

'Compassion in action' — Forsyth Humane Society rescues dozens of animals from Asheville

October 2, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: CONNOR MCNEELY Winston-Salem Journal | Section: Pets | 726 Words OpenURL Link

Julie Long felt relieved when she saw a pack of hounds running down the plane's boarding ramp, barking and wagging their tails.

She had seen the Asheville Humane Society and knew that there was no way any animals could stay in the shelter after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. So the sight of cats and dogs excitedly arriving at a safe place in Forsyth County was a blessing beyond words.

On Monday, the Bissell Pet Foundation delivered 40 dogs and 57 cats from the Asheville Humane Society to the Forsyth Humane Society. Forsyth's Humane Society had also loaded up 1,000 pounds of donated supplies to send for distribution in Asheville.

"Being able to go on the transport last night was really cathartic for me, because having a child there and knowing how bad it is there, it was helpful for me to make a little difference of helping, knowing I can't be there," said Long, a volunteer at the Forsyth Humane Society.

Without electricity and running water, animal shelters in the western part of North Carolina are nearly helpless to care for any dogs, cats, or other small animals.

The flood of water completely swallowed Asheville's Brother Wolf Animal Rescue building after the shelter successfully evacuated its animals into temporary foster homes. At the Asheville Humane Society's headquarters, staff loaded up their animals into crates and sent them to Forsyth County.

The majority of the animals are healthy, but their stress and anxiety are through the roof, said Forsyth Humane Society President Mark Neff. Some of the animals came with a broken leg, hip, or eye infections.

For Neff and his 33-person staff, workdays in the aftermath of Helene now begin early in the morning and end late at night. The Humane Society currently has 210 animals in its care and is expecting hundreds more to arrive by the end of the week.

But despite the heavy workload, Neff believes the Forsyth Humane Society is shouldering the burden of those who have lost everything.

"This is compassion in action. And this isn't just about the animals. It really is about people," Neff said. "The people in these shelters, they're so focused on those animals, all they need to be focused on is themselves and their family and all of their losses."

Residents of Forsyth County have met the Humane Society with their help. The organization has now received over 500 applications for foster care, which helps free up space in the shelter and provide temporary care for animals who have already been flown across the state.

Neff often thinks about the upper limit that his organization can support. He knows that his medical staff can care for about 500 animals, and is thankful for the Forsyth County community, which he says is always ready to embrace animals without homes.

"The thing about animals is they're the innocent victims of this," Neff said. "Animals are completely, 100 percent dependent upon people."

As the animals arrive at the Humane Society, the organization's medical staff check their condition to understand whether they are spayed, neutered, vaccinated and healthy.

After that check, they are ready for adoption and foster care. Neff said that foster care usually entails a 2-4 week period of care for the animal, with variations if it is sick, injured, pregnant or nursing.

While the cats and dogs wait for a new home, volunteers keep them company in their crates and attempt to ease their worries after the chaos of the storm and a bumpy plane ride. Behind the Humane Society building, the organization has a large outdoor garden area with plenty of green space for dogs to run around and play.

Long, who has volunteered with the Humane Society for two years, said that her daughter and son-in-law went back to Asheville so she could work her job at a hospital.

"We had a lot of tears and a lot of 'OK, stop, take a breath,'" Long said.

Long decided to take in her daughters' two dogs, a German shepherd named Kratos, and a Pitbull mix named Luna, after the devastation of the hurricane.

At work, she cares for a number of hounds in the back of the Humane Society building. When she steps into their kennels, a mixed-breed dog named Crouton jumps onto her in a long embrace.

"What a relief," Long said. "We are literally saving that dog or that cat because they can't stay there. There is nowhere for them to stay."

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People in 4 northwest NC counties eligible for federal disaster unemployment benefits

October 2, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: RICHARD CRAVER Winston-Salem Journal | Section: Government Politics | 379 Words OpenURL Link

Residents in four northwest North Carolina counties — Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes — have been declared eligible for federal disaster unemployment assistance benefits, the N.C. Division of Employment Security said Tuesday.

The eligibility is a byproduct of the Biden administration's declaration of a state of emergency in North Carolina from the devastating rainfall and flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

The disaster unemployment assistance covers individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Helene. Business owners and self-employed individuals affected by the storm also may qualify for benefits.

Benefits would be made retroactive to Sept. 29 and may last for up to 26 weeks.

There are 21 other counties, along with the Cherokee Indians of N.C., that have been approved: Alexander, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey.

The division said additional counties may be added at a later date.

Eligible individuals have until Dec. 2 to file an application for disaster unemployment assistance at des.nc.gov or the DUA Hotline at 919-629-3857.

Individuals must first apply for state unemployment benefits. For those determined to be ineligible for or have exhausted regular state benefits, they may be eligible to make a federal disaster unemployment assistance claim.

Eligibility is determined weekly, and individuals must continue to be out of work as a direct result of the disaster each week to get unemployment benefits.

Those eligible include:

No longer have the job that provided their primary source of income; Are unable to reach their place of unemployment; Cannot work because of an injury caused by the storm; Were unable to begin employment or self-employment due to the storm; and Have become the major supplier of household income due to a storm-related death of the previous major supplier of household income.

Documentation required includes: name and address of all employers you worked with within the last 24 months; county of residence; county of employment; mailing address and ZIP code; valid telephone number; Social Security number or Alien Registration number; proof of employment and income if you're self-employed, a farmer or a commercial fisher.

All required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the application is filed.

DES said it will work with people who cannot provide all documentation to ensure that their unemployment benefits are not delayed.

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RICHARD CRAVER Winston-Salem Journal, 'People in 4 northwest NC counties eligible for federal disaster unemployment benefits', *News Herald, The* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF669E63427188>



2,400 gallons of sewer spilled into Wilson's Creek due to storm damage

October 2, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Sharon McBrayer | Section: Government Politics | 81 Words OpenURL Link

The city of Morganton reported Tuesday that it had a sewer spill at one of its pump stations.

The city said the sewer spill happened on Monday at Lost Corner Pump Station. It started at 3:30 p.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m., according to a release from Morganton. The 2,400 gallons of spilled sewage discharged into Wilson's Creek, it said.

The city said the sewer spill is related to damage from Hurricane Helene.

For more information, call the Water Resources Department at 828-438-5276.

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Local schools and organizations organize children's programs after Helene

October 2, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 565 Words OpenURL Link

Multiple organizations have banded together following the impact of Tropical Storm Helene to provide relief to children and parents as they wait for school to start back and power to be restored. Among them are faculty and staff of the Caldwell County School system, the HUB Station of Hudson and the Caldwell Arts Council, which have been working to keep kids fed and entertained as the situation finds its way back to normal.

