

Cooper approves more money for hard-hit Helene victims

October 18, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: RICHARD CRAVER Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 592 Words

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RALEIGH - Gov. Roy Cooper issued Wednesday an emergency executive order than nearly doubles the maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount - from \$350 to \$600 - for North Carolinians whose job has been affected by Hurricane Helene.

However, the number of state unemployment benefit weeks remains capped at 12, per state law approved in 2013 by the Republican legislative super-majority. Only eight states have a lower weekly maximum unemployment benefit than North Carolina.

Prior to the executive order, many low-income and part-time workers would have received less than the \$350 weekly maximum.

The 10-member Council of State voted unanimously to approve Cooper's executive order, including Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, who had missed previous votes on disaster relief executive orders.

The N.C. Division of Employment Security estimates it may take between two and three weeks for impacted individuals to see the impact in their weekly benefit checks.

The benefits for eligible claimants will be retroactive to Sept. 29, with adjustment payments being issued for benefit weeks going back to that date.

"As I've traveled for days around western North Carolina, I've heard concern from many small business owners about their employees who are unemployed because their businesses are temporarily closed," Cooper said in a statement.

"This executive order will increase unemployment benefits and help ease the financial burden for impacted North Carolinians as they work to recover from the storm."

Another surge in unemployment claims

The boost in the weekly unemployment amount comes amid another surge in initial unemployment claims for the week that ended Oct. 12.

The U.S. Labor Department reported Thursday there were 9,251 new claims, compared with 11,655 for the week that ended Oct. 5. About 79% of those claims were filled by people in the 25 counties in the disaster relief region.

Before the remnants of Helene arrived in western N.C., there were 2,941 new weekly unemployment claims for the week that ended Sept. 29.

Overall, there are 22,530 North Carolinians currently receiving state unemployment benefits as of Oct. 5. That number is expected to rise significantly over the next few weeks.

The emergency executive order is tied to the state of emergency for Helene and remains in effect until the end of the emergency, or until it is rescinded.

Although federal law requires the elevated state payment to apply statewide, the increased benefits would largely

go to workers from counties impacted by Helene.

Meanwhile, workers who lived or worked in the 27 impacted North Carolina counties - including Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes - and are out of work due to the disaster will qualify for up to 14 weeks of federal benefits.

Those benefits will be paid through March 29 under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.

Cooper's news release said that "to provide relief to employers impacted by Helene, and due to the extraordinary size of the trust fund balance (at \$4.8 billion), employers would not see any increase in unemployment taxes due to the increased benefit."

The Employment Security division estimates that for every 10,000 North Carolinians who receive elevated state benefits, the additional cost to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund would be \$2.5 million per week.

If 50,000 North Carolinians from impacted counties received the full additional state benefit for all 12 weeks, the additional cost to the Trust Fund is estimated to be \$150 million.

Those same 50,000 workers would then be eligible for an additional 14 weeks of federal benefits, totaling an additional \$175 million paid by the federal government.

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App State will play Georgia State in Boone

October 18, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: TOM FOREMAN JR. Staff Reporter | Section: Life | 430 Words

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Appalachian State will host Georgia State in Boone on Oct. 26, its first game at Kidd Brewer Stadium since Hurricane Helene tore through western North Carolina three weeks ago and led to flooding that inundated the town.

The game is scheduled for a 1 p.m. kickoff and is a sellout. It will be live-streamed on ESPN+.

For a time, officials had considered moving the game to either Allegacy Stadium, home of Wake Forest, or Jerry Richardson Stadium, the home of UNC Charlotte.

App State reopened on Oct. 11 and classes resumed on Oct. 16. During that time, the App State Disaster Relief Fund was created, and more than \$2 million has been distributed to members of the university community who are facing hardships because of Helene.

"We're working to thoughtfully, responsibly and respectfully bring university events back to Boone that are supported by students, faculty and staff, as well as a passionate base of alumni and others who love Appalachian State University and Western North Carolina. We're committed to ensuring that the university continues to support and sustain our community in meaningful and lasting ways," interim chancellor Heather Norris said in a news release.

"We worked together with the Town and County to respond to the immediate needs of our community during and after Hurricane Helene, and we are committed to sustaining this partnership as we continue to move forward with recovery efforts and build a sense of hope for the future to our broader community," Norris said.

Athletics Director Doug Gillin called App State "an important part of the culture and economy of our university community, the High Country, and the western North Carolina region."

"We are thankful to university, town and county leadership, and are committed to provide a safe and responsible return to home competition," Gillin said. "We hope this event will further rally our community and help support all those who are recovering."

App State is on a three-game losing streak, having fallen to South Alabama, Marshall and Louisiana. The South Alabama game, which was on Sept. 19, was the last home game the Mountaineers played before Helene forced the cancellation of the Liberty game on Sept. 28.

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Main

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Ram tough: The juggernaut that is Reidsville puts their winning streak on the line once again. SPORTS, B1

Coming together: Hard-hit Helene victims can count on even more state aid. NEWS, A4

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The muck shovelers

October 18, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Section: Main | 654 Words Page: 6A OpenURL Link

OUR OPINION

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene lobbed late-night comedians an easy punch line with her ominous pronouncement that "they" (presumably Democrats?) can control the weather.

Only, Greene wasn't joking when she posted her fractured fairytale on social media.

Same difference with another chestnut from Greene's growing annals of ridiculousness: Jewish space lasers.

