

NCSO helps with Hurricane Helene relief efforts

October 22, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: The Herald Staff Reports | Section: Local | 172 Words OpenURL Link

On Oct. 12, the Northampton County Sheriff's Office sent deputies to Western North Carolina to Mitchell County to help with Hurricane Helene relief efforts after receiving a request for additional assistance on Oct. 11.

According to a press release, Deputy D. Rowe, Deputy K. Cogdill, Deputy D. Williams and Deputy J. Hoggard were sent to assist with relief efforts in this region for approximately five days.

The sheriff's office previously sent Capt. M. Bishop and Sgt. A. Eaton to assist with relief efforts in Buncombe County Oct. 9-13. Also previously sent was Sgt. W. Brown to Avery County Sept. 29 through Oct. 5; Sgt. Brown also assisted in Avery County from Oct. 7-14.

"We at Northampton County Sheriff's Office will do everything we can to give assistance to all those impacted areas in the Western North Carolina counties," said Sheriff Jack Smith. "We will continue to send personnel to these areas to help alleviate and swiftly assist with the efforts of searches, rescue and aid of all those affected by this tragic hurricane event."

Copyright © 2024 Daily Herald. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

The Herald Staff Reports, 'NCSO helps with Hurricane Helene relief efforts', *Daily Herald* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C60386F5973530



Exploring the Whatnots: Ethos, pathos, logo, truth

October 22, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: Richard Holm rholm@rrdailyherald.com | Section: News | 903 Words OpenURL Link

Trust is given with the hope that those we lend it to will not abuse it.

I remember back in my 11th-grade writing class when our teacher constantly told us not to write or say "I believe," which perplexed me as a youngling, as I was under the impression that a statement was, in a way, true. I did not understand how one could say something without saying you believed it. That is when I learned that truth cannot be bound to a belief and that factual information requires a great deal of study rather than being taken at face value for truth.

Human beings rely on information through a social network. Whether it be word of mouth, a publication or witnessing an event, the information can be a fraction of the context at hand that requires much more study.

Aristotle, a Greek philosopher in the 4th century B.C. and one of my favorite thinkers, came up with three concepts of rhetoric — ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos involves the effort to convince your audience that you have credibility and character that reinforces and persuades them that what you are saying is factual.

Pathos relies on persuading your audience to accept something and act upon it through emotion that they can resonate with personally.

Logos involves convincing your audience with logic and reason by means of data, forms of evidence and other relative information to form a perspective by said facts.

All this said, the modern world's information moves and circulates at such a fast pace that the methods of rhetoric often become misused as truth can be buried with complicated perspectives and a lack of awareness. Many tend to have knee-jerk emotional responses to what we see, hear and read on the news, on social media and what dignitaries say. How can anyone think for themselves and study to verify the information with the influx of endless data?

We often hear advice from those in supposed credible positions to give us sound and truthful statements. I recall a recent post shared by a friend on social media from a meteorologist who addressed the cloud-seeding and conspiracy theories surrounding mankind manipulating weather in the wake of Hurricane Helene that devastated areas in the South, including western North Carolina. The meteorologist expressed an emotional response and emphasized the need to verify, and then proceeded to say that if it sounded crazy, then it probably was.

This meteorologist shared a quote from Phil Klotzbach, a Colorado State University hurricane researcher, who said in a PBS article on Oct. 8 that hurricanes generate an "insane" amount of energy and that "It's the height of human arrogance to think people have the power to change them."

Here, we have a meteorologist who relied on ethos and pathos to relay information through someone utilizing ethos.

The coupling of the two can cause a distrust of the information, as the pathos does not pair well with facts.

The initial premise was that cloud seeding and other geoengineering could not manipulate a hurricane, which may be true, but that does not negate that such practices could augment other elements. We know that warm ocean

waters generate hurricanes and that thunderstorms fuel them, but also that remnants of such hurricanes over land can cause tornadoes and continued rainfall.

Cloud seeding has been around for decades since it was invented in 1946.

According to an article by the American Meteorological Society on Nov. 2, 2010, cloud seeding has undergone numerous experiments and trials, most of which have been used in the southwestern parts of North America to lessen the impact of droughts.

The information indicates that there is uncertainty about whether cloud seeding has any impact on complex systems compared to smaller-scale operations. However, AMS cautions the use of cloud seeding.

"Unintended consequences of cloud seeding, such as changes in precipitation or other environmental impacts downwind of a target area have not been clearly demonstrated, but neither can they be ruled out," the information from AMS reads. "In addition, cloud seeding materials may not be always successfully targeted and may cause their intended effects in an area different than the desired target area. This brings us to the ethical concern that activities conducted for the benefit of some may have an undesirable impact on others.

At times, unintended effects may cross political boundaries. Weather modification programs should be designed to minimize negative impacts. International cooperation may be needed in some regions."

While the article indicates that the AMS statement is no longer "in force" at the time, there does not seem to be any rebuttal — which may take time to find. Nevertheless, the point is that information should be presented with a balanced point of view. To be fair, there have been many hurricanes in the past where a cloud-seeding conspiracy was not pointed out as the cause, but we also do not know where the recent conspiracy for Hurricane Helene originated.

Accurate information is difficult to come by, and even so-called experts can be ignorant of the facts. It is appropriate to challenge such notions with questions, but it is also necessary to practice quelling or halting belief for the sake of discourse. Questioning is an instinct we all have, but to do so respectfully takes discipline.

By doing so, we learn and grow, whether our preconceived notion is accurate or not, so long as it reflects reality, which in turn reestablishes trust — even if it is just a drop of it. In any case, truth requires studying.

Copyright © 2024 Daily Herald. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Richard Holm rholm@rrdailyherald.com, 'Exploring the Whatnots: Ethos, pathos, logo, truth', *Daily Herald* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C603870BCA8248



Helene: Still 26 unaccounted for, 96 fatalities in North Carolina

October 22, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square| Section: News| 222 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Twenty-six remain unaccounted for and 96 are confirmed dead from Hurricane Helene's impact in North Carolina.

The numbers come from Gov. Roy Cooper and the state Department of Health and Human Services, respectively. This is the fourth week of recovery from the storm that arrived in Florida on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 hurricane, then dissipated over the mountains and Tennessee.

The state's 96 fatalities include 42 in Buncombe County, 11 in Yancey, seven in Henderson and five in Haywood.

Some areas are still getting supplies and moving about by horseback. Tuesday morning at 10, the state road closures report at DriveNC.org listed 470 – 398 secondary roads, 39 state roads, 31 federal highways and two on interstates. A release from the governor said 789 closures have been reopened.

The state Department of Transportation, a release says, has about 2,000 personnel and 900 pieces of equipment involved in the recovery process. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration approved \$100 million to North Carolina on Oct. 5; state Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger told The Carolina Journal it helps but "is just a drop in the bucket" of what is needed.

Seven school districts have yet to reopen; 28 have opened.

According to PowerOutage.us, 2,841 were without power in Yancey County on Tuesday morning and 568 in neighboring Mitchell County.

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Alan Wooten | The Center Square, 'Helene: Still 26 unaccounted for, 96 fatalities in North Carolina', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C64024F62EED08



Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers

October 22, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat | Section: Across Carolina | 814 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — After driving eight hours leading a convoy of more than 50 tractor-trailers of hay to Watauga County, it didn't take Kelton Keller but a minute to hop from his truck and begin unloading the hay for local farmers recovering from Hurricane Helene.

The convoy set off from Keller Farms near Litchfield, Ohio, at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, before finally arriving in Watauga County around 2:30 p.m. According to Alyssa Keller, wife of Kelton Keller, the immense support from Ohio farmers started with a simple social media post.

"Last time something like this happened, there were some fires out in Colorado. He and a buddy loaded up some trucks and trailers and took some hay out there. When this happened here, he said let's try it again but make a Facebook post and see who would be interested in helping, and it exploded," Alyssa Keller said.

In about a week, the post had garnered the support of farmers across Ohio. While some included friends and family members of the Kellers, the vast majority were strangers who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could.

In addition to square bales, round bales and small bales, the donations that flowed in for the ag community on Tuesday also included feed for horses, chickens, goats and other farm animals, and dry goods, tarps, baby supplies, posts and barbed wire fencing, and dozens upon dozens of donated goods.

"It's a significant amount, and we hope it helps a lot of people," Keller said.

Keller said they first heard about the first-hand effects of Hurricane Helene from a family friend who was from the Boone area. A couple of phone calls later, they were able to contact Wine to Water and other community members.

She added that helping one's fellow neighbors is simply a matter of putting oneself in another person's shoes after seeing everything they've worked for suddenly vanish.

"There was a dairy farm in southern Ohio where their milk parlor caught fire," Keller said. "So my husband was part of a bunch of people who were able to haul out close to 1,500 milk cows that needed to be dispersed to different farms throughout Ohio and West Virginia. In the agriculture community, if someone needs something, they're going. They don't want anything back. They just want to help."

Watauga Extension Director Jim Hamilton estimated that the donated hay will last many livestock farmers through the month of December. Fortunately, work continues to ensure farmers do not go without. Nevertheless, Hamilton said the ongoing effort remains significant.

"We were looking for locations to store hay. We had hay coming in from different sources across the state. When we first heard this was coming in, we heard 25 trucks, then 40, then it got over 50. That's when logistical planning had to come into play," Hamilton said.