Caldwell County began working on a program that would provide meals to children 18 and younger within the county shortly after Helene landed, and the program was ready to begin offering provisions on Wednesday, Oct. 2, but some teachers were not able to wait that long.

Jamie Boggs of William Lenoir Middle School and around seven school staff members of the school improvement team got together to prepare lunch for students who may not otherwise have access to fresh food on Tuesday, Oct.

1. The team was able pool funds between its members, as well as some additional donations, and arrived at the school with community volunteers to prepare around 130 sandwiches, water and snacks for local children. Extra sandwiches were delivered to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center to be distributed to other children in the area.

Boggs said the school is also collecting donations of supplies to be delivered to Banner Elk on Thursday, Oct. 3, and is serving as an organization point for multiple upcoming community response events. She extended thanks to the school's principal, Dr. Jason Attig, for helping to make these organization efforts possible.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 2-4, William Lenoir Middle, Hudson Middle and Gamewell Elementary Schools are offering Grab and Go meals for children under the age of 18. The meals will be served from 12 to 2 p.m. each day.

Faculty and staff from across the county system have showed up to help prepare and deliver meals at the schools, with multiple beta club students also appearing to earn volunteer hours. The schools have charging stations available for those who need them.

On Monday, Sept. 30, Hudson's HUB Station director Addie Farber reached out to Caldwell Arts Council program director Michele Lominac to discuss the possibility of holding children's art workshops at the HUB. The program was ready by 1 p.m. on the 1st, the goal being to entertain children while providing some brief respite to parents, as well as space to charge devices and communicate, Farber said.

Tuesday's activity was tapestry weaving with multicolored yarn on paper frames, followed by Wednesday's foam block printing, where children carved patterns onto the face of foam blocks before making prints with multicolored paints. Lominac called the project a fine art style taken to a level that children could enjoy.

Lominac said that the workshops were made possible by donations of supplies and the loan of tools from local teachers and community members. If possible, Thursday's activity will be making magnets and ornaments from storm-damaged lumber.

"I asked the community to cut slices of wood to make magnets and ornaments," Lominac said. "There are trees down from the storm, they can take pieces of those trees to make something creative."

"We're just so grateful that everybody got to come out," Farber said. "It's great to be able o give back ... if we can give parents a little bit of a break and kids a chance to make some free crafts, then I'm about it."

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SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com, 'Local schools and organizations organize children's programs after Helene', News-Topic, The (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA5572746C388>



Local churches help community recover from Hurricane HeleneLocal churches help community recover from Hurricane Helene

October 2, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 586 Words OpenURL Link

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Lenoir City Council discussed construction projects, Helene's damage, and a water interconnect project with Valdese, N.C.

The council began with a brief discussion of the impact of Tropical Storm Helene and the city's recovery efforts to date. As of Tuesday evening all Lenoir residents have access in and out of their communities and around 40 remaining streets still have debris to be cleared (as of Oct. 2, that number has dropped to around 30, according to a press release). Mayor Joseph Gibbons extended his thanks to first responders, line workers, volunteers, leadership and other personnel working to mediate the effects of the storm's damage and return the city to normal.

The council further discussed the loss of power for many county residents and the process of recovery. According to a Lenoir press release on Wednesday, Oct. 2, "Duke Energy had 6,132 customers without power. That's just over 25% of their customers in Caldwell County. Blue Ridge had 23% of customers (3,694) without power. Internet is slowly coming back online."

The Lenoir council noted that extensive damage to the power grid in the northern part of the county was delaying power recovery for many residents in and around Blowing Rock. At least 55 Lenoir homes have been observed with storm damage from fallen trees and limbs.

The council meeting began by awarding a construction contract to North Carolina Resurfacing for a conversion project for the Mulberry Recreation Center Pickleball Courts. The project will help convert old tennis courts at the center into 6 additional pickleball courts in response to the rising popularity of the sport at the center. The project will cost \$87,445 and will include cleaning and filling the existing courts as well as installing new posts and nets and applying an acrylic surface.

The council also announced that its Smith Crossroads Sewer Project was completed at the cost of \$2,259,923 and ended up being \$320,677 under budget.

According to the agenda packet from the meeting, "the City adopted the Capital Project Budget Ordinance for the Crossroads Sewer Replacement project on the 8th day of January, 2020 with a total project budget of \$2,830,500. Funding for the project is through a [state revolving fund] loan at a rate of 2.16% for 20 year with a 2% loan fee. The total original loan amount was for \$2,830,500.00 for the design, construction, and project administration, all engineering and professional services and contingency. ... The project was amended on the 18th day of August, 2022 to a total cost of \$2,580,600. The project is now complete at a total cost of \$2,259,923."

The council discussed the Lenoir — Valdese Water Interconnect Project, which would allow for Lenoir and Valdese to share water in the event that one of the municipalities' water treatment plants fails. Council member Todd Purdue noted how important it is to have such redundancy in place to ensure that residents who rely on the clean water produced by their respective municipalities are able to access the resource even and especially in the event of a disaster. The council approved the receipt of \$16,745,000 of financial assistance from the Drinking Water/Wastewater State Reserve to implement the project.

Lenoir public information director Joshua Harris said in a press release that Monday's garbage route ran Wednesday, with staff planning to revisit homes or businesses that were missed due to debris. The Caldwell County landfill is open as of Wednesday. The city of Albemarle sent a knuckle boom truck and six-person crew to Lenoir assist with clearing limbs/branches.

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SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com, 'Local churches help community recover from Hurricane HeleneLocal churches help community recover from Hurricane Helene', *News-Topic, The* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA5572E001F80



What it's like to be an electric lineman during a major storm event like Hurricane Helene

October 2, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: Grey Scheer Retired Director of Community Relations Blue Ridge Energy | Section: Opinion | 1120 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene passed through here almost a week ago. Technically, it wasn't a hurricane at that point, but the damage it caused rivals the damage typically seen in coastal landfall areas.

Thousands of homes and businesses are still without electricity, and tempers are rising. Immediately after storms, as people get to survey the damage themselves, there is a general grace period that we all give the electric utilitywe can see how bad it is and how much work has to be done.

On the first day without power, the complaints were sparse. On day two, the stress and hardships start to amplify. Food spoils, toilets may not flush, and showers become cold. It gets hot and humid. It is scary at night to be in such darkness. Kids don't have enough to keep them busy. On day three, you typically start seeing some restoration progress and start asking, "Why not my home, my neighborhood?"

