

East Mecklenburg ends losing streak, shuts out Garinger at home

September 30, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Richard Walker, The Charlotte Observer | Section: high_school | 616 Words OpenURL Link

With the disruptions created by Hurricane Helene East Mecklenburg coach Lennie Sanders was thrilled to see how his team responded on Monday night.

Sanders' team turned in the season's first winning performance in a 35-0 victory over Garinger and the shutout was the first for East Mecklenburg since 2019.

"My group was ready to play," Sanders said. "Ever since Thursday when we couldn't practice, we had a group text and everybody wanted to play on Friday and on Saturday."

Finally, Monday came and the Eagles went through a pregame walk-through practice that led to its victory over its longtime Southwestern 4A Conference rival.

"The kids were locked in," Sanders said. "They didn't let the distraction of not playing cause any problems. And I challenged the defense and they really responded."

Led by seniors Tristan Campbell, Ben Witmer and Chase Storey, junior James Bailey and sophomore Max Priest, the Eagles limited the visiting Wildcats to 35 yards total offense as East Mecklenburg improved to 1-5 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The shutout was the Eagles' first since a 21-0 home win over Berry Academy on Sept. 6, 2019.

Garinger falls to 0-5 and 0-2.

Playing on its home turf, East Mecklenburg held Garinger to minus 22 yards in a first half in which the Wildcats' only first down came on an Eagles' penalty.

After Garinger picked up first downs on two of its first three plays of the second half, East Mecklenburg's defense stiffened and yielded only one more first down. It also accounted for a fourth quarter safety when Witmer and Priest wrapped up a Wildcats' runner in his own end zone with 6:20 left.

Offensively, sophomore quarterback Adam Aoun directed a 230-yard attack with 16 completions in 24 attempts for 127 yards and three touchdowns while also adding a 1-yard scoring run.

Bailey (six catches for 49 yards and two TDs), junior John Crowder (40 yards rushing, two catches for 23 yards) and Zaylen Barnes (46 yards rushing with one TD, three catches for 19 yards with one TD) were other top Eagles' offensive playmakers.

Three who made a difference

Adam Aoun, East Mecklenburg: Completed 16 of 24 passes for 127 yards and three touchdowns and rushed four times for one yard and one touchdown.

James Bailey, East Mecklenburg: Bailey had six catches for 49 yards and two touchdowns and two pass interceptions.

Chase Story, East Mecklenburg: Story had one fumble recovery and one pass interception.

Notable

« Garinger and East Mecklenburg have met in football since 1958, though the first meeting was a year before Garinger opened in 1959 and was against the old Charlotte Central High School that Garinger can trace its history to. The initial game, 19-0 Central victory, was played at Memorial Stadium as were the first 10 meetings in the

series.

« East Mecklenburg hosted the first on-campus matchup in 1968 (a 13-all tie). The Eagles now have a 42-19-2 all-

time series advantage with 22 wins in the last 24 matchups.

st Both teams were hurt by penalties as East Mecklenburg was flagged 12 times for 140 yards with one infraction

negating a touchdown and Garinger was penalized 14 times for 126 yards.

They said it

"I know how hard my kids work and it was great to see the result on the scoreboard give them a reward for all of

that work." — East Mecklenburg coach Lennie Sanders

GAME SUMMARY

Garinger 0 0 0 0 - 0

East Mecklenburg 6 13 7 9 - 35

FIRST QUARTER

EM: James Bailey 10 pass from Adam Aoun (Run failed)

SECOND QUARTER

EM: Zaylen Barnes 30 run (Peter Byrne kick)

EM: Bailey 1 pass from Aoun (Bad snap)

THIRD QUARTER

EM: Aoun 1 run (Byrne kick)

FOURTH QUARTER

EM: Safety - Max Priest and Ben Witmer tackle Garinger runner in end zone

EM: Barnes 10 pass from Aoun (Byrne kick)

PHOTOS: Garinger at East Mecklenburg

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Richard Walker, The Charlotte Observer, 'East Mecklenburg ends losing streak, shuts out Garinger at home', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEDB6AE14EC390>



Mountain Island Lake residents can't go home as Mecklenburg County begins recovery effort

September 30, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Jeff A. Chamer, The Charlotte Observer Section: weather_news 380 Words OpenURL Link

Storm recovery efforts continued in Mecklenburg County on Monday after people in about 100 homes were displaced following flooding near Mountain Island Lake and the Catawba River last week.

Efforts will go on for the next few weeks, said Paige Grande, a spokesperson for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management, but residents will not be able to return home until the damage to their home has been assessed and repaired.

And that will depend on how long it takes for water in the area to recede.

"We're still waiting on the waters to recede in order for it to be safe to begin to do initial assessments and damage reports so that we can make sure that we are getting people what they need," Grande said.

If some homes only saw flooding in the basement, for example, residents won't have to wait very long. But if damage is more extensive, and water damaged multiple floors of a home or electrical wiring, then the wait will be much longer.

"We're prioritizing safety at this time, so working with residents individually to determine when they are safe to move back," Grande said.

Power had been mostly restored in Mecklenburg County. Just over 2,000 customers had no power on Monday afternoon, according to Duke Energy's outage map.

Duke Energy also tracks lake levels, and said normal full pond at Mountain Island Lake elevation is 96 feet. The company reported Sunday morning that Mountain Island Lake was at 103.6 feet. The company pushed water through its system and into South Carolina after Helene hit on Friday morning, which threatened to increase flooding.

Grande said because a local and state emergency was declared, money will be available to people and will be able to get financial assistance to help with home repairs. But may take a while because heavily-damaged western North Carolina is being prioritized, she said.

Mecklenburg County saw one resident, Tony Taylor, die during the storm from a neighbor's tree falling on his home in Charlotte.

Taylor's wife, Sandy Lucille Taylor and their four children survived, but "the loss of such a kind and loving man has left a profound void," wrote Stephen Barbour on a GoFundMe he started for the family.

"Uncle Tony was a friend to everyone."

CMS schools back open Tuesday

Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools remained closed on Monday but will reopen Tuesday, the school district said.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jeff A. Chamer, The Charlotte Observer, 'Mountain Island Lake residents can't go home as Mecklenburg County begins recovery effort', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC3F5E9D96100>



Perfect: Ed Sheeran brings us home for Duke Centennial

September 30, 2024 | Chronicle, The (Duke University) (Durham, NC) Author: Sanjna Kalisetty | Section: News | 706 Words OpenURL Link

Duke students owe a collective thanks to Cherry Seaborn, Fuqua '14. At Duke, she is primarily known for her position on the Board of Visitors of the Fuqua School of Business. However, around the world, she is better known as the inspiration for the Grammy-nominated song "Perfect."

On Sept. 26, Seaborn's husband, Ed Sheeran, performed at Wallace Wade Stadium. Despite the earlier tornado warnings and the torrential downpour of Hurricane Helene, students packed Wallace Wade, wearing bright orange wigs, holding up posters saying "We love sexy Ed!" and carrying British flags as well as flags emblazoned with Sheeran's face.

The fun began at 7:30 p.m., when Grammy-nominated producer 9th Wonder, also known as Patrick Denard Douthit, Duke faculty in the Department of African and African American studies, opened the show. He effortlessly created an electric atmosphere with his strong beats, underscoring a Duke Centennial video that reminded students of the accolades earned over the century. Ultimately, his mix kicked off the night's lively energy and prompted many students to throw their Dukes — a hand sign resembling the horns of the Durham Bull and Blue Devil — up in support.

