers should expect backlogs in goods arriving as shipments will have to be rerouted to the West Coast, he said.

Consumers will also pay more as extra transportation costs to get the goods from the West Coast to the East Coast will have to be built into prices, he said.

Stillwagon said he understands how consumers could feel uncertainty, leading them to stockpile goods.

"People have that ambiguity about what the outcome will be, and so they sort of flock to the necessities that were very inconvenient last time when we didn't have them," he said. Concern may also be exacerbated by the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which has left many of the people impacted struggling for necessities, "so people are stockpiling, given both of these major news events."

Whether there will be shortages of goods from the strike depends on how long it lasts, said Stillwagon. Inventories are back to pre-pandemic levels, and suppliers are "a little more attuned to disruption in the supply chain after COVID, so you may not notice it if it lasts a week or two," he said.

Not everyone is stocking up

Not all consumers were panic buying.

Shoppers crowded the aisles at Grosvenor Market in Rockville, Maryland, at lunchtime Wednesday. But that was less about hoarding and more about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which began Wednesday evening, said Scot Shuck, the store's owner.

By midday on day two of the port strike, Grosvenor customers had barely made a dent in the store's inventory of milk, toilet paper, bread and other staples.

Shuck said he hasn't witnessed any of the panic buying that gripped supermarkets back in 2020, at the height of the pandemic. Nor does he expect many supply-chain shortages to come.

If the strike does drag on, Shuck said, the store may have trouble procuring some of his customers' favorite imports: "Wines, cheeses and, I think, more fruits than vegetables," he said.

And so, Shuck said, "let's hope that it blows over very quickly."

Contributing: Josh Rivera, Medora Lee and Daniel de Visel, USA TODAY

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## WEEK 7 - Previews, predictions for Gastonia, Shelby area

October 4, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Joe L Hughes II; Gaston Gazette | Section: Sports | 815 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

Here are previews for Week 7 high school football games in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties, with reporter loe Hughes making a prediction for each.

Games kickoff at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Pick 3: Area's top games

Crest at South Point

Records: Crest is 4-0 (1-0 Big South 3A). South Point is 3-0 (1-0).

Web/Radio: NFHS Network (\$), WGNC 1450 AM/101.1 FM

The word: This is the sixth meeting between the Big South 3A rivals in four years, with South Point holding a 3-2 advantage. Crest took their last matchup, a wild 61-49 affair. The Chargers are battle tested, already with Burns, Shelby, Charlotte Catholic and Ashbrook on their resume. However, it's been six years since Crest left Belmont with a victory. Doing so will hinge on stopping South Point's vaunted rushing attack, which is averaging 294 yards per game. The Red Raiders have their work cut out for themselves as well, facing a Crest offense trending upward with the backfield of Tanner McSwain and Aiden Carson, as well as junior dynamo Michael Edwards.

Pick: Crest

Lincolnton at Bandys (Saturday, noon)

Records: Lincolnton is 1-3 (1-0 Catawba Valley 2A). Bandys is 4-0 (1-0).

The word: Lincolnton has won the teams' past three meetings. The last two have been particularly high scoring, the Wolves averaging 50 points per game. Led by running back Tanner Stewart, Bandys is off to a hot start. Stewart has 441 yards and three touchdowns, keeping opposing defenses from keying in quarterback Brady Swett (785 pass yards, 8 TD). Lincolnton counters with sophomore quarterback Rashad Lynch (357 pass yards, 2 TD) and senior back Treylen Bost (420 rush yards, 4 TD).

Pick: Bandys

Stuart Cramer at Hunter Huss (Thursday, 7 p.m.)

Records: Stuart Cramer is 1-3 (0-1 Big South 3A). Hunter Huss is 1-2 (0-1).

Web: NFHS Network (\$)

The word: With a limited supply of at-large spots available in the upcoming 3A state playoffs, Hunter Huss and Stuart Cramer look to get a leg up at the expense of a Gaston County foe. Cramer hopes to bounce back following a 44-7 loss to South Point in which its defense allowed 354 rushing yards. Huss is in a similar position, thoroughly dismantled by Kings Mountain in a 39-13 loss. Giving quarterback Javarion Brown room to operate will be key, particularly after getting sacked five times in his last outing.

Pick: Hunter Huss

The rest

Big South 3A

Ashbrook (4-1, 1-1 Big South 3A) at North Gaston (2-2, 0-1): Ashbrook allowed four total yards Tuesday night against Forestview. That isn't good news for North Gaston, which has struggled to create offense at times this season. | Pick: Ashbrook

Kings Mountain (3-1, 1-0) at Forestview (1-4, 1-1): Forestview struggled offensively in Tuesday's 34-0 loss at Ashbrook. It doesn't get much easier against Kings Mountain, which features two of the area's top defensive talents in Antonio Armstrong and Eli Lipscomb. | Pick: Kings Mountain

Southern Piedmont 1A/2A

Bessemer City (4-2, 2-0 Southern Piedmont 1A/2A) at Burns (3-2, 1-0): Bessemer City is off to a 2-0 start in league play following wins over Thomas Jefferson and Highland Tech. Burns is a much taller task, however, the Bulldogs averaging seven yards per carry this season. | Pick: Burns

Cherryville (1-4, 0-1) at East Gaston (1-3, 0-0): East Gaston averaged 14.5 points per game during non-conference play, losing three of four games. The Warriors look to rebound against a Cherryville team which has allowed 51.3 points per game during a four-game losing skid. | Pick: East Gaston