It's enough to make you want to laugh ... and then cry.

Because lies have consequences. You wouldn't believe what some people will believe.

A man was arrested Saturday in western North Carolina for allegedly threatening FEMA relief workers.

Authorities say William Jacob Parsons was armed with an AR-style rifle and a handgun and said he was going to "go mess up some FEMA personnel."

Rutherford County Sheriff's Office Capt. Jamie Keever described those words as a "vague threat."

They don't sound so vague to us.

Neither did they sound vague to FEMA, which temporarily reduced door-to-to visits by relief workers.

Nor are they unexpected.

Like the muck, debris and destruction that massive flooding dumped on the high country, misinformation has swept the state and the country, breeding fear, ignorance and mistrust. And hindering relief efforts.

Those false allegations range from the absurd to the incendiary and their progenitors include the Republican nominee for president.

Early on, Donald Trump blurted - and has repeated - that the government was withholding recovery aid from Republican areas even as Republican governors and other elected officials were contradicting him. Trump also falsely said that FEMA was running low on storm-relief funds because the money was going instead to immigrants.

Then there's Mark Robinson, the scandal-ridden Republican nominee for governor, who criticized the state's relief efforts based on fact-free allegations.

Among the other toxic falsehoods was a viral lie that the federal government was plotting to seize storm-ravaged local land and confiscating relief supplies.

"This is happening in the middle of an election, where candidates are using people's misery to sow chaos for their own political objectives and it's wrong," said Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat.

Some Republicans have expressed similar frustrations.

"It's been harmful," Chuck Edwards, who represents the Asheville region in Congress, told The Hill earlier this week.

"Not just unhelpful, it's been harmful.

"Just by the delay in our response in dealing with folks that really needed help, while we were having to fill all the calls and quash the rumor that was out there," he added. "In addition to the fact that there were people out there that believed that if they were to send goods to western North Carolina, that they might not make it to their intended point." Edwards would not mention any names, probably out of a reluctance of offending fellow Republicans, but we already know who's muddying the truth.

Which brings us back to Parsons, who was arrested while sitting in a vehicle outside of a storm-relief site in the hard-hit Chimney Rock area. He was freed on a \$10,000 secured bond.

His wasn't the only threat they've received, a FEMA spokesperson said, noting several days of intimidation and harassment.

Thankfully, by Monday, FEMA said a statement that the potential danger "was more limited than initially reported and mitigated by law enforcement."

Relief teams resumed normal operations.

Of course, any delay in relief efforts only makes the task harder and more challenging as colder weather approaches, but threats must be taken seriously.

You may remember Edgar Madisson Welch, the 28-year-old father of two from Salisbury, who in 2016 walked into a pizzeria in northwest Washington and fired an AR-15-style rifle.

Welch had driven for six hours to the nation's capital because he had read on Facebook and Twitter that the restaurant, called Comet Ping Pong, was a front for a child sex-slave ring led by Hillary Clinton.

Welch was charged with four counts, including felony assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a gun without a license outside a home or business.

He was sentenced to four years in prison by a U.S. District Court judge named Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Suddenly, space lasers and weather-controlling Democrats aren't so funny anymore, are they?

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More artists join 'Concert for Carolina' Helene relief show

October 18, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Chyna Blackmon; Staff Writer | Section: Living | 603 Words Page: 6A OpenURL Link

As recovery efforts continue after Hurricane Helene, more award-winning stars will be hitting the stage for the "Concert for Carolina" benefit show to support storm victims across the region - and a livestream option has been added due to overwhelming demand for tickets to the sold-out show.

The concert at Bank of America Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26 will feature North Carolina natives Luke Combs, Eric Church and James Taylor. The latest additions, announced Tuesday, Oct. 15, are more acts with North Carolina ties: Concord-based The Avett Brothers, "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery from Garner, country singer Chase Rice, a former UNC football player, and Parmalee, which got its start in Parmele, North Carolina.

Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban and Bailey Zimmerman will also be performing.

All proceeds from the event, including sponsorships, will be split between Combs' and Church's Chief Cares Foundation to administer to different organizations' relief efforts in the Carolinas, including Samaritan's Purse, Manna Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC and Eblen Charities.

"I'm glad we can help, but ... I wish we were never here," Church, who also released a song dedicated to "the unsung heroes" with all publishing royalties to be donated to hurricane relief efforts, previously told The Charlotte Observer.

"So now it's a matter of trying to figure out the best way that we can rebuild where we're both from ... the place that made us who we are as artists."

There are two options for the livestream, organizers say.

- * If you live in an affected area: The livestream will offer free access to those who live in an area affected by Hurricane Helene. For this option, click "Watch live" at ConcertforCarolina.com, then "Claim free ticket" to register. "Concert for Carolina" and Veeps use geotargeting to ensure you won't be charged.
- * If you live outside an affected area: The livestream will be available worldwide and will cost \$24.99.

For those looking to support in other ways, a release from LiveNation says donations can also be given to The North Carolina Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund or to various organizations listed online at concertforcarolina.com.

Other Helene relief efforts

* Music for the Mountains will be held at Red Hat Amphitheater in Downtown Raleigh on Sunday, Oct. 27. The event features a concert and live telethon to raise money for hurricane relief and recovery.

The lineup features Old Crow Medicine Show, Chatham County Line, BJ Barham and more.