The ag extension began providing hay distribution to local farmers on Thursday, Oct. 17. The distributions, affectionately known as "Hay Days," are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. Farmers must call ahead of time to make reservations to pick up.

On Thursday, Hamilton said 30 to 40 local farmers showed up to pick up the hay delivered from Ohio and expects most of it will be claimed within the next week or so. He described the efforts thus far as a "good start."

"It was an enormous response from the ag community across the state and really from east of the Mississippi. There are also other warehouse spaces in western NC where hay will continue to be brought to, and we will coordinate with those larger places when the need arises," Hamilton said. "We've been blessed with an enormous outpouring of support from other farmers who recognize how dire the situation is."

Kendra Phipps, livestock agent with the Watauga County Agricultural Extension, said the immediate needs for livestock producers in the county after the hurricane hit were fencing and containing animals. She added that hay will continue to be a priority as winter sets in.

"Hay is going to be a need, probably through February and maybe even into March. There are people that have lost 300 to 500 bails of hay. Everything they were going to feed their cattle with this winter is gone," Phipps said.

As work continues to keep livestock farmers supplied throughout the winter, Phipps said recovery will be a long, sustained effort.

"These donations are coming from farmers across the country and across the state. They're not pity donations. They're agricultural community donations — farmers helping farmers. And I truly believe in my heart that if something like this happened anywhere else, we would be the ones helping. I know it's true because during the wildfires in Texas, we sent hay from North Carolina to Texas. That's just what we do. We help each other," Phipps said.

Call the Watauga County ag center's hay hotline at (828) 319-2543 to make a reservation to pick up hay. Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat, 'Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C64024C8C2F350



Tom Campbell: Be prepared for misinformation, violence this election season

October 22, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 799 Words OpenURL Link

The County Compass is a tabloid-sized weekly publication distributed free to Pamlico, Beaufort, Craven, Jones and Carteret Counties. It claims to offer "360 degrees of thorough and honest news coverage — furnished FREE to thousands of loyal readers every week." The truth is that it is about 90 percent ads and any editorial content is so far to the right as to make Attila the Hun look liberal.

The issue for Sept. 12-16 caught our attention. On page 15 and bleeding over to page 16 is a big article for the 2nd Amendment Patriots of North Carolina. We assume it was a paid ad, however it is not identified as such.

There is a slug in a box within the message showing the County Compass logo. The group further identifies itself with the Pamlico County GOP and the ad was published within the Pamlico GOP website.

In a big bold box heading the ad is the slogan, "If you want peace, prepare for war."

The message attempts to connect the modern-day group to colonial militiamen, reminding readers that men between 16 and 60 were required to train regularly. It urges gun owners to stock up on ammo, get to the range and practice, claiming that protecting freedom is their job today.

Unwritten, but implied, is the message that if this election doesn't turn out right, with Trump winning, there will be violence and bloodshed.

In 2023, the Southern Poverty Law Center identified 50 hate and anti-government groups in our state. Twelve have a statewide footprint. But there is only one legal militia in North Carolina: the North Carolina National Guard.

"Be prepared" appears to be a common theme of these groups. All North Carolinians would be well advised to heed this warning.

The misinformation campaign since Hurricane Helene struck our state has grown to such proportions that federal officials have joined Governor Cooper and leaders from both political parties in warning people not to listen to the lies. Trump has been the genesis of many of the lies about disaster response. Marjorie Taylor Greene is posting garbage saying the National Weather Service and meteorologists can control the weather. Because of malicious and fallacious social media posts, federal officials who are trying to help have received threats in at least two counties.

Already we see attempts trying to discredit and disrupt our elections. The state GOP filed a lawsuit trying to get 225,000 registered voters thrown off the rolls. Another lawsuit from them claims the state is not canceling the voting registration of persons who refuse to serve on a jury because they aren't a citizen. The State Board of Elections vehemently denies this claim. Republicans are challenging absentee ballots that aren't sealed in the proper envelope (there are two envelopes enclosed with the ballot). They are also challenging ballots of overseas voters born in our state but who aren't living in our state. And the most preposterous of their claims is that Helene was merely an attempt to steal the election.

Some of the polling places in the western part of the state no longer exist and the State Board of Elections is doing all they can to ensure western voters are able to cast their ballots. It could only benefit Republicans if they helped instead of trying to disrupt. A close look at voting trends shows these western counties are almost solid red Republican.

And we need to be prepared for interference in polling places.

We're told outcomes might be learned later than Election Night this year to assure votes are accurately reported. It might take a week before the final presidential outcome is known. Our State Board of Elections has implemented rigorous procedures to ensure votes are recorded and tallied accurately, however they are also preparing for a barrage of expected challenges.

Donald Trump has intimated that if he doesn't win there might be bedlam. In an April Time magazine article, Trump, when asked about possible violence, said, "If we don't win, you know, it depends." In another interview he said, "If everything's honest, I'll gladly accept the results. If it's not, you have to fight for the right of the country."

Trump has never thought any election he was involved in was honest. He's never accepted the results. Not with Hilary Clinton. Not with Joe Biden. And he won't with Kamala Harris. He is still claiming the 2020 contest was rigged.

Are we so gullible, so partisan and mistrustful, that truth no longer matters? Can we not understand that these deliberate misinformation campaigns are designed to cause us to lose faith in all institutions? What happens when we no longer trust anyone?

Is it too late to stand up for the values that we once held dear? I cannot believe that lies and misinformation, that authoritarians who divide us and that fairness and justice no longer matter.

What has happened to us?

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Tom Campbell: Be prepared for misinformation, violence this election season', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E7041544A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E704154A808>https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&document-view?p=AMNEWS&document-view?p=AMNEWS&document-view?p=AMNEWS&document-



New poll gives Dems slight lead in NC

October 22, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Elyse Apel The Center Square | Section: State | 402 Words OpenURL Link

With two weeks until Election Day, a new poll found that Vice President Kamala Harris is leading former President Donald Trump by 1% in North Carolina.

In the latest High Point University Poll, Harris received 47% of the vote while Donald Trump got 46%.

The poll was conducted from Thursday through Sunday and surveyed 1,164 registered voters.

Harris wasn't the only Democrat leading in the poll.

In the heated race for governor, the poll found that Democrat Josh Stein received 50% while Republican Mark Robinson got 34%.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, 2% more voters said they planned to vote for the Democratic candidate in their congressional district over the Republican candidate.

This poll shows that North Carolina still firmly holds its position as one of seven consensus battleground states, with Trump leading Project 538's polling average by 1%.

Two other polls from the last week have Harris leading by either 1% or 2%, which is well within the margin of error.

North Carolina has been the focus of both campaigns over the last few months, with Trump appearing Monday on a campaign visit to Greenville and in the mountains to check on Hurricane Helene devastation.

Republicans remain confident of their chances, even as Democrats vie to win the state for the first time since Barack Obama won it in 2008 and only the second time since 1964.

Trump has been steadily increasing his polling lead in the last few weeks. He also outperformed the polls here both four and eight years ago, winning the state twice.

For example, in 2020, Biden was polling 1.8% ahead of Trump going into Election Day and lost by 1.3%. The Democrat never trailed in the final months, and was 1.2% ahead at this same time.

The High Point University Poll found that the majority (60%) of those polled believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Nearly that many also stated they disapprove of President Joe Biden's job as president.

Interestingly enough, some voters do not seem to think of Biden and Harris as the same administration. While 57% said they disapprove of Biden, only 48% said they disapprove of Harris' job.

While it is unclear who it will benefit, early in-person voting has been very high in North Carolina since first beginning last week. Absentee by mail ballots went out in September.

So far, nearly 20% of all registered voters in the state have already cast their ballots. Republicans have turned in ballots at record percentages.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Elyse Apel The Center Square, 'New poll gives Dems slight lead in NC', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C64024FAAE6A48



Stein, allies seek student votes at ECU rally

October 22, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Pat Gruner | Section: Local | 778 Words OpenURL Link

The Democrat seeking North Carolina's governorship courted the youth vote in Pitt County on Monday where he also addressed his abortion stance and swiped back at recent attacks by his Republican opponent.

Attorney General Josh Stein's comments came during a "Students for Stein" event at the Willis Building on First Street, where he was joined by U.S. Rep. Jeff Jackson and Michael Regan, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jackson, who represents North Carolina's 14th Congressional District, is running to replace Stein as attorney general against U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop.

ECU's College Democrats helped organize the event. Thomas Remington, the group's president, said that more than 300,000 students statewide have not voted — four times the 75,000 votes by which President Joe Biden lost the state in 2020.

"We are going to make the difference in the election, and I think having Vice President Harris here a little bit ago and now having Attorney General Stein and future attorney general Jackson out here, it just shows how important students are," Remington said.

ECU student Melina D'Rozario said she is likely to vote for Democrats in this year's election. She feels it is up to her generation to be politically active and to forge their own future.

"If you're not advocating action to back up what you're saying, then there's no point in saying anything," D'Rozario said.

Early voting in North Carolina, which began Oct. 17 and runs through Nov. 2, has already seen record turnouts locally and statewide. Stein said he has visited and will continue to visit colleges to drum up support.

"Young people, that's what this election is about," Stein told reporters. "It's about the future. It's about whether we'll have good public schools. Whether we'll have an economy where they can earn good salaries. Whether they have the right to make their own health care decisions."

While plugging his vision for a better state, including strong public safety and better teacher pay, he was adamant about women's access to abortion.

"As your next governor, I will veto any further restrictions on women's reproductive freedoms," Stein said to cheers and applause from the audience.