Then, several inspirational messages were shared by Mayor of Durham Leonardo Williams, Emmy-nominated actress Retta, Trinity '92, and President Vincent Price. Their words captured the spirit and community of Duke, echoing a sentiment that the future starts here. Lastly, Duke's Chorale brought us home with their rendition of "Higher Love" accompanied by a drone show that recognized all things Duke. To illustrate, the drones arranged themselves in the shape of Duke's mascot and the founding year of the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, emphasizing the century that has passed since Duke's establishment. The drone show was complete with iconic sayings such as "Forever Duke!" and "Our Blue is Best."

At 8:30 pm on the dot, Ed Sheeran took the stage with nothing more than a guitar and a water bottle, performing hit songs like "Castle on the Hill" and "Shivers." Immediately, everyone stood up and started clapping along. Sheeran explained, during a break in his set, that he performs with a Loop Station, a device that can record and play back music in real time, allowing him to create his own backing track based on his guitar and voice. This resulted in a performance with unique percussion and vocals that only Duke students, alumni and faculty got to hear.

The energy became even more explosive when the rain started coming down during Sheeran's performance of "A-Team." While the rain briefly stopped, it soon picked up again for a few other songs, including "Eyes Closed," "Thinking out Loud" and "Photograph." As the songs played on, the crowd joined together to create harmonies, sway side by side and raise their phone flashlights to truly embody his lyric, "we found love right where we are." Even after the rain subsided for the night, the magic still continued. In section 24, a man got down on one knee during Sheeran's performance of "Perfect," and by the end of the song there was a newly engaged couple in the crowd.

After a sing-along to Sheeran's heartfelt ballads wrapped up, he changed the pace, performing "You Need Me, I Don't Need You" and infecting the crowd with a hip-hop and jazzy vibe. Despite stating that he was not a rapper, Sheeran showed off his impressive flow and quick paced lyrics through a strong R&B and pop mashup of "Take it Back," "Superstition" and "Ain't No Sunshine." This medley electrified the crowd, warming everyone back up as if they were never drenched by the rain. Sheeran also revealed that he had not performed this mashup in years and relearned it for the Duke Centennial, making this show one like no other.

After an exhilarating hour, Sheeran closed the show with "Shape of You" and, at the demand of the crowd, returned for an encore of "Bad Habits." During the show, Sheeran expressed his excitement at being back on Duke's campus and predicted our triumphant win against the Tar Heel football team.

Sheeran created a core memory for many Duke students, adding to the pride and love Blue Devils have for our home in Durham. Because, in the words of President Vincent Price, "Duke is forever!"

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Sanjna Kalisetty, 'Perfect: Ed Sheeran brings us home for Duke Centennial', *Chronicle, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF7BAE8B5D830



Helene's cost could be 600 lives, \$160B in damages

September 30, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 678 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Six hundred people are unaccounted for, and one of North Carolina's hardest-hit counties by the remnants of Hurricane Helene on Monday said at least 35 have died.

Six states total at least 121 fatalities, many places in the Blue Ridge Mountains have yet to be checked because of failed infrastructure, and critical aid is being rushed to survivors of historic flooding. Buncombe County, where Asheville is county seat, had withheld a fatality number pending notification of kin, a protocol made more troublesome by lack of power, internet and cellphones in many big pockets throughout the region.

Twenty-five years to the month after people in the mountains of the state and elsewhere sent resources to eastern North Carolina for the 500-year flood caused by Hurricane Floyd, convoys of bottled water, cleaning supplies and necessities were heading west. AccuWeather recorded more than 30 inches of rain in two locations and estimated damage between \$145 billion to \$160 billion, up from weekend estimates by others of \$95 billion to \$110 billion.

South Carolina and Georgia each lost 25 lives, and Florida 11, according to published reports.

Asheville has been like many other locales along North Carolina's stretch of the Appalachian Mountains – only reachable by air. At 4 p.m. Eastern on Monday, DriveNC.org reported 432 total road closures due to Helene – nine interstates, 25 federal highways, 42 state highways, and 356 secondary roads.

More than 150 have been cleared since the storm began, U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards, R-N.C., said in a release. He also shared that his district – the southern-most part of the mountain range bordering Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina – should have most of its service from Duke Energy operable by Friday.

More than 600 National Guardsmen have been deployed to western North Carolina, their mission bolstered by highwater vehicles, palletized load systems and forestry support teams for debris clearance. They were expected Monday.

AccuWeather said rainfall totals were 32.51 inches in Jeter Mountain, 31.36 inches in Busick, and 26.65 inches in Hughes. From Asheville, Jeter Mountain is about 40 miles due south not far from South Carolina, Busick is about 40 miles northeast just off the Pisgah National Forest, Hughes about 70 miles northeast near Sugar Mountain.

Gov. Roy Cooper said he expects, as crews reach more areas that are yet to be accessed, the fatalities total will rise. White House Homeland Security Adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall said Monday, "It looks like there could be as many as 600 lost lives. We know there are 600 who are either lost or unaccounted for."

President Joe Biden, before departing Dover Air Force Base aboard Air Force One, on Monday said, "It really is amazing. You saw the photographs. It's stunning."

The 81-year-old, besieged from the public by health questions halting his attempt for reelection on July 21, said he would visit the North Carolina areas when safe and not an intrusion on recovery and relief efforts.

Vice President Kamala Harris, No. 2 in charge of his incumbent administration, changed her campaign plans so she could visit the Southeast this week, newswire Reuters said.

The images Biden referred to have blitzed the internet many in the region can't access. Some structures floated off foundations and went down roads in whole; others were torn apart by the downhill rapids, splintered and spread as

if dropped by a tornado. In published reports, residents were aghast at the magnitude and offered "never seen anything like it" over and over.

They would have had to remember July 1916, when six straight days of rain started July 5. It was associated with a hurricane coming out of the Gulf of Mexico that weaved from the Mississippi-Alabama line to eastern Tennessee, and a second one that made landfall in Charleston, S.C., on July 14.

Asheville, at 94,589 easily the largest city in the state west of Winston-Salem near the Virginia border and Charlotte toward South Carolina, has a city water system damaged and has been cordoned by a mudslide blocking Interstate 40. Going west, I-40 is closed because two eastbound lanes fell into the Pigeon River along a mountainside about 4 miles from Tennessee.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Alan Wooten | The Center Square, 'Helene's cost could be 600 lives, \$160B in damages', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC5DDD457438>



100 dead in storm Helene damage, flooding across US southeast

September 30, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: John Falchetto | Section: National | 397 Words OpenURL Link

At least 100 people have been killed after destructive floods ripped through the US southeast, officials said Monday, with the emergency response effort fast becoming a political football in a region that could decide the presidential election.

Rescue operations sought to find survivors and deliver supplies across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee in areas where torrential rains brought by Hurricane Helene caused havoc.

Residents face power cuts, supply shortages, blocked roads and broken communication lines in often mountainous terrain.

Republican candidate Donald Trump will on Monday visit Valdosta in Georgia -- an epicenter of the flooding destruction, and also a key state in the tight election being held in just five weeks' time.

Trump's Democrat opponent Vice President Kamala Harris canceled campaign events to return to Washington for a briefing on the federal response, while President Joe Biden was due to speak on Monday morning from the White House.

Biden, who has approved federal aid for several states in the wake of the disaster, plans to travel to hard-hit areas this week, "as soon as it will not disrupt emergency response operations," the White House said Sunday, adding that Harris would do the same.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said Monday that hundreds of roads had been destroyed and many communities "wiped off the map."

"This is an unprecedented storm," he told reporters. "We're working to surge supplies in. The emotional and physical toll here is indescribable.

