

Local Masonic lodge seeks donations for western NC aid

October 3, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 147 Words OpenURL Link

Local Masonic lodge seeks donations for western NC aid

Published 12:00 am Thursday, October 3, 2024

By Staff Report

The Andrew Jackson Masonic Lodge in Salisbury is collecting items on Saturday to send to Brevard.

"Please help us help the victims of the devastation of hurricane Helene in our nearby communities," a release from the organization said. "The Masons will have a trailer in the parking lot at the Masonic lodge to collect supplies on the list. Please give what you can to help our distressed neighbors in need. Thank you and God bless."

Items include: bottled water, sports drinks/packets, toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, baby wipes, new socks, new underwear, blankets/ comforters, can openers, non-perishable food, trash bags, diapers, first aid kits, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, plastic tarps, gloves and baby formula.

The lodge is located at 401 N. Fulton Street, Salisbury.

Contact John Vasquez at 805-402-8884 or JMV805@outlook.com for more information.

Copyright 2024 Salisbury Post, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Report, 'Local Masonic lodge seeks donations for western NC aid', *Salisbury Post* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF91EE4361C0D0



Letters to the editor — Oct. 3

October 3, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Post Opinion | Section: Opinion | 378 Words OpenURL Link

Letters to the editor — Oct. 3

Published 12:00 am Thursday, October 3, 2024

By Post Opinion

Hurricane trivia

I was a senior in Boyden High School in 1954 when Hazel made landfall in Cherry Grove Beach, S.C. The effects were felt here. One of my classmates had polio and was on crutches. She fell on the wet pavement coming in the door from the circular drive. Thirty-five years later, Hurricane Hugo made landfall near Charleston, S.C. We had power outages here and a lot of damage. Thirty-five years after Hugo, Helene swept by. It's interesting the all three had the first letter "H" which is the 8th letter in the alphabet and were 35 years apart.

had the first letter "H" which is the 8th letter in the alphabet and were 35 years apart.

— Charles Sowers,

Salisbury

Don't vote for Morrow

If you love public schools and education, then please do not vote for Michele Morrow.

- 1. Her children never attended public schools.
- 2. She actively undermined public education.
- 3. She vilifies teachers.
- 4. She makes false statements (lies) and inflammatory remarks about what our children are supposedly learning in our schools.
- 5. She does not believe in public schools.
- 6. She is into culture wars and conspiracy theories (lies).
- 7. She is an extremist in the GOP.

Do not vote for her.

Thank you.

- Brenda Poole,

Salisbury

Trump is the best choice to prevent expanding wars

Remember Israel's military demanding Netanyahu to describe an "endgame" for the current war? Also, what is the "endgame" in the war in Ukraine? Can we really say that the wars will lead to a victorious peace?

The most important sentence Trump said in the debate is that he just wants the wars to end. Do we really want Iran and Russia to begin WWIII?

George Will thinks not voting (for the president) is a good option. If Biden could not successfully confront Netanyahu, then no Democrat can. When we go to war, and we will, no one in the U.S. is going to be "better off." I don't like Trump, but I think this election is hugely important. Yes, baiting American Jews is is an example of ignorance, Trump cannot resist talking "off the top of his head." But I think I will have to vote for him. Trump will help himself if he gives us names of the people surrounding him in the White House. Please, less amateurs and more people like General H.R. McMaster.

- Audrey Armistead,

Salisbury

Copyright 2024 Salisbury Post, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Post Opinion, 'Letters to the editor — Oct. 3', *Salisbury Post* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF91EE48895938



Local UW

October 3, 2024 | Sampson Independent, The (Clinton, NC) Author: Sherry Matthews smatthews@clintonnc.com | Section: news news-main top-stories | 483 Words OpenURL Link

Echoing its own motto of Building A Stronger Community-Together, the United Way of Sampson County's relief arm is extending a helping hand to western North Carolina, returning some of the benevolence provided to the eastern parts of the state during past hurricanes.

UW President Dr. Wesley Johnson said the disaster relief arm of the county's United Way, headed by long-time member Sherill Allen, had 1,000 hygiene kits that the local agency will now donate to Clinton's First Methodist Church for distribution in areas "so desperately affected" by Hurricane Helene.

Allen, who heads up the Impact Sampson Long Term Recovery Group, said they had a large excess of hygiene kits which had products with a given shelf life. When they learned of the needs in western North Carolina, they decided it would be a good thing to send those kits "to the people who are dealing with unprecedented circumstances from the storm.

"I contacted Dempsey Craig to discuss how we may be able to help," Allen said, "and he alerted me that First Methodist of Clinton was in the process of loading a trailer with relief items to send to the West Jefferson area. This allowed an effective and efficient way for us to send a token of help from our generous community."

Johnson agreed.

"Through the very generous contributions of our supporters, we can help our communities and friends in the western part of the state with some much needed hygiene products, things they can use, and need, in this very tough time," Johnson said.

Johnson said the local United Way and its members live by the organization's motto of building stronger communities together and believe there is no better way to do that than reaching out a helping hand to neighbors in need.

"Our local community has suffered the devastating effects of hurricanes and immense flooding, and we've been the beneficiary of relief efforts from others," Johnson said, ticking off storms that have impacted Sampson like hurricanes Floyd and Florence.

During those times, others came to Sampson's aid, Johnson said, as did United Way, which began providing disaster relief, itself, during those latter hurricanes. It was as they formed the relief team that the UW began to collect hygiene kits that they realized would meet great needs in local communities during disasters.

"We feel compelled to share our supplies and resources to those in need at this time," Johnson said. "It is the very least we can do to help."

Impact Sampson serves the Sampson area, generally after hurricanes which adversely impact county residents. Hygiene items that will be donated were provided through donations and grants received by Impact Sampson and not United Way campaign contributions, Allen stressed.

"Our organization is always poised to deploy to areas in the county in times of need. We work with all businesses, churches and organizations in the county to effectively administer disaster relief to all in need in an ethical and accountable manner," Allen noted.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Sherry Matthews smatthews@clintonnc.com, 'Local UW', *Sampson Independent, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA178E91929F8



Trolleys coming to StreetFest

October 3, 2024 | Sanford Herald, The (NC) Author: Caleb M. Soptelean csoptelean@sanfordherald| Section: Archives | 346 Words OpenURL Link

Trolleys will run at this year's Sanford StreetFest.

During a city council meeting Tuesday afternoon, Councilwoman Linda Rhodes noted that two trolleys will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, with parking available at Wilkins Auto Sales, 412 Wicker St., and the Mann Center. 507 N. Steele St.

Downtown Sanford, Inc. is sponsoring the event.

Several council members encouraged local residents to help those suffering from the effects of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and other states.

"Open [y]our pocketbook and help any way we can," Councilman Mark Akinosho said.

"So many organizations in town are stepping up to collect" items to donate, Mayor Rebecca Wyhof Salmon said. "I'm encouraged by the outpouring of love and compassion from our community. This is going to take weeks and months and years to recover."