He vowed to work with local legislators who agree with him on the issue of abortion. Ahead of Election Day on Nov. 5, Republicans in North Carolina's House of Representatives have a slim veto-proof majority. Regan told supporters that part of standing with Stein and Vice President Kamala Harris will include electing Democrats at all levels to break the majority.

Stein also called on residents across the state to stand with areas of western North Carolina as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Helene, which he said could take years in some communities.

Jackson called the mountains' recovery a major entry on the state's regional "to-do lists." He said that in eastern North Carolina and statewide, the jobs include addressing the fentanyl crisis and protecting voting rights. He said he will take on those jobs if elected.

During a visit to Ayden last week, Republican candidate for governor Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson criticized Stein's decision to sue the social media platform TikTok while the fentanyl problem looms. Stein told reporters that he led the national bipartisan coalition that took on opioid makers and that he has worked with the N.C. General Assembly and local law enforcement to address fentanyl trafficking.

Stein added that the lawsuit against TikTok and another prior suit against Instagram came about because the companies are "addicting young people" to their social media platforms and causing mental health damage. He said that as attorney general he has fought for the public while Robinson "just fights these job-killing culture wars."

"It is actually possible to walk and chew gum at the same time," Stein said.

During his remarks to supporters, Stein labeled Robinson as "despicable" in reference to a September CNN report that said the lieutenant governor made lewd and antisemitic remarks on a pornographic website.

On Oct. 14 in Ayden, Robinson called the report "garbage." He announced a lawsuit against the media company the following day. Stein said voters already understood that Robinson is "unfit" to be governor before the CNN report.

Stein, Jackson and Regan's visit coincided with former president Donald Trump's stump at Minges Coliseum. A spokeswoman for Stein's campaign said the two events were unrelated.

Harris also delivered an address at Minges on Oct. 13 and former president Bill Clinton spoke to voters in Greenville on Saturday. Remington said that interest in the region is telling.

"The east is a beast not to be messed with," Remington said. "It's important that candidates come out here because the people of the east remember. They remember who came to them. They remember who didn't just ask for their vote but who tried to earn it."

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Pat Gruner, 'Stein, allies seek student votes at ECU rally', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C619739E3984B0



Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers

October 22, 2024 | Enterprise, The (Martin County, NC) Author: Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat | Section: Across Carolina | 814 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — After driving eight hours leading a convoy of more than 50 tractor-trailers of hay to Watauga County, it didn't take Kelton Keller but a minute to hop from his truck and begin unloading the hay for local farmers recovering from Hurricane Helene.

The convoy set off from Keller Farms near Litchfield, Ohio, at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, before finally arriving in Watauga County around 2:30 p.m. According to Alyssa Keller, wife of Kelton Keller, the immense support from Ohio farmers started with a simple social media post.

"Last time something like this happened, there were some fires out in Colorado. He and a buddy loaded up some trucks and trailers and took some hay out there. When this happened here, he said let's try it again but make a Facebook post and see who would be interested in helping, and it exploded," Alyssa Keller said.

In about a week, the post had garnered the support of farmers across Ohio. While some included friends and family members of the Kellers, the vast majority were strangers who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could.

In addition to square bales, round bales and small bales, the donations that flowed in for the ag community on Tuesday also included feed for horses, chickens, goats and other farm animals, and dry goods, tarps, baby supplies, posts and barbed wire fencing, and dozens upon dozens of donated goods.

"It's a significant amount, and we hope it helps a lot of people," Keller said.

Keller said they first heard about the first-hand effects of Hurricane Helene from a family friend who was from the Boone area. A couple of phone calls later, they were able to contact Wine to Water and other community members.

She added that helping one's fellow neighbors is simply a matter of putting oneself in another person's shoes after seeing everything they've worked for suddenly vanish.

"There was a dairy farm in southern Ohio where their milk parlor caught fire," Keller said. "So my husband was part of a bunch of people who were able to haul out close to 1,500 milk cows that needed to be dispersed to different farms throughout Ohio and West Virginia. In the agriculture community, if someone needs something, they're going. They don't want anything back. They just want to help."

Watauga Extension Director Jim Hamilton estimated that the donated hay will last many livestock farmers through the month of December. Fortunately, work continues to ensure farmers do not go without. Nevertheless, Hamilton said the ongoing effort remains significant.

"We were looking for locations to store hay. We had hay coming in from different sources across the state. When we first heard this was coming in, we heard 25 trucks, then 40, then it got over 50. That's when logistical planning had to come into play," Hamilton said.

The ag extension began providing hay distribution to local farmers on Thursday, Oct. 17. The distributions, affectionately known as "Hay Days," are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. Farmers must call ahead of time to make reservations to pick up.

On Thursday, Hamilton said 30 to 40 local farmers showed up to pick up the hay delivered from Ohio and expects most of it will be claimed within the next week or so. He described the efforts thus far as a "good start."

"It was an enormous response from the ag community across the state and really from east of the Mississippi. There are also other warehouse spaces in western NC where hay will continue to be brought to, and we will coordinate with those larger places when the need arises," Hamilton said. "We've been blessed with an enormous outpouring of support from other farmers who recognize how dire the situation is."

Kendra Phipps, livestock agent with the Watauga County Agricultural Extension, said the immediate needs for livestock producers in the county after the hurricane hit were fencing and containing animals. She added that hay will continue to be a priority as winter sets in.

"Hay is going to be a need, probably through February and maybe even into March. There are people that have lost 300 to 500 bails of hay. Everything they were going to feed their cattle with this winter is gone," Phipps said.

As work continues to keep livestock farmers supplied throughout the winter, Phipps said recovery will be a long, sustained effort.

"These donations are coming from farmers across the country and across the state. They're not pity donations. They're agricultural community donations — farmers helping farmers. And I truly believe in my heart that if something like this happened anywhere else, we would be the ones helping. I know it's true because during the wildfires in Texas, we sent hay from North Carolina to Texas. That's just what we do. We help each other," Phipps said.

Call the Watauga County ag center's hay hotline at (828) 319-2543 to make a reservation to pick up hay. Copyright © 2024The Enterprise. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat, 'Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers', *Enterprise, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63B13669ADFA0



Q&A: Fort Liberty garrison commander talks E.E. Smith High School, roads and housing on post

October 22, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Rachael Riley, Fayetteville Observer | Section: News | 1620 Words OpenURL Link

FORT LIBERTY — Col. Chad Mixon has helped oversee Fort Liberty's day-to-day garrison operations since becoming the latest garrison commander June 28.

Mixon has spent his Army career off and on at the local Army post, since first joining the military as an enlisted infantryman and serving with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

In 2000, he commissioned as an officer through Campbell University, has held several spots under the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and was deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army Forces Command.

He was also battalion commander for the 307th Brigade Support Battalion under the 82nd Airborne Division and was chief of operations for the Joint Special Operations Command's logistics division.

In his newest role, Mixon supports a population of 260,000, which includes about 53,700 troops and their families, retirees and civilian workers.

Mixon spoke to The Fayetteville Observer this month about his latest role and the different projects happening at Fort Liberty.

What does it mean to be back at Fort Liberty in this new role?

I would just say it's a steep learning curve. It's been super busy. This is the largest Army installation, I think the largest installation in the (Department of Defense). If you just think of the magnitude of this — 5,800 facilities, 115 barracks, hundreds of miles of roadway. We have a lot of stuff here. ... It's a daily, fast-paced operation. The garrison directorates, all of them, are firing on all cylinders. To do what we do on a daily basis, is huge.

With the recent relief efforts for Hurricane Helene, and U.S. Northern Command and 18th Airborne Corps taking the lead on the deployment of more than 1,000 Fort Liberty soldiers, how did the garrison support getting soldiers out the door?

It's continuing now. Not necessarily for the garrison other than monitor mode, but overall, the DOD obviously provided support to Helene efforts ... DOD supported the overall effort by sending (joint task force) civil support here ... When JTF civil support came here, we gave them office space in our emergency operations center from the garrison. We housed them in office space. We gave them ramp space out at Simmons Army Airfield for some of their rotary wing capabilities. The DoD responded, and then locally we gave the ramp space. The Installation Transportation Deployment Support Activity for the garrison ... we accommodated the mobilization outload of the roughly 1000 soldiers we sent out there.

Since Cumberland County Commissioners recently voted to not move E.E. Smith High School to Stryker Golf Course, is Fort Liberty in discussions with another county for another high school?

We always would like to have a high school here as a convenience for the high school kids living on post. E.E. Smith has always been the high school. So when we found out that the decision was made ... the senior commander was in full support of their decision. So we'll continue moving forward. We don't have another high school picked out. We have not talked about any other options at this time, but you know, I know he was definitely fully supportive of that decision that was made about E.E. Smith. Nothing has been discussed at this time to go anywhere else. We've

not come back to going to the next option, but I know there's a price tag if we have the space here. There's still a cost to put the school here and to determine who pays that cost would be something we'd have to decide, if it were DODEA or one of the other local high schools, but again, we've not gone any further than to E.E. Smith concept. But (Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue, 18th Airborne Corps and senior Fort Liberty commander) was truly supportive of the decision.

With ongoing road repairs through Fort Liberty's agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, how are timelines and priorities looking?