Tickets start for \$25 to \$125 and can be bought through eTix.com. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

* Winston-Salem native Ben Folds is also putting together a benefit concert alongside other North Carolina artists in

Wilmington on Oct. 29 at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater.

The event is called "From Wilmington With Love" and will feature artists from Western North Carolina, including Jim Lauderdale, Moonshine State, Caleb Caudle & The Sweet Critters and Josh Goforth.

"I'm honored to share the stage and stand in unity with other North Carolina music artists to help those whose lives and livelihoods have been tragically lost or forever altered by the horrific events triggered by Hurricane Helene," Folds said in a statement. "Our goal with this benefit concert is to raise awareness and funds to support the massive rebuilding efforts now underway, and that will be ongoing for months and years to come."

Tickets for the "From Wilmington With Love" show at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater are on sale at concerts.livenation.com starting at \$40.

Chyna Blackmon: @chynablackmon

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Gov. Cooper increases NC unemployment benefits after Helene. Here's what's available.

October 18, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Avi Bajpai; Staff Writer | Section: News | 631 Words Page: 2A OpenURL Link

RALEIGH Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order Wednesday increasing the maximum weekly unemployment payment available to North Carolinians in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

The executive order applies statewide and authorizes the current maximum weekly payment of \$350 to be raised to \$600.

The payments paid out by the state will continue to be capped at 12 weeks, but North Carolinians who lived or worked in the western counties that were impacted by the storm, and are out of work because of it, will qualify for up to 26 weeks of federal benefits that will be paid through the end of March.

In a statement, Cooper, a Democrat, said he was authorizing the raise in weekly unemployment benefits after traveling across Western North Carolina and hearing concern from small business owners about employees who were still unemployed because their businesses are still closed.

The executive order, which received unanimous agreement from the rest of the bipartisan Council of State, is tied to the ongoing state of emergency for Helene, and will stay in effect until the end of the emergency, or until the order is rescinded.

On top of raising the cap on weekly benefits to \$600, the executive order also increases benefits by \$250 per week, up to the \$600 maximum, to ensure that any low-income or part-time workers who were receiving less than the current \$350 maximum "receive necessary benefits in the wake of Helene," according to a news release from Cooper's office.

Cooper's office noted that even though federal law requires the increased benefits to apply statewide, 79% of new claims filed - 19,735 - between the storm hitting North Carolina on Sept. 27 and Oct. 13 were filed by workers in impacted counties.

The governor's office also noted that only eight other states have lower weekly maximum unemployment benefits after North Carolina, adding that the \$350 cap, which was set in 2013, had not been changed since, "even as rising wages in the state continue to grow North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund from which benefits are paid."

The trust fund currently has more than \$4.8 billion, and is the second-largest of its kind in the country, the governor's office said.

The governor's office said that the Division of Employment Security estimated that if 50,000 North Carolinians from the impacted counties were to receive the maximum unemployment payment for the entire 12-week duration, it would cost the trust fund a total of \$150 million.

The additional 14 weeks of federal benefits available under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program would cost the federal government an additional \$175 million, the governor's office said.

"Many currently unemployed workers will likely return to work before receiving the full benefit they are entitled to claim, so the actual fiscal impact of the increased benefits is expected to be lower," Cooper's office said in the release.

In a statement, State Treasurer Dale Folwell said he concurred with Cooper's executive order but suggested that officials should work to figure out where the increased benefits are most needed.

"While natural disasters are nothing new in North Carolina, they always present new opportunities to learn important lessons," Folwell said. "I recommend that the Governor, working with local, state and federal officials and agencies, resolve to more clearly define and identify areas that are most impacted by this and future disasters. That would assure that increased benefits and employer tax relief are provided to those in the greatest need."

"Hopefully, the U.S. Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly will take this opportunity to draft laws that will allow precision focus and immediate action to struggling disaster relief areas instead of extending response on a statewide basis," he said.

Cooper's office said Wednesday that it could take people filing for unemployment between two and three weeks to see the increased payments in their weekly benefit checks.

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Official: Hypothermia death claims are false

October 18, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Adam Wagner; Staff Writer | Section: News | 458 Words

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A viral claim that 15 people died of hypothermia in Avery County this week is "categorically false," Alicia Stemper, an acting spokeswoman for the county's emergency operations, told The News & Observer.

"Mark it debunked in all capital letters, please," Stemper said.

Dr. Mollie James posted the claim Tuesday morning on the social media platform X. James joined other medical personnel at a grassroots disaster relief center set up at the Avery County Airport and posted that 15 people, including children, had died overnight from hypothermia.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the post had been seen more than 900,000 times, had been reposted more than 5,400 times and had been liked more than 8,300 times.

James is licensed in Iowa and Missouri as an osteopathic physician and surgeon. She has hosted a pair of podcasts, with episode titles that address free speech in medicine and that discuss legal strategies against vaccine mandates.

Avery County Sheriff's Office deputies have an active investigation into James and into her intent behind spreading the false rumor, Stemper said.

She said they needed to visit the field hospital to investigate the claim of 15 deaths after seeing the social media post.

"You can't hear information like that and dismiss it. You have to go check it out," Stemper said.

And that means the deputies and investigators can't be taking on other tasks that are needed in the storm-impacted county, she said.

As of Wednesday, there were four deaths and three people reported missing in Avery County. Those numbers have held steady for several days, Stemper said.