Following their special meeting at 1 p.m. Tuesday, council held an emergency meeting where they unanimously approved a statewide mutual aid agreement. Salmon said the city usually has such an agreement in place, but wanted to have the most up-to-date version in light of Hurricane Helene.

In other action, council approved various road closures for several upcoming events, including Trinity United Methodist Church's Fall Festival on Nov. 2, the Sanford Farmers Market's Holiday Market on Nov. 9, a tree lighting on Nov. 24 and Christmas Parade on Dec. 2.

Council also approved a request to rezone 6.5 acres at 1136 Broadway Road from SN12, suburban neighborhood district, to C2, general commercial and a rezoning of .64 acre on East Sewell Street from general commercial to light industrial near Christians United Outreach Center.

A request to ask the North Carolina Department of Transportation to abandon a small section of Third Street on the city campus was also approved. Paul Weeks, utilities and engineering director, noted that the city has plans to expand on the campus and must own that section of road in order to proceed.

Breast Cancer Awareness MonthCouncilwoman Jean Dabbs encouraged people to wear pink in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"Early detection is vital," she said. "It saved my life and several people that I know."

Copyright 2024, The Sanford Herald, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Caleb M. Soptelean csoptelean@sanfordherald, 'Trolleys coming to StreetFest', *Sanford Herald, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA678834E4870



Family holds out hope for Sanford woman caught in flood waters

October 3, 2024 | Sanford Herald, The (NC) Author: NANCY MCCLEARY NMCCLEARY@SANFORDHERALD| Section: News | 487 Words OpenURL Link

The family and friends of Kim Ashby can do nothing now but hope and pray.

Kim is a Sanford resident and teacher at SanLee Middle School. Last week, she and her husband Rod drove to their recently finished building their dream home in Elk Park, a small town along the Elk River in Avery County.

On Friday, the remains of Hurricane Helene came through, dropping a staggering amount of rain in Western North and South Carolina's rivers and streams. The waters destroyed homes and businesses. Vehicles either floated in the current or disappeared.

As of Wednesday, the storm had claimed 89 lives in North Carolina. Others are waiting to learn if their loved ones have yet been found.

Kim Ashby's family is among those waiting for word.

She and Rod were in their house when the flood waters struck. Part of the home collapsed as they used a mattress as a float for them and their three dogs.

But the mattress was swept away. Then, the couple struck a tree that tore them apart. Kim has not been seen since.

In addition to her family, her seventh-grade math students also are waiting, according to Christian Chaney, principal of SanLee Middle School.

"The students have been resilient, and they have been very flexible as we've had a substitute in that classroom," Chaney said Wednesday in an email.

"We have constant support available through our counseling team here at the school and from our district mental health team."

Kim is in her sixth year at the school.

"Mrs. Ashby is a passionate, joyful educator at SanLee who has a strong impact on her students, both past and present. She is the kind of colleague everyone wants to have and be. Her intentional kindness and joy for life are contagious to all who work with her," Chaney said.

Her son, Christian Meidinger, said Wednesday the family is staying strong, despite the anxiety.

"It's surreal right now," he said. "We just want everybody to keep searching and keep praying. We don't really have any updates."

Rod Ashby managed to get out of the water and then to the home of a neighbor. He came back Tuesday night and was in the hospital on Wednesday.

"There are no life-threatening injuries. He's distraught and not in a good place," Meidinger said. "But I think being around all of us, seeing and getting hugs, this has helped tremendously."

On Tuesday night, Ashby was taken to a regional hospital where he is recovering, Chris Meidinger said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the family can only wait. Meidinger urged people to take to social media to keep the word out for the public.

"There are no life-threatening injuries. He's distraught and not in a good place. But I think being around all of us, hugging him and each other has helped tremendously."

Some of Kim Ashby's students have posted on social media how she inspired them.

"It's amazing the people she's touched," Meidinger said. "To hear not only what she's doing for her children, but for the students."

Copyright 2024, The Sanford Herald, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

NANCY MCCLEARY NMCCLEARY@SANFORDHERALD, 'Family holds out hope for Sanford woman caught in flood waters', *Sanford Herald, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6788D5F7258>



Sanford Rotary making a big splash to benefit COTA for Team Ken

October 3, 2024 | Sanford Herald, The (NC) Author: THE SANFORD HERALD| Section: Archives | 330 Words OpenURL Link

Rubber ducks will race down the Deep River to benefit Children's Organ Transplant Organization for Team Ken and Outreach Mission, thanks to a joint fundraiser by the Sanford and Jonesboro Rotary clubs.

Participants can adopt ducks for \$5 each. The race will kick off on Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Camelback Bridge. The event was rescheduled from Sept. 29 due to high river levels associated with Hurricane Helene. The first 10 ducks to cross the finish line will win a prize.

Prizes include a \$250 cash prize, a \$100 Food Lion gift card, a 50-minute massage from The Now, Starbucks gift cards, Applebee's gift cards, a Town and Country gift basket and gift card, a wine and relax basket and a \$300 Essential gift basket from Pinehurst Medical Dermatology.

A portion of the proceeds from ducks adopted through the Sanford Rotary Club will benefit COTA for Team Ken in honor of Ken Moss to assist with transplant-related expenses. Moss is awaiting a liver transplant due to a single-cell genetic disorder called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency.

"Rotary fundraisers are vital in transforming lives and uplifting our communities," Sanford Rotary Club president Darla Molina said. "COTA for Team Ken exemplifies the type of initiative that Rotarians passionately support, showcasing our commitment to service above self."

The Jonesboro Rotary Club will dedicate a portion of the proceeds from its duck adoptions to Outreach Mission.

"I am proud to be part of a group that stands united, always ready to support fellow Rotarians and the broader community," said Meg Moss, wife of Ken and a member of the Sanford Rotary Club. "We are grateful for the support COTA for Team Ken has received from the Rotary clubs and the Sanford community."

To adopt a duck, contact a member of either Rotary club or make an online donation via Paypal at www.paypal.me/rotarysanford. Make sure to include "rubber duck" in the comment field.

Anyone interested in adopting a duck can also contact the COTA for Team Ken fundraising committee by emailing cotaforteamken@gmail.com.

Copyright 2024, The Sanford Herald, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

THE SANFORD HERALD, 'Sanford Rotary making a big splash to benefit COTA for Team Ken', *Sanford Herald, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA67877535C50>



Ways to help with the Helene relief effort

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC)

Section: News 230 Words

Page: 4 OpenURL Link

There are several ways to help with the Hurricane Helene relief effort. Below are some vested organizations that are helping provide relief, both here in Swain and in areas more badly impacted like Asheville. Swain County churches and other nonprofit organizations are also providing help, such as making hot meals. Consider donating to those local organizations as well.

Family Resource Center 300 Hughes Branch Road, Bryson City, NC 28713 Donations can be brought to or mailed to the Swain Family Resource Center

North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund Donate online at nc.gov/donate or mail to: NC Disaster Relief Fund, 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0312.

Or NC Disaster Relief Fund, c/o United Way of NC, 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 100, Cary NC 27511.