There's a percentage (of our population) that lives out in Moore County. So right now we are in a partnership with NCDOT with an intergovernmental service agreement with them, where DPW works with them. Their engineers and architects are partnered with us, and they are working first on King Road, which just started this week. King Road is on our western side, over on the Moore County side (of post.) And then we're going to pivot in January to Manchester Road, and (work is) going to run probably most of the year as the resurfacing of Manchester Road is in sections. So those are kind of two priorities right now, is getting King Road done first, between now and the end of the year, and then jump to the Manchester Road resurfacing, which will be an event, because people are going to have to detour ... but that will be coming up, and people have to detour either Plank Road in the south or 690 in the north. But we're going to get that done, and it's just going to make it a safer environment. Talking about quality of life for our soldiers, that's going to be a much better driving experience, because it's just aging infrastructure. Last year we did the culverts out there, which I think we've already seen the dividends from that, because of the storms we've had. The drainage on Manchester has not been a problem since that work was done last year.

And then when we get through Manchester, I'd say the next priority will, we're going to do the Gruber Road bridge about this time next year. So we've got some work to do on that ... We need to rebalance it and do a little bit of work to it. It won't have a significant impact to the community like Manchester, but we'll have to set up some detours on that, too.

Where to expect road closures, detours on Fort Liberty in coming months

Since Smoke Bomb Hill barracks have been demolished and Congress has approved funding for new barracks on post, what are timelines looking like?

Right now, we've got a shortage of bed space on post. We have about 115 barracks facilities. We've got two more going up this year and 202 — one out at Yarborough Complex and one going back in the Smoke Bomb Hill area. We are in the process of renovating five of the original 17 of Smoke Bomb. ... There's 10 to 11 more (barracks), not fully programmed yet, but we're hopeful they'll get a program to get built. Again, that goes back to the quality of life, making sure that when new soldiers come into the base, they have places to go, ideally, immediately.

While Fort Liberty has a partnership with Corvias for privatized housing on post, how is garrison ensuring accountability for the state of family housing?

We have 6,102 homes here, 432 apartments ... That is the largest inventory of homes in the Army with the privatized partners. I personally meet with Corvias leadership, I would say, at least twice a week, formally and informally. And then we do a weekly housing update to (Installation Management Command) every Monday on Corvias. It's, I would say, strict management in terms of the partnership between us and them (and) our (Directorate of Public Works) housing managers. They're kind of the green suit or direct contact with Corvias ... I think looking at the total number of homes they manage, I think they have more homes occupied right now than in years. Out of the 6,102, we're at 95% occupancy rate. That's a very good sign. That means they're, between occupancy maintenance and those kind of measures, they're staying on top of pretty well ... When we think back to this past summer, how hot it was, you're going to have, especially in these older homes, you're going to have HVAC challenges, just like we did in these administrative facilities. HVAC challenges are going to happen. DPW will address these administrative facilities, the hangars, but Corvias also has their in-house workforce that gets after those work orders very quickly.

Fort Liberty barracks, housing having issues again, some residents say

Are there any other projects going on or starting soon?

We've got a child development center we're about to break ground on this year as well. That's going to be a nice addition. It'll help our wait lists a little bit on that. We've got numerous water and energy resiliency initiatives going on right now. ...

We're obviously continuing to push for more barracks and more child development centers. We just want to ... always strive for the perfect balance of barrack space and (child development center) space.

The Sunset Liberty March trail is in the design phase for upgrades to that (gathering areas and trail) next year. They're going to put in permanent markers around the sides.

And then (the) water and energy resiliency project ... As the nation's premier power projection platform, we can't afford to lose power if the power goes out or if the grids go down. We have to be ready at all times. We're getting there with our microgrids.

How is the garrison staying connected to local communities outside of Fort Liberty's gates?

We're always tied in with the (Greater Fayetteville Area Chamber of Commerce) ... We do the mayor's councils. I've been in Linden and Moore County, and we're about to go to Hope Mills next week. We're working on an intergovernmental service agreement with the city of Fayetteville right now for refuse. It would cost us less and is good for the city, puts money in their pockets.

We're going to be hiring soon ... We're going to build our workforce up a little bit ... We're going to do a hiring fair in early November in the Soldier Support Center.

Staff writer Rachael Riley can be reached at rriley@fayobserver.com or 910-486-3528.

Copyright 2024 The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Rachael Riley, Fayetteville Observer, 'Q&A: Fort Liberty garrison commander talks E.E. Smith High School, roads and housing on post', *Fayetteville Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C609A6B1098B08>



Finding hope amid the suffering in western NC

October 22, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

Author: NANCY MCLAUGHLIN Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 686 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

GREENSBORO - Misery was fresh in the air when the crew from Cone Health made their way into a fractured western North Carolina behind the flashing lights of the N.C. Highway Patrol and a route still thick with mud slides, downed trees and branches that scraped at the sides of their vehicles as they passed.

The group had specific jobs to do to help ease suffering from the wrath of Hurricane Helene just days earlier.

On paper, the deployment was to help organize the relief effort at the Western North Carolina Agriculture Center Shelter about half an hour from Asheville, but lots of empathy guided them. FEMA and the American Red Cross were there, as were other emergency response team members from across the state, although not just anybody could get into the area. And for Thomas Gioello, the degrees and extra certifications had prepared him for the response to one of the worst hurricanes to make its way through North Carolina.

"It feels like everything in my personal and professional life has led to these moments," said Gioello, 37, a Cone Health emergency manager with a bachelor's degree in emergency disaster administration from Western Carolina and a master's in healthcare administration from Winston-Salem State University.

With him from Cone were Phillip Hernandez and Don White, emergency management coordinators.

He gets emotional about seeing an eclectic field of at least 400 people passing through.

The people with oxygen tanks.

The few withdrawing from street drugs.

Those who might have been the volunteers showing up in another disaster.

"The older couple who got out of their home and were wading through the water and when they looked back it was floating past them," Gioello said. "You listen with a heavy heart."

But his training gets him past that to make sure people are helped.

Along the way, it would include finding crayons for a child at the shelter set up for people in anticipation of the storm and listening to the folks who just had to get it out, the doom, gloom and hope.

While he didn't venture out to see more of the physical damage from the flooding, he could see it in the faces of those people he came across. He knew the landscape from when he was a student nearby.

"One of the coolest things was watching this woman walk in the door and screaming out, 'Oh my God, you are here!" Gioello said of the woman seeing her parents standing near cots. "There was something about that moment."

Gioello, who has two younger children, got the blessing of his wife, a teacher at Meadowlark Middle School in Winston-Salem, to get there and do what he could with his expertise when Cone heard of an unmet need there.

He told his children, who are 7 and 5, that he was going to the mountains to help some people.

That first week, he slept in the back of his Jeep. Another co-worker had a blanket and the back of a Cone Health van.

These were the days immediately after the flood waters erased whole towns, and food was ramen noodles and whatever snacks the Red Cross handed out to everybody else, with lots of bottled water, and coffee when they could get it.

When he got back to Greensboro, his wife surprised him with an Outback meal. He was thankful but he also felt guilty, knowing that people in the shelter were still "eating out of boxes, sleeping on cots, and taking showers with undrinkable water."

He went back for a second five-day deployment.

And conditions improved with more resources.

He still had purpose.

"Though it's difficult, knowing I'm helping others recover gives me purpose and allows me to see past myself to what the Lord wants from me."

Nancy. McLaughlin@greensboro.com 336-373-7049@nmclaughlinNR

Copyright (c) 2024 Greensboro News & Record

• Citation (aglc Style)

NANCY MCLAUGHLIN; Staff Reporter, 'Finding hope amid the suffering in western NC', *Greensboro News & Record* (online), 22 Oct 2024 1A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5DD6B922B5248>



We're taking a deep dive into election misinformation. Here's how you can help.

October 22, 2024 \mid Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC)

Author: Caitlyn Yaede and Emily Vespa, correspondents | Section: News | 352 Words

Page: 2A OpenURL Link

Keeping voters informed with reliable information about North Carolina's elections is a top priority for The News & Observer.

Now, with less than a month until Election Day, The N&O is asking readers to share examples of misinformation they see, hear and read, so we can investigate and set the record straight.

The N&O is one of eightpublications across six states receiving funding from the Center for Media Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin to identify, record and correct dishonest election information. The partnership, which began last month, aims to provide voters with accurate information about the 2024 elections. (The N&O retains full editorial control over its reporting when it receives funding from philanthropy and grants.)

To extend our eyes and ears, N&O has also asked a bipartisan group, the Commission on the Future of NC Elections, to flag potential misinformation for our reporters.

Now, we are inviting readers to report local election information that you think might be inaccurate, or that raises questions you want answered, to

https://truthsleuthlocal.netlify.app.

For example, you might see questionable information about where to vote or how to vote. From this dashboard, reporters can review submissions, notice trends and potentially report on widespread misinformation.

Already, this project has led to coverage of myths that arose after Hurricane Helene's devastation in Western North Carolina, such as misconceptions about FEMA disaster funding.and Al-generated photos of flooding.

You may also follow our Reality Checks - like one by Kyle Ingram debunking accusations of election theft after the North Carolina State Board of Elections removed 750,000 registrations from the voter rolls.

To anonymously submit misinformation you see, create a Truth Sleuth Local account. Then, select "New Report" and fill in the form, using as much detail as possible. All identifying information in recorded responses will be removed before publication, if your report is used.

Those unable to access the database for any reason can submit a report to this form [https://forms.gle/HM5i96FxA4w9dnzF9]. If you have already submitted a report to the database, you do not need to resubmit it.

If you have any questions about this project, how you can help or how your information will be used, email dome@newsobserver.com.