Stemper also described fears that the false claim and others like it could lead people who are already having a tough time after living through Tropical Storm Helene to enter a state of despair.

"If you're hanging on to the edge and you hear 15 more people from your county died, that might be the last thing it takes for you to give up all hope," Stemper said. "It's just so painful, unnecessary, hurtful and obstructive."

NC Reality Check is investigating rumors having to do with Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene and its aftermath in Western North Carolina. If you have heard a rumor that you would like us to check out, email realitycheck@newsobserver.com

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Three weeks after Hurricane Helene, work is still plentiful in Old Fort. So are volunteers.

October 18, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: Eric Millsaps| Section: News| 522 Words OpenURL Link

The burgers were sizzling on Wednesday at The Davis Country Store & Café on East Main Street in Old Fort. For the past three weeks, the store has provided breakfast, lunch and dinner to anyone hungry and in need.

The family-owned business has dispensed about 600 meals a day since Hurricane Helene rolled through and swamped the town, according to 21-year-old Anderson Davis, who works with his parents, Amy and Robert Davis.

Anderson Davis said the store will serve free meals "as long as the need is there."

Across Old Fort on Wednesday, helping hands were plentiful. So was the work.

At the home of Pearl Shelton on Catawba Avenue, a volunteer crew was stripping down the residence.

A restoration team from BELFOR Property Restoration was masked up and cleaning out Old Fort Elementary School.

And Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes was singing the praises of the city's nine full-time employees over at town hall.

Davis Country Store & Café

After the storm left Old Fort residents without electricity or water, the grills were fired up and food served at the café, Anderson Davis said.

He said the café cleared out its freezers. Since then, people have donated food and volunteers have helped with the cooking.

In addition to providing a meal, Davis said the café became an information center in the storm's aftermath.

"People came here to find others," he said. "People didn't know how their neighbors were doing. It's been tough on a lot of people."

The house on Catawba Avenue

Members of God's Pit Crew assembled at the home of Pearl Shelton on Catawba Avenue to muck out the home, said Jeff Rexrode, a member of the volunteer group.

Rexrode said people came from places such as Texas, New York and Ohio to help out in western North Carolina, including the people working at Shelton's home.

Winter coats, a damaged dresser and pieces of ceiling were among the items the crew removed from the Shelton home.

And mud. Lots of mud. Six inches of mud, according to one of the workers.

Rexrode said God's Pit Crew is a Christ-centered volunteer organization that began in 1999. He said he came from Danville, Virginia, to take part in the cleanup.

He said there is no charge for the services of God's Pit Crew. The organization operates on donations.

No tags were visible on the Shelton home, but Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, said 47 homes in Old Fort have been red tagged. Another 36 have been yellow tagged.

Zapp, who was working with town officials, said red tag homes are considered condemned. He said yellow tag homes are dwellings that may have power restored but have significant concerns.

Old Fort Elementary School

A cleanup crew from BELFOR Property Restoration was hard at work at the school. One worker said the initial cleanup phase was nearly complete. The next step is repair, the worker said. About 50 people were working at the school on Wednesday.

Town of Old Fort

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes took a moment Wednesday to praise the employees of the town.

She said employees have worked up to 16 hours per day, seven days a week without complaint.

"I am so proud of the town of Old Fort," she said.

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What's next for Old Fort? One estimate is \$10 million in repairs needed

October 18, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: Eric Millsaps| Section: News| 356 Words OpenURL Link

When will Old Fort's sewer system be repaired?

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes said Wednesday the answer lies in three more questions:

How will the system be repaired?

When can it be repaired?

What will it cost to repair the system?

Snypes said the sewer system was badly damaged by the floodwaters brought on by the rains of Hurricane Helene.

Snypes was in her Old Fort office on Wednesday working with officials from across the state, including Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, a North Carolina coastal town that has recovered from several hurricanes.

Zapp said the storm flooded the Old Fort sewer plant, with as much as 15 feet of water inside the plant. The plant is currently operating on a standby generator, and many sewer lines were damaged in the storm, Zapp said.

He added that Old Fort does not yet have a count on the number of water and sewer lines damaged by flooding.

Snypes noted 95% of water customers have service restored and the boil advisory for the town should end soon.

What will it cost to repair water and sewer issues in Old Fort? Zapp said the town's total annual budget is less than \$2 million. He said repairs could end up being \$10 million or more.

What about the debris?

Jeff Parker owns a number of buildings in Old Fort. His frustration was showing Wednesday as workers repaired the building that houses the Purrfectly Pampered Pet Spa.

"It makes no sense that so much debris is still sitting around," he said when asked about what needs to happen next in Old Fort. He said crews had hauled off 60 loads of debris but there was still much to be done.

He called the current situation a nightmare.

Mayor Snypes said Old Fort is working with McDowell County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials on the cleanup. Zapp said help is here and the next step is to decide where the material will go.

He said that having the Corps of Engineers on hand to help is "unprecedented."

Snypes said no timeline has been finalized for the removal of debris. Zapp said the town lost a trash truck and other vehicles in the flooding.

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Blood supply dwindles in wake of Hurricane Helene

October 18, 2024 | High Point Enterprise (NC) Author: JIMMY TOMLIN PAXTON MEDIA GROUP | Section: Thomasville Times | 400 Words OpenURL Link

Want to help?