American Red Cross Donate online at https://www.redcross.org/donate/dr/hurricane-helene.html/ GoFundMe Several GoFundMe efforts have been started for families impacted by the Hurricane, including here in Swain County Find it here: https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/hurricane-helene Here's one Swain County Chamber of Commerce has started to help Bryson City businesses impacted: https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpbryson-citys-businessesrecover-from-hurricanehelene?utm campaign=man ss icons thank modal&utm medium=customer&utm source=copy link United Way The United Way in Asheville has started a fund to help those impacted by Helene at https://support.unitedway.org/page/Helene

World Central Kitchen World Central Kitchen founded by Chef José Andrés has teamed up with restraunts in Asheville to provide meals. Donate on their website at https://wck.org/

Feeding America https://www.feedingamer ica.org/

 ${\it Copyright} @ 2024 \, {\it Smokey Mountain Times}, \, {\it Community Newspapers}, \, {\it Inc. All Rights Reserved}.$

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Ways to help with the Helene relief effort', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BED8BEE278



NC Community Foundation and Hurricane Helene response

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC)

Section: News 345 Words

Page: 7 OpenURL Link

The North Carolina Community Foundation is encouraging donations to groups that are working to address immediate health, humanitarian and safety needs in western North Carolina in the wake of the devastation left by Hurricane Helene. A wide range of groups are supporting that effort, including the American Red Cross, Baptists On Mission, The Salvation Army and United Way of North Carolina. You can also donate to emergency response efforts by visiting nc.gov/donate.

The recovery needs in western North Carolina will remain great in the months and years to come. To support the region, NCCF is accepting donations for our Disaster Relief Fund, which supports mid-to long-term recovery efforts when North Carolina faces a disaster.

The fund will provide grants to nonprofit and charitable organizations working to support communities in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene.

All contributions go directly to disaster relief and donations are tax deductible. No portion of the money raised will be used for NCCF's administrative or operational expenses. NCCF will also encourage this practice among organizations that receive grants from the fund.

Donations can be made by: Visiting nccommunityfoundation. org/helene. Mailing a check to NCCF at 3737 Glenwood Ave., Suite 460, Raleigh, NC 27612. WriteDisaster Relief on the memo line of your check.

Those needing assistance with their donation can call 919-828-4387 or 800-532-1349 or email info@nccommunityfoundation.org.

"The devastation in western North Carolina due to Hurricane Helene is heartbreaking," said Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF CEO and President.Our Disaster Relief Fund will support nonprofits in the west in their response in the months ahead and we will ensure that donations to the Disaster Relief Fund are distributed to charitable organizations that can best help people directly impacted."

The NCCF Disaster Relief Fund's grantmaking strategy focuses on mid-to long-term recovery efforts in affected communities and does not compete with first responders.

Approximately \$5 million in grants have been provided by the fund to charitable organizations since it began after Hurricane Fran in 1996.

After Hurricane Florence in 2018, the fund awarded 153 grants to nonprofit organizations totaling \$3.25 million. Learn more about the fund at nccommunityfoundation.org/disaster.

 $Copyright @ 2024 \, Smokey \, Mountain \, Times, \, Community \, Newspapers, \, Inc. \, All \, Rights \, Reserved.$

• Citation (aglc Style)

'NC Community Foundation and Hurricane Helene response', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 7 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BEF1C1A7D8



Be aware of price gouging in aftermath of Hurricane Helene

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC)

Section: News 346 Words

Page: 4 OpenURL Link

Dena J. King, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, is reminding the public to beware of emerging scams and price gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, and to report suspected fraud and price gouging to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) hotline at 1-866-720-5721, or online at www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm.

"It is unfathomable that scammers will try to profit from the devastation caused by a natural disaster, but fraudsters will stop at nothing to fill their pockets," said U.S. Attorney King. "I urge the public to be extra vigilant about potential scams related to Hurricane Helene, and to report suspected fraud and price gouging to the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at 1-866-720-5721, or online at www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaint-Form. Reporting scams and price gouging will help law enforcement identify, investigate, and prosecute those who are attempting to exploit the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene for their benefit, and warn others about emerging disaster fraud schemes."

Possible types of natural disaster scams include: Fraudulent charities soliciting donations for disaster victims that often mimic the names of well-known organizations or appearing linked to the disaster.

Scammers impersonating government officials, offering disaster relief in exchange for personal information or money.

Fraudsters posing as insurance representatives to collect payments or personal data. Scammers promoting nonexistent businesses or investment opportunities related to disaster recovery, such as rebuilding or flood-proofing. Fraudsters promising expedient home repairs requiring upfront payment or downpayment.

Price gouging for essential goods and services needed by disaster victims.

Theft from evacuated homes and businesses during or after the disaster.

How to protect yourself from disaster fraud scams: Donate only to well-known charities after verifying them through trusted sources.

Do not respond to unsolicited requests for donations via email, phone, or text, and do not click on links in unsolicited messages.

Do not assume that online or social media charity solicitations are legitimate. Verify first!

Use credit cards or checks for donations, instead of sending cash, via wire transfers, or via peer-to-peer mobile payment apps.

Copyright © 2024 Smokey Mountain Times, Community Newspapers, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Be aware of price gouging in aftermath of Hurricane Helene', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BEDA26A808



Damaging flooding, displacement from storm Helene

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC) Author: Jessica Webb editor@thesmokymountaintimes.com | Section: News | 1446 Words Page: 1 OpenURL Link

Swain County was spared the catastrophic damage that communities east of the county experienced from rising floodwaters and heavy rain and wind during Tropical Storm Helene that swept through Friday, Sept. 27.

N.C. Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene.

Approximately 37-38 households along rivers in Swain County had been displaced due to flooding along as of Tuesday. Multiple small businesses are cleaning up from the damaging flood waters.

Swain County Emergency Management Director Misty Tabor said before the storm, her agency notified Bear Hunter's Campground, Grump Bear's and Country Girl's about the impending rising water. Ela Campground was also impacted.

Although initial estimates were that Tuckasegee River in Bryson City would reach 10 feet, at the peak of the storm, waters rose to 14.9 feet Friday afternoon. Water receded by the evening.

Some residents from Country Girl's Campground were rescued on Friday morning when the river breached the shore and water quickly flooded the park.

"Those rescue efforts were by a swift water rescue team stationed in Jackson County; they happened upon them by accident," Tabor said, of what she understood of the rescue. Since it wasn't a Swain operation, she had no more details. "Bear Hunter's Campground is in the process of their cleanup," she said Monday. "The residents that were impacted the county is providing a place for them to stay and information to contact the American Red Cross. We've also put in a request to the state for assistance."

The Swain County Senior Center served as an American Red Cross emergency shelter through Sunday. Tabor said four people used the shelter and had since been provided a place to stay.

Swain County's 911 emergency system had an ongoing outage due to the storm. With cell service impacted across the region as well, residents have been encouraged to report emergencies to their local fire department stations.

Tabor explained how 911 calls were dispatched through the outage.

"We have the state 911 phone system that provides transfers of 911 calls to anywhere in the state of North Carolina," she said. "We have a list we can transfer calls to. Right now, they're going to Harnett County and Harnett County is contacting our dispatch office, who can call out the responders by radio."

