

Flesh-Eating Bacteria Cases Rise in Florida in Wake of Storms

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Health | 408 Words OpenURL Link

MONDAY, Oct. 21, 2024 (Healthday News) -- Following the devastation of hurricanes Helene and Milton, a new health danger has emerged in Florida: A spike in cases of flesh-eating bacteria.

In a statement issued by the Florida Department of Health earlier this month, officials urged residents to avoid floodwaters where the Vibrio vulnificus bacteria, which causes the dangerous and sometimes deadly skin infection, can flourish.

"While floodwaters are present, there is an increased risk of Vibrio infections, such as Vibrio vulnificus, which can be life-threatening," officials said in the statement. "After heavy rainfall and flooding, the concentration of these bacteria may rise, particularly in brackish and saltwater environments."

Florida had just six confirmed cases of Vibrio vulnificus before Hurricane Helene arrived in late September, but that number surged to 24 by the end of the month. Since both hurricanes struck, there have been 38 confirmed cases, bringing the state total to 74 this year.

The Tampa Bay-area counties of Hillsborough and Pinellas -- which saw devastating storm surge -- reported the largest increases of the bacteria, which is commonly found in warm coastal waters, CNN reported. Before Hurricane Helene made landfall on Sept. 26, there were no reported cases in Pinellas County and one in Hillsborough County. Now, Pinellas has 14 confirmed cases, and there are seven in Hillsborough, state officials reported.

What can residents do to protect themselves?

State officials recommend that people avoid swimming or wading in floodwaters. If you must come into contact with contaminated water, you should cover any wounds with a waterproof bandage and wash the wound thoroughly afterward.

People can become infected by Vibrio vulnificus one of two ways: by exposing open wounds to contaminated water or by eating improperly cooked seafood. Those with compromised immune systems, liver disease or open wounds are at higher risk of infection, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Of the 150 to 200 Vibrio vulnificus cases reported to the CDC every year, about 1 in 5 die from the infection.

This is not the first time a hurricane has triggered a spike in Vibrio vulnificus infections in Florida. In 2022, there were 29 new cases in aftermath of Hurricane Ian, bringing the state's total to 74 by year's end, state officials reported.

More information

The CDC has more on Vibrio vulnificus.

SOURCE: Florida Department of Health, news release, Oct. 8, 2024; CNN

What This Means For You

Florida is reporting a jump in cases of flesh-eating bacteria following the devastation of hurricanes Helen and Milton.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Flesh-Eating Bacteria Cases Rise in Florida in Wake of Storms', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5B028C982CC98



Democratic challenger trails Republican incumbent Chuck Edwards

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Elyse Apel | The Center Square | Section: State | 458 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) - Nearly \$2 million in contributions have flowed into the 11th Congressional District race for North Carolina, where Democrat Caleb Rudow is challenging Republican U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards.

Seeking a second term, the incumbent has raised \$1.4 million to Rudow's nearly \$600,000 through the end of the quarter ending Sept. 30. Edwards has just more than double Rudow's cash on hand, with \$400,000 remaining compared to Rudow's \$170,000.

Edwards has spent more than \$1 million. Rudow has spent \$400,000 since the beginning of his campaign, according to the Federal Election Commission.

Republicans have reason to be confident in Edwards' chances - the party has held the seat since 2010.

Yet, in the last few elections, Democrats have been slowly narrowing the Republican's win margin. In 2022, Edwards won by just 30,000 votes.

With Election Day just 15 days away, this race is one of a few that could determine the makeup of North Carolina's delegation to the U.S. House. Currently, seven Democrats and seven Republicans represent the state.

Edwards is running on his record, saying "hard work, real solutions, and action" are the keys to bringing "western North Carolina values and solutions to D.C."

His campaign is prioritizing closing the border, reforming Washington, and ending "Bidenomics."

On the other hand, Rudow has called for a change in political leadership in the district.

His priorities include "universal access to health care," stopping "government overreach," and conserving "our environment"

Rudow currently serves as a state representative in North Carolina House District 116.

Encompassing much of western North Carolina, District 11 had great devastation from Hurricane Helene.

Because of that, Edwards announced he will be turning his focus away from campaigning to focus on serving the people in his district.