Highland Tech (3-2, 0-2) at Shelby (4-2, 2-0): Shelby has scored 70 points each of the last two weeks. One shouldn't be surprised if the Golden Lions make it three in a row against an improved, albeit overmatched, Highland Tech side. | Pick: Shelby

Western Foothills 3A

North Iredell (3-2, 2-0 Western Foothills 3A) at North Lincoln (4-1, 1-0): North Iredell has won three straight games, the last two by seven points each. North Lincoln's a different beast, though, averaging 332 rushing yards its first four games. | Pick: North Lincoln

West Iredell (2-2, 0-1) at East Lincoln (3-2, 0-2): Its league title hopes all but dashed, East Lincoln looks to start the home stretch on a good note. It faces an equally desperate West Iredell team, hoping to rebound after allowing 56 points Sept. 20 to St. Stephens. | Pick: East Lincoln:

Catawba Valley 2A

Bunker Hill (3-1, 1-0 Catawba Valley 2A) at West Lincoln (3-2, 1-1) (Saturday, 6:30 p.m.): This is West Lincoln's second game in four days following Hurricane Helene. A tough task awaits in Bunker Hill, which averages 242.5 rush yards per game. | Pick: Bunker Hill

Catawba Shores 1A/2A

Mountain Island Charter (1-3, 0-1 Catawba Shores 1A/2A) at Winston-Salem Prep (1-3, 0-2) (Thursday, 7:30 p.m.): MICS has lost three straight, but so has WInston-Salem Prep, which has allowed 36 points per game during its skid. | Pick: MICS

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## New restaurants and big pretzels in this week's Wilmington area food news

October 4, 2024 | StarNews (Wilmington, NC) Author: Allison Ballard, Wilmington StarNews| Section: Lifestyle | 430 Words OpenURL Link

Welcome to the weekly Port City Foodies newsletter brought to you by me, StarNews reporter Allison Ballard. This was a week of trying some gas station foods – pizza from Wawa, a mozz burger from Sheetz. Since I wrote it, though, someone reached out and said that I missed the Sheetz pretzel. Well, that's a mistake that's easy to correct. I went back for one, and even got a bit of of the chain's signature tangy and spicy Boom Boom sauce. While I wouldn't say the pretzel was "lifechanging," it wasn't bad. Want to know more? Read below.

The latest in restaurants

This week, we took a look back at what eateries have come and gone in the Wilmington area. They include new Italian restaurants in Wilmington and a couple of new options in the Surf City area. You can check out the full list here. Speaking of the latest news, not long after losing his existing restaurant in Sunset Beach, chef Ryan Duffy has new spot in the works in Southport.

More: A few months after his restaurant closed, this chef has a new one in the works in Southport

Gas station eats

Roadside food doesn't have to be bad. Way back in 2022, I visited some of the gas station restaurants that are serving up some delicious stuff. But while friend and colleague Molly Wilhelm looked at the overall trend of new gas station brands coming to the area, I decided to try some of the food. Here's a look.

More: Taste test: What will convenience stores like Wawa and Sheetz bring to Wilmington's table?

Tasty to-dos

Now that October weather has settled in, it's a great time to get out there and enjoy some food and drink. (I was able to check out the barbecue bash at Cameron Art Museum, which featured a great Southern inspired buffet from chef Chip Pridgen and his staff – and then a performance from the chef's band.) Fortunately, there are so many more things coming up. Here's a list from my friend and reporter John Staton, and more of the food and drink events planned this month. Since then, even more have been added, especially fundraisers to help the victims of Hurricane Helene. Speaking of weather, there's also this list of cool local beer gardens, which was written before The Veggie Wagon's Carolina Beach location has temporarily closed after recent flooding. But their Masonboro location is still open, as are these other patios.

More: Oysters, Oktoberfest & spooky stuff in this month's Wilmington-area food-and-drink events

Let's get social

Follow Port City Foodies on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/portcityfoodies and on Instagram at @port\_city\_foodies.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Allison Ballard, Wilmington StarNews, 'New restaurants and big pretzels in this week's Wilmington area food news', *StarNews* (online), 4 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C01AC5CB481B78">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C01AC5CB481B78</a>



## United Way extending The Longest Table to communities affected by Hurricane Helene

October 4, 2024 | Statesville Record & Landmark (NC) Author: Donna Swicegood | Section: Local | 391 Words OpenURL Link

As families in Western North Carolina struggle with the lack of so many necessities due to Hurricane Helene, the Longest Table planning committee and event sponsors have made the decision to cancel the event as advertised that was scheduled for Sunday, and Tuesday.

"Instead of gathering at The Table as a community, we are extending our community's generosity to Western NC. Cheney Brothers, the food supplier for our Longest Table event, is working with emergency food providers to have the food that was originally intended for our events be delivered to Western NC instead," Jody Taylor, director of marketing at the United Way of Iredell County, said. "The planning committee regrets we will no longer be serving a meal to our communities in Iredell County, but we strongly believe this decision embodies our philosophy for this year's Longest Table: The Power of WE."

The Longest Table committee members and community volunteers will still be gathering at Mooresville High School off Blue Devil Boulevard on Sunday and in downtown Statesville off North Mulberry Street on Tuesday to collect supplies for our neighbors both at home and communities in Western NC.

"We would love to see everyone who already planned on experiencing the Power of We come help us show Western NC that WE includes all of North Carolina," Taylor said. "Not only will we be sending the food west, but we will also be collecting needed items to go to Western NC. In addition, we want to ensure we are taking care of our community right here in Iredell County, so we will still be collecting canned goods for our local Food Pantries as originally planned."

Collection items to donate are: Western NC needs baby wipes, diapers and pull-ups, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, disinfectant wipes. Mooresville and Statesville communities need canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup/paste, canned meat and canned milk.