The county phone system continued to be operational, so calls could be made across county agencies and to state agencies as needed during the outage. Fire stations in the county, manned primarily by volunteers, were serving as points of contact.

Flooding downtown Downtown Bryson City experienced significant flooding near Island Street and down Everett Street on the north side of the bridge as the Tuckasegee River rose beyond the flood stage on Friday afternoon.

"For the most part, other than some flooding, we have escaped damage," said Bryson City Mayor Tom Sutton of town on Monday.

Town of Bryson City's water and sewer infrastructure held up. The town issued a boil water notice for 24 hours Friday until they could test the water system. Town Hall was among buildings on Everett impacted, with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water that flooded the basement, according to Sutton.

Households impacted by flooding were aided through county emergency management and American Red Cross. Lack of communications, closures Like much of western North Carolina, cell service was extremely limited as was internet service across Swain County beginning mid-morning Friday. It was restored across the region by Monday night.

On Friday, North Carolina Department of Transportation closed all roads in western North Carolina. On Friday, several roads in Swain were impassable due to standing flood waters on the road, including Conley's Creek in Whittier, a section of Hyatt Creek Road, a section of Hwy 19 in Ela, and 19A was closed due to a downed power line.

By Monday, many businesses in Bryson City had reopened but were on a cash only basis, as most still had no internet or cell service. Areas of the county also experienced power outages during the storm but restoration happened relatively quickly.

Even on Tuesday, Ingles grocery store was still cash and check only and some shelves, such as produce and meat, were bare. The grocery store chain's distribution center in Swannanoa, N.C., experienced significant damage impacting supply and deliveries for the grocery store chain.

Fuel delivery was also impacted by the storm and road closures throughout the region, including I-40 at the Tennessee-North Carolina state line where the Pigeon River washed out the eastbound section of the road. Until Tuesday, I-40 East in Brevard was also closed to traffic due to landslides.

On Monday morning, drivers were lining up at the fuel pumps at Shell Station and Hot Spot after they had received deliveries.

Swain County Schools and Mountain Discovery Charter School suspended instruction Thursday, Sept. 26 and are returning Thursday, Oct. 3. Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University also suspended classes through Friday, Oct. 4. WCU's Mountain Heritage Day festival in Cullowhee and a 50th anniversary evening concert scheduled for Sept. 28 were also cancelled.

Swain Community Hospital closed its outpatient departments and clinics on Friday, Sept. 27 in advance of the storm. The National Park Service closed Newfound Gap Road/US 441 through the Great Smoky Mountains Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. and visitor centers, along with many other roads, were closed in advance of the storm. It reopened Wednesday, Oct. 2. The US Forest Service closed campgrounds, boat launches and developed recreation sites and roads in both the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests ahead of the storms.

Coming together Volunteers kept the fire stations open throughout the situation - helping as needed. For some, this was simply by serving as a point of communication.

"We do appreciate all the volunteers that have helped and have been there since this started and around the clock, that is a big deal for us," said Tabor.

Family Resource Center, located on Hughes Branch Road, has been serving as a donation and distribution site for residents who may have lost their homes and belongings.

The event had people lending a helping hand in other ways as well.

On Monday, several churches and Restoration House coordinated a taco salad meal that was served from the Bryson City Presbyterian Church. Also, that evening, Swain High School athletes donned gloves and joined in the cleanup effort for those businesses with flood damage on Everett Street.

Feed America First brought a load of meals, water bottles and more resources to Darnell Farms on Tuesday. Michelle Fenton, Darnell Farms associate, said they had 14 pallets of ready-made meals and water that had all been given out by mid-afternoon. They were anticipating another trailer to come Friday.

Swain County Schools provided sacked lunches this week although schools were closed.

Several people responded to requests to help lend fans and dehumidifiers for downtown businesses impacted. Great Smoky Mountains Railroad was also providing free hot meals from the depot this week.

Buttermilk Farms Antiques & Auction is serving as a hurricane relief location and is collecting donations from pet food to hygiene products, water, canned goods, diapers and baby formula.

Relief On Sunday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a Major Disaster Declaration for Buncombe, Clay, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey counties along with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Swain County has yet to be included in areas for FEMA assistance. According to Tabor, the county was approved for Category B pre-storm protective measures but that it's not unusual for a county with less catastrophic damage to not be included in the initial declaration. This has happened in the past and North Carolina Emergency Management is currently working to see we are added, she said, petitioning to FEMA for a federal declaration.

Similarly, Swain County is not yet included in a list for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits although it may be added at a later date, according to a press release from the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Copyright © 2024 Smokey Mountain Times, Community Newspapers, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jessica Webb editor@thesmokymountaintimes.com, 'Damaging flooding, displacement from storm Helene', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BE51923AE0>



Senators make bipartisan push for quick passage of disaster relief legislation

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC)

Section: News 286 Words

Page: 4 OpenURL Link

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC), Ted Budd (R-NC), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Tim Scott (R-SC), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Jon Ossoff (DGA), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Bill Hagerty (R-TN), Mark Warner (DVA), and Tim Kaine (D-VA) sent a letter to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-WA), and Senate Appropriations Vice Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) on the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and the urgent need to pass an appropriations package to support the millions of Americans affected by the storm.

"The devastation from Hurricane Helene across the southeastern United States is simply inconceivable Because of a lack of cell service, we anticipate even greater tragedy to unfold in the days and weeks ahead as communications and power are restored and we can understand the full scope of this disaster," the senators wrote.

"Even preliminary damage assessments indicate that, at a minimum, the total damage and economic loss will be in the tens of billions of dollars. This amount will likely soar as recovery efforts continue and the full picture of this ruinous disaster becomes clear," the senators continued.

"Although the true level of devastation is still unfolding, it is clear that Congress must act to meet the unmet needs in our states and address the scope and scale of destruction experienced by our constituents. This may even require Congress to come back in October to ensure we have enough time to enact legislation before the end of this calendar year. Tens of millions of Americans were impacted by Hurricane Helene, and we look forward to working with you to provide relief to those impacted by this horrific storm," the senators concluded.

 ${\it Copyright} @ 2024 \ {\it Smokey Mountain Times, Community Newspapers, Inc. All Rights \ Reserved.}$

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Senators make bipartisan push for quick passage of disaster relief legislation', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BE53AD9CE8



Town board planning meter upgrades

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC) Author: Jessica Webb editor@thesmokymountaintimes.com| Section: News| 492 Words Page: 1 OpenURL Link

Bryson City Town Board of Aldermen were focused on water and sewer infrastructure at their work session meeting Tuesday, Sept. 24 held at town hall, with the biggest bulk of the discussion in planning for new water meter upgrades across the system that will likely begin with a pilot project in the coming months. The current water meters were installed across the system 10 years ago. "What we've got now is meters reaching end of life from a battery standpoint not from a measurement standpoint," said Nate Bowe, town engineer.

Sam Pattillo, town manager, said they have reached out to companies about redoing the meter system and will bring a recommendation for a financial agreement for a case study with some of the meters, or a pilot program as the initial step.