Usually, by day four or five, without electricity, the mood becomes dark (no pun intended). The complaints get louder and more frequent. We are getting to this point with Helene now.

Now may be a good time to provide insight into the life of the electric linemen who are working tirelessly to get your power back on.

First of all, you should know that they are just like you. There is a very strong possibility that their homes do not have electricity either. Their families are at home experiencing the same hardships as you. They may have a tree on their house or a flooded basement, or other work that needs to be done. But they are out trying to help others first. It is their calling. It is tough, but they do it every day and do it well. It is not easy to walk away from their damage first, but they always do.

Secondly, you should know that the utility has a plan for this. As the storm approaches, operation personnel begin to prepare and know what to do as soon

as the actual damage is known. The utility had already called the backup crews and had them at the ready. Multiple factors can affect this action, including how far the crews have to travel to come to our aid. I'm sure the first utility crews on that list are battling their own outages, so the next utility in line gets the call. Often, the band of utilities to call will grow hundreds of miles before enough crews are secured. And the needed number likely grows after the first few days as the difficulties they face become more known. In addition to these other utility linemen, right-of-way contractors and contract line crews are part of the emergency response plan. And it is helpful to remember that all these linemen will likely travel to places that are having even more significant problems than right here as soon as all of our homes are back online.

Electric co-ops generally rely on other electric co-ops for assistance, as all co-op electric grid are built to similar standards, and this helps keep all the linemen safe. Likewise, investor-owned utilities like Duke Energy will rely on others like utilities.

Now that the visiting crews are here, how do they know what to fix first? Each visiting crew is assigned a "bird dog" that knows the circuits like the back of their hands. Usually, this involves your utility's linemen, engineers, other operations personnel, and even retired linemen who volunteer to help in situations like this. They know the circuits that need to be energized first based on the number of homes, or perhaps they serve hospitals, nursing homes, or emergency shelters. There is a plan that they try their best to follow. Doesn't it make sense to rebuild a circuit with sixty-two homes and a Dollar General before a circuit with just six homes? With Helene, there are many unusual

circumstances that make the restoration more difficult and lengthy: there are major transmission line problems preventing the power from getting to the substations; entire roads are washed away or blocked by tons and tons of mud and rock that have to be removed.

Feeding and lodging dozens, or even hundreds, of "new" employees also has to be taken into consideration. There is a plan for that, too. Most likely, the kind person you talk to on the phone or at the drive-thru window or work in an office in IT or accounting is busy cooking, making sandwiches, packing lunches, and delivering them out in the field all day long. Remember, sometimes no restaurants may be open either or they have run out of food. Frequently, your utility will try to get the crews in for breakfast or dinner at the utility or, if lucky, a restaurant. They use this opportunity to review important safety information and outline plans for the next

few days. It is also a good time to show appreciation for their efforts. These crews are likely working 10-12 hour shifts and eating their lunches on the go. They have to eat.

They also have to sleep. If you see utility line trucks parked at a motel, you should know that there are likely others still out working while these crews try to get some mandated rest. Your utility has a plan to keep as many crews working as possible to get your power back on.

Working major outages is more dangerous than any other time for a lineman. Their adrenaline is pumping—they want to get your power on as much as you do. The work situations are usually far from normal. I have seen linemen working in swamps with water up to their chests, pulling heavy wire through pastures in two feet of snow to climb a pole, and using a rope line to cross a swift water creek to reach the other side. Not to mention working in rain, snow, ice, blazing heat, and high winds.

There will soon be complaints that more of the wires should be underground. Underground is good, but it is more expensive to build, and your electric rates would reflect that. Several years ago, when an ice storm devastated the Charlotte area and power was off for weeks, the citizens demanded the NC Legislature investigate requiring Duke Energy to bury more lines. But when the cost to do this was revealed, the demands got quiet.

Many people will not get their power restored for many more days, and for some, it could be weeks. Your frustration is understandable. But so is the difficulty of the tasks for these linemen. They understand what you are going through and are working hard for you. If you see them out working, give them a thumbs up, a wave, or a high five (later when their work is done).

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Crews still working to reach people in Collettsville, Wilson Creek area

October 2, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 244 Words OpenURL Link

CALDWELL COUNTY — On Tuesday, crews continued to work on clearing debris and reaching people in the Collettsville and Wilson Creek area. Officials remind people to avoid the area so crews can work, according to a press release from Caldwell County.

In addition to clearing roads, crews delivered 6,000 meals to people in Collettsville, Kings Creek, and Patterson, according to the press release.

Linemen will continue work on power lines along Abington Road. The road will be closed again on Wednesday from Greasy Creek to Collettsville Road, according to the press release.

Convenience sites at Cheraw, Connelly Springs, Coy Miller, Dug Hill, Grace Chapel, Morris Creek, and Mt. Herman will be open on a regular schedule. The site at Buffalo Cove will be closed until power is restored. The Collettsville site will be closed for an extended period, according to the press release.

Donations are being accepted at Lower Creek Baptist Church between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office is also accepting donations. For a list of needed items, visit https://caldwellcountync.info/4gM4PbU.

Several places are offering meals. Caldwell Schools will have Grab and Go meals available at William Lenoir Middle, Hudson Middle, and Gamewell Elementary School for children between birth and 18. A list of churches serving meals is available at https://caldwellcountync.info/Resources.

The shelter at West Caldwell has been consolidated with the shelter Burke County. The Burke County Shelter is located at Oak Hill Methodist Church, 2239 NC Highway 181, Morganton, N.C.

For more information, visit www.caldwellcountync.org/494/Helene.

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James R. Bruce

October 2, 2024 | Pilot, The (Southern Pines, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Obituaries | 200 Words OpenURL Link

James Raymond (Ray) Bruce, of Whispering Pines, passed away Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst, at the age of 75.

Ray was born in Atlanta, on Oct. 25, 1948, to the late James and Catherine Bryan Bruce. Ray moved to Moore County with his parents at a young age and attended Moore County Schools. He married Judith Ann Cleaver in 1969.

Ray was a fishing and boating enthusiast. He also was an accomplished woodworker. Ray cherished moments with his family and grilling outdoors. Throughout his life, he was a successful business owner with business ventures in Moore and Brunswick counties.

Ray was a proud patriot who proudly served in the United States Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Bruce; his daughter, Elizabeth Ragsdale; his granddaughters, Anna and Madelyn Ragsdale, all of Whispering Pines; his sisters, Kathy Rallings (Marty), of Seven Lakes, and Kristy Crigler (JR), of Yorktown, Va.; and one brother, Bill McKenzie.