Copyright, 2024, The Durham Herald Company

• Citation (aglc Style)

Caitlyn Yaede and Emily Vespa, correspondents, 'We're taking a deep dive into election misinformation. Here's how you can help.', *Herald-Sun, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 2A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C613794C0CA3F8>



Website gives up-to date donation locations and needs in Western NC

October 22, 2024 | High Point Enterprise (NC) Author: Sharon Myers PAXTON MEDIA GROUP| Section: Thomasville Times | 365 Words OpenURL Link

DAVIDSON COUNTY — Four weeks after Hurricane Helene devastated western North Carolina, people are still wanting to help by sending clothes, food and other supplies, but there is confusion on what can be donated and where it is needed the most.

There is a website, supportingwnc.com, created by two North Carolina residents that lets people click on individual donation sites and see whether they are taking donations. It also has a breakdown by county on how many donations centers there are, what organization operates each site, as well as locations, collection days and times, and contact information.

"This page is designed to be a central location of information around donation site information and volunteer needs," a statement on the website says. "We are a hub for community-driven change in western North Carolina. Centralize your giving and find volunteer opportunities to make a difference."

The dashboard also tells whether a site is accepting all kinds of donations, limited donations or has stopped or paused taking donations. If you expand the screen, there is further information on what items are the most-needed, including clothing, cleaning supplies, hygiene items or pet food.

Organizations that have registered with the website can update needs in real time. They also list whether they are a collection site needing items, or if they are an organization delivering food and supplies that needs volunteers.

For those in Davidson County who wish to donate locally, there are still plenty of churches, businesses and other organizations who are taking items.

Richard Childress Racing Museum at 236 Industrial Way in Welcome is continuing to take donations of coats, hats, blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothing.

Other organizations, such as the United Way of Davidson County, are accepting items through various donation drives, including donations collected at the recent football game between North Davidson and Oak Grove high schools.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety is urging residents to be informed on disaster relief efforts through official channels, and it offers a variety of resources on how to donate money, what volunteer organizations working in the area and other information at ncdps.gov/helene.

The North Carolina Department of Justice also has information on how to spot and avoid any charity or relief scams at ncdoj.gov/charity.

Copyright (c) 2024 High Point Enterprise

• Citation (aglc Style)

Sharon Myers PAXTON MEDIA GROUP, 'Website gives up-to date donation locations and needs in Western NC', *High Point Enterprise* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C618C7CE3EF130>



As it copes with Helene, State's recovery

October 22, 2024 | Laurinburg Exchange, The (NC) Author: Lisa Sorg ncnewsline.com | Section: news | 1683 Words OpenURL Link

KENLY — Floodwaters barreled up the front steps of Shadina Toudle's trailer in Kenly, North Carolina, and lapped near her legs.

She had slept through the worst of Hurricane Matthew, a historic 2016 storm that had strafed much of southeastern North Carolina.

But now she was awake. The power had gone out. When she opened the door, the black water and the black night merged into an inky abyss.

As the water rose, she called her friends.

She couldn't swim.

I'm going to die.

Firefighters were searching the mobile home park by boat. They heard Toudle scream and rescued her.

Toudle and 1,600 other hurricane victims remain in a long line for help as ReBuild NC, the state agency responsible for renovating or rebuilding their homes, runs a deficit in excess of \$150 million and seeks to recoup or borrow funds from other agencies, all while keeping legislative appropriators in the dark about its financial troubles and growing deficit, according to interviews, internal documents and public emails.

Since 2018, ReBuild NC—its formal name is the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR)—has received \$779 million in disaster funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help survivors of Matthew and the hurricane that arrived two years later, Florence. The money has been spread out across more than a half dozen programs. One for homeowner recovery funds the reconstruction or rehab of houses damaged or destroyed by one or both storms—like Toudle's mobile home.

More than 2,700 applicants are back in their homes or have received reimbursements from ReBuild NC to hire their own contractors, according to agency figures dated Oct. 2. Another 4,000 have withdrawn—voluntarily or involuntarily—from the program. But the 1,600 awaiting assistance have left the agency scrambling for a solution.

ReBuild NC officials did not answer direct questions about the finances but instead provided a statement. An agency spokesperson attributed the shortfall to "fluctuating construction costs" and the accelerated pace of homebuilding.

In fairness to state officials, federal funds were slow to arrive. Congress did not appropriate disaster relief money for Matthew until 2018. After Hurricane Florence ravaged the state in September of that year, Congress took nearly two years before sending aid.

More than \$649 million has been budgeted for Homeowner Recovery, according to ReBuild NC figures. Yet even after moving funds among its disaster recovery and resiliency programs, ReBuild NC still needs \$75 million to cover costs for all current applicants, documents show.

The agency estimates that the final budget for Homeowner Recovery for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence could be as much as \$820 million. That's nearly double the original amount when the programs were established, according

to HUD documents.

It's unclear how the agency will make up for the shortfall of more than \$150 million. Emails and documents reveal that ReBuild NC Director Laura Hogshead unsuccessfully petitioned the State Pandemic Recovery Office for \$20 million. She has asked the N.C. Housing Finance Agency to return a \$111 million grant it received from ReBuild NC to provide rental assistance for low-income people, but NCHFA needs those funds to serve its clients.

Yet that's only part of the financial picture.

Other factors, both within and outside ReBuild NC's control, have contributed to the cash crunch. Those include extensive delays by building contractors and county permitting offices, the agency's own systemic inefficiencies and the cost of temporary housing for hurricane survivors—now at \$71.7 million.

Because ReBuild NC didn't close the application period for the Homeowner Recovery Program until April 2023, there was an "oversubscription for assistance," agency documents show—too many people and not enough funds to help them.

Earlier this month, the state Legislature appropriated \$273 million for Hurricane Helene relief, aimed at western counties devastated by the storm. But those funds are limited only to Helene and can't be spent on previous disasters.

When Congress appropriates federal disaster recovery funds for Hurricane Helene, which it's expected to do after the election, hundreds of millions of dollars could flow to ReBuild NC. Because of Helene's vast destruction, and the challenges presented by western North Carolina's mountainous terrain, Helene will be a more complicated and protracted recovery. It's unclear how an agency with a history of financial and logistical mismanagement would handle it.

Months before Helene, Republican U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina in May sent a letter to Hogshead, asking the director questions about the program. In 2019, Tillis had introduced legislation to expedite disaster funding for states and local communities.

"As North Carolina heads into hurricane season, I am concerned this may jeopardize future recovery efforts should another devastating storm occur," Tillis wrote. "Thousands of individuals and families in North Carolina still await solutions years after Congress appropriated federal funding. We can all agree that they should not have to wait this long to be made whole again."

There is no more money for Matthew and Florence disaster recovery. All the funds are spoken for, a ReBuild NC spokesperson said.

Jordan Monaghan, a spokesperson for Gov. Roy Cooper's office, didn't answer direct questions about the governor's knowledge of ReBuild NC's finances. Instead, Monaghan provided a statement: "The Governor expects Rebuild NC to continue to complete construction projects and help families return home. ... The Governor has instructed them to assess outstanding needs for applicants and present additional funding requests for state and federal appropriators. We expect that to be done in coming days."

Toudle is among those applicants.

She is 34 years old, short, with large brown eyes and black braids woven tight to her head. A small silver ring sparkles from her nose. She is a woman of faith; without God, she does not believe she would have survived homelessness and two hurricanes.

"God has blessed me," she said.

She and her nieces and nephews lived in a small mobile home park at 622 Lincoln Drive, in Kenly. Her lot—Lot D—

was in the back, the last trailer along a sandy driveway that backed up to a canal. In 2010 she had cobbled together \$6,500 to buy the trailer, a single-wide built before she was born. She paid the \$125 monthly lot rent a year in advance.

Although Hurricane Matthew damaged the trailer, Toudle continued to live there, even as mold bloomed on the walls. In 2016, Toudle applied for help in securing a new house related to the damage from Matthew. The Department of Commerce and the Division of Emergency Management were running the program at the time and lost her paperwork, she said.

Then two years later, in September 2018, Hurricane Florence hit, blowing out the trailer windows.

Within two years, the remnants of a third storm flooded the trailer. She hoisted her four nieces and nephews, all under the age of 8, on the roof, went back inside to retrieve their shoes and her cat, and scrambled up herself. I have to get the babies out of here.

Finally, Toudle's cousin who lived nearby swam over and rescued them.

Toudle and the children returned to the trailer after the floodwaters receded. But soon, the floors caved in. She woke up one morning to find a possum sitting on the stove. The mold flourished. Sewage backed up into the sink. Because social services officials deemed the housing situation unstable, the children had to move to foster care. Toudle's doctor told her she had to leave her home because the mold was making her sick.

In March 2021, ReBuild NC moved her into an extended stay motel in Goldsboro, where she lived until this past June.

She was pregnant, and contractors had yet to break ground on her house. She moved in with her mother, unsure which would arrive first, her baby or her home.

For Toudle, a Catch-22

Like many mobile home owners, Toudle faced a problem unique to those who rent their lot. They are at the mercy of the mobile home park owners. After Florence, the owner of Toudle's park died. His children didn't want to be in the property management business, so they sold the land.

Even if she had a new trailer, Toudle couldn't move back to her lot. And without a lot, ReBuild NC could not help her get a new home.