"My complete focus is on the needs of western North Carolinians after Hurricane Helene," Edwards said on social media. "Now is not the time to be campaigning, which is why I am announcing a suspension of all campaign activity. Although I am suspending campaign operations, I hope you will continue to keep me in mind at the ballot box next month."

This is merely a suspension of campaigning for Edwards, who is still running for reelection and will appear on the ballot.

With early voting in North Carolina starting last week and having record numbers, Rudow is remaining optimistic and encouraging voters to get out.

"In spite of all that is happening WNC, we are in this to win it and get real representation for the NC-11," he said on social media.

Rudow also called out Edwards for still appearing with former President Donald Trump at a press conference in western North Carolina.

"My opponent said he suspended his campaign because of Helene," he posted. "He also organized a press conference for President Trump in a disaster zone. Come on, Chuck Edwards, you know better."

Copyright 2024, The Courier-Times, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Elyse Apel | The Center Square, 'Democratic challenger trails Republican incumbent Chuck Edwards', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EADC81D1CA30



Poll: Trump, Harris statistically tied in Georgia

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Dan McCaleb | The Center Square | Section: National | 391 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Former President Donald Trump holds a slight, 49-48 advantage in a head-to-head matchup with Vice President Kamala Harris in new polling out of Georgia, which is within the poll's margin of error.

When third party candidates are included, the respective Republican and Democratic candidates for president are tied at 49% support each.

That's according to the latest American Greatness/TIPP poll of 813 likely voters in Georgia conducted Oct. 14-16. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.5%. Of the 1,029 registered Georgia voters polled, 431 were from Atlanta or the surrounding suburbs.

Georgia is one of a few key swing states that could decide the outcome of the presidential race.

On the issues that voters say are most important to them ahead of the Nov. 5 election, the economy/inflation and border security, more Georgia voters trust Trump than Harris. On growing the economy, Trump holds a 48%-44% advantage over Harris. The former president has a similar four point advantage among Georgia voters on fixing inflation, 47% to 43%. On securing the border, Trump holds a sees a wider advantage, 56%-34%.

"Trump has a strong advantage in Georgia on key issues," pollster Raghavan Mayur told The Center Square.

"Georgia voters see Trump better for immigration than Harris, 56% to 34%, and for growing the economy, 48% to 44%."

On improving national security, Trump also has a significant advantage among voters, 51% to 39%. More voters trust Harris to cut taxes, 47% to 43%, than Trump.

When asked whose policies better help or hurt their families, Trump also has the edge.

"Georgians say Trump policies helped their families (51% help, 34% hurt) for a net of +17 help vs. Biden policies (36% helping, 49% hurting) for a net of +13 hurting," Mayur said.

Georgia voters also were asked about Gov. Brian Kemp's and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's handling of recent hurricanes, and news that FEMA spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the migrant crisis.

"58% of Georgians give Governor Kemp's handling of Hurricane Helene's aftermath good grades, compared to only 39% for the Biden-Harris administration," Mayur said. "Fully 54% disapprove of FEMA's reallocation of \$650 million to support migrants, leaving less money available for hurricane relief efforts. Also, 61% of Republicans think that the media deliberately reported less on Hurricane Helene's damage because many of the victims are rural whites [and] considered conservatives or Trump supporters."

Copyright 2024, The Courier-Times, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Dan McCaleb | The Center Square, 'Poll: Trump, Harris statistically tied in Georgia', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EADC610D5D60



Harris woos on-the-fence Republicans, Trump tours storm damage

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Jim Watson with Frankie Taggart in Washington | Section: National | 710 Words OpenURL Link

US Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris made a push to woo moderates in her rival's camp in three swing states Monday, while Donald Trump slammed the government's response to Hurricane Helene as he toured the devastated state of North Carolina.

With just over two weeks until Election Day, the Democratic vice president and her Republican opponent are on a blitz through the battlegrounds that will decide the outcome in a race that polls say is too close to call.

On Monday, Harris appeared in Pennsylvania alongside Liz Cheney -- a prominent Republican -- who called on undecided voters "to reject the kind of vile vitriol that we've seen from Donald Trump."

Trump toured storm-damaged Asheville and repeated conspiracy theories about the government's disaster response. Later, at a rally in Greenville, he hammered home his campaign message that immigrants were "looting, ransacking, raping and pillaging" the country.

On Monday alone, Harris had events scheduled in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin -- Rust Belt states that were in Trump's column in 2016 but crucial to President Joe Biden's victory four years later.

