

# THE NEWS HERALD

Friday, September 27, 2024

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## HELENE IMPACT



SARAH C. JOHNSON, HICKORY DAILY RECORD

A gate at the Duke Energy dam on Lake Hickory was open Thursday morning.

## Schools remote Friday, western NC counties in state of emergency

**BILLY CHAPMAN**  
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The mountains in Burke, Caldwell and McDowell counties are expected to receive an additional six to eight inches of rain in the next 24 hours as Hurricane Helene moves through the area.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Clay Chaney said three to five inches of additional rain are expected in other areas of Caldwell and Burke counties as well as Catawba County. Iredell County is expected to receive two to four inches of rain.

Chaney said sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph will arrive in the area around sunset

and continue overnight. Winds may gust up to 50 to 60 mph.

Additional rain on the already saturated ground and winds will lead to the likelihood of falling trees and power outages.

“What we’re most concerned about is if it works out that there’s 10 to 15 inches of rain over the mountains, then that brings the possibility of landslides, sides of mountains sliding down into the valley,” National Weather Service Meteorologist Doug Outlaw said Wednesday.

Heavy rains in McDowell County Wednesday night prompted 60 calls for service and five rescues.

Tornadoes are a possibility from the storm, but Chaney said they are not the main threat. He said “a couple of tornadoes” are expected for the area.

Chaney said most of the rain and wind is expected to move out of the area by around noon Friday.

Duke Energy is expecting Lake James and Lookout Shoals Lake to reach 110 feet by Friday afternoon, which is 10 feet above the maximum level for both lakes. Ben Williamson, a Duke Energy spokesperson, said citizens living around the lake should

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JACQUELYN MARTIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris speaks Wednesday at a campaign event at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

## Poll: More Americans see Harris’ gender as hurdle

Voters’ thoughts on female presidential candidate shift since Clinton’s run in 2016

**MICHELLE L. PRICE AND LINLEY SANDERS**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are more likely to believe that being a woman will hurt Kamala Harris’ chances in the November election, compared with eight years ago when Hillary Clinton ran. They are also more likely to believe that Donald Trump’s gender will help him.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

### By the numbers

The poll of 2,028 adults was conducted Sept. 12-16 using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

indicates a shift in attitudes among U.S. adults in the time between the candidacies of the first and second female major-party nominees.

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