South Iredell-Mooresville details:

Mooresville area will be accepting these donations from 1-3 p.m. Sunday at Mooresville High School, 659 E Center Ave., Mooresville. Enter Blue Devil Boulevard off Center Street to drop off your donation and exit onto Cabarrus Avenue.

North Iredell-Statesville details:

Donations will be accepted from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday on North Mulberry Street. Enter North Mulberry Street off Walnut Street to drop off your donation and exit onto West End Avenue.

It is asked that you only bring the items being requested due to specific distribution requirements.

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#### WRAPPING UP

October 4, 2024 | Statesville Record & Landmark (NC) Author: DOWNTOWN STATESVILLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION | Section: Mapping | 590 Words OpenURL Link

#### **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

The Piedmont HealthCare Friday After 5 Summer Concert Series will be wrapping up this year's season with the Megan Doss Band on Friday. Based out the Triad area, this band covers not only your favorite country music, but they sprinkle in some top 40, classic rock, and a touch of rock 'n' roll!

The Piedmont HealthCare Friday After 5 Summer Concert Series offers free entertainment to Statesville's residents, neighbors, and visitors in Downtown Statesville from May through October and features music of all styles. The series is also made possible by the presenting sponsorship of Flow Automotive of Statesville.

The concert will be held in Downtown Statesville on West Broad Street in front of Mitchell Community College from 6-8:30 p.m. Beer, wine, spirits, soft drinks, water, and food will be available for purchase beginning at 5 p.m. Bring your chairs and enjoy a great night of music, but remember — no pets, outside beverages, or coolers are allowed.

As preparations for the final concert are made, the challenges our neighbors in the west are facing in the wake of Hurricane Helene are in the forefront. Many of you are already gathering donations and supplies through your businesses and organizations to help those affected, and we are deeply grateful for your compassion.

The Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce has created a dedicated resource page, which is being updated regularly with information from impacted local chambers, as well as federal and state resources. You can find it here: https://www.statesvillechamber.org/2024/10/01/14688/western-north-carolina-relief-resources/.

Each Piedmont HealthCare Friday After 5 concert supports a nonprofit organization, offering them a booth to share information about their program and collecting donations on their behalf. This month's event will be dedicated to benefiting this year's Leadership Statesville Class. Leadership has been educating and equipping hundreds of Statesville residents since 1988 with information about the social, economic, and political dynamics of our community. Each year, the class chooses a project that benefits the community that they plan, fund and see through to completion. This year they are redoing the playground and surrounding areas at My Sister's House. Leadership Statesville is one of the many fantastic programs provided by the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call Nicole Kershner with the Chamber of Commerce at 704-873-2892, ext. 2.

Start your evening by visiting the welcome tent sponsored by New Image Services and Randy Marion at the entrance to purchase your tokens before heading over to the beverage tent.

Red Buffalo Brewing will be on hand pouring their well-loved Clocktower IPA, Blue'sberry Ale, Angry Brunette Black Ale, Mouthy Blonde Ale, Strawberry-Lemon Shandy and Cran-Apple Seltzer.

Andrea's Ice Cream & Sweet Shop along with Wilson's Weenie Wagon and BFF Food Truck food trucks will be serving food, sweets, water and soft drinks.

The Piedmont HealthCare Friday After 5 Summer Concert Series is produced by Downtown Statesville Development Corporation (DSDC) and the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce and is made possible by volunteers and these valued sponsors:

Piedmont HealthCare, Flow Automotive of Statesville, New Image Services, Randy Marion Ford Lincoln, DENSO, Doosan Bobcat, Allen Tate Realtors, Gallaher Fleet Solutions, Kewaunee Scientific Corporation, Carolina BalloonFest, Mitchell Community College, Banner Drug, Greenbriar Grill, Dronespan, Iredell Free News, Sound Check Live, City of Statesville, Homerun Markets and WAME Radio 92.9.

Parking is available throughout downtown in nine public parking lots. Mitchell Community College invites guests to park in their various lots surrounding the event. For public lot details, visit https://www.downtownstatesville.com/directions-parking.

For more information about the 2024 concert series, contact Downtown Statesville at 704-878-3436 or the Chamber of Commerce at 704-873-2892. Learn more by visiting https://www.svlfridayafterfive.com/.

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## Megan Doss Band finishes the Piedmont HealthCare Friday After 5 concert series

October 4, 2024 | Statesville Record & Landmark (NC) Author: Donna Swicegood| Section: Local | 587 Words OpenURL Link

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## Local schools and businesses collecting items for hurricane relief

October 4, 2024 | Thomasville Times, The (NC) Author: Sharon Myers PAXTON MEDIA GROUP| Section: Thomasville Times | 535 Words OpenURL Link

DAVIDSON COUNTY — Several schools, churches and businesses in Davidson County are collecting items to help people in western North Carolina following the destruction caused by the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

South Davidson Middle and High School, Northwest Elementary School, Central Davidson Middle School, North Davidson Middle School, Southwood Elementary School and Tyro Middle School announced that they will be collecting items. Requested items include water, baby formula and diapers, non-perishable foods, blankets, towels, pillows, tarps, hygiene products, dog/cat food, batteries, flashlights, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.

More information about specific drop-off locations and hours can be found on the schools' individual webpages or social media sites.

The United Way of Davidson County has two drop off locations at Richard Childress Racing at 425 Industrial Drive in Welcome and the Davidson County Sheriff's Department located at 2511 U.S. 64 east in Lexington. Residents also can make a donation at the state website at https://bit.ly/3XSJDrW.