"Rivers are still rising, so the danger is not over."

He said the long-term rebuilding plan would need to confront a reality of more extreme weather, "but right now, we're concentrating on saving lives and getting supplies to people who desperately need them."

Scientists say climate change likely plays a role in the rapid intensification of hurricanes, because there is more energy in warmer oceans for them to feed on.

At least 100 people were killed -- 39 in North Carolina, 25 in South Carolina, 17 in Georgia, 14 in Florida, four in Tennessee and one in Virginia, according to tallies from local authorities compiled by AFP. That total was expected to rise.

Nearly two million households and businesses remained without power on Monday, according to tracker poweroutage.us.

Helene slammed into Florida's northern Gulf shore as a huge Category Four hurricane late on Thursday night with winds of 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour.

Even as it weakened, it tore a path of destruction stretching inland more than 500 miles.

bur-des-bgs/st

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• Citation (aglc Style)

John Falchetto, '100 dead in storm Helene damage, flooding across US southeast', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC0BAF0799F48



Voting to continue in North Carolina as storm recovery begins

September 30, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Elyse Apel | The Center Square | Section: State | 365 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – With just 36 days until Election Day, the North Carolina State Board of Elections held an emergency meeting Monday afternoon to decide how to ensure voting will continue after devastating damage from Hurricane Helene.

In the preliminary meeting, which the board said would be one of many needed in the coming weeks, the board voted unanimously to allow counties affected by the disaster to delay absentee voting board meetings.

Asheville, most-populous city in western North Carolina at nearly 100,000, and the surrounding North Carolina continue to be largely stranded from the rest of the nation as bridges, roads and highways were rendered impassable. As the meeting commenced at 4 p.m., DriveNC.org reported 432 road closures statewide because of Helene.

The counties allowed to delay the meetings include all those under federal disaster declarations. Many are without power, cell service, or water.

"We have been able to reach out to the affected counties, and we know that 14 of the 22 counties that we are in contact with are indicating that they are closed at this time today, and we anticipate several more days of closure," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the board.

Helene, a Category 4 hurricane when it hit the Big Bend of Florida on Thursday night, is forecast to leave behind more than \$100 billon in damage and economic loss throughout multiple states.

"This is a difficult situation for most of our state," said Chairman Alan Hirsch.

The absentee voting board meetings were meant to be held every Tuesday, beginning on Oct. 1. In these meetings, county election boards review absentee ballots to determine whether they are eligible for counting.

"What we're recommending is for the board, under its emergency authority, to provide flexibility for those county boards to continue to have those meetings, but to reschedule them as needed," said Paul Cox, general counsel for the board.

The board all voiced their support for the measure and their concerns for the counties affected. And, even as western North Carolina rebuilds, the board promised that voting will go on.

"As we have said many times through other hurricanes, pandemic, and natural disasters, we do not stop an election, we figure out how to proceed," Bell said.

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'Murdoch Mysteries' Sets Season 18 Premiere Date With Welcome Twist — Watch Trailer (VIDEO)

September 30, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Meredith Jacobs, TV Insider | Section: Arts | 492 Words OpenURL Link

There are changes coming to Murdoch Mysteries—and we can't wait to see them!

TV Insider has learned exclusively that for the first time, Murdoch Mysteries will debut in the U.S. day and date with the Canadian premieres on CBC. Season 18 will premiere on Ovation TV on Monday, October 7 at 8/7c. Season 18 consists of 22 episodes, including the series' milestone 300th. We also have your exclusive first look at the trailer, above, which introduces Paul Sun-Hyung Lee as Inspector Albert Choi, who brings a whole new perspective to Station House #4.

The beloved detective series is set in Toronto in the early 1900s during the age of invention, where Detective William Murdoch (Yannick Bisson) enlists radical forensic techniques to solve some of the city's most gruesome murders. The trailer offers him getting a new place to house them.

Season 18, Ovation TV promises, "is full of 'Murdochian' delights: a murder at a Charles Dickens convention; Murdoch acting as a bodyguard for a silent film star (Siobhan Murphy) and thrown into a cinematic adventure himself; foiling a theft of the world's largest ruby; proving the veracity of a 'Missing Link' skull found in Milton, Ontario; and a holiday episode celebrating the 'misfits' and singletons." It will also include episodes with mysteries rooted in the social issues of the time, such as a worker's strike at a factory; an early instance of low-income housing; competing public hydro projects; and immigrants trying to purchase land in the 'paradise' of the wilds of Canada. Episode 300 will see Detective Murdoch visit the UK to see his wife, Dr. Julia Ogden (Hélène Joy), as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.

RelatedPaul Sun-Hyung Lee Joins 'Murdoch Mysteries' in Season 18

Other key characters in Murdoch's world include Chief Constable Thomas Brackenreid (Thomas Craig), Constables George Crabtree (Jonny Harris) and Henry Higgins (Lachlan Murdoch), Detective Llewellyn Watts (Daniel Maslany), Chief Coroner Violet Hart (Shanice Banton), Margaret Brackenreid (Arwen Humphreys) and Effie Newsome-Crabtree (Clare McConnell) as Canada's first female Crown Attorney.

The series is based on Maureen Jennings's popular Detective Murdoch novels. Murdoch Mysteries premiered in Canada in January 2008. It is executive produced by Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Yannick Bisson, Hélène Joy, Simon McNabb, and showrunner Peter Mitchell. Jeremy Hood and Julie Lacey are producers. Murdoch Mysteries is developed and produced by Shaftesbury, in association with CBC, ITV STUDIOS, and UKTV, and with the participation of the Canada Media Fund, the IPF's COGECO Television Production Fund, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, and Ontario Creates.

Murdoch Mysteries, Season 18 Premiere, Monday, October 7, 8/7c, Ovation TV

More Headlines:

NBA Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo Dies at 58'Murdoch Mysteries' Sets Season 18 Premiere Date With Welcome Twist — Watch Trailer (VIDEO)Vince McMahon Explains Why He Didn't Stop WWE Show Where Owen Hart Fell to His Death'Wheel of Fortune': Teacher Wins Big, Gets Emotional – See How Ryan Seacrest Reacted'Dog Whisperer' Cesar Millan Opens Up About His 20 Years on TV, Helping Oprah & Training Cats

• Citation (aglc Style)

Meredith Jacobs, TV Insider, "Murdoch Mysteries' Sets Season 18 Premiere Date With Welcome Twist — Watch Trailer (VIDEO)', Courier-Times, The (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC0B9052B22A8>



Perquimans residents asked to help out Rutherford County residents hard hit by Helene

September 30, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Julian Eure | Section: Local | 304 Words OpenURL Link

HERTFORD — Perquimans County residents are being asked to help out residents of one of the western North Carolina counties hard hit by Hurricane Helene last week.

Perquimans County Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon noted Monday that residents of Rutherford County have great need for toilet paper; paper towels; plastic forks, knives and spoons; disposable plates; disinfectant wipes; prepackaged "nabs"; Granola bars; and Pop-tarts.

Nixon noted that Rutherford "holds a special link" to Perquimans because the county serves as a backup for the Perquimans-Gates 911 Center during emergencies.

"Today, we have the opportunity to support them," he said. "In the wake of Hurricane Helene, this community finds itself in need of basic items to survive."

Nixon asked residents to consider dropping donated items at either the Perquimans County Emergency Services at 159 Creek Drive, Hertford, or Perquimans County High School at Perquimans County High School at 305 S Edenton Road Street in Hertford.

He noted that the initial delivery to Rutherford County would be Monday, Oct. 7.