Ray's body will be laid to rest on Friday, Oct. 4, at Beulah Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, honoring his wishes with a private graveside family service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Red Cross Hurricane Helene Relief Fund at redcross.org. Copyright 2024, The Pilot LLC, All Rights Reserved.

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They Said It

October 2, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC)

Section: opinion | 250 Words

OpenURL Link

"The Lumbee tribe has been wrongfully denied federal recognition for more than a century. Today I am officially announcing that if I am elected in November, I will sign legislation granting the great Lumbee Tribe the federal recognition that it deserves."

Presidential Candidate Donald Trump speaking on Sept. 22 in Wilmington.

"Due to its large physical size, effects were felt far away from the storm center."

Steven Pfaff, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, talking about the size of Hurricane Helene as it pushed through North Carolina last week.

"Similar social media posts are affecting school districts across the nation, and we are responding with heightened vigilance. We cannot and will not tolerate disruptions to our instructional environment. The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority."

Jessica Sealey, spokesperson for the Public Schools of Robeson County talking about a series of threats targeting local schools.

"Price was a proud member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Her funeral took place in the Lumbee Tribal Territory in Scotland County."

A statement from the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina in reference to the death of Brenda Oxendine Price who died Sept. 10. She was 65. She was celebrated as the first woman sworn into the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

"The new, 6,500-square-foot building features more energy-efficient lighting, plumbing, heating and air conditioning. The landscaping also has been refreshed."

A statement from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, talking about the recently reopened Rest Area and Welcome Center at Exit 5 on northbound Interstate 95.

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Britt organizing donations for western North Carolina flood victims

October 2, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC)

Section: news | 152 Words

OpenURL Link

LUMBERTON — North Carolina Senator Danny E. Britt, R-Dist. 24 (Robeson County), with the assistance of Donald Trump and his staff, secured additional Starlinks terminals from Elon Musk's SpaceX to help with the disaster relief in Western North Carolina.

"Our district knows all too well how devastating hurricanes can be, so we hope to help those in need however we can," Britt said on Wednesday.

Resources/Supplies

If anyone is wanting to donate to the relief efforts in Western NC, there are a few drop-off locations for supplies around our community:

- United Methodist Church
- Lumberton Municipal Airport
- Lumberton Fire Department
- First Baptist Church

"Though the General Assembly is not currently in session, our office is always working hard to provide support to our constituents," Britt said. "When tropical storms hit land in our region, we know it can be scary for our community. We hope everyone was able to stay safe and dry during Hurricane Helene.

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'Britt organizing donations for western North Carolina flood victims', *Robesonian, The* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF71F714022D58



UNC Health Nash deploys teams of volunteers to support overwhelmed hospitals in Heleneravaged areas

October 2, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: David Cruz | Section: Local | 552 Words OpenURL Link

When UNC Health Nash requested support for hospitals in the western part of the state after Hurricane Helene pounded the region with wind and rain, two teams of volunteers formed in no time.

But to get there, the volunteers needed an extra hand. And so a local church pitched in on the effort.

"I am so incredibly proud of how quickly our team jumped into action to help our neighbors in Western North Carolina in the wake of unimaginable tragedy," said Dr. Mary Strickland, UNC Health Nash's chief nursing officer.

When UNC Health first notified the local hospital of the critical need for support after the storm, 11 nurses were quick to respond, forming the first team that the hospital could deploy west, Strickland said.

Then came the next challenge of finding transportation to get the volunteers over there, she said, noting that First United Methodist Church in downtown Rocky Mount stepped forward to fill that need.

"We were able to borrow their van and transport our team to various hospitals in western N.C. to provide nursing support to their overwhelmed teams," Strickland said. "Thanks to the quick action of all involved, our team was among the first from central and eastern N.C. to arrive, allowing some of the finest and most caring individuals from our community to make a big impact on our brothers and sisters in need."

This first team of volunteers left Rocky Mount on Saturday and returned Wednesday.

Nurses Patsy Fincher, Heather Forler, Ashley Blankburn, Jeremy Bullock, Keisha Boone, Mary Williams, Laura Renfrow, Wendy Griffin, Nik Powell, Delcey Harmitt and Alexis Benton took the first trip to help support the overwhelmed hospitals in western North Carolina.

UNC Heath Nash spokeswoman Ashley Flye said the team provided clinical nursing support for hospitals facing staffing challenges due to the widespread devastation.

Among the hospitals that received support from the first Rocky Mount team were UNC Health Appalachian in Boone, UNC Health Blue Ridge in Morganton, UNC Health Caldwell in Lenoir and UNC Health Pardee in Hendersonville.

Strickland said the local hospital was able to remain in contact with the volunteer nurses though cell phone service was spotty.

"The situation is even more devastating than we imagined," Strickland said based on what the volunteer team shared after hearing first-hand accounts from patients who had lost family members and homes.

Nine more nurses, two chaplains and two police officers from the Rocky Mount hospital have volunteered to serve in the relief effort as the second unit of support. Flye said this second team arrived in western N.C. on Wednesday and plans to return to Rocky Mount on Sunday.

The second team will provide clinical nursing support, security and police presence and chaplains for spiritual support for the patients and hospital staff members affected by the storm, Flye said.

The second team includes nurses Georgia Aquino, Lausan Hicks, Sarah Carter, Jayla Boyd, Keziah Harper, Barbara

Jenkins, Hannah Nelson, Lisa Trybus and Leticia Harris; chaplains Alciner Jones and Jennifer Scott; and police officers Lindsay Brand and Quincy Packer.

According to the latest figures available Wednesday afternoon, the death toll from Helene's inflicted devastation has reached 179.

The Associated Press reported that hospitals and health care organizations in the Southeast have mostly stayed open despite dealing with blackouts, wind damage, supply issues and flooding. Many hospitals have halted elective procedures, while only a few closed completely, the AP reported Wednesday.

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David Cruz, 'UNC Health Nash deploys teams of volunteers to support overwhelmed hospitals in Helene-ravaged areas', *Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA65E985896F8>



Election officials plan for voting post-Helene

October 2, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 1021 Words OpenURL Link

Election officials plan for voting post-Helene

Published 12:05 am Wednesday, October 2, 2024

By Staff Report

As rescue and recovery efforts continue after Hurricane Helene, North Carolina election officials are working to ensure voters affected by the storm can still cast their ballot in the 2024 general election.

State board of elections staff have contacted election officials in the affected counties in western North Carolina to make sure they are safe, to gather information on damage to election and voting facilities, and to assess potential effects on absentee and in-person voting.