Three bakeries in the county are also collecting disaster relief items, Fancy Pastry at 407 E. Center St. in Lexington; Sinfully Delicious at 28 W. Center St. in Lexington; and Cupcake Cuties at 8363 N.C. 109 west in Wallburg.

Three N.C. Farm Bureau locations in Davidson County also are taking donations. They are the North Davidson office located at 661 Friedberg Church Road; the Lexington office located at 2456 Old U.S. 64 east and the Thomasville office located at 23 Cedar Lodge Road in Thomasville.

Several local relators in Davidson County have also joined forces to collect items, Solid Rock Realty located at 2567 Johnson Town Road in Thomasville; Allred & Co. located at 4704 Archdale Road in Trinity and eXp Realty located at 307 N Main St. in Lexington.

There are also several churches throughout the county that have announced they will be collecting relief items. Most churches have information on drop-off locations on their web or social media sites.

High Rock Church located at located at 135 Lowes Blvd. in Lexington is taking donations, except clothing, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There are also some statewide and national organizations collecting money to go towards helping Western North Carolina residents.

Donations can be made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund at https://pay.payitgov.com/nc. All donations made will go to purchasing items for disaster relief.

The American Red Cross is collecting donations at www.redcross.org/donate/dr/hurricane-helene.html/ Other options for donating: Call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or Text HELENE to 90999.

Samaritan's Purse enlists thousands of volunteers to provide emergency aid to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters in the United States. Donations can be made at www.samaritanspurse.org/article/pray-for-those-in-helenes-path/

Donations to the Salvation Army of the Carolinas can be made at

give.helpsalvationarmy.org/give/166081/#!/donation/checkout or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

Baptists on Mission have set up feeding units at First Baptist Boone and Biltmore Baptist in Arden. In addition, they are setting up recovery sites in Boone, Spruce Pine, Hendersonville and Marion. Donations can be made at baptistsonmission.org/Mission-Projects/By-Mission-Type/Disaster-Relief/Hurricane-Helene/Donations

Operation Airdrop has set up operations at Concord Regional Airport. The organization is a Texas-based non-profit dedicated to deliver essential supplies to areas cut off from traditional aid routes impacted by natural disasters. To dontate go to www.operation-airdrop.com/hurricane-helene

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

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## Helene's aftermath - Still searching - Asheville woman dies in Swannanoa River

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Tiana Kennell; Asheville Citizen Times | Section: News | 420 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

ASHEVILLE — A missing Asheville resident has been found dead after a days-long search following Tropical Storm Helene.

Samira Zoobi was confirmed dead. She was 28.

Colette Zoobi said her daughter was in her apartment unit at Riverview Apartments on Rivers Edge Road near Tunnel Road and off the Swannanoa River during Helene on Sept. 27.

She said she texted with her daughter at 10:30 a.m. and the water had risen to the second level of the apartment building. She said rescuers were called and arrived around 1 p.m.

"At that point, they were trying to save all the residents, and her building was washed away," Colette Zoobi said. "She was not able to get ahold of the ropes and was washed away."

Colette Zoobi said the family was notified on Tuesday night, Oct. 1.

"She was a creative spirit. Everybody loved her," Colette Zoobi said. "She was so loving. Everybody who knew her loved her. She was like a bright light in the room."

Colette Zoobi posted about her daughter's missing status in the Facebook group Helene-Asheville Lost and Found. The posting later was removed.

Asheville T-Shirt Company, where Samira Zoobi worked for more than three years, posted an update about her death on Wednesday, Oct. 2, saying, "Yesterday, we lost a beloved member of our Asheville T-Shirt family. Our hearts are shattered and we are left broken. Samira was all the things you would come to love and adore in a friend. They were the kindest of souls and incredibly talented in their craft. We were blessed to have spent 3.5 years working alongside Samira; the fond and guirky memories of Samira will forever remain in our hearts."

Colette Zoobi told the Citizen Times that she was thankful for the Asheville community who rallied to find her daughter.

"The community has been so supportive but I want them now to focus on finding the others who are missing and bring those loved ones home," she said.

As of 4 p.m. Oct. 2, Sheriff Quentin Miller reported the storm-related death toll in Buncombe County was 61. A total of 73 deaths have been reported in Western North Carolina.

Tiana Kennell is the food and dining reporter for the Asheville Citizen Times, part of the USA Today Network. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and covered the arts, entertainment and hospitality in Louisiana for several years. Email her at tkennell@citizentimes.com.

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## NC grief counselor give advice on helping children recover

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Lici Beveridge; Asheville Citizen Times | Section: News | 1132 Words Page: A9 OpenURL Link

Some students in Western North Carolina may be out of school for longer expected after Helene caused widespread damage, particularly in Asheville, where it may take weeks to get water restored.

Other obstacles like transportation and intermittent power and internet outages further complicate the return to school, Asheville City Schools Superintendent Maggie Fehrman said.

The school district serves more than 3,800 students.

"We know that there are bridges washed out and trees out on roads, and that is a major roadblock to bringing our students back as well," Fehrman said Wednesday during the Buncombe County daily media briefing on storm recovery. "We are dedicated to doing that. Even if the situation isn't 100% perfect, we know school is the best place for children, and we are dedicated to opening our schools and bringing our students back as soon as we can."

Fehrman said an initial assessment showed the school buildings sustained minimal damage, and though some were flooded, "but that is nothing we won't be able to recover from."

Roughly half the schools are without power and all are without water.

"We know that together we can do really hard things, because we are a Cougar crew," Fehrman said.

'Working hard to prepare for that day'

Schools outside the city are working through some of the same issues.