Town staff also wants to improve information for customers, starting with billing. "We're also looking at how we can be more consistent with our monthly billing," Pattillo explained. "This would be where we'd read one night through the night and we should have all the meters and systems by morning."

This would put customers on consistent billing days, which he said seems important as people review their monthly bills and track spending.

The new system would allow for things like sending alarms to customers via text or email. There's also the option for a public-facing system where customers would be able to access information.

One reason to start with a pilot program is to make sure ratings are transferring to the software system and other hiccups could be addressed before going systemwide, according to Bowe and Pattillo.

"With this cycle we know so much more about the inventory," Pattillo said. Mayor Tom Sutton said he would put the approval for a pilot project on next month's meeting agenda. Tuckasegee water main and Powell Lumber pump Also looking ahead, the board briefly discussed the desire to package the Powell Lumber pump station replacement and sewer force main under the Tuckasegee River in a loan application package to the state revolving loan fund due in April.

This will include preliminary engineering work. They agreed that even if they don't get approval in the next cycle, they will plan to move forward with the design work on the project next year.

In other updates, Bowe said the sewer replacement work on Carringer Street is "going slow" as the contractors "got into a lot of rock and more than they could rip with a standard excavator." Work for the next phase of the systemwide Asset Inventory Assessment will begin soon. The next regular meeting of the board will be Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

 $Copyright @ 2024 \, Smokey \, Mountain \, Times, \, Community \, Newspapers, \, Inc. \, All \, Rights \, Reserved.$

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jessica Webb editor@thesmokymountaintimes.com, 'Town board planning meter upgrades', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BE4DC89850



The flood family of Bryson City

October 3, 2024 | Smoky Mountain Times (Bryson City, NC) Author: Lance Holland; Special to SMT| Section: News| 844 Words Page: 1 OpenURL Link

The morning of Thursday, Sept. 26, dawned rainy. Rain had fallen all the night before and the Tuckasegee River through the center of Bryson City had risen about five feet but was still six or so feet below the top of the riverbank. By dawn Friday, the river was lapping the top of the bank, an hour later it had escaped onto Island Street near the aquarium. We had all seen this a dozen times in the past dozen years.

The National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Warning. We had all heard that a dozen times in the past dozen years. The dozen or so business owners and their employees along the central portion Everett Street were neighbors and friends, but by Saturday, Sept. 28, we were all family.

Mike at the Diner was monitoring the NOAA website showing the river levels at the gauge located halfway between the Everett and Slope Street bridges when I stopped in for breakfast Friday morning. The forecasted river crest was shown a good foot below the flood of 2020. I made photos of that flood, and it got close, but did not reach the back door of the buildings. Most of those doors were sandbagged Thursday afternoon.

I began monitoring the NOAA website after breakfast. The forecasted river crest began sliding up the scale and the family began gathering in the alley behind the stores. Young cousins I had never seen were back there taping up plastic and bolstering the sandbag barricades. Roland, a Bryson flood veteran, said he had never seen the water reach the front doors of the buildings. The Flood Family took no chances and moved to armor the front doors. Cathy, Michelle, and others occasionally stuck their head in my front door to see if I needed anything. Kayla said that one of the homeless people told her they opened the Ela Dam flood gates, and we were in for it. Even though I had moved my car to higher ground across from the laundromat, I deemed it prudent to seek even higher ground. When I rounded the corner of Everett Street, Bryson Street was Class I whitewater rapids with the river escaping the alley and flowing toward Everett. I forded at the upper end, moved the car to the train parking lot near the parked locomotives and headed back to the store afoot. Bryson Street had become Class II whitewater. I forded again with apprehension and almost lost my footing, hugged the buildings, and made it back to the store. I told my dog Maybelline, everyone around here knows Maybelline, we should have evacuated like Michelle recommended, but I don't think we can make it back across the Bryson Street river, so we barricaded ourselves inside to ride it out. I'm glad we did.

Our building has a floor drain in the back room left over from a food service operation that once operated here. Sandbags and plastic will slow the flood waters but will not stop them. I spent the early afternoon in the back room sweeping the incoming water into the drain. The silt-laden water combined with dust bunnies washed from beneath the furniture clogged the drain a half dozen times. If I had not been here to clear the clogs, our entire store would have flooded to depth of about 8" as did our near neighbors.

Using the sidewalk bench in front of the store as a river gauge, the flood crested at 3 p.m. It was serene looking out the window of our lakeside cottage - the eye of the hurricane. By 4 p.m., the water had receded 8" clearing the front door. An hour later, the inflow ceased at the back door. I dried the floor in the back room, removed the barricade from the front and opened for business at 5:45 p.m. Friday.

Saturday morning dawned with the reemergence of the Flood Family armed with shop vacs, mop buckets and dehumidifiers. Sandbags went flying away from doors.

"How can I help you?" was the phrase on the street. A couple more stores opened Monday on a cash-only basis with no internet or phone service. The power remained operational throughout the event.

Monday evening, a small army of glove-clad teenagers led by a fellow with a trailer joined the family and made a sweep through and hauled off the soggy debris piled outside each store. Tuesday morning saw the return of internet and cell service with the fire department and town employees washing the mud off the street.

The flood of 2024 was epic. The NOAA records indicate that the highest flood to hit the Tuckasegee River at Bryson City was in 1940, the river crested at 15.96 feet. The flood on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, is second-highest with a crest of 14.95 feet. Bryson City dodged the bullet from Helene judging from the destruction inflicted on our western North Carolina neighbors to the east. The tenacity of the Flood Family gets credit for some of the dodging.

Copyright © 2024 Smokey Mountain Times, Community Newspapers, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Lance Holland, Special to SMT, 'The flood family of Bryson City', *Smoky Mountain Times* (online), 3 Oct 2024 1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF93BE4BD73830



Local couple feed people impacted by Helene

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Rebecca Sitzes; Shelby Star | Section: News | 472 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

When Walter Hoyle heard of the need to provide food to people in North Carolina's mountain towns devastated by Hurricane Helene, he was immediately on board.

A local chiropractor, Brad Moffitt, of Carolina Chiropractic Plus, organized food trucks to go out and set up in locations where they were most needed. Hoyle and his wife, Emily, own Lovebirds Pizza, and the couple suspended their normal operations and volunteered to help.

Hoyle said Tuesday, they set up outside a shelter at Glenwood Baptist Church in Marion and were able to provide meals for around 125 people. He said they dished up lasagna and drinks to those staying at the shelter and others driving through for a meal or supplies.

He said there were other people cooking meals, volunteers handing out supplies and water and anything else people might need. One person came through the line and asked for diabetic supplies, and volunteers were able to immediately provide the items.

He said as quickly as they made food and set it out on a table outside the food truck, it would disappear.

"It's a community effort," Hoyle said.

He said the Marion location is well-staffed and well-supplied.

"It looks like its time to push farther in and deeper to harder hit areas," he said.

On Wednesday, they were preparing to head to a fire department in Asheville and were pre-cooking lasagnas so they could warm them up when they arrived and have meals ready to serve.