To find a blood drive near you, visit redcross.org, hover your cursor over "Give Blood" and then click "Find A Blood Drive." Type in your ZIP Code for a list of upcoming blood drives in your area. Anyone who donates blood, platelets or plasma between now and Oct. 31 will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card by email, and will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. For full details, visit redcrossblood.org/treat.

TRIAD — As donations of water, food, baby formula, generators and so many more items continue to arrive in hurricane-ravaged western North Carolina, here's a donation item you may not have considered — blood.

The American Red Cross is working to restock much-needed blood products that went uncollected in the wake of Hurricane Helene, which forced the cancellation of more than a hundred blood drives across the region.

"We are in critical need of donors," said Kaitlyn Connolly, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross. "When we don't have electricity or we don't have running water, we can't collect blood, so we had to cancel a lot of those blood drives."

According to Connolly, the organization has missed out on collecting approximately 2,500 blood products because of the hurricane.

"So the need is critical right now," she said. "We're trying to restock the blood on the shelves, because that blood on the shelves is what saves people's lives."

Donors outside of the affected areas, in particular, are encouraged to make an appointment to donate blood now and help keep the blood supply stable in the weeks to come, Connolly said.

As the news has spread about the shortage of blood, citizens have been stepping up to help meet the need, Connolly said.

"We've seen a lot of people coming out and donating, and we're very thankful for them, but we can always use more blood donations, especially now," she said. "We'll take any blood product — whole blood, platelets or plasma."

As an added incentive, anyone who donates blood between now and Oct. 31 will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card by email and will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards.

Six blood drives are scheduled in High Point alone before the end of the month, and many more are scheduled throughout Guilford County and in neighboring Davidson and Randolph counties. For a full list, visit redcross.org.

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Early voting turnout strong

October 18, 2024 | High Point Enterprise (NC) Author: STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS | Section: Local | 374 Words OpenURL Link

Turnout on the first day for in-person early voting didn't disappoint as large crowds showed up at polls in Kernersville and across the state Thursday to cast ballots in a state considered a battleground for the presidential race.

A record 353,166 ballots were cast as more than 400 early voting sites opened as scheduled for the 17-day period, including all but four of the 80 sites previously anticipated for the 25 western counties hardest hit by Hurricane Helene, said State Board of Elections Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell. That was 1.3% more ballots that the 348,559 cast on the first day of early voting in 2020.

Bell credited election workers — including volunteers impacted by the severe weather — emergency management officials and utility crews.

Thursday's sunny weather likely helped to make turnout "terrific" statewide, according to Brinson Bell, who suggested that the state could break a record for first-day early voting in all 100 counties.

Early voting concludes Nov. 2 leading into Election Day on Nov. 5.

More than 3.6 million ballots — 65% of all ballots — were cast during early voting in the 2020 general election. In the 2016 election, 62% of all ballots were cast during early in-person voting.

Voters can search for early voting sites by county on the state board's website at https://vt.ncsbe.gov/EVSite/

Officials in the 25 counties affected by the storm were still evaluating Election Day polling locations, with the "vast majority" expected to be available to voters, Brinson Bell said. So far, officials have requested tents for about a dozen sites, she added.

Traditional absentee voting in North Carolina began a few weeks ago, with over 67,000 completed ballots turned in so far, election officials said. People displaced by Helene are being allowed to drop off their absentee ballot at any early voting site in the state.

More Information Early voting in Kernersville started Thursday at the Paddison Memorial Library, 248 Harmon Lane, and Kernersville Fire Station No. 42, 1180 N.C. 66. Early voting will continue through Nov. 2. Early voting times: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Oct. 21-25, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov.r 2, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. {related_content_uuid}dafba641-57fc-48f5-9dd1-fdd41653a89d{/related_content_uuid}

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STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS, 'Early voting turnout strong', *High Point Enterprise* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AFFDF67F7E08



Three weeks after Hurricane Helene, work is still plentiful in Old Fort. So are volunteers.

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Eric Millsaps | Section: Government Politics | 522 Words OpenURL Link

The burgers were sizzling on Wednesday at The Davis Country Store & Café on East Main Street in Old Fort. For the past three weeks, the store has provided breakfast, lunch and dinner to anyone hungry and in need.

The family-owned business has dispensed about 600 meals a day since Hurricane Helene rolled through and swamped the town, according to 21-year-old Anderson Davis, who works with his parents, Amy and Robert Davis.

Anderson Davis said the store will serve free meals "as long as the need is there."

Across Old Fort on Wednesday, helping hands were plentiful. So was the work.

At the home of Pearl Shelton on Catawba Avenue, a volunteer crew was stripping down the residence.

A restoration team from BELFOR Property Restoration was masked up and cleaning out Old Fort Elementary School.

And Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes was singing the praises of the city's nine full-time employees over at town hall.

Davis Country Store & Café

After the storm left Old Fort residents without electricity or water, the grills were fired up and food served at the café, Anderson Davis said.

He said the café cleared out its freezers. Since then, people have donated food and volunteers have helped with the cooking.

In addition to providing a meal, Davis said the café became an information center in the storm's aftermath.

"People came here to find others," he said. "People didn't know how their neighbors were doing. It's been tough on a lot of people."

The house on Catawba Avenue

Members of God's Pit Crew assembled at the home of Pearl Shelton on Catawba Avenue to muck out the home, said Jeff Rexrode, a member of the volunteer group.

Rexrode said people came from places such as Texas, New York and Ohio to help out in western North Carolina, including the people working at Shelton's home.