Rutherford is home to the following towns and cities: Bostic, Ellenboro, Forest City, Lake Lure, Ruth, Rutherfordton, Spindale and Chimney Rock.

Gov. Roy Cooper is also encouraging donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from catastrophic damage caused by Helene.

"There is a massive effort underway to get help to the people of Western North Carolina including state and federal relief but we know there will be additional needs," Governor Roy Cooper said. "If you're able to give, please consider a donation to help North Carolinians as they clean up and recover from Helene."

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.

Donations can also be mailed 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.

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Julian Eure, 'Perquimans residents asked to help out Rutherford County residents hard hit by Helene', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEBF1BF7232C60



Governor urges people to donate to NC Disaster Relief

September 30, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Across Carolina | 366 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH - Governor Roy Cooper is encouraging donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from catastrophic damage caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

"There is a massive effort underway to get help to the people of Western North Carolina including state and federal relief but we know there will be additional needs," Governor Roy Cooper said. "If you're able to give, please consider a donation to help North Carolinians as they clean up and recover from Helene."

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.

Donations can also be mailed 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.

Donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

United Way of North Carolina is the fiscal agent for the Fund and will provide grants and reimbursement to nonprofits working in impacted communities.

"United Way of North Carolina is proud to partner with the Governor's Office to manage the NC Disaster Relief Fund. We recognize the critical importance of delivering resources to communities for effective relief efforts. Together with the Governor's Office, we are committed to ensuring that communities in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene receive the support they need. This unprecedented situation calls for collective action to provide both immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance," said Brittany Pruitt Fletcher, President and CEO of United Way of North Carolina.

Eligible non-profits can seek grants and reimbursement of up to \$10,000 from the NC Disaster Relief Fund for efforts to meet immediate storm recovery needs via the United Way of North Carolina at https://www.unitedwaync.org/nc-disaster-relief-fund-helene.

If sufficient donations are collected to support long term recovery work, the North Carolina Community Foundation's affiliate foundations and statewide grants committee will work to ensure that all remaining donations are distributed to nonprofits that can best serve unmet needs in affected communities.

Donations to the NC Disaster Relief Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Staff Writer, 'Governor urges people to donate to NC Disaster Relief', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEBF1BDFD34720



Mayberry parade provides respite

September 30, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com| Section: Across Carolina| 720 Words OpenURL Link

If ever folks needed an escape from reality, it was this past weekend in storm-battered Mount Airy — where the notion of retreating to the earlier, simpler time of Mayberry proved more than a tourism promotional pitch.

As makeshift signs posted outside downtown businesses communicated a common refrain of "Closed — no power," people sat in lawn chairs just feet away Saturday to enjoy a pleasant diversion: a parade of sights and characters associated with "The Andy Griffith Show."

It was a classic what-a-difference-a-day-makes situation. Just 24 hours before, this area was in the midst of a storm that produced heavy rains and high winds.

That combination was devastating to trees and utility lines, leaving an estimated three-fourths of the city without electrical service and parts of Surry County and Virginia equally battered.

Welcome weather

But the fabled new day dawned Saturday as the annual Mayberry Days Parade went on as scheduled to the delight of crowds certainly needing a break.

"You couldn't ask for a brighter day, I suppose," Trey Baucom of Chesterfield, South Carolina, said just before the event while making his way along North Main Street with wife Wendy as sunlight peeked through the clouds.

They were attending Mayberry Days for the first time although the couple had visited Mount Airy previously.

The two rode out the Hurricane Helene-induced storm in a camper while staying at a local campground.

Meanwhile, another couple, Jason and Betsy Helms of Abbottsburg, near Lumberton, had gotten up at 3:30 a.m. Saturday to drive to Mount Airy for the parade with their children Jason III and Staci.

"I'm surprised you can have it," the elder Jason commented in view of the bad weather.

But the annual procession of all things Mayberry always goes on despite whatever climatic conditions are hurled its way, including one year during a vicious rainstorm that drenched streets equally saturated with crowds.

Once here, the Helms family soaked up the Mayberry atmosphere.

"It's got good family values — it gives you that hometown feel," Jason observed. "We're from a small town, too."

Like many attendees, Jason and Betsy were wearing T-shirts paying homage to "The Andy Griffith Show." Jason's fashion choice was one bearing a phrase often emitted by Barney, "Nip it in the bud."

In addition to ones from the Carolinas and Virginia, license plates spotted on parked vehicles lining the central business district were from such states as Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Missouri, Illinois and more.

Comments from many locals positioned along the street seemed to be centered on continuing to be without power more than 24 hours after the brunt of the storm hit.

Plentiful parade

The Mayberry Days Parade offered a welcome diversion that was upbeat and full of good cheer, similar to that served up on the long-running television show.

Saturday's procession featured actors who had appeared on the 1960s-era program, along with those dressed as its various characters.

Ronnie Schell, better known as Duke Slater in the "Gomer Pyle.. U.S.M.C." sitcom that spun off from Griffith's show, was among those actors, with Schell occupying his usual perch in local resident Randy Moore's Army Jeep.

Also there were Margaret Teele, who played a character named Agnes Jean Parker, a member of a crime family Barney encounters while in Raleigh. Teele also has "Gomer Pyle" and "Batman" episodes to her credit.

Keith Thibodeaux (aka Richard Keith), who appeared as Opie's pal Johnny Paul in 12 episodes, was another Mayberry notable in the parade.

Daniel Roebuck, a regular on Griffith's later TV series "Matlock," also was a familiar face participating.

Others there were Dreama Denver, wife of Bob Denver, and Don Knotts' daughter Karen.

Those visitors occupied convertibles, generally older-model vehicles befitting the "Andy Griffith Show" period, who waved to admiring onlookers the length of North Main Street.

A group portraying the Darling family rode in a battered truck one might associate with the clan, while golf carts were the preferred means of travel for others.

Mayberry replica squad cars were spotted frequently Saturday.

The procession also was filled with costumed characters walking along the street impersonating Barney, Sheriff Andy, Ernest T. Bass, Floyd the barber, Otis the town drunk and others, who were duplicates in some cases.

Elements of humor further enhanced the much-needed joyous occasion, such as members of the crowd being asked by one of the costumed characters what Otis' favorite part of a baseball game is at one point during the parade.

The answer: The bottom of the fifth.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com, 'Mayberry parade provides respite', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF4E10EB7C6E58>



Towns work overtime to clear trees, restore power; Helene also impacts Rutherfordton, Spindale, Forest City

September 30, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC)
Author: SCOTT CARPENTER scarpenter@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 892 Words
OpenURL Link

RUTHERFORD COUNTY — Municipal employees throughout Rutherford County have worked round the clock for multiple days, trying to get their towns up and running after Helene pounded the area with high winds and historic rainfall. But even outside Lake Lure and Chimney Rock in the northwestern mountain region, there are ongoing struggles.

Residents are having difficulty finding gas stations that are able to operate due to extensive power outages. Those that are operating sometimes are restricting customers to cash only, or card only. Residents are frustrated because gas is usually needed to run their power generators.

According to Duke Energy, which serves most Rutherford County homes and businesses, full power restoration will likely not take place before Friday, Oct. 4.

As of Monday afternoon, all roads within the town of Rutherfordton, are passable, with at least one lane open for traffic, according to town manager Doug Barrick.

"Multiple agencies, a lot of people, have helped with tree removal," he said.

On Monday, two teams were assisting in Rutherfordton, from the town of Mint Hill, in Mecklenburg County. The town was also assisted with heavy equipment by Wright Construction.

Barrick, as well as Mayor Jimmy Dancy, said this event was something never seen before in this area, in their lifetime.