Absentee voting is underway in North Carolina. In-person early voting begins Oct. 17 and ends Nov. 2. Election Day is Nov. 5.

"Our hearts go out to all North Carolinians affected by Hurricane Helene, including our neighbors, friends and colleagues in western North Carolina,"said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the state board of elections. "When disasters strike elections, we use this mantra: 'We do not stop an election; we figure out how to proceed.'

"While we do not know exactly what is ahead, our guiding force between now and Election Day will be to do everything possible to ensure every eligible North Carolina voter can cast their ballot. Natural disasters have affected elections here in the recent past. As we did at those times, we will conduct a safe, secure and successful election in 2024."

Information for voters

The state board has launched a special webpage, NCSBE.gov/Helene, as a source of information for voters affected by the hurricane. The webpage will include information on county board office closures, tips for voters affected by the storm and basic information about voting in this election. It will be updated routinely.

Election officials also will work to provide printed materials to voters in the affected areas who may not have cell phone service or internet access.

Storm victims with questions or concerns about how they will be able to vote are encouraged to contact their county board of elections or the State Board of Elections via email at elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov or by calling 919-814-0700. Please recognize that many county board offices in the affected counties are unable to reopen until utilities are restored, and therefore may be delayed in responding to calls, emails and other requests.

The state board will provide regular updates through media interviews, press releases, social media posts, and on its website at NCSBE.gov/Helene.

County board office closures

Many county boards of elections offices in western North Carolina are either closed or have limited accessibility due to power, phone and/or internet outages. See NCSBE.gov/Helene for county office information. The state board will

provide special emergency kits to counties without internet service. These kits, basically "election offices in a box," will allow county elections workers to continue election preparations, including registering voters and processing absentee ballot requests, as crews work to get power, phone and internet services restored.

State board emergency powers

under state law, the five-member, bipartisan State Board "in an open meeting, may exercise emergency powers to conduct an election in a district where the normal schedule for the elections is disrupted" by a natural disaster. At a meeting on Monday, the state board passed a resolution allowing the 25 counties in the Helene federal disaster area flexibility to reschedule meetings required by law to consider returned absentee ballots. These meetings were expected to start Tuesday in all 100 counties, but it may be impossible for some county boards to meet on Tuesday. Additional state board meetings may be called as necessary to consider other emergency measures.

Absentee voting

The U.S. Postal Service has informed election officials that mail delivery and operations are suspended at dozens of post offices in western North Carolina. Also, many residential mailboxes likely have been washed away by the storm. This, obviously, will have a significant impact on absentee voting in these parts of the state. Election officials will continue to monitor mail delivery and consider ways to make voting available in areas affected by Helene.

Here are tips and reminders for voters who planned to vote by mail in those locations:

- * A voter who has requested an absentee ballot does not have to vote that ballot. They may simply discard it and vote in-person during the in-person early voting period or on Election Day.
- * Voters displaced by the storm who plan to live elsewhere temporarily may request an absentee ballot and have it sent to their temporary address. The easiest way to request an absentee ballot is online through the North Carolina Absentee Ballot Portal. A voter who has already requested a ballot but will not be able to receive it at the address where it was set to be delivered should contact their county board of elections to spoil the original ballot and have a new one sent to their temporary location.

Damage to election offices, equipment, voting sites

At this time, election officials are not aware of any situations where voting equipment or printed ballots were lost or damaged. Assessments are ongoing. Details on changes to early voting sites or Election Day polling places will be released as soon as information is available. When voting sites are not available, options include moving or combining polling locations. All options will be considered by the State Board to ensure access to voting

Voter photo ID

State law requires voters to show an acceptable form of photo ID when voting in person and to include a photocopy of their photo ID with their ballot when voting by mail. Most people will show their driver's license, but many other IDs are acceptable.

Under state law, a voter who cannot provide an acceptable form of ID when they vote may fill out a Photo ID Exception Form to explain why they cannot show ID. One of the permitted exceptions is for voters who are unable to provide ID because of a natural disaster that occurred within 100 days of an election and that resulted in a disaster declaration by the president of the United States or the governor of North Carolina. This means that voters in or from the 25 counties under a disaster declaration may use this exception to the photo ID requirement, if they are unable to show ID when voting because of the natural disaster.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

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College football: Catawba gets Sunday home game

October 2, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Post Sports | Section: College | 346 Words OpenURL Link

College football: Catawba gets Sunday home game

Published 2:09 pm Wednesday, October 2, 2024

By Post Sports

Staff report

SALISBURY — Catawba will play a football game home on Sunday.

Yes, Sunday.

The Anderson Trojans will visit Kirkland Field at Shuford Stadium at 2 p.m. Gates will open at noon.

Anderson originally had homecoming festivities planned for this weekend, but Hurricane Helene brought serious challenges for the South Carolina community.

Anderson is about as far west as you can go in South Carolina and is two hours due south of Asheville, one of the areas that sustained the most crushing damage from Helene. Anderson was struck hard by the killer storm that brought torrential rain and flooding as it was making its way up from Florida and Georgia.

Many trees and power lines went down in Anderson, and there still are impassable roads due to debris. Communications, water and electricity have been disrupted.

So the Indians are getting an unexpected home game.

While a football game seems insignificant with so many lives lost or turned upside down in the past week, the teams and their fans will look forward to the distraction of sports for a few hours.

Anderson (2-2, 0-2) has been a factor in South Atlantic Conference athletics for a while, but is brand new to football.

The new program debuted with victories over St. Andrews and LaGrange, but things got tougher when SAC play started — a blowout defeat against Limestone and a two-TD loss to Barton last week.

Catawba will be expected to beat Anderson and was a 19-point favorite, according to the Massey ratings, even when the game was scheduled to be played at Anderson.

Catawba (1-3, 0-2) can use a victory after two close, draining losses on back-to-back weeks at UVA Wise and at home against Carson-Newman.

Catawba lost quarterback Preston Brown to an injury late in the third quarter last week. He has supplied a high percentage of the Indians' offense, so that's a concern.

Playing on a Sunday, Catawba probably won't get its normal radio coverage from WSAT, which is committed to broadcasting Carolina Panthers NFL games.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Post Sports, 'College football: Catawba gets Sunday home game', *Salisbury Post* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF6DFBEB9F53F0



Thousands of pounds of food, fresh water arrive in western NC as massive clean-up begins

October 2, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 703 Words OpenURL Link

Thousands of pounds of food, fresh water arrive in western NC as massive clean-up begins

Published 12:00 am Wednesday, October 2, 2024

By Staff Report

By Clayton Henkel

NC Newsline

Governor Roy Cooper and top members of his administration got a firsthand look Monday at the devastation Hurricane Helene brought to North Carolina's mountains. Thirty-four storm-related deaths have been confirmed in the state with 600 more reported as missing in Buncombe County.