Winter coats, a damaged dresser and pieces of ceiling were among the items the crew removed from the Shelton home.

And mud. Lots of mud. Six inches of mud, according to one of the workers.

Rexrode said God's Pit Crew is a Christ-centered volunteer organization that began in 1999. He said he came from Danville, Virginia, to take part in the cleanup.

He said there is no charge for the services of God's Pit Crew. The organization operates on donations.

No tags were visible on the Shelton home, but Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, said 47 homes in Old Fort have been red tagged. Another 36 have been yellow tagged.

Zapp, who was working with town officials, said red tag homes are considered condemned. He said yellow tag homes are dwellings that may have power restored but have significant concerns.

Old Fort Elementary School

A cleanup crew from BELFOR Property Restoration was hard at work at the school. One worker said the initial cleanup phase was nearly complete. The next step is repair, the worker said. About 50 people were working at the school on Wednesday.

Town of Old Fort

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes took a moment Wednesday to praise the employees of the town.

She said employees have worked up to 16 hours per day, seven days a week without complaint.

"I am so proud of the town of Old Fort," she said.

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Eric Millsaps, 'Three weeks after Hurricane Helene, work is still plentiful in Old Fort. So are volunteers.', *McDowell News, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4948326DD0150>



NCHSAA announces sites for fall championships

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: JUSTIN EPLEY Sports editor | Section: High School | 470 Words OpenURL Link

CHAPEL HILL — The NCHSAA on Thursday announced championship sites for the state's high school sports fall season, which has had some rearranging done due to damage inflicted by Hurricane Helene in the western half of the state.

Football state championship games will be played from Dec. 20-21, with the 2A and 4A contests held at the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium and the 1A and 3A state championship games contested at North Carolina State University's Carter-Finley Stadium. Both venues are playing host for the fourth consecutive year, the NCHSAA said. The association also noted that decisions regarding game times will be made once the participating teams are determined.

In boys soccer, state championship games will be played from Nov. 22-23, with all classifications playing at the Mecklenburg County Sportsplex in Matthews. According to the NCHSAA, this marks the first time the venue will host the boys soccer championships after making its debut as a championship site for girls soccer this past spring. The boys title games had been heled at MacPherson Stadium at the Bryan Park Soccer Complex in Greensboro following a three-year stay at Cary's Koka Booth Stadium.

For volleyball, all classifications will play on Nov. 2 at North Carolina State University's Reynolds Coliseum. The NCHSAA says the venue is serving in this role for the fourth straight year.

Girls tennis individual tournaments will be held from Oct. 25-26 with 1A at Cary Tennis Center, 2A at Ting Park in Holly Springs, 3A at the Burlington Tennis Center and 4A at the Millbrook Exchange in Raleigh. Dual-team state championships will be played on Nov. 9, with all classifications at Burlington Tennis Center.

For girls golf, state championships will be held from Oct. 28-29 with the 1A/2A match at Sapona Golf Club in Lexington, 3A at Longleaf Golf and Family Club in Southern Pines and 4A at Pinehurst Resort No. 6 in Pinehurst. According to the NCHSAA, Sapona is a new venue for state championships. The 3A match returns to Longleaf after being played at Foxfire Golf Club a season ago. And the 4A match will be played at its most-frequented venue this millennium, with Pinehurst No. 6 hosting for the ninth time since the event left Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill in 2000.

All cross country classifications will compete for state championships on Nov. 2 at the Ivey Redmon Complex in Kernersville. The NCHSAA says this is the 12th time in a row the complex has played host and the 15th consecutive time the events have been held in Kernersville.

The NCHSAA's cheerleading invitational will be held on Dec. 7 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The association notes the event has been held there for most of its history, with this season marking the fourth consecutive time after it was held at Southern Alamance High School in Graham for the 2020-21 campaign.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

JUSTIN EPLEY Sports editor, 'NCHSAA announces sites for fall championships', *McDowell News, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C494832C93C610



EARLY VOTING STARTS IN STORM-BATTERED NORTH CAROLINA

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 75 Words OpenURL Link

People stand in line at a polling place Thursday in black Mountain, N.C. early in-person voting began statewide Thursday in the presidential battleground state, including in mountainous areas where thousands of potential voters still lack power and clean running water after Hurricane Helene's epic flooding in late September. election officials said all but four of 80 sites in the 25 western counties hardest hit by the storm were open for the 17-day early voting period.

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Staff Writer, 'EARLY VOTING STARTS IN STORM-BATTERED NORTH CAROLINA', *McDowell News, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4948332F040B0



'WE WILL BE HERE AS LONG AS IT TAKES'

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News | 479 Words OpenURL Link

On Tuesday, the U.S. Small Business Administration visited Marion and talked with local officials about helping businesses in McDowell County rebuild from Hurricane Helene.

Dilawar Syed, deputy administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, met with local leaders at the McDowell County Administrative Offices.

Marion Mayor Steve Little, Marion City Manager Bob Boyette, McDowell County Manager Ashley Wooten, Chamber of Commerce President Kim Effer, Marion Business Association Director Freddie Killough, Tourism Director Shannon Odom and McDowell Economic Development Association Director Chuck Abernathy were in attendance.

The SBA is an independent agency of the U.S. government that provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Syed and his team from the SBA came to McDowell County to talk about recovery efforts so far, specifically for businesses.

Syed said the SBA has disaster loans to assist businesses with rebuilding.