Toudle said that ReBuild NC told her if she found land, they could replace her mobile home, a value of about \$60,000. She had been living in a motel for about a year, when in 2022, she found a lot in Selma, in Johnston County. Toudle paid \$300 for the first month's rent. She paid for the second month, and then a third, but ReBuild NC still hadn't delivered the trailer. AKENfter putting down \$900, she lost the lot, and a subsequent one in Goldsboro.

Meanwhile, Toudle stayed in a motel and her belongings remained in her damaged trailer. But she didn't have access to a truck, and after months of waiting, the property owners destroyed the home with everything inside.

"When I saw my trailer on the ground I cried," Toudle said this summer as she sat in the front seat of her car with the air conditioner blowing. "A brand-new sofa, washer and dryer, TV. I had my grandma's ashes, pictures of my grandma, valuable stuff my grandma made. I lost everything."

Toudle languished in a motel room for a second year, as did thousands of other displaced hurricane survivors. At the time, ReBuild NC was building only about 10 to 15 homes a month; at that rate, it would take a decade to get everyone back home.

Under scrutiny from the Legislature and the governor's office, ReBuild NC quickened the pace of home construction

and rehabs to 116 per month-a historic high, according to an agency spokesperson. ReBuild NC is incurring \$20 million to \$25 million a month in construction costs, contributing to the shortfall. But even with program improvements, years of mismanagement have caught up with the agency.

In early 2024, troubling signs emerged

ReBuild NC's cash flow problems can be traced back to at least January of this year, according to emails obtained by Inside Climate News under public records law.

The agency requested a \$5.4 million loan from the State Disaster Relief Fund to pay outstanding invoices to general contractors, according to a letter from ReBuild NC Chief Finance Officer Jim Klingler dated Jan. 9.

Editor's Note: The full story is available at ncnewsline.com or insideclimatenews.org.

© 2024 Champion Media Carolinas.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Lisa Sorg ncnewsline.com, 'As it copes with Helene, State's recovery', *Laurinburg Exchange, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C604D19F1828C8



Marion natives return to help after hurricane

October 22, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News| 602 Words OpenURL Link

After Hurricane Helene swept through western North Carolina as a tropical storm, some McDowell County natives came back to help out and bring needed supplies.

Sgt. Akendra Brown of the U.S. Air Force is stationed in Chesapeake, Virginia, and is a native of Marion. After Helene impacted McDowell County, she did what she could to help her hometown.

Brown loaded up a truck full of necessities and drove back to her hometown to distribute the supplies out of Addie's Chapel United Methodist Church, her mother Sonya Brown said.

Akendra Brown came in on Wednesday, Oct. 2. With her family, she handed out supplies the next day. The group handed out cases of water, hand sanitizer, hand soap, body wash, canned food, dog and cat food, paper products and snacks for kids, Sonya Brown said.

Alongside Brown were two sisters with ties to McDowell County who brought supplies to Marion in the wake of Helene.

The sisters are the children of Dawn Mooney Phelps and Michael Phelps and the granddaughters of Gracie Jackson, who are originally from McDowell County.

Alexandria Grace Porter-Phelps and her younger sister Allia Symone Phelps live in Forsyth County but grew up attending Addie's Chapel United Methodist Church in Marion. The oldest daughter Alexandria attended McDowell High School for a short while, according to their mother Dawn Phelps.

Along with Brown, who is a relative, the sisters brought supplies and handed the supplies out at Addie's Chapel United Methodist during the first week of October.

The supplies included paper towels, nonperishable snacks, toilet paper, bottled water and pet food.

"So our family and my children's organizations — AP Sisters and Phelps Family Organization — were blessed to come home after Helene to pray, assist with hotel costs, open our home in Pfafftown to those in need and to bring food, water and supplies to be distributed," Dawn Phelps said.

"We look forward to continuing to do what we can to assist where we can," Dawn Phelps said in a Facebook post.
"For those who have asked to donate, we thank you. If you know someone who has a specific need, even for a pet, please let us know."

Phelps said her mom is a McDowell County native. The family are members of the NAACP in McDowell County, and still hold memberships at Addie's Chapel, Dawn Phelps said.

The entire family enjoys getting involved and raising awareness of societal issues, social justice and bullying, she said.

"I'm super proud of all the kids, as we always involve as many kids as possible, and I love when people share their stories — which raises more awareness and gets more kids involved," Dawn Phelps said. "So coming home to join forces with and give love to family, friends and strangers during the tragic aftermath of Helene was a given, and an honor."

"We got calls of people having nowhere to sleep or go during the hurricane so the girls and the group used personal funds and some donations to provide shelter," Dawn Phelps said.

Dawn Phelps said her daughters' work is a continuation of their humanitarian efforts.

"Our goal is to always show that we care, that we believe in giving back, and we believe in diversity, equity and inclusion," Dawn Phelps said.

She said attorney Chris Rumfelt and McDowell native Craig Sullivan helped the family navigate the aftermath. She said everyone in the area was appreciative and loving during a hard time.

"That's why people like Akendra, Alexandria and Allia, Tonia Gunter and so many of us are honored to come back home and do whatever we can to help," Dawn Phelps said. "But clearly that love and appreciation is extended to and reciprocated by strangers as well."

© Copyright 2024, The McDowell News, Marion, NC

• Citation (aglc Style)

MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com, 'Marion natives return to help after hurricane', *McDowell News, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E74DCFF76318



62 BUSINESSES CRITICALLY DAMAGED

October 22, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News| 825 Words OpenURL Link

MCDOWELL COUNTY

At least 60 businesses were critically damaged by Hurricane Helene in late September, according to the McDowell Chamber of Commerce.

Some of those may never reopen, chamber President and CEO Kim Effler said.

"We define a critically damaged business as one that is inoperable for a lengthy period due to significant structural or operational setbacks," she said to county commissioners. "Unfortunately, we believe that seven of these businesses may never return."

As of Oct. 14, Effler said the chamber has identified critical damage at 21 businesses in Old Fort, 18 businesses in Marion, 15 businesses in North Cove/Little Switzerland, six businesses in Nebo, and two businesses in Dysartsville.

Effler spoke to the McDowell County Board of Commissioners about the business action plan for the local community on Oct. 14.

The chamber has worked to contact businesses directly to assess damage and help business owners recover.

"Since rejoining as a team, we have taken a micro-level approach to connect directly with businesses," Effler said at the meeting. "Of the 885 businesses in the county, we have contacted approximately one-fourth so far. Among the 152 businesses reached, 80 reported that they are now fully operational."

Local leaders faced challenges in reaching many businesses due to phone service disruptions, both at the chamber office and at the businesses. Some businesses reported structural damage, mud or mold, but many remain determined to rebuild, repair and reopen, Effler said.

"Unfortunately, a few businesses, such as Buck Creek Trout Farm and Mountain Stream Campground, are total losses and will not rebuild," said Effler. "In the initial days following Hurricane Helene, businesses reported urgent needs including electricity, phone service, internet access, road repairs, and water and sewer restoration."

Effler said the chamber is working to help all businesses, chamber member or not.

"We also recognize that neighboring counties may not have the same strength and resources, and we are here to assist them as well," Effler said.

Many of the recovery efforts are loan-based rather than grants. Effler said the chamber is advocating for loan forgiveness.

"Our goal is to ensure that McDowell County's economy not only recovers but emerges stronger and more resilient from this historic disaster," Effler told commissioners. "Our plan focuses on four key areas: child care center reopenings, support for Baxter Healthcare, collaborative recovery through the Business and Industry Recovery Resource Center, and direct out-reach to our local businesses."

Child care needs in McDowell

The lack of available child care that existed before Hurricane Helene hit is a bigger concern now, Effler said.

"Without reliable care for children, many employees cannot return to their jobs," Effler told commissioners.

McDowell County is home to 29 licensed child care facilities, with 14 county-operated locations and five private centers now open.

"We are in the process of contacting 10 facilities to assess their status, and two facilities have sustained critical damage and remain closed until repairs are completed," Effler said to the commissioners. "Reopening these centers will allow employees to return to their jobs, stabilize our businesses and support the county's economic recovery."

Baxter Healthcare plant The Baxter Healthcare IV and dialysis fluid plant in North Cove is a major employer in McDowell County and a critical factory in the health care supply chain. Last week, Baxter welcomed back 1,000 employees. Before Helene, the Baxter plant had 2,500 workers.

"Their remediation efforts have included deep cleaning of equipment and production lines, ensuring safety and product quality," Effler said. "The installation of a second temporary bridge highlights their focus on maintaining continuity of operations.

"Supply chain concerns related to Baxter have made national news and are being closely monitored in collaboration with local, state and federal partners. In partnership with N.C.Commerce, we are prepared to process unemployment claims in batches if needed and will work to ensure that displaced employees return to work as quickly as possible."

Business Resource Center

The Business and Industry Recovery Resource Center is a collaboration with the Marion Business Association and McDowell Technical Community College, Effler said.

"It offers both essential resources and human connection to businesses and individuals who have experienced significant losses," she said.

To date, the resource center has served 10 small businesses directly and 38 businesses across all partner agencies. Through partnerships with the Small Business Administration, NCWorks, the Workforce Development Board and the McDowell Tech Small Business Center, local leaders have created a space where businesses can access support, according to Effler.

Support through chamber nonprofit

In response to these challenges, the McDowell chamber launched a donation campaign through its nonprofit foundation, raising \$67,000 to date. The money will be used for small business grants for those in need, Effler said.