Buncombe County Superintendent Rob Jackson said his district, which includes more than 22,000 students, also cannot reopen without power and water.

"I wish we could use remote learning, but we just can't because our students and staff members don't have access to the internet," he said. "Cellphone service is spotty or just doesn't work where they are, so we can't take advantage of that opportunity."

The district initially planned for students to return on Monday, but it is unclear when they will be able to reopen. Jackson said students depend on the district not only for learning, but for meals and engaging with fellow students and staff in a safe environment.

"We are working hard to prepare for that day," he said. "We're making plans to support the emotional and social well-being of our students. Our families, our neighbors and staff have experienced such trauma. We want to make sure we are there to support them on their first day back and every day after that."

The district is working on reconfiguring bus routes to detour around damaged roads and bridges, Jackson said.

In the aftermath of Helene, Jackson said the district distributed to the community whatever food it had in its refrigerators and freezers.

The district is working through its challenges as it has in the past, he said.

"During the pandemic, we used the word, 'unprecedented,'" Jackson said. "We hoped and prayed that we would never use that word again and yet we are in unprecedented times yet again. But we discover in unprecedented times a strength that has been there throughout."

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College will remain closed until at least Oct. 14, A-B Tech President John Gossett said.

"But that is going to depend on our infrastructure," Gossett said.

Parents can help children process what happened

Since it may take longer than expected for schools to reopen, parents may be wondering how they can help their children process what is happening around them.

Jillian Kelly Wavering, a child traumatic grief counselor and founder of Asheville Child Therapy, said it is important for parents to talk about Helene and its aftermath and provide age-appropriate explanations about what happened. But it is also important for parents to help their children understand what they are feeling so they can work through some of the issues they may be facing.

"We are forever changed by the experiences we go through, so while life won't 'eturn to normal, we can give children a sense of knowing what to expect in their immediate day," Wavering said.

As a therapist, shed has nearly 15 years of experience working with children who have faced trauma in their lives, including children in New York City's South Bronx, where she previously worked, who were exposed to gang violence, trafficking and abuse in foster care.

She also is a wife and mother of two sons, ages 5 and 18 months, so she is experiencing a lot of the same things as parents in the Asheville area.

Wavering offered some tips that parents may find useful as they and their children begin to recover from the traumatic effects of the storm.

One is to recognize that there may be two things going on at the same time.

"The dual process of grief counseling, particularly traumatic grief, is essentially when we are processing the trauma, so loss oriented, while simultaneously finding ways to move forward, which is restoration oriented," Wavering said.

"This really means that two things can be true all at once. Children can be heartbroken and hopeful. They can be devastated and powerful and specifically they can be sad and also find moments of joy, which we know children are so primed to do," she said.

Wavering said this is very important for parents to understand, since children may "bounce in and out of their traumatic grief and they will feel those tremendous feelings while also trying to be able to find moments of joy."

Parents can embrace those moments of joy with their children while also grieving what they have lost. But parents need to also share their feelings with their children in a way they can understand, and let them know it is OK to be angry, sad and frightened, but it also is OK to laugh at something funny they saw or heard, even while they are trying to process their loss.

Include teens and preteens in the conversation

Teens and preteens also need a way to work through their feelings. Limiting exposure to images from the disaster and getting misinformation from friends is an important part of getting through a trauma. Ask them to talk about

their feelings and share yours with them.

If efforts to have open discussions are met with silence, this could be a sign of trouble, and self-harm cannot be ruled out, Wavering said.

"Let them know that this is hard and that you're allowed to be mad about this or sad about this grieve those little t's but we can also have gratitude for all of the things that we can feel gratitude for right now," she said.

Lici Beveridge is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network. Contact her at lbeveridge@gannett.com . Follow her on X @licibev or Facebook at facebook.com/licibeveridge .

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## Here's how to help - Relief efforts for volunteering, contributing

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Lizmary Evans; USA TODAY NETWORK | Section: News | 1133 Words Page: A4 OpenURL Link

Relief efforts are in full swing across hard-hit Western North Carolina, including Asheville, which has been declared a major disaster area following Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 hurricane at landfall. Communities are recovering from catastrophic floods that have caused extensive damage and washed-out roads that now look more like rivers.

Local organizations and volunteers have begun coordinating relief efforts to support those impacted by the storm. Community members are encouraged to contribute through donations and volunteer opportunities, as the need for assistance remains critical.

Here's how you can help.

#### Monetary donations

Consider donating to local disaster relief funds, such as the United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, which is mobilizing resources to help those in need. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is also accepting donations for communities devastated by Helene's fury.

While there may be a time when physical goods are necessary, immediate support is best provided through financial contributions in the early stages of recovery.

What national organizations are helping Helene victims?

#### American Red Cross

As one of the first organizations to respond to disasters and the most recognized aid group globally, the American Red Cross provides food, shelter, supplies, and emotional support to those affected by crises. With hundreds of workers and volunteers already deployed in Florida, they have opened numerous shelters for evacuees. You can support their relief efforts for Hurricane Helene by donating directly to their national organization.

#### GoFundMe

GoFundMe has seen an influx of fundraisers for individuals impacted by Hurricane Helene. This popular crowdfunding platform connects you directly with those in need, allowing for personal support. However, be cautious as scams can occur; it's essential to read campaigns carefully. GoFundMe has created a dedicated hub for vetted Helene-related requests and offers its own Hurricane Relief Fund, providing cash grants to those affected.

#### The Salvation Army

Quick to respond in times of crisis, the Salvation Army provides food, drinks, shelter, and emotional support to survivors and rescue workers. You can donate to their relief efforts for Hurricane Helene online.