"We have seen storms, with a lot of trees down. But not with this volume," Barrick said. "The flooding in this county has been catastrophic. The feet of water — it's really hard to fathom."

Dancy said all town employees have worked tirelessly, including fire and police, public works and administration. Friday and Saturday, some worked 24 hours.

Officials said there was an "all hands on deck" mentality.

"All our employees have done an amazing job, in a difficult situation," Barrick said.

Trees had fallen onto many houses, including Dancy's home on Grayson Drive.

"There were several houses on our street, that had trees fall in," Dancy said. "But we are fortunate."

He continued, "My heart is breaking when I think of Chimney Rock and Lake Lure. We need to support our neighbors."

Barrick said, "Everyone is going through stress and anxiety right now. This is a great opportunity for us all to be good neighbors and to remember to show grace to those around us."

Town officials agreed Monday afternoon to cancel the annual Hilltop Fall Festival, which was scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5. Officials said many would still be dealing with the effects of Helene, and they believed it would be

inappropriate to have the festival at this time.

Officials across Rutherford County said they did not expect the devastation brought by Helene.

"We really thought it was going farther to the west," said Forest City Mayor Steve Holland. "That was the forecast. We didn't think this storm, would be this bad, for Rutherford County."

"This has been traumatic for our county, including Forest City. People have had trees fall on their homes, some on their cars," Holland continued. "Living without power is rough."

By Monday afternoon, 60-70% of the town of Forest City had electricity, according to town manager Janet Mason. Friday afternoon, during the worst of the storm, 95% of Forest City customers were without power. The town operates its own power plant.

"If you are in Forest City, and your power is still out, please call 245-0149 to report it," Mason said. "We're making more progress each day."

Holland and Mason also praised the Forest City employees for their hard work over the past several days. The town also had assistance from outside crews, from towns farther east, including New Bern, Statesville and Concord.

"All of our town employees came together, most worked 16-hour days," Mason said. "I can't say enough about the hard work of the Forest City employees."

Holland said he believes the problem with finding gas will resolve itself by the end of the week, as more gas stations have power and can open for customers.

All streets in Forest City are at least passable with one lane open. But that situation is also improving.

Holland said he is grateful that many residents were able to step in and help with clearing the streets from fallen trees and debris.

"People in our community have stepped up. They are helping each other, and they are truly being good neighbors," Holland said. "They are checking on each other, and pitching in to help."

Holland also expressed his sadness when thinking of the overwhelming devastation in Chimney Rock and Lake Lure.

"It is unbelievable what has happened there," he added.

Spindale is also trying to recover from Helene.

"We have had an exceptional number of fallen trees, debris, utility poles that were taken down during the storm," said Spindale town manager Scott Webber. "Sadly we have also had a number of houses that were heavily damaged."

Spindale Street was among the hardest hit in Spindale, according to Webber. It and a few other streets near it remain completely closed to traffic.

"There are a series of downed trees, downed utility poles, covering probably a two-block area," Webber said.

Trees entangled with power lines must be removed in coordination with utility workers. That is why it is taking longer for some streets to be cleared.

"We have had multiple poles, multiple trees taken down during the storm," Webber continued. "But we are hoping that all our streets in Spindale will be opened by the end of this week."

"Our town employees have worked tirelessly. They have done an amazing job responding to Helene," Webber said. "I couldn't be more proud, of their efforts."

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• Citation (aglc Style)

SCOTT CARPENTER scarpenter@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Towns work overtime to clear trees, restore power; Helene also impacts Rutherfordton, Spindale, Forest City', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC8EDB4A3C90



National Guard in Lake Lure helping with fallout from Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC)
Author: Victoria McGuinn Young vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 526 Words
OpenURL Link

The town of Lake Lure and the village of Chimney Rock were hit hard by the storm caused by Hurricane Helene.

As of Sunday morning, the National Guard and more than 40 agencies were on scene in Lake Lure, according to the town. Duke Energy is also present working to address power outages.

About 100 residents in the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock were rescued Saturday, and 25 were rescued Friday. Evacuees were transported to R-S Central High School where a shelter has been set up.

A boil water advisory remains in place for Lake Lure and well water, and a no flush order is in place for those on the town's system. All of the town's wells are operable except two and staff are working to repair these, the town stated. The water is expected to be tested will be tested as soon as possible.

The town is working to clear roadways and has support from other agencies. But officials have asked that people stay off the roads unless they are leaving town. Officials have also asked that people not come to the area unless they absolutely need to be there. Officials have asked that no one come to town unless they live in Lake Lure. There are check points requiring verification to minimize traffic going to the Town Center. Home owners only, the town stated, will be allowed access to the Town Center area for safety. Officials also stated that locals should leave town because there is no power and the streets remain unsafe.

Firefighters and town staff have gone door to door to locate people in the most affected areas. Many rescues are by foot and via helicopter where vehicles cannot go, the town stated Monday.

Town officials mandated that no one is to get in the Lake. The lake is currently unsafe due to the vast amount of debris, propane, and gas, according to the town.

While structural supports for the Lake Lure Dam were compromised, the dam was evaluated by engineers from Schnabel Engineering following the storm and they stated that the dam is stable, despite the concern Friday that it would fail. The town is also working to establish a charging station. Also according to the town, while lake levels may need to be adjusted, the lake level was 985.5 as of Monday afternoon.

While cell service is still very limited in the area, some are experiencing slight improvements, according to the town. The town also requested emergency boosters to assist with access.

A donation station has also been established at the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Office at 658 Memorial Highway (64/74), next to the Lake Lure Fire Department. The station will be opened from 10 a.m. -3 p.m., and the area is accessible. Donations needed are water, non perishable food items, and clean wipes. Items will be distributed from this location as long as supplies last.

Chimney Rock also experienced devastating damage to the town due to mud, water and wind. Every business in the area was affected and damaged.

For those looking for missing persons email names and information to EOC@rutherfordcountync.gov.

The Rutherford County Curfew remains in place from from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. for the area.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Victoria McGuinn Young vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com, 'National Guard in Lake Lure helping with fallout from Hurricane Helene', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC8EE0F69940>



How the aftermath of Hurricane Helene could effect 2024 election season

September 30, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: ETHAN BENFIELD ebenfield@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: News | 411 Words OpenURL Link

RUTHERFORDTON — One of the many things effected by the long-term impacts of Hurricane Helene could be early voting in the 2024 election season.

Early voting is scheduled to begin on Oct. 17, but with many people in Rutherford County without power and low on gasoline, making it to the polls could be difficult.

In areas with widespread damage, such as Chimney Rock, some voting sites could be inaccessible or destroyed due to the storm's impact on roads.

Rutherford County Board of Elections director Dawn Lovelace said that the two early voting sites in Rutherford County will be open as usual and have not been affected. Those two sites are Isothermal Community College and the County Administration Building on Main Street in Rutherfordton.

Lovelace also said that mail-in voting should also still be working as usual, but that people should be aware that it might take longer than usual for their mail-in ballots to be delivered due to all difficulty driving in the area.

She urged people using mail-in ballots to send them in as early as possible to allow for the extra time.

"The post office told us to recommend people send in their early votes at least a week before election day, that recommendation was before the storm hit," Lovelace said. "My advice now would be that if you know where you are going to be, go ahead and get the process started as early as possible so they can get it to you, and you can get it back to us."

Lovelace also said that people displaced by the storm who had to evacuate out of state will still be able to sign up for absentee voting. Absentee ballots can be mailed to any state for registered voters in Rutherford County. Absentee ballots mailed out of county or out of state come with instructions on how to mail the ballot back to the office in the county. Absentee voters must have two witnesses to confirm that they are the ones sending in the ballot.