"I want to emphasize that our business recovery efforts will continue until our economy is fully restored. While we are not experienced in business disaster recovery, the support from this community and other chambers has been invaluable," Effler said. "Lake Norman, Greenville and many others have lifted us up in this time of need. Through the collaborative work of the chamber, our partners and the community, we are confident that we will recover stronger than ever."

 $^{\hbox{\scriptsize (C)}}$ Copyright 2024, The McDowell News, Marion, NC

• Citation (aglc Style)

MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com, '62 BUSINESSES CRITICALLY DAMAGED', *McDowell News, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E74DADA783E8



USUAL SUSPECTS

October 22, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: FROM STAFF REPORTS | Section: Usual Suspects | 303 Words OpenURL Link

H.S. FOOTBALL

The McDowell High School football team's return to the field after a month off due to Hurricane Helene didn't produce a win, but playing a little prep pigskin did make things seem a bit more like business as usual.

The Titans fell at home in Marion, 5614, to visiting Asheville, one of the league's annual favorites that secured wins in the return to action on Friday night.

"After all the devastating weather we have experienced, it was a blessing to be able to return to the field," said MHS coach Darrell Brewer. "I'm glad the community could have a few hours of normalcy."

A.C. Reynolds and Erwin, which have joined the Cougars near the top of the MAC standings in each of the previous three seasons of the current alignment, also won on Friday night as the Rockets topped Enka 48-0 and Erwin defeated T.C. Roberson 2621 in a pair of games played on the Rams' Asheville campus.

That leaves the evening's three squads as the only ones still undefeated in the MAC as North Buncombe took an 0-1 MAC mark into its bye week.

In Marion, Asheville jumped ahead 14-0 after a quarter, 35-6 by halftime and 49-6 after three periods before the Titans (1-5, 0-2 MAC) held an 8-7 advantage across the final 12 minutes of competition.

MHS got on the board with Hunter Pittman's 1-yard run with 2:42 left in the second quarter. McDowell's other touchdown was an 11-yard pass from Danny Brown to Oakley Keaton with 5:32 left in the ballgame.

Next week's MAC slate includes a pair of games at McDowell High School, including Asheville versus North Buncombe at 5 p.m. and Erwin versus the Titans at 7 p.m., and A.C. Reynolds at T.C. Roberson at 7 p.m. while Enka is on a bye.

The McDowell News sports department can be reached at sports@mcdowellnews.com.

© Copyright 2024, The McDowell News, Marion, NC

• Citation (aglc Style)

FROM STAFF REPORTS, 'USUAL SUSPECTS', *McDowell News, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E74E1005FD60



Long lines push McDowell GOP to seek 2nd voting location

October 22, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News| 676 Words OpenURL Link

The McDowell County Republican Party asked the county to add a second early voting site, but the McDowell County Board of Elections elected not to add one.

The Republican party said it is concerned about traffic being backed up as people come to the McDowell County Board of Elections building to cast a vote in the general election. Early voting started Thursday. The county is down to one early voting location. Early voting is not being held in Old Fort due to damage from Hurricane Helene.

Early voting is taking place at the McDowell County Board of Elections building at 2458 N.C. Hwy. 226 South in Marion.

On the first day of the early voting period there were occasionally long lines of motorists waiting to get into the board of elections.

On Thursday, Chet Effler, chairman of the McDowell County Republican Party, released a statement asking the McDowell County Board of Elections to open a second early voting site.

"While we completely under-stand that the Old Fort site was compromised by the hurricane. Today, as to be expected the first day of early voting shows serious concerns that are restricting access to voting," Effler said. "With traffic backed up to U.S. 221, the safety of entry will cause voters to not have safe and unrestricted access to the polling place."

Effler said a second site should be added immediately, even if the site is also in Marion.

In response to this request, the McDowell County Board of Elections held an emergency meeting late Thursday afternoon to consider the request. The board, which is comprised of Democrats and Republicans, made the unanimous decision to continue with just the single location for early voting.

The board decided there was not enough trained staff for a second location, and there were problems with finding another location, according to Dean Buff, chairman of the McDowell Board of Elections. The main site should be able to accommodate 1,000 voters a day, Buff said.

In another statement on Facebook, Effler said the Republican Party will talk with 11th Congressional District representative and state Republican Party leaders "on any possible way to compel a second site for early voting."

"While we know the staff is working hard to mitigate the impact of the storm, we are confident our community can pull together and assure access to voting is available," he said. "We appeal to the local board to reconsider."

Effler said the Republican Party appreciates the work being done by the board of elections and is willing to assist with training more elections staff. He said 1,300 voted on Thursday, 30% more than what the voting location can handle.

Buff said N.C. Highway 226 South should be able to accommodate the crowds. "This is not new. We have done this before in other elections," he said.

Susan Elliott, the chair of the local Democratic Party, said her party would have liked to have a second location but respects the board of elections' decision.

"After careful consideration and following a thorough explanation from Kim Welborn, McDowell County director of elections, regarding the logistical challenges of adding a second voting location, the McDowell County Board of Elections unanimously voted to maintain the single site for this election cycle," Elliott said. "The McDowell County Democratic Party understands that both the director and deputy director gave significant thought to the formal request by the McDowell Republican Party for an additional site."

Elliott advised voters to plan accordingly and take advantage of early voting or absentee ballot options if needed.

Elliott said deputies were called in Thursday for traffic control during early voting and hopes the traffic control continues until the initial surge of voters has subsided.

"However, we are also mindful of studies conducted by the NAACP and the ACLU, which suggest that the presence of law enforcement can discourage participation by people of color and voters with disabilities," Elliott said in a statement. "Their research indicates that a visible police presence can make some voters feel uneasy, potentially impacting their willingness to vote freely.

Elliott suggested law enforcement discontinue the use of blue lights if safe to do so at the voting site.

© Copyright 2024, The McDowell News, Marion, NC

• Citation (aglc Style)

MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com, 'Long lines push McDowell GOP to seek 2nd voting location', *McDowell News, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E74DEE88A4B8>



Watauga residents can apply for help buying food through D-SNAP

October 22, 2024 | Mountain Times, The (Boone, NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 1573 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — Residents in 25 western counties — including Watauga — and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians impacted by Hurricane Helene can apply for help buying food through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) which will begin on Oct. 18, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

D-SNAP is open to individuals and households not currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services benefits who were impacted by Hurricane Helene. NCDHHS estimates more than 150,000 people will apply for up to \$120 million in D-SNAP benefits.

"We are making up to \$120 million available to more than 150,000 individuals to buy food for their families — an essential step on the road to recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Helene," said N.C. Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "We are committed to using every tool to support the recovery of our friends, families, and fellow North Carolinians in western NC — now and for the long haul."

NCDHHS received federal approval to begin phase one of the program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture beginning on Oct. 18, 2024. People can start applying for assistance three days before the program starts during online pre-registration beginning Oct. 15 and will have seven days from the start of the program to apply. The application period will close on Oct. 24, 2024.

Eligible households will be notified within three days of completing the application and receive a one-time benefit on a special debit card (called an Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT card) to help buy food. The exact amount will depend on household size, income and disaster losses. While there are income eligibility standards, a number of considerations are taken into account. Individuals above these limits may still be eligible dependent on disaster expenses, so we encourage everyone who needs support to purchase food to begin their application by calling the DSNAP Virtual Call Center at 1-844-453-1117.

The benefits are good for up to nine months. Benefit cards will be available for pick up at the D-SNAP locations in each county or you can get the EBT card mailed to you overnight at the address you specify on your application.

To be eligible, a person must:

Live in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey Counties.Be a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians living in zip code 28719Have suffered losses/damages related to Hurricane Helene, such as damage to property or loss of income. Have proof of identity and proof of residency (if available). Have income and resources below certain levels. Not currently be receiving benefits through the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program. People receiving FNS can also get extra help buying food, but do not need to fill out a D-SNAP application. They can get more information about how to get the extra help on the FNS webpage.

Residents are encouraged to apply for D-SNAP by phone, when possible, by calling the D-SNAP call center at 1-844-453-1117. The D-SNAP call center will be open at the following hours:

Weekdays (Friday, Oct. 18; Monday, Oct. 21; Tuesday, Oct. 22; Wednesday, Oct. 23; and Thursday, Oct. 24) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Residents are encouraged to apply for D-SNAP by phone on their assigned day by last name but will not be turned away if they apply any time during the application period.

Residents can also use the online ePASS Pre-Registration Tool, which will open on Tuesday, Oct. 15 and close on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Once the pre-registration is completed, applicants will be issued a confirmation number and will need to call 1-844-453-1117 between Oct. 18 and Oct. 24 to complete the interview part of the application.

Residents can also apply for D-SNAP in-person at any of the following locations listed below. The D-SNAP sites listed below will be open at the following hours:

Weekdays (Friday, Oct. 18; Monday, Oct. 21; Tuesday, Oct. 22; Wednesday, Oct. 23; and Thursday, Oct. 24) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Los habitantes del oeste de Carolina del Norte pueden solicitar ayuda para comprar alimentos tras el huracán Helene

Los habitantes de 25 condados del oeste y la Banda Oriental de Indios Cherokee afectados por el huracán Helene pueden solicitar ayuda para comprar alimentos a través del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria para Desastres (D-SNAP, por sus siglas en inglés) que comenzará el 18 de octubre de 2024, anunció hoy el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Carolina del Norte (NCDHHS, por sus siglas en inglés). D-SNAP está abierto a personas y hogares que actualmente no reciben beneficios de Servicios de Alimentación y Nutrición y que se vieron afectados por el huracán Helene. El NCDHHS estima que más de 150,000 personas solicitarán hasta \$120 millones de dólares en beneficios de D-SNAP.