"I really don't know what to expect," he said. "I didn't know what to expect yesterday. I'm assuming it's another shelter that Brad's lined up for us."

Thursday, they will be cooking pork butts someone donated and handing out pork buns and sliders in Chimney Rock.

"We expect tomorrow to be the neediest community we've seen," he said.

He said he was impressed with how well-run things were at the Marion location and described it as chaos, but organized chaos. He said the shelter had a maximum capacity of 150 and was at 120 people as of Tuesday with people constantly coming and going. The drive-thru line was 20 to 30 cars deep at all times.

Hoyle said everyone who came through was understanding and grateful.

"For the most part people are happy. There's heartbreaking stories, and people hugging and crying, but it's always followed with at least we have this. I've seen a lot of positivity."

Hoyle has been providing updates and photos on Lovebirds Pizza Facebook page.

"The love and care shown in that Marion community today, was so heart-warming. It was great to be able to feed so many today!" a post said Tuesday evening. "We are humbled. We are exhausted. Heading to Asheville tomorrow to do it again. If you are able to help in anyway please do! Our neighbors need us more than ever!!!"

For those who wish to help, they can Venmo Hoyle-yeah23 or Brad Moffitt at Brad-Moffitt.

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Rebecca Sitzes, Shelby Star, 'Local couple feed people impacted by Helene', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 A1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A51E748240



October is typically more active hurricane month

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver; USA TODAY | Section: News | 568 Words Page: A5 OpenURL Link

"Right now, large-scale conditions are highly conducive for tropical cyclone formation in the eastern Atlantic."

Phil Klotzbach

Senior research scientist at Colorado State University

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season entered its fifth month Tuesday, and experts are again taking stock of a deadly and puzzling season.

The year started with dire predictions of a hyperactive season, quickly followed by the explosive and recordbreaking landfall of Beryl in early July. Then came an odd mismatch in Pacific and Atlantic activity during a midseason Juli.

But now, Hurricane Helene's deadly and devastating rampage across the Southeast last week has obliterated any hope of a quiet hurricane season for the U.S. And unfortunately, there's plenty of the season still to go.

"October is historically an active month, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and off the U.S. Southeast coast," said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane research scientist at the University of Miami.

Meterorologist Michael Lowry, a hurricane specialist at WPLG-TV in Miami, expects "to see a return of big hurricanes going into the first full week of October," he wrote in his daily update Tuesday.

"I would say that Helene doesn't really have any bearing on the rest of the season's forecast, but right now, large-scale conditions are highly conducive for tropical cyclone formation in the eastern Atlantic," said Phil Klotzbach, a senior research scientist at Colorado State University.

Klotzbach said their latest forecast calls for a very busy two weeks, due to Hurricane Kirk, Invest 91L (the wave behind Kirk) and potentially a system in the northwest Caribbean/Gulf.

"Everywhere in the tropical Atlantic still has record or near-record high ocean heat content, so there's no shortage of fuel for whatever might form anywhere," said tMcNoldy.

Using the storm names that have been retired since 1953 as a proxy for storms that made landfall and had great impact, September has the most retired names, with 43, McNoldy said. August and October are essentially tied at 21 and 20, and only seven storm names have been retired from November storms.

However, it's also worth noting that October and November together have more retired storm names than June, July and August combined, he said. "So we must absolutely still be on alert for tropical cyclone threats in the remainder of hurricane season."

It's also important to remember that it doesn't take a strong hurricane to cause a lot of damage, McNoldy said. "A slow-moving, disorganized disturbance that maybe doesn't quite become a tropical storm can unleash feet of rain over an area and create terrible flash flooding," he said. "The rainfall threat from tropical systems has historically taken a back seat to the wind threat in people's minds, despite being deadlier."

Although Kirk will be turning north and staying over the open Atlantic, long-period swell from the large hurricane could reach all the way to the East Coast – from the Mid-Atlantic into coastal areas of the Northeast – by early to middle of next week, Lowry said.

Behind Kirk, Invest 91L has been designated off the coast of Africa and will develop into a named storm over the next day or two. Computer models show 91L strengthening into a powerful hurricane next week, but like Kirk, it should turn well east of the islands.

In the spring, the Colorado State team predicted 23 named storms would form, of which 11 would be hurricanes.

"Right now, large-scale conditions are highly conducive for tropical cyclone formation in the eastern Atlantic."

Phil Klotzbach

Senior research scientist at Colorado State University

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver, USA TODAY, 'October is typically more active hurricane month', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 A5 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A4F8880FA8



Strike could cripple response and recovery efforts, hurt economy

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Madison Lipe; Wilmington StarNews | Section: News | 834 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

"Profit over people is unacceptable, support ILA workers," read multiple signs Tuesday at the Port of Wilmington as longshoremen and other workers gathered to strike.

The Master Contract between the International Longshoreman's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance expired, and both parties have not reached a new agreement. Longshoremen across the East Coast and Gulf Coast are fighting for higher pay and fair treatment and at Wilmington's port the situation is no different.

Just days after Helene left widespread devastation in western North Carolina, U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, whose district includes the Port of Wilmington, posted on X that the strike could cripple response and recovery efforts, as well as have disastrous effects on the local economy.

According to USA TODAY, each day of the strikes across the East and Gulf coasts could cost the U.S. economy up to \$5 billion as imports and exports are blocked, some economists estimated.

The strike began Tuesday, and the Port of Wilmington has developed a contingency plan to recognize the strike. The port's South Container Gate will remain closed for pickup or delivery of cargo until an agreement is reached, according to North Carolina Ports.

The North Carolina Ports is not a party to the agreement and therefore is not a participant in the negotiations.

"North Carolina Ports is hopeful that both parties will return to the negotiating table and reach an agreement that allows all the ports of the East and Gulf Coast to resume operations," the statement said.

According to USA TODAY, Wilmington is just one of the 36 ports that has shut down as 45,000 union workers walked off the job.

The state-run Port of Wilmington is the largest and busiest of the two deepwater ports in North Carolina, the other being in Morehead City. Container traffic makes up a big chunk of the local port's business, with the U.S. Department of Transportation ranking Wilmington the 21st busiest container port in the country.

Sandwiched between the much bigger ports of Norfolk, Virginia, to the north and Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, to the south, officials with the Wilmington port have aggressively marketed the local port as offering a faster, congestion-free alternative to its larger competitors.

The 284-acre port also has invested significant sums to improve its landside infrastructure to keep up with its neighboring ports and the increased size of the container ships now plying the East Coast. That includes improved berthing areas, additional intermodal rail access to get trucks off local roads and bridges, including the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, and a new gate complex to make accessing the port faster and easier.

According to an economic impact study by the N.C. Department of Transportation and N.C. State University, port activities statewide contribute \$660 million annually in state and local tax revenues and help support more than 88,200 jobs.

Imports will be affected providing less product, cars, auto and machinery parts, clothing, pharmaceuticals, wine and spirits, holiday goods like toys and seafood, according to USA TODAY. The shutdowns come just days after

hurricane Helene caused widespread destruction to Western North Carolina.