Lovelace said that people who had to evacuate and are living in North Carolina can still vote whether they are in their precinct or not. She said there will be provisions for people to vote in local elections at the closest precinct they can make it to on election day.

She said the North Carolina Board of Elections will be meeting on Monday afternoon to further discuss the effects of the storms on the election process.

Find information on absentee voting here: https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

ETHAN BENFIELD ebenfield@thedigitalcourier.com, 'How the aftermath of Hurricane Helene could effect 2024 election season', Daily Courier, The (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC8EED97C890>



Rutherford County Emergency Management releases list of evacuees at shelter

September 30, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 91 Words OpenURL Link

The Rutherford County Emergency Management released a compiled list of individuals who were evacuated to the Rutherford County Emergency Shelter due to Hurricane Helene.

Emergency management said the list was created to the best of its ability at the shelter but stated that some names may be misspelled.

The list will be continually updated as new individuals arrive.

Emergency management also noted that some individuals may have left the shelter voluntarily after their arrival.

The shelter is located at RS Central High School, 641 US-221, Rutherfordton, NC 28139, at the back of the building. Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'Rutherford County Emergency Management releases list of evacuees at shelter', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC8ED3335820



In Helene's wake, leadership is crucial

September 30, 2024 | Daily Dispatch, The (Henderson, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Archives | 644 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH

I got it wrong. Deeply wrong. Embarrassingly wrong.

It was a few days after Hurricane Floyd struck the coast on September 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 Daily Dispatch, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'In Helene's wake, leadership is crucial', *Daily Dispatch, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC640BC6EC50



2nd NC Bourbon and Spirits Festival delivers entertainment Saturday

September 30, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: Richard Holm rholm@rrdailyherald.com| Section: Local | 916 Words OpenURL Link

ROANOKE RAPIDS

The second NC Bourbon and Spirits Festival was held on Saturday, bringing hours of outdoor entertainment and activities.

Weldon Mills Distillery, BarnBurners, and Weldon Mills Theatre co-hosted the event, which brought a plethora of activities to the venue with 75 vendors, including food trucks, mechanical bull riding, cigar smoking, merchandise, and alcohol. Attendees had enough room to roam outdoors to enjoy the festival and enter the theater's lobby to lounge at its bar. Throughout the festival, groups performed on the outdoor stage with DJ Dank Williams, Sons of Earl, The Cove, Davisson Brothers Band, trio CountryBoii Tye, Countryman DJ and Curt Thee Countryman, Frank Foster and The Steel Woods.

BarnBurner Owner Julie Powell expressed her excitement with the turnout, with about 2,500 people attending Saturday's festival.

"We are delighted to have been a part of one of the final 14 shows on The Steel Woods' Farewell Tour," Powell told the Herald. "Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that we have a lot of changes in store for next year's festival, including a name change and other exciting updates. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped, they made the event a great success!"

Bruce Tyler, co-owner of Weldon Mills Distillery, also expressed his thoughts on the event and those affected by last week's storm that has killed more than 100 in the Southeastern U.S., including at least 35 people killed in Asheville.

"I consider the festival a success, especially in light of all the challenges associated with Hurricane Helene," Tyler said. "The storm did affect setup times and attendance numbers, but there was still a large enough crowd to consider it a success. Attendees, entertainers, and vendors certainly had a good time, and North Carolina distillers had good exposure. It was a success — it just feels different knowing all the disasters North Carolinians are facing from the storm. They are certainly in our prayers, and we hope they can get the support they so desperately need."

DJ Williams of Nashville, Tennessee, said this was his second year performing at the event and remarked on what he enjoyed about the festival.

"I love the camaraderie, the liquor tasting, the food, the people, the beautiful weather, the women — it's a good day to have a good day here at the North Carolina Bourbon Festival," he said.

Owner Brad Sanders and his wife Jennifer Sanders with Dixie Decoys, a business priding itself on its selection of outdoor waterfowl decoys and apparel, said this was their first time at the event.

"It's awesome and so much fun," Jennifer said. "We definitely will come back next year. We've received a lot of customers. It's been great."

Riding the mechanical bull and hanging in there was Phebe Idol of Rocky Mount, who said this was her first time coming to the festival and that she would be coming again next year.

"Bruce [Tyler], he is all about supporting local in North Carolina and bringing North Carolina together," Idol said. "Bruce does a lot in Rocky Mount himself, but not quite like this. It's a different vibe. I love it." Pete Turner of Conway also took a turn on the mechanical bull and said this was his first time at the NC Bourbon and Spirits Festival.

"I've had a blast, man," Turner said. "It's been pretty good so far — the bands, the camaraderie, the people you see, people you ain't seen in a while, the bull evidently, but it's been a pretty good show. You get to taste test whiskies you ain't never tasted before or never heard of. You get to taste them. So it's been a pretty good event."

Shawn Pugh of Conway said he came to the festival last year, but this year was much better.

"It's organized a whole lot better," Pugh said. "I like the fact that everything is kind of spread out. So you got to walk and meet people in between, and then just all the venues between, you get to stop the checkout in between."

Active duty Navy members out of Richmond, Virginia, Kenneth Stanley Paduabartlett, Justin Bermudez, and Brandon Johnson, said this was their first time at the event.

Paduabartlett said he found out about it when he saw it on a billboard one day on his way to work.

"I let these two clowns know about it and asked them if they wanted to tag along since it's only an hour away from Richmond, so we decided sure, why not," he said. "We grabbed a hotel and came down here. Honestly, the thing that I love about this is I was previously stationed in the South, so coming back to the South, like just the hospitality aspect, the great food, the amount of stuff to do here is just on point. It's phenomenal."

Johnson said he was born and raised in New Jersey and that the NC Bourbon Festival was worth the travel.

"I like the people, honestly, the environment — if you want to vibe with people, this is the place to do it," he said.

Bermudez said he grew up in a small town in Texas and is familiar with the festival's vibe.

"I grew up in the South — I'm used to this kind of culture and people," he said. "So coming back to it is just, honestly, it's a blast."

A trio group out of Alabama, CountryBoii Tye, Countryman DJ and Curt Thee Countryman, performed at the festival and said they loved the event.

"It's something new," Curt Thee Countryman said.

CountryBoii Tye said, "It's definitely different. We appreciate all of the support and everyone doing their thing."

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Richard Holm rholm@rrdailyherald.com, '2nd NC Bourbon and Spirits Festival delivers entertainment Saturday', *Daily Herald* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFC7A16D9C310>



Onslow County community collecting supplies for WNC after Hurricane Helene. Here's how to help.

September 30, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: Morgan Starling The Daily News| Section: News| 1383 Words OpenURL Link

Editor's Note: This story is being consistently updated.

Onslow County residents, businesses, organizations, and agencies are working to collect and deliver essential supplies to western North Carolina this week following the catastrophic devastation from Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene made landfall late Thursday on Florida's Big Bend coast, ripping through the southeast with high winds and historic flooding, essentially wiping out or devastating many of North Carolina's mountain communities.

According to reporting by the Associated Press, as of Wednesday morning, at least 166 people are dead across the southeast, North Carolina leading the death toll.

Buncombe County alone, home to Asheville, has reported at least 57 dead already. Tragically, the death toll is expected to rise significantly in WNC, where many communities are still cut off from the outside world, and hundreds of loved ones are missing.

According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, as of Monday morning, there were still hundreds of road closures across the western part of the state, with I-40 still impassable in multiple locations and I-26 closed at the Tennessee state line.