"Haremos \$120 millones de dólares disponibles a más de 150,000 individuos para comprar comida para sus familias — un paso esencial en el camino a la recuperación de la devastación del huracán Helene", dijo el secretario de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Carolina del Norte, Kody H. Kinsley. "Estamos comprometidos a apoyar la salud y el bienestar de las personas afectadas en todos los rincones del oeste de Carolina del Norte, ahora y a largo plazo".

El NCDHHS recibió la aprobación federal para comenzar la fase uno del programa del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos a partir del 18 de octubre de 2024. Las personas pueden comenzar a solicitar asistencia tres días antes del inicio del programa durante la preinscripción en línea a partir del 15 de octubre y tendrán siete días desde el inicio del programa para aplicar. El plazo de la aplicación se cerrará el 24 de octubre de 2024.

Los hogares elegibles serán notificados dentro de los tres días posteriores a completar la solicitud y recibirán un beneficio único en una tarjeta de débito especial (llamada transferencia electrónica de beneficios, o tarjeta EBT, por sus siglas en inglés) para ayudar a comprar alimentos. La cantidad exacta dependerá del tamaño del hogar, los ingresos y las pérdidas por desastres. Aunque existen requisitos de ingresos, se tomarán en cuenta varias consideraciones. Los individuos con límites de ingreso superiores podrían calificar dependiendo de sus gastos debido al desastre, así que animamos a todos los que necesiten ayuda para comprar alimentos a comenzar la aplicación por medio de llamar al centro de llamadas virtuales de D-SNAP al 1-844-453-1117.

Los beneficios son válidos hasta por nueve meses. Las tarjetas de beneficios estarán disponibles para recogerse en las ubicaciones de D-SNAP en cada condado o puede recibir la tarjeta EBT por correo durante la noche en la dirección que especifique en su aplicación.

Para ser elegible, una persona debe:

Vivir en los condados de Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transilvania, Watauga, Wilkes y Yancey.

Ser miembro de la Banda del Este de los indios Cherokee que viven en el código postal 28719.

Haber sufrido pérdidas o daños relacionados con el huracán Helene, como daños a la propiedad o pérdida de ingresos.

Tener prueba de identidad y prueba de domicilio (si está disponible).

Tener ingresos y recursos por debajo de ciertos niveles.

Actualmente no está recibiendo beneficios a través del programa de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición (FNS, por sus siglas en inglés). Las personas que reciben FNS también pueden obtener ayuda adicional para comprar alimentos, pero no necesitan completar una aplicación para D-SNAP. Puede obtener más información sobre cómo obtener ayuda adicional en la página web de FNS.

Se alienta a los habitantes a solicitar D-SNAP por teléfono, cuando sea posible, llamando al centro de llamadas de D-SNAP al 1-844-453-1117. El centro de llamadas de D-SNAP estará abierto las siguientes horas:

Días laborables (viernes 18 de octubre , lunes 21 de octubre, , martes 22 de octubre, miércoles 23 de octubre y jueves 24 de octubre), a partir de las 8 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde.

Sábado 19 de octubre y domingo 20 de octubre, a partir de las 9 de la mañana hasta el mediodía.

Se alienta a los habitantes a solicitar D-SNAP por teléfono en su día asignado según la primera letra de su apellido, pero no serán rechazados si solicitan en cualquier momento durante el período de solicitud.

Octubre 18: A-G

Octubre 19: H-M

Octubre 20: N-S

Octubre 21: T-Z

Octubre 22: Abierto para todos

Octubre 23: Abierto para todos

Octubre 24: Abierto para todos

Los habitantes también pueden utilizar la herramienta de preinscripción en línea ePASS, que se abrirá el martes 15 de octubre cerrará el martes 22 de octubre . Una vez que se complete la preinscripción, a los aplicantes se les emitirá un número de confirmación y deberán llamar entre el 18 y el 24 de octubre al 1-844-453-1117 para completar la entrevista que es parte de la solicitud.

Los habitantes también pueden aplicar para D-SNAP en persona en cualquiera de los siguientes lugares que se enumeran a continuación. Los sitios D-SNAP que se enumeran a continuación estarán abiertos a las siguientes horas:

Días laborables (viernes 18 de octubre , lunes 21 de octubre, , martes 22 de octubre , miércoles 23 de octubre y jueves 24 de octubre), a partir de las 8 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde.

Sábado 19 de octubre y domingo 20 de octubre, a partir de las 9 de la mañana a las 2 p. m.

(c) 2024 The Mountain Times. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

 $\label{lem:composition} $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS\&docref=news/19C63712A54E3B60> $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view.p=AMNEWS\&docref=news/19C63712A54E3B60> $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view.p=AMNEWS\&docref=news/19C63712A54E3B60> $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view.p=AMNEWS\&docref=news/19C63712A54E3B60> $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view.p=AMNEWS\&docref=news/19C63712A54E3B60> $$ \https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/newsbank.com/apps/ne$



MHM shifts gears, now focused on benefit concert on Nov. 15

October 22, 2024 | Mountain Times, The (Boone, NC) Author: JERRY SNOW| Section: Mountaintimes | 182 Words OpenURL Link

Mountain Home Music was full steam ahead in their preparation for an Oct. 18 show at Appalachian Theatre of the High Country, but when Hurricane Helene devastated the area in late September, the nonprofit organization (mountainhomemusic.org) regrouped.

"After thoughtful consideration, the Oct. 18 event, 'An Evening of Appalachian Murder Ballads,' has been reimagined and rescheduled," said MHM Executive Director Courtney Wheeler.

The Wake of the Flood: A Benefit for and by Appalachian Musicians will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the Appalachian Theatre of the High Country. "The concert will support our community's recovery with proceeds benefiting the NC Arts Disaster Relief Fund," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said musicians that are committed to performing at App Theatre on Nov. 15 include: Brooks Forsyth, Brandon Holder, Lauren Hayworth, Mike McKee, Blake Bostain, Erin Williams Banks, Loose Roosters, Kattagast and Dave Brewer. She said that list will grow.

Tickets for the Nov. 15 benefit concert at App Theatre are \$20 and are available online at www.etix.com/ticket/p/92138899/wake-of-the-flooda-benefit-for-and-by-appalachian-musicians-boone-appalachian-theatre

Anyone who cannot attend but wants to contribute directly to supporting North Carolina Artists impacted by Hurricane Helene, go to donorbox.org/support-ncartsdisasterrelief

(c) 2024 The Mountain Times. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

JERRY SNOW, 'MHM shifts gears, now focused on benefit concert on Nov. 15', *Mountain Times, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C61532415AE4B0



Bears cross country earns second place finish at conference championships

October 22, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: Sports | 517 Words OpenURL Link

Pisgah cross country hosted the Mountain 7 conference championship meet, grabbing second place in the boys' competition.

"Since day one, I have been preaching to these kids that if they wanted to perform well in the conference championship they could," Pisgah coach Joe Sayblack said. "All of them performed really well."

The event was originally supposed to be hosted at the Bears' baseball complex, but that site was damaged during Helene's flooding.

"We got tossed up there really quick," Sayblack said. "There were a couple of teams in the conference who had run on it in a meet right before the flood, but most had not run on it."

Even the Bears didn't have much experience on the course. Pisgah ran a few practices on the course leading up to the conference meet but still didn't fully get to take advantage of the home-field edge they expected to have.

But the runners still put up some really solid results.

"I was pleased with how our kids ran on a course they knew very little about," Sayblack said.

Sophomore Silas Hardin led the way for the Bears with a third-place finish. Senior Daniel Sayblack was just over a minute behind Hardin with his seventh-place finish.

"Both of them have been instrumental in what we've done all season," Sayblack said.

But the strength of the Bears came in the middle of the pack — a place that Sayblack says allows the Bears to pick up the most points.

"The real key to our kids' success has been the middle group in our pack. That's where you see a big pack of kids come in. We have the potential to really improve our placement overall the more those middle-of-the-pack kids can finish high up. There's a lot of potential to really well right in the middle," Sayblack said. "That's the key to why we finished as strong as we did."

Senior Devin Velasquez grabbed 15th place and junior Leo Bolejack finished 26.

"Leo Bolejack didn't run his best time ever, but he was running through a lot of pain and did what he needed to do for us that day," Sayblack said.

A pair of freshmen rounded out the top six for the Bears with Elijah Holland grabbing the No. 31 spot and Max Rich finishing in 32nd.

The Bears had several strong performances from underclassmen.

"That's huge," Sayblack said. "I've got Daniel and Silas who are really great runners and great role models and leaders. Now, these young kids have had a season to see what Daniel and Silas are doing. We're setting the groundwork for a tradition of cross-country excellence at Pisgah High School."

Now, the Bears prepare for the regional meet which will be hosted Oct. 26 in Salisbury. The event was originally scheduled to be held at Freedom High School, but flood damages have prevented that course from being used.

Pisgah is hoping to continue to exceed expectations as they head to the next stage.

"I'm telling them again. They can do it again. They can finish stronger than what they think they can," Sayblack said. "We'll be trying to qualify as many kids as we can to go to the state championship."

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Aarik Long, 'Bears cross country earns second place finish at conference championships', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E30283187EE8