Charles Seaton, president of the Local 1766 clerical union for the port, said he wishes the contract would be settled because he knows the impacts that the shutdowns will have.

"I hate that it's impacting the country, but at the end of the day, this is a fight for American jobs," Seaton said.

During the pandemic, Seaton said the workers at the port "never missed a lick. ... We went to work every day, every night, 24/7," and that he's ready for everyone to be compensated the way they deserve.

Seaton, who has been working for the port for over 50 years, was at the port during the last strike in 1977. He said it lasted 103 days over 80 cents. But he said the economy now isn't like it was back then as it's much more dependent upon containerization. Seaton said America works on a one-week or two-week inventory, so this is something that needs to be figured out soon.

He said the port authority has been helpful and has been working to recognize the strike, providing portable bathrooms and closing the container gate, but that he hopes that the contract will be sorted out and the hard work of his colleagues will be recognized.

One longshoreman said that during the pandemic, he and his coworkers were in harm's way handling imports from across the world, but their pay still wasn't raised. He said that needs to change. He also said that prices keep increasing to ship containers, but even though they are working to unload, they haven't gotten the increase in pay.

According to CNBC, the ILA is seeking a 61.5% increase over six years. It also wants protections against automation.

"They (USMX) don't care about us," said ILA President Harold Daggett in an online post Monday. "They would love to see automation up and down the whole East and Gulf Coast, trust me when I tell you that if it was up to them, we would have no jobs."

StarNews reporter Gareth McGrath contributed to this story.

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Madison Lipe, Wilmington StarNews, 'Strike could cripple response and recovery efforts, hurt economy', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 A1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A5183CC5E0



Gastonia, Shelby high school football Week 7 schedule

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Joe L Hughes II; Gaston Gazette | Section: Sports | 272 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

This story has been updated with new information.

Hurricane Helene did a number on western North Carolina, its effects trickling all the way down to the high school football schedule for teams in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties.

None more so locally than Big South 3A, athletic directors deciding Tuesday to table Week 6 contests until season's end, anticipating the NCHSAA will extend the 2024 high school football season.

Should that occur, programs have agreed to play games missed at season's end.

If unable to, Big South 3A will use winning percentage to decide its two automatic playoff spots.

Week 7's games in Big South 3A will go on as scheduled, pitting undefeated teams Crest and South Point is on. Crest is 4-0 (1-0 Big South 3A), knocking off Ashbrook in its last outing, 29-12. South Point (3-0, 1-0) beat Stuart Cramer, 44-7.

It is the teams' sixth meeting in four years, with South Point holding a 3-2 edge during the stretch.

A few area teams will take the field twice over the next few days. After traveling to Maiden on Wednesday, West Lincoln's Week 7 home contest against Bunker Hill is set for Saturday evening. Also playing Wednesday is Lincolnton, which will host Newton-Conover before traveling to Bandys on Friday.

Here's the proposed Week 7 as it currently consists, with games kicking off at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Week 7 schedule

Ashbrook at North Gaston

Bessemer City at Burns

Bunker Hill at W. Lincoln (Sat, 6:30 p.m.)

Cherryville at East Gaston

Crest at South Point

Highland Tech at Shelby

Kings Mountain at Forestview

Lincolnton at Bandys

Mountain Island Charter at Winston-Salem Prep (Thursday, 7:30 p.m.)

North Iredell at North Lincoln

Stuart Cramer at Hunter Huss

West Iredell at East Lincoln

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Joe L Hughes II, Gaston Gazette, 'Gastonia, Shelby high school football Week 7 schedule', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 B1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A50A625340



Shelter provides vulnerable people with a safe place

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Rebecca Sitzes; Shelby Star | Section: News | 596 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

Billy Neely sits out in the corridor of the health department in a wheelchair, breathing in life saving oxygen, waiting for the lights to come back on at his house.

The Ellenboro man found himself at the Cleveland County emergency shelter after Hurricane Helene knocked out his power, and he was taken to the hospital. He said he is on oxygen 24-7 and his small portable tanks only last an hour or so. The hospital couldn't keep him so he was taken to Cleveland County.

"I made it to the hospital in time before I ran out," Neely said. "The ambulance had to zig zag down here."

He said road closures and fallen trees made it a challenge to reach the safety of the shelter.

He is grateful for the help, and said he has been treated well and the staff at the shelter have been very nice.

"It means a lot because I don't know what else I'd do," he said. "You can't get but so many of them portable tanks and they don't last long."

Heather Voyles, public health nursing director at the health department, said as of Monday, around 30 people had taken advantage of the emergency shelter, which the county opened Friday night.

She said some of those people were on oxygen and were referred by the hospital, others were there because they had no power or damage to their homes.

Monday, the health department was operating at partial capacity as it too was without power. Generators kept the lights on but weren't able to power the whole building.

"We try do what we can," she said.

Voyles said they had partnered with Atrium Health Cleveland to provide meals, and Red Cross and Salvation Army helped with snacks, water and staffing.

The health department also helped people obtain life-saving medication. She said they had a woman who needed insulin, and they were able to get her prescription transferred to the health department pharmacy. They helped a dialysis patient get to a dialysis clinic and provided a woman with a newborn special formula.

The shelter will continue to stay open as long as there is a need.

A phone bank to answer questions about available resources, such as gas and food, was also still operating and people can call 980-484-4636.

By Tuesday, Cleveland County Department of Social Services resumed operations and the health department programs, such as WIC, environmental health and the pharmacy were back up and running. Clinical services were limited, and people were advised to call 980-484-5100 to see if appointments were available. According to a release from the county, other programs, such as WIC, Environmental Health, and the Pharmacy, were operational as of Tuesday.

Most city and county offices resumed operations Tuesday.

The city of Shelby posted on Facebook that debris and trash collection would begin this week with Thursday's route picked up on Saturday. For more information, people can call public works at 704-484-6846.

As of Tuesday evening, around 82% of the power was restored in the city.

The city of Kings Mountain temporarily suspended solid waste services for the week to focus on recovery efforts, but according to a post on the city Facebook page, the city would provide waste containers for bagged household garbage at several locations, including Patriot Park, the Armory on Phifer Road, 708 York Road, Citizens Service Center at 1013 Piedmont and the Kings Mountain YMCA. Regular garbage collection is scheduled to resume Monday,

Landfills convenience centers were back open around the county beginning Tuesday.

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Rebecca Sitzes, Shelby Star, 'Shelter provides vulnerable people with a safe place', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 A1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A51B860158



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL - Ashbrook makes light work of rival Forestview

October 3, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Joe L Hughes II; Gaston Gazette | Section: Sports | 407 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

GASTONIA — Tuesday isn't a typical night for a high school football game. Then again, much of the past week hasn't been normal for Ashbrook and Forestview football players.

Out of school the past several days and having no time on the practice field following Hurricane Helene, the Gastonia city rivals clashed Tuesday night at William Eccles Field at Ashbrook Stadium. The Ashbrook defense turned in another dominant effort, posting its second shutout of the season with a 34-0 victory.