Major General Todd Hunt, Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard, said the National Guard has almost 800 people on duty with a primary focus still of search and rescue or recovery, followed by the distribution of much-needed supplies.

"This morning, we brought in 100,000 gallons of water and commodities on a C-17. We've also done 100,000 pounds through our helicopter lifts that we have," said Hunt.

N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins said over 300 roads remain closed due to damage, landslides, rockslides, fallen trees or mud on the road. Some roads are breached, some bridges are gone.

"Right now, I-40 in the western part of the state is probably the worst damage we have," said Hopkins. "There's about four-mile section where we lost eastbound 40. We are hopeful that we can open 40 on the east side of Asheville in the coming days. Right now, that is open but it's only open to people responding to the storm."

The NCDOT is continuing to tell motorists if you don't have a reason to be in western North Carolina, do not travel on the roads.

Hopkins said more than 1,600 employees in his department are working around the clock to repair the damage. Over 73 contract crews are also helping speed up progress.

On Tuesday, Florida is sending crews who will bring assets including temporary bridges to help the state make temporary repairs.

"Many of our crews that are working have not been home. They do not know what their own damage is and due to the communication issues, they have not been able to find out from their own families how they're doing," said Hopkins in praising their dedication.

The state has secured housing for 250 people on the recovery team, another sign of how protracted the clean-up from Helene is expected to be.

Secretary of NC's Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Kody Kinsley said one bit of good news was that all 22 acute care hospitals in western North Carolina had their power restored and were back on the grid.

"Today, we went to Mission Hospital to see firsthand the heroic efforts of the individuals of that hospital over a thousand staff that have been sleeping there every day to ensure they could continue operations in supporting their community," Kinsley said.

NCDHHS is also working with insurers to identify North Carolinians who are at home on oxygen and other medical supplies, proactively reaching out to have emergency management bring resources to them.

"We've activated our patient transfer system, so that hospitals all across the state are stepping up to bring individuals in need of critical care out of hospitals in western North Carolina if they can't get the care immediately," Kinsley said.

N.C. Emergency Management Director Will Ray said the state is coordinating with FEMA to increase the amounts of commodities arriving in the storm-ravaged counties.

"Currently we're on a cycle now of 40 trailers a day of food and water in addition to what we're procuring on the open market or have in our warehouses that we are working to distribute into the entire impacted area across North Carolina," Ray said.

Another challenge facing the US Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA will be determining what is the long-range solution to get the region's water systems back online.

Mission Hospital is bringing in upwards of 20 trucks a day of water to support the hospital's operations in addition to package sterile water so they can continue operations.

"We know it's a huge challenge for the hospital and we're working actively with them to determine other potential strategies, (what) mid-term solutions that will get running, pressurized water into the facility as soon as possible. It's the top priority for us," Kinsley said.

Deputy Editor Clayton Henkel manages the N.C. Newsline website and daily newsletter, while also producing daily audio commentaries and the weekly News and Views radio program/podcast.

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Carson JV cheer squad invites you to 'Fill the Box Truck'

October 2, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Staff Report | Section: News | 164 Words OpenURL Link

Carson JV cheer squad invites you to 'Fill the Box Truck'

Published 12:00 am Wednesday, October 2, 2024

By Staff Report

CHINA GROVE — Carson High School's JV cheerleading team wants to aid those who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene and they're asking for your help.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, the cheerleading team will be holding a "Fill the Box Truck" drive at the football game from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

"This is in efforts to collect needed items for those affected by Hurricane Helene," coach Emily Marohn said in an email to the Salisbury Post on Tuesday.

The requested items include: water, sports and hydration packets, baby wipes, diapers, formula, non-perishable food items, bug spray, sunscreen, plastic utensils, manual can openers, trash bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, cleaning supplies, pet food, sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, tarps, new socks, clothing and shoes.

The drop off location is the Carson High School softball field, located at 290 Kress Venture Drive, China Grove.

For more information text Marohn at 704-245-2551 or Stephanie Linn at 704-232-6534.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Report, 'Carson JV cheer squad invites you to 'Fill the Box Truck', *Salisbury Post* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF3CBF92B0AB00



High school football: Hoping for a calm week

October 2, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Post Sports | Section: High School Sports | 675 Words OpenURL Link

High school football: Hoping for a calm week

Published 6:30 pm Wednesday, October 2, 2024

By Post Sports

By Mike London

mike.london@salisburypost.com

SALISBURY — A ruling by a Wake County Superior Court Judge will allow the state's public school athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness (NIL) in the very near future.

That decision could change high school football, as fans know it, just as the eight-classes realignment that's coming next fall certainly will.

The devastation by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina could change the athletic calendar for fall sports, although it's too soon to know exactly what will happen. Many schools won't have classes or games this week, and some schools may not be back on their feet for a long time. There has been no shortage of photos of flooded football stadiums and floating scoreboards.

For now, however, it's business as usual for local football players, and they'll be thankful for normalcy even in what looks like an awfully bland week.

Salisbury at South Davidson

What could possibly go wrong for the Hornets (5-1, 2-0) in Denton against the winless Wildcats? The Hornets are favored by 45 in the Central Carolina Conference contest, and that's probably not enough. Salisbury won 56-6 last season and all the recent meetings have been like that.

East Davidson at North Rowan

The good news is Jeremiah Alford will get to break the Rowan County and North Rowan career passing yardage record at home and on homecoming. He needs 22 yards, so he'll probably do it with his first pass. Mario Sturdivant's 25-year-old record is 6,556 yards.

As far as the Central Carolina Conference game, North (4-2, 2-0) is favored by 29 points to beat the Golden Eagles (1-4, 0-1). While North won 47-12 last season and leads the series 18-5, East Davidson upset the Cavaliers as recently as 2022 and the teams battled into overtime in 2021. North coach Josh Sophia will remind his team of those struggles.

Cox Mill at A.L. Brown

The Wonders lost by an ugly 42-2 at Lake Norman on Monday - 42-2 somehow sounds worse than 42-0 - but should bounce back in a Greater Metro Conference game against Cox Mill at home. The Wonders (3-2, 1-1) are favored by 17 against the Chargers (0-6, 0-2), who have been getting blown out a lot. The Wonders lead the series

7-4, but they'll be looking to break a three-game losing streak.