The SBA has people working at the McDowell County Disaster Recovery Center at the Senior Center in Marion. Applicants can walk in and talk with the SBA staff about this process.

"The whole process, our teams can walk you through, answer your questions," Syed said.

"We will be here as long as it takes, to help this community recover," Syed said. "That's a commitment the president has made, and we will make sure that we do that."

Little said the deputy administrator brought with him a group of people who are intelligent, helpful and compassionate.

"They know their stuff," Little said. "They know how to encourage and make us aware that first, we are not alone here. We have people who support our efforts to recover, and SBA is a vital, vital member of that team that we are being the beneficiaries of as they are here to help us."

Little said the information the SBA shared with local officials will be shared throughout the community.

The SBA disaster loans available to businesses include:

- Business physical disaster loans Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, nonprofit organizations such as charities, churches and private universities are also eligible.
- •" Economic Injury Disaster Loans Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes meet ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster.

These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

• " Home disaster loans — Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.

These loans have lower interest rates and fixed rates. Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA and they must show the ability to repay all loans, according to a news release from the SBA.

Applicants may call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba. gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

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MIKE CONLEY nconley@mcdowellnews.com, "WE WILL BE HERE AS LONG AS IT TAKES", *McDowell News, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C494836849D7C0



What's next for Old Fort? One estimate is \$10 million in repairs needed

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Eric Millsaps| Section: Government Politics| 356 Words OpenURL Link

When will Old Fort's sewer system be repaired?

Old Fort Mayor Pam Snypes said Wednesday the answer lies in three more questions:

How will the system be repaired?

When can it be repaired?

What will it cost to repair the system?

Snypes said the sewer system was badly damaged by the floodwaters brought on by the rains of Hurricane Helene.

Snypes was in her Old Fort office on Wednesday working with officials from across the state, including Matt Zapp, the town manager of Emerald Isle, a North Carolina coastal town that has recovered from several hurricanes.

Zapp said the storm flooded the Old Fort sewer plant, with as much as 15 feet of water inside the plant. The plant is currently operating on a standby generator, and many sewer lines were damaged in the storm, Zapp said.

He added that Old Fort does not yet have a count on the number of water and sewer lines damaged by flooding.

Snypes noted 95% of water customers have service restored and the boil advisory for the town should end soon.

What will it cost to repair water and sewer issues in Old Fort? Zapp said the town's total annual budget is less than \$2 million. He said repairs could end up being \$10 million or more.

What about the debris?

Jeff Parker owns a number of buildings in Old Fort. His frustration was showing Wednesday as workers repaired the building that houses the Purrfectly Pampered Pet Spa.

"It makes no sense that so much debris is still sitting around," he said when asked about what needs to happen next in Old Fort. He said crews had hauled off 60 loads of debris but there was still much to be done.

He called the current situation a nightmare.

Mayor Snypes said Old Fort is working with McDowell County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials on the cleanup. Zapp said help is here and the next step is to decide where the material will go.

He said that having the Corps of Engineers on hand to help is "unprecedented."

Snypes said no timeline has been finalized for the removal of debris. Zapp said the town lost a trash truck and other vehicles in the flooding.

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After long lines at early voting, McDowell's Republican Party wants a second voting location

October 18, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: Mike Conley| Section: Elections | 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 understand 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.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4AB719E17B858>



FEMA sets up permanent help center in Haywood

October 18, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 534 Words OpenURL Link

FEMA now has now opened a permanent Disaster Recovery Center in Haywood County at the Haywood Community College High-Tech Center in Waynesville.

The center is a one-stop shop where survivors can meet face-to-face with FEMA representatives and apply for FEMA financial assistance — which can include money for basic home repairs, personal property losses or other uninsured, disaster-related needs, such as childcare, transportation, medical needs, funeral, or dental expenses.

The center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. HCC High-Tech Center is located at 112 Industrial Park Dr., Waynesville. People can also apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov.

During the previous week, FEMA reps held walk-in assistance clinics at various locations in the county, including at the HCC High Tech Center, before establishing the permanent site. Centers are also open in Asheville, Bakersville, Boone, Brevard, Hendersonville, Lenoir, Marion, and Sylva.

Below is a list of other assistance resources:

Central hotline

Haywood County has set up a hotline for all things Helene. The Emergency Call Center can answer questions, direct people to the right place for the information they're looking for and provide information on resources. Open 8 a.m.– 5 p.m. daily. Call 828-356-2020.

Flood clean-up assistance

Anyone who needs help cleaning up damage from Hurricane Helene at your home/residence or house of worship, call Crisis Cleanup at 844-965-1386 to ask for help.

Crisis Cleanup is 100% free service that connects volunteers from local and national relief organizations, community groups, and faith communities who may be able to assist with mucking out after floods, moving debris to curbs, tarping roofs, and chain-sawing downed trees.

Car stuck?

If your car is stuck on the other side of a creek due to Helene, please call the Haywood County call center at 828-356-2020. There are resources available to help you retrieve your vehicle.

Temporary footbridge

Anyone who needs a temporary footbridge constructed for access due to damage caused by Tropical Storm Helene, contact the Haywood Alerts Call Center for assistance at 828-356-2020.

Mass care medical unit

A Mass Care Medical Unit is set up at Haywood Health and Human Services from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., providing nonemergency health care services such as simple medication refills, insulin management, tetanus vaccinations, etc. Located at 157 Paragon Parkway, Suite 300, Clyde.