Cheney and her former vice-president father Dick were once considered fixtures in the Republican firmament, but have been ostracized since it was taken over by Trump.

Harris said Trump's dominance in politics since his shock 2016 election had led Americans to "point the finger at one another" and left the country "exhausted."

"Donald Trump is an unserious man, and the consequences of him ever being president of the United States again are brutally serious," she said.

Cheney, who endorsed Harris last month, said it was not a difficult decision to make, as a politician or as a mother.

"If you wouldn't hire somebody to babysit your kids, like you shouldn't make that guy the President of the United States," she said.

Speaking in Michigan, Harris called for voters to put partisan politics aside when they cast their ballot.

On "some issues we just have to all be Americans," she said.

Both candidates have courted voters from blocs that have historically sided with their rivals, a sign of how close the contest is.

On Monday, Trump appealed to Arab Americans in a social media post, calling Harris a "war hawk" over the White House's handling of Israel's war with Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

Trump has previously cast himself as Israel's "protector" and said the government of Benjamin Netanyahu must "finish the problem" in its war against Hamas.

- 'Crippled and destroyed' -

Trump has been criticized for a tumultuous few weeks that have featured rambling monologues and threats about weaponizing the military against Democrats who he calls "the enemy from within."

In Greenville, he painted a picture of a United States that was "crippled and destroyed" by immigration, crime and inflation.

Earlier, in Asheville, the 78-year-old doubled down on conspiracy theories, accusing the administration of redirecting disaster funds to bring in undocumented immigrants and bolster Democratic votes.

Officials in the state were forced to issue hurricane response fact-checks after Trump and his backers pushed what Biden called "an onslaught of lies" about the response.

Trump notched his narrowest victory in North Carolina when he lost to Biden in 2020.

Both Harris and Trump are fighting to lock down a few thousand wavering voters in key districts as they bid to edge ahead in the race.

- Polls stuck in a dead heat -

Harris's campaign brought in and spent more than \$200 million in September -- more than three times as much as Trump, who is out on bail in two criminal cases and awaiting sentencing in a third over allegations of 2020 election-related misconduct.

Despite the vice president's spending, polls suggest the race has been tied since late August.

As the pair make their closing arguments, a new Washington Post-Schar School poll of registered voters in seven battleground states found support even at 47 percent for each candidate. Harris had a one-point lead among likely voters.

Pro-Trump tech mogul Elon Musk has weighed heavily on the election, pouring \$75 million into his political committee, turning his social media company X into a bullhorn for the Republican side and stumping for Trump in Pennsylvania.

But the state's Democratic governor, Josh Shapiro, suggested authorities could investigate Musk's promise at a weekend rally to award a \$1 million prize daily until Election Day to a person who has signed an online petition "supporting the US Constitution."

ft-aha/bgs/st/jgc

Copyright 2024, The Courier-Times, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Jim Watson with Frankie Taggart in Washington, 'Harris woos on-the-fence Republicans, Trump tours storm damage', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EADC37CB10D8>



Honest answers, economic know-how fuel Trump supporters

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Elyse Apel and Alan Wooten| The Center Square | Section: State | 889 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Truth, say his North Carolina supporters, sometimes hurts. And come Nov. 5, they say it is needed

Republican former President Donald Trump brought more of it to his campaign rally in Greenville on Monday, standing firm on his platform and calling out his detractors. Ironically enough, in an age where mainstream media and Democratic opponent Kamala Harris question his honesty, it has become a rallying point for those wearing the Make America Great Again hats and shirts.

"Trump doesn't play," said Joy Daly, a supporter from Johnston County who had a prime floor spot in Minges Coliseum. "He's all about telling the hard facts, and the truth, even if it hurts people's feelings. Sometimes we need that. We have a generation that is shying away from truth."

In his roughly 75 minutes on stage, Trump focused mainly on immigration and the economy.

"Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" Trump began the speech by asking the crowd. And he met the answer from a loud and agreeable chorus clad in red, white and blue with, "I don't think so, not even close."

For 39-year-old small business owner Matthew Pipkin of Rocky Mount, he agrees with Trump. Economic issues and his belief in the successful 78-year-old businessman is driving his allegiance.