Carson at Concord

Carson's 12-9 win against Concord in 2023 may have been the highlight of the Cougars' season, but the Spiders (3-2, 2-1) appear to be stronger than they've been in a while.

Carson (2-3, 0-2) is a 16-point underdog in the South Piedmont Conference matchup and is given a 22 percent win probability by the Massey Ratings. Carson has won the last two meetings but trails 6-2 in the all-time series.

East Rowan at Robinson

This looks like a one-sided South Piedmont Conference matchup. Shutout out four straight times, East (0-5, 0-2) is taking on what looks to be the best team in the South Piedmont Conference. Robinson (5-0, 3-0) is trying hard not to look ahead to the showdown with Northwest Cabarrus, but it can't be easy. East is given a zero percent chance of winning by the Massey Ratings and is a 42-point underdog.

Robinson romped 49-0 last season. The Bulldogs lead the all-time series 3-1. The Mustangs' victory was in 2001 when Cal Hayes Jr. set some school rushing records against the Bulldogs.

West Rowan at Northwest Cabarrus

The Falcons (3-2, 2-0) have ruled the all-time series 21-10, but not the recent series.

Northwest (4-1, 2-0) smashed West twice last season — 49-9 in the South Piedmont Conference and 52-21 in the playoffs.

West is tied for first in the SPC but is a 21-point underdog, according to the Massey Ratings. West is given a 16 percent win probability.

South Rowan at Central Cabarrus

South (1-4, 0-2) beat Central Cabarrus 29-26 in 2023 but is given only a 15 percent chance of repeating that feat against the Vikings (0-4, 0-2).

The Raiders are 21-point underdogs.

South leads the all-time series 11-8.

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CCSO joins statewide effort to support western NC counties

October 2, 2024 | Sanford Herald, The (NC) Author: RANDALL RIGSBEE | Section: Archives | 371 Words OpenURL Link

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Sheriff's Office has joined forces with agencies across North Carolina to provide critical assistance to counties in the western part of the state severely impacted by Hurricane Helene.

As part of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association's Sheriffs Helping Sheriffs initiative, Chatham County is sending personnel to support disaster relief efforts in the hardest-hit areas.

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson, who currently serves as president of the NCSA, activated the Association's Statewide Disaster Assistance Network to ensure counties affected by the hurricane receive the necessary aid.

"The Sheriffs Helping Sheriffs program reflects the strength of our law enforcement community across North Carolina," Roberson said. "We're committed to standing alongside our fellow sheriffs and communities when disaster strikes. The storm may have hit Western North Carolina, but the whole state is mobilizing to help."

On Monday, CCSO deployed five staff members — one captain and four deputies — to Yancey County, one of the most severely affected areas. The team brought with them generators, bottled water and meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) to support local recovery efforts. Additional deputies from Chatham County will be joining the relief efforts in the coming days as the recovery continues.

Chatham County's response is part of a broader, coordinated effort to help Western North Carolina recover from the devastating storm. In addition to the sheriff's office, Chatham County Emergency Management has sent two staff members to assist with re-establishing internet connectivity in emergency operations centers that are currently offline. North Chatham Fire Department has also dispatched an engine truck, and the Chatham County Department of Social Services is lending its support in various capacities.

"It's a statewide effort," said Chatham County Emergency Management Director Steve Newton. "Every county that's not impacted is waiting to send equipment and personnel over. We'll have more personnel going west for the next several weeks."

As recovery efforts unfold, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office remains committed to providing support and resources to help our fellow counties through this challenging time.

"In times like these," Roberson said, "it's important for communities to come together and support one another. Through the Sheriffs Helping Sheriffs program and the coordinated efforts of our local agencies, I want the people of Western North Carolina to know that help is on the way."

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• Citation (aglc Style)

RANDALL RIGSBEE, 'CCSO joins statewide effort to support western NC counties', *Sanford Herald, The* (online), 2 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF51C64435A6E8



Gastonia, Shelby football schedule remains at Helene's mercy

October 2, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Joe L Hughes II; Gaston Gazette | Section: Sports | 311 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

Extracurricular activities, including athletic events, have taken a back seat as power restoration and cleanup efforts intensify in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Between four to eight inches of rain fell in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties, causing flooding of streams, creeks and rivers. Trees also draped across homes, roadways and power lines, forcing a host of customers in the tricounty area to lose electric service.

With conditions still less than favorable, school districts in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties announced they will remain closed on Monday. Cleveland County Schools will also be closed on Tuesday.

With school not in session, high school sports activities have again been postponed. Such includes Week 6 high school football games for Friday night rescheduled ahead of Helene's approach.

Here are the Week 6 games awaiting completion:

Bessemer City at Highland Tech; Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Cherryville at East Gaston; Friday, 7:30 p.m. (schedule altered with Thomas Jefferson unable to return to campus — much less athletic events — for an extended period).

Crest at Stuart Cramer; Wednesday, 7 p.m. Stuart Cramer's Week 7 matchup with Hunter Huss will be played Monday, Oct. 7.

Community School of Davidson at Mountain Island Charter

Forestview at Ashbrook; Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Hunter Huss at South Point; Wednesday, 7 p.m. Red Raiders' matchup with Crest previously set for Friday will be rescheduled.

Kings Mountain at North Gaston; Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.

Newton-Conover at Lincolnton; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

North Lincoln at Hickory; Wednesday, 7 p.m.

West Lincoln at Maiden; Wednesday, 7 p.m. West Lincoln's Week 7 matchup with Bunker Hill has also been rescheduled to Saturday, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Shelby and East Lincoln are the only teams who have completed Week 6. Shelby defeated Thomas Jefferson 70-0 last Wednesday, while East Lincoln lost 34-21 to Statesville on Saturday afternoon.

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Joe L Hughes II, Gaston Gazette, 'Gastonia, Shelby football schedule remains at Helene's mercy', <i>Star, The</i> (online), 2 Oct 2024 B1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF466CD09D4FA8				



'Our goal is to give hope, help and food' - Cleveland County ravaged by Hurricane Helene

October 2, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Rebecca Sitzes; Shelby Star | Section: News | 960 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

In the days following Hurricane Helene, all around Cleveland County, people, churches and fire departments jumped into action to provide resources and assistance to not only their own community, but others devastated by the storm.

This week, the acts of kindness continued to roll in, from small to big as neighbors helped neighbors clear away debris and fallen trees, delivered meals to families without transportation or opened up their homes to those without power. As local fire departments prepared to send personnel and supplies to other counties, food trucks mobilized to head to the mountains and churches cooked up meals in parking lots to give away.