Disaster unemployment assistance

If your employment has been lost or interrupted because of Helene, you may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, including self employed and business owners. The deadline to apply is Dec. 2. Apply online at des.nc.gov or call 919-629-3857 for assistance.

Free legal assistance

Volunteer lawyers are assisting low-income storm survivors with FEMA appeals, insurance claims, contractor disputes, and more for those navigating the aftermath of the storm — thanks to a partnership among Legal Aid of North Carolina, the North Carolina Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and FEMA. Call 866-219-5262.

Business Ioans

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-cost financial assistance for businesses impacted by Helene.

Business Physical Disaster: Loans to repair or replace disaster-damaged property, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment.

Economic Injury Disaster: Working capital loans to help small businesses who may not have been physically impacted the storm, but have suffered revenue loss as a direct result of the disaster.

Apply online at sba.gov/disaster. Deadline for physical property damage is Nov. 29 and for economic injury is June 30.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'FEMA sets up permanent help center in Haywood', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E1EC167020



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October 18, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 629 Words OpenURL Link

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Economic Injury Disaster: Working capital loans to help small businesses who may not have been physically impacted the storm, but have suffered revenue loss as a direct result of the disaster.

Disaster survivors also should not wait to settle with their insurance company or FEMA before applying for a disaster loan, as borrowers can use proceeds that come in later to pay back the loan. Apply online at sba.gov/disaster. Deadline for physical property damage is Nov. 29 and for economic injury is June 30.

Mental Health supportThe following resources are available to anyone who needs mental health/substance use support:

Vaya Health Behavioral Health Crisis Line 800-849-6127.

Call or text 988 for mental health support from a trained mental health professional. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week — free and confidential.

NC's Peer Warmline at 1-855-733-7762 to speak to a peer living in recovery from mental health or substance use issues.

Walk-in clinic at Appalachian Community Services, 91 Timberlane Road, Waynesville. 828-454-1098

Walk-in clinic at Blue Ridge Health/Meridian, 131 Walnut St., Waynesville. 828-456-8604 Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

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More artists join 'Concert for Carolina' Helene relief show

October 18, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Chyna Blackmon; Staff Writer | Section: Living | 603 Words Page: 6A OpenURL Link

As recovery efforts continue after Hurricane Helene, more award-winning stars will be hitting the stage for the "Concert for Carolina" benefit show to support storm victims across the region - and a livestream option has been added due to overwhelming demand for tickets to the sold-out show.

The concert at Bank of America Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26 will feature North Carolina natives Luke Combs, Eric Church and James Taylor. The latest additions, announced Tuesday, Oct. 15, are more acts with North Carolina ties: Concord-based The Avett Brothers, "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery from Garner, country singer Chase Rice, a former UNC football player, and Parmalee, which got its start in Parmele, North Carolina.

Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban and Bailey Zimmerman will also be performing.

All proceeds from the event, including sponsorships, will be split between Combs' and Church's Chief Cares Foundation to administer to different organizations' relief efforts in the Carolinas, including Samaritan's Purse, Manna Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC and Eblen Charities.

"I'm glad we can help, but ... I wish we were never here," Church, who also released a song dedicated to "the unsung heroes" with all publishing royalties to be donated to hurricane relief efforts, previously told The Charlotte Observer.

"So now it's a matter of trying to figure out the best way that we can rebuild where we're both from ... the place that made us who we are as artists."

There are two options for the livestream, organizers say.

- * If you live in an affected area: The livestream will offer free access to those who live in an area affected by Hurricane Helene. For this option, click "Watch live" at ConcertforCarolina.com, then "Claim free ticket" to register. "Concert for Carolina" and Veeps use geotargeting to ensure you won't be charged.
- * If you live outside an affected area: The livestream will be available worldwide and will cost \$24.99.

For those looking to support in other ways, a release from LiveNation says donations can also be given to The North Carolina Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund or to various organizations listed online at concertforcarolina.com.

Other Helene relief efforts

* Music for the Mountains will be held at Red Hat Amphitheater in Downtown Raleigh on Sunday, Oct. 27. The event features a concert and live telethon to raise money for hurricane relief and recovery.

The lineup features Old Crow Medicine Show, Chatham County Line, BJ Barham and more.

Tickets start for \$25 to \$125 and can be bought through eTix.com. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

* Winston-Salem native Ben Folds is also putting together a benefit concert alongside other North Carolina artists in

Wilmington on Oct. 29 at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater.

The event is called "From Wilmington With Love" and will feature artists from Western North Carolina, including Jim Lauderdale, Moonshine State, Caleb Caudle & The Sweet Critters and Josh Goforth.

"I'm honored to share the stage and stand in unity with other North Carolina music artists to help those whose lives and livelihoods have been tragically lost or forever altered by the horrific events triggered by Hurricane Helene," Folds said in a statement. "Our goal with this benefit concert is to raise awareness and funds to support the massive rebuilding efforts now underway, and that will be ongoing for months and years to come."

Tickets for the "From Wilmington With Love" show at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater are on sale at concerts.livenation.com starting at \$40.

Chyna Blackmon: @chynablackmon

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Chyna Blackmon, Staff Writer, 'More artists join 'Concert for Carolina' Helene relief show', *News & Observer, The* (online), 18 Oct 2024 6A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4C3EB715B6BF8>