While eastern North Carolina is fortunate to have missed the devastation, the Onslow County and surrounding community knows all too well what its neighbors out west are going through. Not to mention, many, if not most, of ENC residents call the N.C. mountains their second home.

Immediately, as reports of the devastation began to come in over the weekend and throughout the week, ENC businesses, agencies, organizations, and good Samaritans jumped into action.

Many are working diligently throughout this week to collect and deliver supplies to WNC. Here's a list of ways to get involved and places to donate for those looking to do something to help.

Operation Resilience

New River Harley-Davidson has partnered with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office to hold a ride to gather relief for those affected in WNC this Saturday, Oct. 5.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. at 2394 Wilmington Highway in Jacksonville, with the ride kicking-off at noon. There will be a truck ready to be stuffed with essential supplies, local food trucks, and a 50/50 raffle.

All vehicles are welcome to join the ride.

Town of Swansboro

The town of Swansboro is accepting donations at both Swansboro Town Hall and the Swansboro Public Safety Building Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Items needed include non-perishable foods, pet food and supplies, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and baby supplies.

Keep in mind, no monetary or gift card donations will be accepted, and the town is also not accepting water or clothing at this time.

Town of Holly Ridge

The town of Holly Ridge is holding a disaster relief donation drive throughout this week. Those who would like to contribute can visit Holly Ridge Town Hall at 212 North Dyson Street any day this week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The town has also extended donation hours to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Keep in mind, no monetary or gift card donations will be accepted.

Onslow County Public Library

The Onslow County Public Library, which resource shares with many WNC libraries, will have donation boxes set up at all four branches until close of business on Wednesday.

Specifically, needed items include personal hygiene products, water, non-perishable foods, baby formula, diapers, pet food, and clothing of all sizes.

Onslow County Sheriff's Office

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office is collecting supplies this week to fill up vehicles that will be driven to the hardest-hit counties.

Items most needed include nonperishable foods, water, hygiene products, baby supplies, clothing for all ages, and household goods. Keep in mind, no monetary donations will be accepted.

A truck and trailer will be in the OCSO parking lot for donations on Thursday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Once the vehicles are full, the supplies will be driven to WNC.

Donations will be accepted through Oct. 9.

Type One Kids

Onslow County nonprofit Type One Kids is seeking donations of diabetic supplies to assemble kits, including unopened lancets, test strips, alcohol wipes, glucometers, and sharps containers.

Those who would like to donate should send a private message to Type One Kids on Facebook to coordinate pick-up or drop-off.

Sylvan Learning Center of Jacksonville

Sylvan Learning Center of Jacksonville will be collecting donations over the next few weeks to be sent to WNC. A donation box is located in their lobby at 3000 Henderson Drive.

From Shore to Summit

The Grazing Tray, located at 1105 Gum Branch Road in Jacksonville, has teamed up with John Starz Electric, Inc. to fill several box trucks in a project they're calling "From Shore to Summit."

Donations can be dropped off at The Grazing Tray through this week, and owner Samantha Prevatte has already left with one truck to serve some of the smaller WNC communities. Once she returns, the plan is to fill the truck again and again, as many times as needed.

Specifically, needed items include tarps, trash bags, towels, blankets, boxes, portable changing tents, buckets, disposable gloves, hairbrushes, and energy drinks for first responders.

City Harvest Church Richlands

City Harvest Church, located at 111 Kinston Highway in Richlands, is collecting donations of non-perishable foods, water, toiletries, baby formula, diapers, wipes, paper towels, first aid kits, blankets, cleaning supplies, and sleeping bags.

Anyone with questions should contact LaWanna Keller at 828-387-0085 or Bobby Keller at 828-387-0306.

JPR Pet Food Pantry

JPR Pet Food Pantry, located at 1009 Onsville Drive, Suite A, in Jacksonville, is collecting pet supplies to send to WNC. The pantry is open Sunday-Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Specifically, needed items include livestock feed, pet food, cat traps, litter and litter boxes, puppy pads, medicines, medical supplies, carriers, hay/straw, and of course, cash.

To arrange an alternate donation time or location, call 910-376-0791.

Humphrey Farm

Humphrey Farm, located at 522 W. Willis Landing Road in Hubert, will have a collection center running this Sunday, Oct. 6, from noon to 4 p.m.

The farm is seeking businesses for drop-off points, volunteers to help load, and vehicles to help haul. For more information or to offer assistance, contact Humphrey Farm on Facebook or by texting 910-548-4669.

Donations needed include sports drinks (powdered packets), hydration packs (powdered), baby wipes, diapers, formula, bug spray, sunscreen, plastic utensils, manual can openers, trash bags, non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, tarps, toiletries, pet food, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, heavy-duty work gloves, and socks.

There is also a Venmo account open for those who would like to make a monetary donation that will in turn go to WNC. That Venmo is @HumphreyFarm.

Hog Wild at Howard Farms

Hog Wild at Howard Farms, located at 165 Rhodestown Road in Jacksonville, has donation boxes set-up at the gate.

Those who would like to donate are encouraged to drop-off essential supplies like non-perishable foods, bottled water, cleaning products, first aid kits, flashlights, batteries, and warm clothes.

Hog Wild will be offering a discount on admission to anyone who donates.

Popshelf

Popshelf, located at 552 Yopp Road in Jacksonville, is accepting donations that will go to Operation Airdrop, a Texas based 501©3 nonprofit that organizes general aviation assets in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Those who would like to participate can simply drop items off or purchase them directly from the store.

Paws 4 Purpose

Sneads Ferry nonprofit Paws 4 Purpose has partnered with UMortgage Carolinas and Just Move It Moving and Storage to collect supplies for WNC that the organization plans to haul a moving truck full of.

Donations can be dropped off daily at Adoption First Animal Rescue in Jacksonville, or Pet Supplies Plus in Surf City. There is also a GoFundMe for those who'd like to make a monetary donation in the nonprofit's Facebook bio.

Paws of War

Paws of War Eastern North Carolina is asking for support for the Paws of War New York disaster recovery team that is currently on-site in WNC. A GoFundMe has been made available and can be found on the nonprofit's Facebook page.

The funds raised are being used to help the team continue to provide water, gasoline, cattle feed, and pet food to those in need in WNC.

Texas Roadhouse

On Monday, Oct. 7, Texas Roadhouse locations across North Carolina, including Jacksonville's, will donate 100% of proceeds to 828 Strong to help those in WNC.

Are you collecting donations, headed to WNC, or have another way to help? Reach out to reporter Morgan Starling at mstarling@jdnews.com so it can be added to the list. You can also donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund at nc.gov/donate.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Morgan Starling The Daily News, 'Onslow County community collecting supplies for WNC after Hurricane Helene. Here's how to help.', *Daily News, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFB4998AFB7A8>



Harnett responds to hellacious Helene

September 30, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: Emily Weaver | Section: News | 1012 Words OpenURL Link

Harnett County residents are gathering supplies, sending manpower and raising money to help their neighbors in Western North Carolina after a devastating tropical storm left thousands without power, roads and the ability to call for help.

Harnett County's Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Dawson and Deputy Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw rushed to the mountains as torrential rain started to fall on the area more than a day before Tropical Storm Helene arrived. Emergency Management Coordinator Zach Shean responded, too, but had to wait on air transport to get there after the storm shut down hundreds of roads.

"A strong incident management team arrived in Asheville, NC this afternoon to support the great efforts of this community," Shean posted on Facebook Sunday night. "We have a 6 person team from Harnett County EM (Emergency Management), Chatham County EM, Forsyth County EM, Wilson County EM, City of Burlington EM, City of Thomasville EM. There is absolutely NO water in their future for a couple weeks, Verizon cellular (signal) does not exist, other carriers in question as well, power is out for over 3/4 of their city and internet is almost nonexistent. Keep all of western NC in your thoughts and PRAYERS!!!"