#### United Way

The United Way has initiated a fund to assist those affected by Helene. Local chapters are also accepting donations for both immediate relief and ongoing support for residents. Visit their website to find your local organization.

#### World Central Kitchen

Renowned chef José Andrés and his teams are on the ground after disasters, setting up kitchens to serve thousands of meals to victims and responders. You can support their efforts by donating on their website.

Additional organizations providing specialized assistance

All Hands and Hearts: This volunteer-driven organization collaborates with local communities to rebuild schools, homes, and infrastructure. They have established a fund specifically for Hurricane Helene.

Americares: Focused on medical aid, Americares helps communities recover from disasters by providing access to medicines and essential medical supplies. A donation page for Hurricane Helene is available on their website.

CARE: This organization offers emergency cash assistance to underserved families. You can contribute to their Helene fund through their website.

Community Foundation Tampa Bay: This local organization maintains a list of charities that provide critical support. You can also donate to the Tampa Bay Rapid Response Fund, which allocates funds to nonprofits addressing immediate needs.

Direct Relief: Committed to providing long-term medical assistance, Direct Relief has made over \$74 million in medicines and medical supplies available to healthcare providers affected by Hurricane Helene. Donations can be made to their general fund or specifically for the Hurricane Helene Response.

Global Giving: This disaster relief charity delivers immediate aid and addresses long-term recovery, focusing on local organizations. You can donate to their Helene fund on their website.

International Medical Corps: Partnering with local healthcare providers, this organization offers critical medical care and supplies. Their Helene fund can be accessed through their website for donations.

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief: A grassroots network focused on delivering aid directly to underserved communities often overlooked in disasters. Donations can be made at mutualaiddisasterrelief.org.

Operation Blessing: Collaborating with local churches and emergency management, this group provides clean water, food, and medical supplies to those in immediate need. You can contribute to their Helene fund on their website.

Save the Children: This organization focuses on delivering child-specific supplies to families severely affected by the storm, including hygiene kits and educational materials. You can donate to their Children's Emergency Fund to support these efforts.

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Dogwood Health Trust and WNC Bridge Foundation: All three organizations are coordinating a response to assist those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Anyone wishing to support aid to those affected can donate to the Emergency and Disaster Response Fund at www.cfwnc.org. Administrative fees are waived so that every dollar goes directly to assistance.

The North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina Foundation for Nursing: Both organizations have initiated a campaign to provide financial assistance to nurses affected by Hurricane Helene. The NCFN Nurse Recovery Fund aims to quickly distribute funds to nurses experiencing loss or damage from catastrophic flooding, wind or landslides in the region.

Donation drop-off locations

A donation drop-off site has been set up at 118 McAbee Court in Flat Rock is accepting perishable food items,

bottled water, toiletries and baby formula. Please note they are not accepting new or used clothing at this time. This location is for donation drop-offs only. For a complete list of accepted items and donation details, visit www.visithendersonvillenc.org/helene-relief.

You can also drop off donations at the following locations: Reuter Family YMCA at 3 Town Square Blvd, Asheville, N.C., in Biltmore Park Town Square and Universal Advanced Manufacturing Center at 634 College Drive, Marion, N.C.

Should I go to the affected areas to volunteer for Hurricane Helene relief?

Unless you're officially invited, it's best not to go to the affected areas to volunteer.

Disaster response teams and reputable organizations are already on the ground, and while the willingness to help is commendable, untrained volunteers may lack the necessary safety and medical training for effective disaster recovery. They could inadvertently consume resources that local responders need. Instead, connect with local health professionals, Red Cross volunteers and first responders to find out how you can best assist from a distance.

How can I ensure my donation reaches Hurricane Helene Victims?

During disasters, scammers often try to exploit the generosity of those wanting to help. To avoid falling victim, research any unfamiliar charity before donating.

A simple way to check is to Google the charity's name along with "scam" or "fraud." You can also consult charity rating organizations such as the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance (give.org), Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org), Guidestar (guidestar.org), or CharityWatch (charitywatch.org).

Additionally, the Florida Department of Agricultural Services has a toll-free hotline at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) and a Check-A-Charity tool to verify charity registration and financial information.

Can I help pets affected by Hurricane Helene?

Several local organizations are dedicated to assisting animals impacted by the hurricane.

Humane Society Disaster Relief: This organization evacuates animals from shelters before and after disasters. You can donate at secured.humanesociety.org/page/81880.

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# Biden, Harris tour Helene damage, console victims in battered South

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Joey Garrison; USA TODAY | Section: News | 795 Words Page: A7 OpenURL Link

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday surveyed communities battered by flooding from Hurricane Helene during separate trips spanning three southeastern states as both vowed the federal government won't leave until the recovery is complete.

Biden stopped in Greenville, South Carolina, and took an aerial tour of the devastation in nearby Asheville, North Carolina, before receiving an emergency operational briefing in the state capital of Raleigh. Harris traveled separately to Augusta, Georgia, where she provided an update on federal support for emergency response and recovery efforts.

The nation's top two executives did not cross paths as Biden visited the battleground state of North Carolina and Harris traveled to another swing state, Georgia, just 34 days before Election Day.

The death toll across the Southeast was at least 162 Wednesday and was expected to rise. Buncombe County, home to Asheville, has reported 57 deaths. The aftermath of Hurricane Helene has collided with the politics of the 2024 election – with the speed, quality and disputes over federal aid posing potential election ramifications in both Georgia and North Carolina.