"They say Kamala is all about the middle class," said Pipkin, who found a seat in the upper level of the stage end.
"But if you look at it, no she's not. If you look at what Joe Biden has done over the last four years, he's done nothing but hurt us. Taxes – everything costs more, and our health insurance for our employees is way up. From five years ago, what we're paying for gas, for off-road diesel – it's significantly higher."

Pipkin owns sand pits in Edgecombe and Wayne counties, and another in Scranton, S.C., just south of Florence.

"The economy is tough," he said. "And then, telling everybody what they want to hear. Nobody wants to sit behind a podium and say this is where we're at. I like somebody who stands out for the people, and stands up for what he believes in, regardless of whether he's always right or not. At least he gives everybody an answer."

Speaking to 7,000-plus battleground voters, Trump emphasized his belief in the importance of voters supporting his candidacy to end the many economic and border problems that the Harris administration created. Ninety-four executive orders impacting border security were issued almost immediately, changing Trump policy.

"I'm here today with a message of hope for all Americans," Trump said. "With your vote in this election, I will end inflation. I will stop the invasion, and I will bring back the American dream."

Just off a press conference he held in western North Carolina, Trump told the raucous audience of his plans to help rebuild the areas devastated by Hurricane Helene.

"When I'm president, North Carolina will get the support you need and deserve," Trump said.

He also called out the federal government's handling of the situation so far, pointing out comments from FEMA stating they don't have adequate funding.

"You didn't get the proper support from this administration. They spent their money on illegal migrants," he said. "They didn't have any money left for North Carolina."

FEMA was granted full funding, including its Disaster Relief Fund, in the continuing resolution signed in September before Hurricane Helene. That fact hasn't squared up with the Biden administration's Alejandro Mayorkas, who directs FEMA and said the agency didn't have hurricane recovery funds.

Republicans have pounced on the Democrats' self-inflicted misinformation.

Trump said he will bring back manufacturing to North Carolina, and the United States, by lowering taxes and regulations. He promised to restore the American dream, while expressing concern about the impact of a Harris presidency.

"I will protect the birthright of our children to live the richest and most powerful nation we can live in. The most powerful nation on the face of the earth," Trump said. "With four more years of Kamala Harris, North Carolina will be an economic wasteland."

Trump promised that, if he wins the election, America will be "liberated" from Democrat policies and Harris.

"The United States is now an occupied country," he said. "But on November 5, 2024, we will be a liberated country. We will be liberated like never before."

With early voting setting records in North Carolina and particularly for Republicans, Trump called on his supporters saying that "we will never, ever, ever surrender."

The volume of T-shirts showing his raised fist under Old Glory, the iconic photo from a first assassination attempt in Butler, Pa., indicated many will fight with him.

"We stand on the verge of the four greatest years in the history of our country," he said. "That's what's going to happen with your help from now until Election Day. We will redeem America's promise. We will put America first, and we will take back the nation that we love."

Ginny Moody, a Deep Run native living in Kinston, had a coveted floor seat at the rally. And she's sure of what she will do with her vote. Trump's words were what she wanted to hear, affirmation on a resplendent fall afternoon she chose to spend inside.

"He's a man of his word," Moody said. "The first time he ran, I wasn't real sure. But I liked him. We were in a lot better place with our lives."

Copyright 2024, The Courier-Times, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Elyse Apel and Alan Wooten | The Center Square, 'Honest answers, economic know-how fuel Trump supporters', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EADC7862B528>



Faith-based relief groups prepare for long haul

October 21, 2024 | Courier-Tribune, The (Asheboro, NC) Author: BOB SMIETANA Religion News Service | Section: Local | 683 Words OpenURL Link

ASHEVILLE — With the one-two punch of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton within two weeks of one another, faith-based disaster relief groups are getting ready for a long, slow recovery that may take years.

"It's going to take a long time," said Bruce Frank, pastor of Biltmore Church in Asheville, which is working closely with North Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief. Volunteers have already cooked more than 100,000 meals in the church parking lot.

Two hours away in Boone, staff and volunteers from Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical humanitarian group led by evangelist Franklin Graham, have been working to clear debris, set up water filtration systems and deliver food and other supplies by helicopter to communities cut off by the storm.

In rural communities the group has set up some 50 Starlink satellite kits to restore internet service and has furnished generators to supply power, set up oxygen shelters for patients unable to receive their usual supplies, and refilled more than 1,000 oxygen tanks.

