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COMMENTARY

# CAKED IN MUD



WALT UNKS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

A riding mower is buried in silt from Hurricane Helene floodwaters in Old Fort.

## The great floods of 1916 and 2024 brought devastation to NC

One of Miss Letitia Currie's favorite topics in her history class in the 1950s at Davidson Junior High School was the Great Flood of 1916.

Miss Currie was the daughter of a Davidson College professor.

Many of her students also knew what she was talking about because their parents had experienced that 1916 flood and talked about it whenever rain poured down hard.

Today, many of Miss Currie's students, their parents and grandparents, great-grandparents, and their children and grandchildren are

having a similar experience dealing with the flooding that followed Hurricane Helene.

And they will be talking about it for the rest of their lives.

"News of Davidson," the news outlet in my hometown, published the following account by Gatewood Payne Campbell, granddaughter of Davidson professor Gatey Workman and niece of the late, great opera singer William Workman. Gatewood and her husband Johnny live near Black Mountain.

"Life has stopped. We don't know dates or times. Sirens are 24 hours a day. It's relentless. Helicopters invade our sky. Chainsaws sound nonstop and we run outside in hopes it's in our

neighborhood. ...

"Let me back up. We awoke around 6 Friday morning without power. The storm was loud and pounding but we didn't know where we were in the storm. We could not get updates. Around 8:30 we lost internet across cell lines. I called a friend and got her to look at radar and let me know an ETA on rain ending. That was the last call I was able to make. By 9:30 all cell signal was completely lost. The rain was increasing. We could see the creek rising. Johnny stepped outside under the porch and was soaked from head to toe after 30 seconds.

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D.G. MARTIN

## Harris faces comparisons to Biden as Election Day nears

VP being forced to reassess how to present herself as candidate of change to voters

**ZEKE MILLER**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With less than four weeks until Election Day, Vice President Kamala Harris faces new urgency to define how her potential presidency would be different from that of President Joe Biden.

Her struggle to present herself both as a candidate of change while demonstrating a loyalty to the politician she serves under was made clear Tuesday when she was asked on ABC's "The View" how she would

lead differently than Biden.

Harris said, "We're obviously two different people" and "I will bring those sensibilities to how I lead." But when pressed to identify a decision made by Biden that she would have taken another way, she demurred. "There is not a thing that comes to mind," she said. She followed up later in the show by saying she would put a Republican in her Cabinet.

Two and a half months into her unexpected candidacy, Harris has so far largely relied on her age and biography to signal a break from the 82-year-old Biden and her 78-year-old Republican opponent, former President Donald Trump.



BEN CURTIS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris speaks Monday before planting a memorial tree on the grounds of the vice president's residence in Washington to honor the victims and mark one year since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel.

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