Biden takes aerial tour

of hard-hit Asheville

Biden took his aerial tour of Asheville on Marine One, dipping low to view the widespread storm damage. Near the city's historic downtown, Biden and his team could see flattened buildings, gutted structures and knocked down trees. The tour also crossed over Biltmore village, the River Arts district and east Asheville as well as Swannanoa and Black Mountain.

"I'm here to say the United States – the nation – has your back. We're not leaving until you're back on your feet completely," Biden said at an emergency command center in Raleigh, where he was joined by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat.

Biden said he approved Cooper's request for the federal government to cover 100% of the costs of debris removal and other emergency protective measures over six months.

The president also announced the deployment of up to 1,000 active-duty soldiers to reinforce the North Carolina National Guard's efforts to deliver food, water and medicine to isolated communities in the state.

"In a moment like this, we put politics aside. At least we should put it all aside," Biden said. "We have here. There are no Democrats, Republicans, only Americans. And our job is to help as many people as we can, as quickly as we can and as thoroughly as we can."

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who joined the president's trip on Wednesday, said more than 4,800 federal workers have been deployed for the government's response, including more than 1,000 FEMA workers. The agency has shipped more than 8.8 million meals, 7.4 million liters of water, 150 generators and more than 225,000 tarps to the Southeast.

Search and rescue teams have conducted nearly 1,500 structural evaluations and completed hundreds of rescues and evacuations, Mayorkas said.

'Here for the long haul'

During her visit to Georgia on Wednesday, Harris hugged and consoled residents in an Augusta neighborhood where toppled trees were visible in front yards and wooden debris covered parts of roads.

"It is particularly devastating in terms of the loss of life that this community has experienced, the loss of normalcy and the loss of critical resources," Harris said. "And so I'm here today to thank all of those who are working to get folks the support and the relief that they so desperately need."

Harris vowed "long-lasting" coordination from the federal government to get families, residents and neighborhoods "back up and running."

"We're here for the long haul," Harris said.

A 'multi-billion-dollar'

recovery effort

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell remains on the ground in western North Carolina, which was hit particularly hard by flooding, including Asheville. Biden administration officials are bracing for a costly long-term recovery that will take years.

"This is a multi-billion-dollar, multi-year recovery," Mayorkas said. "We have towns that have disappeared, literally."

Biden said earlier this week that he expects to ask Congress to approve a supplemental spending bill to help cover federal costs for Hurricane Helene relief efforts. A dozen bipartisan senators who represent the states hit hardest by the storm pleaded Tuesday for their colleagues to also pass legislation with additional resources. They also joined the president in suggesting an emergency session may need to be called before Election Day.

In North Carolina, FEMA has received more than 30,000 applications from individuals seeking disaster relief and so far distributed more than \$2.6 million to survivors. Sixty-two percent of power outages reported after the flooding have been restored, with 8,000 crews continuing to assist with additional power restoration, the White House said.

The federal government has also installed 50 Starlink receivers in western North Carolina to help provide internet connectivity.

Reach Joey Garrison on X, formerly Twitter, @joeygarrison.

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## Post-Helene updates - Curfew, resources, donations, wellness check status map

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Hendersonville Times-News | Section: News | 344 Words Page: A7 OpenURL Link

Henderson County remains in a State of Emergency and the 8 p.m.-8 a.m. curfew is still in effect for the entire county.

Emergency teams continue to work calls and rescues across the county. Please limit travel so crews can not only work emergencies but also so Duke Energy crews can work on restoring power.

Henderson County Resource Hub locations will be open at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, for water distribution and other supplies as they become available.

Resource Hub locations:

Etowah Elementary, 320 Etowah School Road, Etowah

Rugby Middle, 3345 Haywood Road, Hendersonville

East Henderson High, 150 Eagle Pride Drive, East Flat Rock

North Henderson High, 35 Fruitland Road, Hendersonville

Mills River Town Hall, 124 Town Center Drive, Mills River

Fletcher Town Hall, 300 Old Cane Creek Road, Fletcher

Each family unit will be provided supplies for one day's meal and water as it is available. Individuals are asked to enter the drive-through Resource Hubs and remain in their cars unless instructed otherwise by volunteers, to ensure an efficient process. In order for the Resource Hubs to function smoothly, efficiently and safely we ask for the public's patience while waiting for their supplies.

Donation drop-off site

A donation drop-off site has been established at 118 McAbee Court in Flat Rock. Non-perishable food items, bottled water, toiletries and baby powder formula are needed. We are not accepting perishable food or new/used clothing items at this time. This site is for donation drop-offs only. Visit www.visithendersonvillenc.org/helene-relief for a full list of accepted items and donation information.

Wellness Check Status Map

Henderson County has launched a Wellness Check Status Map for missing contacts. This map shows individuals whose location and safety are unknown in red. Blue dots show contacts that have been made. Check the map to see if you are listed or if you know the whereabouts of anyone on this map. Call (828) 771-6670 to notify us of anyone's status. View the map at https://hendersoncounty.maps.arcgis.com/.../76a0a66ff2ff4...

The call center is available for all non-medical requests for information. Call (828) 771-6670 or email Helene-info@hcem.org. For emergencies, call 911.

For more information visit www.hendersoncountync.gov and click on the Hurricane Helene Updates banner.

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## With José Andrés, restaurants rush to feed hard-hit WNC after Helene

October 4, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Mackensy Lunsford; Asheville Citizen Times | Section: News | 1226 Words Page: A2 OpenURL Link

If José Andrés comes to your town, you know something unfortunate probably is going on.

But he's going to make it better by doing what he does best: making sure the people who are reeling from a traumatic event get a good meal.