Boiling Springs Baptist Church served a free hotdog meal to the community on Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon and will be providing soup and sandwiches to the community Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. or until food runs out at the church at 307 S. Main St.

Connie Greene, a church member and volunteer with Boiling Springs Baptist, said they served 500 hot dogs Monday and were preparing to serve 500 more on Tuesday.

She said there were still many people in Boiling Springs who don't have power, and even the ones who do are struggling to find food because there are no open grocery stores in town. The one Ingles is not open and with the distribution center in Black Mountain, none of the county's six Ingles will be operating for the foreseeable future.

"Most things aren't open in Boiling Springs so now it's a challenge to find food," Greene said. "We had some food trucks come to Boiling Springs, which is wonderful, but the people were waiting two hours on their hot dog."

The church decided to pull together and provide a free meal. She said they had servers, people manning the grills and other volunteers.

"Tomorrow we're serving soup and grilled cheese sandwiches starting at 5," she said.

The church also provided some hot dogs to lineman who had traveled from Quebec, Canada.

"They were here early working, and I went outside and the whole parking lot was full of linemen," she said. "They said they were from Quebec, Canada, and they were waiting on Duke Power to tell them where to go. It's wonderful to see those people here."

Restaurants also pitched in.

Rice Thai Restaurant in Kings Mountain opened Monday and offered a free meal to all city public works staff and also provided free meals to families in need.

On Tuesday, the restaurant posted on Facebook that they planned to continue to offer one free meal to all city public works staff, linemen and fire department personnel.

McIntyre Elder Law in Shelby opened their office and handed out supplies Monday afternoon, including snacks, diapers and other food.

A local food truck, Lovebird's Pizza, is stocking up and preparing to head to the mountains to make and give out free meals.

Walter Hoyle, owner, said he partnered with Dr. Brad Moffitt of Carolina Chiropractic and they are collecting donations and bottled water.

"Brad has organized a handful of food trucks and been in communication with half a dozen locations," he said. "Marion, Chimney Rock, Lake Lure, Little Switzerland, and he's trying to get us there."

He said the plan is to go where people don't have power and where communication is still a challenge.

Although his food truck normally serves pizza, he said to simplify things, he will be serving lasagna, soups and sandwiches.

He will be taking a day off in-between to prep and restock.

Hoyle said they need help in the form of water, canned soup and financial donations. Water and soup can be dropped off at American in Boiling Springs, and donations can be sent by Venmo to Hoyle-yeah 23.

"As long as we continue to have the resources we will head west every other day, stocking and prepping on the days in between. Our goal is to give hope, help and food to our Carolina neighbors," a post said on their Facebook page.

He said he would be providing updates, photos and videos and sharing stories of those who wish to, on Lovebirds Pizza Facebook.

"I foresee we'll at least help through the weekend," he said. "I know this is going to take months, like any other natural disaster."

Tuesday morning, Shelby Fire & Rescue sent four firefighters to an Asheville fire department, and they have collected a trailer full of drinks, toilet paper, wipes, diapers, non-perishable food and personal hygiene products to send to Buncombe County later this week.

According to a post on the fire department's Facebook page, North Carolina State Emergency Management requested assistance from agencies, including Shelby Fire to help provide much needed supplies.

Fire Marshall Phillip Lane said the four staff members who left Tuesday around 7 a.m. will provide relief to Asheville fire fighters who haven't been able to go home since the hurricane struck.

"I don't think they've left since it happened," he said.

The fire department collected items to send with the men and will also send a trailer of supplies later this week for Buncombe County.

Lane said he is coordinating with the Office of State Fire Marshal to find the best drop-off locations so they aren't bombarded with supplies in one particular area.

He said they had a lot of donations come in, from big companies such as Clearwater Paper and Walmart Distribution Center, to local families. He said they collected toilet paper, wipes, diapers, non-perishable food, bottled drinks and personal hygiene items.

"Our community has definitely come together in a time of need for other communities," he said. "It's a good outpouring of support from around Cleveland County."

$Reach\ reporter\ Rebecca\ Sitzes\ at\ rsitzes@gannett.com.$

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Rebecca Sitzes, Shelby Star, "Our goal is to give hope, help and food' - Cleveland County ravaged by Hurricane Helene', *Star, The* (online), 2 Oct 2024 A1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF466CEDABAA68>



NHC tracking 3 tropical disturbances in Atlantic

October 2, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Gabe Hauari; USA TODAY | Section: News | 465 Words Page: A5 OpenURL Link

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season continues to be active as the calendar flips to October, which is historically the busiest month for hurricanes for Florida.

Although the only named storm out there is distant Tropical Storm Kirk, the National Hurricane Center is also monitoring two other tropical disturbances, including one in the Caribbean Sea.

And it's that developing system in the Caribbean that most concerns people in the U.S., as it could become a named storm in the Gulf of Mexico by next week, forecasters said.

The storm activity is on the heels of the deadly and devastating Hurricane Helene, which made landfall last week in Florida and dumped heavy, flooding rains across the Appalachian Mountains. More than 1million were still without power Tuesday morning.

NHC tracking Tropical Storm Kirk

The hurricane center said Tuesday morning Kirk was located about 935 miles west of the Cabo Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds around 60 mph. The system was forecast to continue moving to the west-northwest through Tuesday night before gradually taking a northwest course Wednesday and Thursday.

"Kirk is forecast to strengthen into a hurricane by tonight and could become a major hurricane on Thursday," the NHC said Tuesday morning.

Current forecast models show the system curving north into the middle of the Atlantic, well away from the U.S.

Caribbean system could develop

The first of the other two tropical disturbances is currently a "trough of low pressure" that is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms in the northwestern Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

The hurricane center said Tuesday morning environmental conditions could support some gradual development of this system and that a tropical depression could form in the next several days as the system moves northwestward over the northwestern Caribbean and the southern Gulf of Mexico.

"Interests along the U.S. Gulf Coast should continue to monitor the progress of this system," the NHC said Tuesday morning, giving the system a 40% chance of formation through the next seven days.

System 'very likely' to form

The second system, currently designated as Invest 91L, was located a few hundred miles south of the Cabo Verde Islands. The system is producing showers and thunderstorms that show "some signs of organization in association with a broad area of low pressure," the NHC said Tuesday morning.

The hurricane center said environmental conditions appear conducive for further development of this system, and a tropical depression is "very likely" to form during the next few days while it moves slowly westward over the eastern tropical Atlantic.

The NHC said Tuesday morning the system had a $60\%\ c$	hance of formation by W	ednesday or Thursday	and a 90%
chance within seven days.			

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