However, Green Wave head man Darius James admits the time off did his team no favors.

"We weren't able to practice, and you could tell," James said. "We were sloppy throughout. But we had some kids who made plays to help overcome some of that."

Scoreless through a quarter, running back Savion Lindsay scored on a 9-yard touchdown run to give Ashbrook a 6-0 lead. On the Green Wave's following possession, quarterback A.J. McClain found all-purpose man J.J. Gordon on a 20-yard touchdown pass. It was the first of two trips to the end zone for Gordon, who also had a 20-yard TD scamper in the fourth.

McClain added a 25-yard touchdown run, while Martino Smith had a 40-yard TD run of his own.

Such was more than enough for the Ashbrook defense, which allowed two first downs in the game — one on Forestview's initial possession, the other on a roughing the kicker penalty in the second half.

"I really believe we have one of the top 10 defenses in the state," James said. "They are really playing well on that side of the football."

It was the first of two games this week for both teams. Ashbrook (4-1, 1-1 Big South 3A) travels to North Gaston on Friday night, while Forestview (1-4, 1-1) hosts Kings Mountain.

While a taste of normalcy was certainly welcomed, James reminded his team about the opportunity it has to play sports at a time some are wondering what the next day may hold.

"One of the messages we put out Saturday was for them to take advantage of what they have, it can be taken away quickly," James said. "You have guys in the mountains who don't have football right now, many of them are struggling, grieving, looking at the loss of homes, things more important than football. The past week has really put a lot of things in perspective."

Copyright, 2024, The Star, All Rights Reserved.

Citation (aglc Style)

Joe L Hughes II, Gaston Gazette, 'HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL - Ashbrook makes light work of rival Forestview', *Star, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 B1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA6A50CCFB578



Appalachian State ponders moving home football games to Wake Forest in aftermath of Helene

October 3, 2024 | Statesville Record & Landmark (NC) Author: Winston-Salem Journal | Section: Football | 1008 Words OpenURL Link

As athletics director at Appalachian State, Doug Gillin has spent part of the last week trying to help some of his student-athletes find housing after flooding caused by Hurricane Helene displaced them from their apartments. He's also looking to help the football team find a potential home for the rest of the 2024 season, and Wake Forest and Charlotte could provide a solution.

With Boone still in recovery mode from the effects of flooding that has closed the school for at least two more weeks, the football team is looking for alternatives to playing games at Kidd Brewer Stadium. While Gillin said the press box leaked and some of the suites were soaked by rain, the Mountaineers could play there. But he said it's not the stadium that's the problem.

"The thought process is, is it safe to do it here?" Gillin said on Thursday. "And we really don't know the answer yet."

Gillin said he's hesitant to have people come to Boone because he doesn't want fans taking hotel rooms away from people who can't stay in their own homes, or from emergency responders and others addressing the problems associated with Helene's aftermath.

"When you start thinking about playing a football game, there's a lot that goes around it when you're in active recovery and relief operation," he said.

Options

In case Boone isn't an option when the Mountaineers are scheduled to play Georgia State at home on Oct. 26, Gillin said the program has been in talks with Wake Forest and Charlotte about playing home games there.

For example, on that weekend, the Demon Deacons will be playing at Stanford, meaning Allegacy Stadium would be free for a game. Same thing for Nov. 2, when the Mountaineers are scheduled to host Old Dominion and Wake Forest has a bye, and on Nov. 23, when the Mountaineers are to face James Madison and Wake Forest will be at Miami.

As for Charlotte, the 49ers will be at Memphis on Oct. 26 and have a Oct. 31 game against Tulane and won't be in their stadium on Nov. 2. They're also on the road for Florida Atlantic on Nov. 23.

"Had conversations with both athletic directors," Gillin said. "You know, in a lot of darkness, one of the rays of sunshine is people being willing to help. And that includes our colleagues at Wake Forest and Charlotte and across the country.

"Quite frankly, you know the amount of outpouring and checking in, the Sun Belt Conference and other schools helping us raise money for western North Carolina has been really good to see in a really bad situation.

John Currie, the athletics director at Wake Forest, said his door is open.

"Our hearts ache for all whose lives have been disrupted by Hurricane Helene," Currie said in a statement. "I have been in touch with Appalachian State AD Doug Gillin since last weekend to offer our assistance, including the use of Allegacy Federal Credit Union Stadium to host Mountaineer home football games if needed."

Mike Hill, the Charlotte AD, wasn't immediately available for comment on Thursday.

East Carolina's response to Hurricane Floyd

This isn't the first time a North Carolina college football team has had to change venues because of a hurricane.

After Hurricane Floyd ravaged eastern North Carolina with flooding rains in 1999, East Carolina was faced with a dilemma. It had just played at South Carolina, where it pulled off a 21-3 upset. However, because of the floods, the team couldn't return to Greenville. Given the upset, the Gamecocks weren't the least bit generous when ECU asked if it could borrow their facilities to practice ahead of the upcoming game against Miami. That forced the Pirates to gc to a high school field to get ready for their next game.

And because the team couldn't get back to Greenville, the Pirates had to face the Hurricanes at NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium. ECU came back from a 23-3 halftime deficit to take a 27-23 victory in front of approximately 45,900 fans. Eventually, the Pirates returned to Greenville to finish the season, but then-coach Steve Logan said the changes had an impact. Just like what happened at Appalachian State, some players were forced to find alternative housing after they returned to find their apartments had been flooded.

"You just had to adjust your way through it. It took a long time to get back on track, you know, of any kind of rhythm," Logan said this week. "It took well over a month before things were halfway back to manageable."

Logan said he can understand the troubles Appalachian State Head Coach Shawn Clark and his players are going through.

"I don't know what all Appy State is dealing with," he said, "but it ain't going to be fun, I can tell you that much."

App State taking one day at a time

For now, Appalachian State is proceeding with its season. The Mountaineers will bus to Marshall for Saturday's game, then fly to its game at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette on Oct. 12, with an open date on Oct. 19.

"In terms of traveling a football team to an away game, this week is manageable because we're driving east and north," Gillin said. "We feel like the roads going in those directions are safe and that we can find a safe route to go."

Gillin said the team will fly out of Hickory for the Louisiana game.

At some point during the two road trips, Appalachian State will have made a decision on where it will finish the home portion of its 2024 schedule. Right now, playing in Kidd Brewer doesn't appear to be on the table because the town of Boone will still be in recovery mode. But as football coaches might tend to say, it's a day-by-day process.

"We really need to get through Saturday," Gillin said. "The good news is the recovery and relief operations are ongoing. ... And then, maybe, probably once we get through Louisiana, because of some of these places were we could play, they need two to three weeks to get ready, so we'll have to make this (decision) a couple of weeks out."

 $\ \, \mathbb{C}$ Copyright 2024, Statesville Record & Landmark, Statesville, NC

Citation (aglc Style)

Winston-Salem Journal, 'Appalachian State ponders moving home football games to Wake Forest in aftermath of Helene', Statesville Record & Landmark (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFFA23C4847A98>