That's why one of the best-known chefs in world was in Western North Carolina on Monday. The multiple James Beard award winner is the founder of World Central Kitchen, a chef-driven relief organization drops into communities around the globe to provide meals following natural disasters and other crises.

Andrés, whose national restaurant empire grew from his celebrated Jaleo in Washington, D.C., was dropping in via helicopter to the Laurel Ridge community east of Asheville to deliver boxes of food and water.

A video posted to X showed the Spanish-born chef talking with resident Glenn Gibbs, who had hiked with a walking stick to bring the boxes back to the community, blocked in by twin landslides set off by Helene's deluge.

"There's a lot of people who are elderly and that's the issue," Andrés says in the video. He praises "citizens helping citizens," adding, "that's what the community needs."

Some of those citizens include the Asheville-based chefs and their employees who are making meals for World Central Kitchen and receiving much-needed pay for their work. They're aided by a network of chefs who make up the Chef Corps, a global network of culinary leaders.

They include Meherwan and Molly Irani, founders of Chai Pani Indian street food restaurant in downtown Asheville. After Helene walloped the region, the Iranis left their powerless homes as soon as they could clear their roads with a chainsaw.

They headed downtown to the Battery Park Avenue building where they first launched their restaurant. Miraculously, it had power.

Employees arrived quickly, eager to charge their devices and also to work.

"In equal measure, we wanted to provide a space for people to come together, have busy hands, and be part of the solution," Molly Irani said. "And it helped people start feeling better immediately. To be of service helps you say, 'OK, I'm going to get through another day.'"

For the past few days, they've made 1,200 meals daily for WCK to airlift to stranded locals.

"To be of some use, it's like oxygen," Irani said. "It's saving me tremendously. It's helping us all survive, to show up and be some form of support in this tragedy."

There was no way yet to know how many Western North Carolina residents are still stranded in the mountains without food or water, their roads erased by floodwaters or blocked by landslides.

"There are entire communities cut off from aid and support," Irani said. "We have heard stories of people whose houses were washed away or completely demolished, and they're standing on the side of the hill, waiting. They

can't contact anyone, and some are hiking out to get help."

But Irani said Asheville's generosity is one of its strengths. A quarter of the people showing up to make sandwiches now are strangers.

"It struck me today during one of the many times I was holding people and crying tears of sadness, pain and shock over the suffering of this community, there were also tears of absolute connectedness and love," she said. "At the end of the day how we've shown up in crisis has restored my faith in humanity, honestly."

Chai Pani spokesperson Kelsey Burrow said the Iranis have identified no end date for the free meals.

"They have a desire to serve people, they do it so well and they can mobilize quickly," she said.

That's been important as Asheville has reeled from the trauma of a natural disaster of a scope they didn't expect. The mountains that have made recovery such a challenge were also expected to shield it from the worst of the storm.

"Many of them went to bed expecting downed trees and power outages and woke up to absolute devastation," Molly Irani said. "And that's been especially traumatic."

Where is World Central Kitchen deployed?

World Central Kitchen is now working in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee, all impacted severely by Helene. Between North Carolina and Tennessee, WCK is working with 16 restaurant partners and, as of Oct. 1, had served 23,251 meals. Another 40,798 meals had gone to Florida and Georgia.

WCK also has activated two helicopters to scour Florida and North Carolina for cut-off residents.

In Asheville, where infrastructure damage caused acute potable water shortages, the group has deployed five 6,200-gallon water tankers.

More help is coming. A spokesperson said the group will continue to expand hot meal distribution and air-scouting operations in the stricken Western North Carolina region.

Meanwhile, some of the areas are so hard to reach that residents are having to hike to the helicopters, as when Andres visited.

'People won't walk away'

Susan Aplin, CEO of Katie Button Restaurants and Lifestyle Brands, said WCK's contributions of water have been a lifeline, allowing her kitchen to continue to cook 1,000 meals daily of breakfast sandwiches, comforting chili and fortifying vegetable and seafood paellas.

The restaurants she oversees, Cúrate Bar de Tapas and La Bodega by Cúrate, owned by Felix Meana and Katie Button, are closed until further notice.

"After the most recent update from the county, it looks like restoring water will take at least three weeks," she said.
"And as long that's the case we won't be able to reopen."

The company has 160 employees. The first order of business was finding them and ensuring they were safe and that the displaced had housing, Aplin said.

"Then we opened up Cúrate to feed our employees and their families, and we partnered with World Central Kitchen to feed the community," she said. "There are lots of communities cut off and, with their roads impassable, we're

literally flying the food to them."

While that's happening, Aplin has a van driving continuously, back and forth from WCK's water tankers to the Cúrate kitchen and the staff at Chai Pani.

Now that some of the access roads into Western North Carolina are passible enough for supplies to enter the region, Aplin said the cavalry has arrived, with partners such as US Foods and Cheney Brothers Inc. bringing so many donations of fresh food she has had to divert them to other restaurants, including Chai Pani.

"They've been bringing us the ingredients to allow us to do what we're doing," Aplin said.

And although it will take some time to restore services to the city, Aplin thinks the worst time of her life is now over. That was the day and a half when there was no cell service to speak of, and she did not know if her employees were alive, she said, breaking down into tears.

Molly Irani said those precarious first days were unbearable, not knowing whether her employee, friends and family were safe. But now they're all accounted for.

Now the recovery begins, she said,

"There are entire areas with structures, businesses, that are completely gone," she said. "We're looking at an entire rebuilding of the community," she said. "But what I know about the heart of this community is how powerful it is and I believe in it and people won't walk away and abandon it."

More about World Central Kitchen at wck.org.

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