Dawson, Kinlaw and Shean were still there on Monday. Dawson was helping in Haywood County. Kinlaw was helping in Jackson County. Shean was in Buncombe.

"We sent a three-person EMS team out on Friday" to Western North Carolina, said Harnett County Community Relations Director and Public Information Officer Desiree Patrick. "They are in Jamesville and are still there."

The Harnett County Sheriff's Office started providing emergency support right away.

"... Our 911 telecommunicators in Harnett County are providing backup services to Rutherford County, handling overflow 911 calls as Hurricane Helene progresses," Sheriff Wayne Coats said in an early morning Facebook post Friday. "Our telecommunicators are truly the unsung heroes of public safety as they are often the first point of contact for most emergencies."

The Harnett County Communications Center also answered overflow emergency calls for Swain, Henderson and Polk counties as the storm raged onward.

"At this time, nine deputies and three telecommunicators" are physically deployed to the western area of North Carolina, Maj. Aaron Meredith of the Harnett County Sheriff's Office said on Monday.

Officers of the Erwin Police Department started collecting supplies for Western North Carolina Monday afternoon after Dunn's EviroBee delivered a 26-foot box truck for them to use in relief efforts.

They "told us we could use it to fill it up," said Erwin Police Chief Jonathan Johnson.

The "reliable cleanup company" on Red Hill Church Road is known for providing solutions to commercial and industrial waste, but it was focused on another solution Monday — saving WNC. EnviroBee pledged the truck and pallets of water to aid in local rescue efforts.

"I'm telling you, it's awesome," Johnson said.

Dunn Police Department is also serving as a drop-off point for "anyone wishing to donate supplies for the victims of the devastating storm that passed through the western part of our state," officials noted in a Facebook post Sunday. "Hodges Chapel will be arranging delivery of the supplies throughout this relief effort."

Summerville Bunnlevel Fire & Rescue is partnering with the Little River Baptist Association to collect items for Western North Carolina. Starting Tuesday, the department's No. 2 station at 6825 U.S. Highway 401 South will be accepting items from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and at other times by appointment through Summerville Bunnlevel Fire Chief Brian Heath at 919-793-7516.

Roger Farina and Carolina Lakes Lakeside Realty set up a collection point at the Carolina Lakes Golf Course to start accepting donations at 10 a.m. Tuesday. A Miracle Movers of the Sandhills truck will be stationed at the golf course at 53 Carolina Lakes Road in the Sanford part of Harnett County between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to collect donations until the truck is full.

N.C. House Rep. Howard Penny said he and his family are praying for the people of Western North Carolina.

"Speaker Tim Moore and Senior Agriculture Chairman Jimmy Dixon in the House of Representatives keep us up to speed on the situation," he said. "There is limited communication with my colleagues in the mountains so like everyone else, we are praying ..."

Communication remained limited for thousands in the mountains on Monday, but the poor cellphone signals didn't stifle the growing cry for help.

Pastor Josh Brown of Restoration Church in Willow Spring and a chaplain with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, assembled a donation drive after hearing from countless needs in the mountains from his contacts across the state.

He joined others at Crossing All Borders Ministry, at 1446 James Norris Road in Angier, to start loading supplies for Helene relief late Monday afternoon. Ministry members planned to continue collecting donations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday.

They are set to head west at 9 a.m. Wednesday and were calling on volunteers, willing to help and sleep in a sleeping bag, to go with them.

"If you have supplies and you want to get them places, I know where they need to go so contact me," Brown said in a Facebook Live video Monday morning. "I've already had several contacts this morning with people saying 'We need this here.' We're going to start in Mills River. Wednesday, we'll head that way."

Brown said he hopes to find a good route from there to Avery, Yancey and Madison counties to help the people in towns that may be overlooked.

"We've got plenty of trailers to load this stuff on and we're going to be getting it where it needs to go," he said.

More than a million were left without power and thousands were stranded in homes, damaged by storms, with no clean water or communications with the outside world when Helene stomped through. The rain started two days before the storm's arrival, priming the ground with a deluge of stormwater before Helene slammed through with more downpours.

Roads in Western NC were still deemed "closed" to all non-emergency travel on Monday, according to a post on X, formerly Twitter, from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Robert Jordan contributed to this report.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Emily Weaver, 'Harnett responds to hellacious Helene', *Daily Record, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFCC7A2514B28



Be a smart giver in the wake of Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: News | 315 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH – As rescue and relief efforts continue in the western part of the state, North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall is reminding North Carolinians to do their research and give wisely to make sure their generosity is getting to those in need.

"We've all seen heartbreaking scenes of devastation and loss in Western North Carolina. In the face of such immense suffering we all want to reach out and help, but please remember that while natural disasters can bring out the best in many people, they can also bring out the worst — including scam artists. So I encourage everyone to look for organizations that have resources on the ground and an established track record of helping people," Marshall said on Monday.

A few tips for smart giving:

Be wary of high pressure solicitations on social media or via emails or texts.

Give to established charities with resources on the ground to help the affected regions.

Watch out for groups mimicking the names of established, respected charities.

If you get an unsolicited call, text or email from an organization, research that organization yourself online instead of just clicking on links the organization provides.

Also make your donations directly on the charity's official website rather than clicking on a link in a text or email.

Never give your credit card or bank account information over the phone or email.

Visit the Secretary of State's Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division online at http://www.sosnc.gov/CSL/ to research charities registered with the Secretary of State's Office, and download the Secretary of State's Smart Donor Checklist for a handy list of suggested questions you should ask any charity that solicits you for contributions.

If you believe you have been contacted by a scam charity, report it to the Secretary of State's Office at 1-888-830-4989, or call your local authorities. For the latest on Hurricane Helene resources and to donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund visit www.ncdps.gov.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

For the Record, 'Be a smart giver in the wake of Hurricane Helene', *Daily Record, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFCC796934430



Governor urges people to donate to NC Disaster Relief

September 30, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Across Carolina | 366 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Governor Roy Cooper is encouraging donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund to help communities recover from catastrophic damage caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

"There is a massive effort underway to get help to the people of Western North Carolina including state and federal relief but we know there will be additional needs," Governor Roy Cooper said. "If you're able to give, please consider a donation to help North Carolinians as they clean up and recover from Helene."

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.

Donations can also be mailed 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.

Donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

United Way of North Carolina is the fiscal agent for the Fund and will provide grants and reimbursement to nonprofits working in impacted communities.

"United Way of North Carolina is proud to partner with the Governor's Office to manage the NC Disaster Relief Fund. We recognize the critical importance of delivering resources to communities for effective relief efforts. Together with the Governor's Office, we are committed to ensuring that communities in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene receive the support they need. This unprecedented situation calls for collective action to provide both immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance," said Brittany Pruitt Fletcher, President and CEO of United Way of North Carolina.

Eligible non-profits can seek grants and reimbursement of up to \$10,000 from the NC Disaster Relief Fund for efforts to meet immediate storm recovery needs via the United Way of North Carolina at https://www.unitedwaync.org/nc-disaster-relief-fund-helene.

If sufficient donations are collected to support long term recovery work, the North Carolina Community Foundation's affiliate foundations and statewide grants committee will work to ensure that all remaining donations are distributed to nonprofits that can best serve unmet needs in affected communities.

Donations to the NC Disaster Relief Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Governor urges people to donate to NC Disaster Relief', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC4A0D7ABB910