So far, said Graham, more than 16,000 volunteers have shown up to help, with more expected. The group is working at sites in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida in Helene recovery. More help will be needed in the months to come, said Graham.

But Graham said plans are already underway for long-term rebuilding, primarily recruiting leaders for that work and arranging with suppliers for rebuilding materials. Meanwhile, volunteers already on the scene are installing culverts to drain water and helping to temporarily restore gravel roads washed out by the storm.

The nondenominational Christian volunteer group Eight Days of Hope has been working on rapid response to both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, setting up mobile feeding sites as well as trailers with laundry and shower equipment.

"So if you need a warm shower or you need your laundry done, you could come and do that and get a warm meal while you were there," said Hannah Fletcher, a spokesperson for the group.

Having just wrapped up its Milton response, Eight Days of Hope planned to continue its work for much of October in areas affected by Helene, while making plans to return for rebuilding work once communities have a long-term plan in place.

The group's more than 250 volunteer leaders nationwide specialize in mobilizing large numbers of disaster relief volunteers, working with churches and as well as long-term recovery leaders in local communities.

"We come in and we're like an adrenaline shot," Fletcher said. "We do a bunch of work on all the homes as fast as we can, and then eight days later, we're gone. Then the long-term recovery group kind of carries the rest of those houses to the finish line."

The Salvation Army has served nearly 6,000 meals to Florida residents affected by Milton and more than 400,000 meals in communities affected by Helene. The group also plans to assist with long-term recovery.

Todd Unzicker, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said that so far more than 2,000 of its volunteers have been deployed to assist with recovery from Helene, but he is telling churches and

volunteers who are ready to help right now that there is plenty of work ahead.

"The challenge is saying, hold on," he said. "We are going to need you a month from now and six months from now."

Unzicker said that, of the convention's 3,000 churches, 1,100 are in communities affected by Helene.

He also said that Baptist disaster relief is working closely with state, local and federal officials in the aftermath of the storm. Those leaders are doing all they can, Unzicker said.

"North Carolina Baptists are grateful for all of our government officials," he said. "We pray for them and we're ready to stand by and work with them."

Frank, the pastor at Asheville's Biltmore Church, has been encouraged by the way people in his congregation and others have responded to Helene, noting that the church's 828Strong ministry began as a way to respond to needs during COVID-19 and that the work has continued since.

"Unlike COVID, which kind of tore people apart, this has brought people together," he said. "The church has stepped up, both our church as well as other churches."

Copyright 2024 The Courier-Tribune, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

BOB SMIETANA Religion News Service, 'Faith-based relief groups prepare for long haul', *Courier-Tribune, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5A93D66426B18



Trump vows to deport illegal border crossers to cheers of Minges crowd

October 21, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Bobby Burns The Daily Reflector | Section: Local | 1495 Words OpenURL Link

GREENVILLE — Former President Donald Trump fired up a capacity crowd during a campaign stop at ECU's Minges Coliseum on Monday, promising to end illegal immigration, restore American manufacturing and stop inflation by cutting energy prices.

Supporters of the Republican nominee, topped with red ball caps, patriotic blouses and plenty of Trump message T-shirts, filled the 8,000-seat arena and overflowed into the parking lot where the rally was projected onto a big screen that also blasted messages to thousands as they waited to enter.

The visit was part of a three-stop swing through North Carolina where Trump is in a tight race against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris for the state's 16 electoral votes. It came a week after the venue was the site for a similar rally for Harris, on whom Trump heaped blame for what he called an invasion of violent criminals over the southern border, repeating stories about how gangs had taken over American cities.

"Every day Kamala Harris is bringing in illegal aliens who are raping and murdering women and children. You see them all the time, you see them all the time ... Their names have become famous, in certain ways ... I've met so many of the parents. They're devastated. They will never be the same, never be the same," Trump said.

He said illegal immigration is the most pressing issue facing the country by far and routinely brought an hour-long speech back to the topic. He said Harris and President Joe Biden have intentionally allowed an open border and funneled tax dollars to support people who are crossing.

He said the money should be used instead to help American citizens, including North Carolinians who are still reeling from Hurricane Helene. He was in the western part of the state viewing storm damage on Monday morning before his 3 p.m. arrival in Greenville.

"When I'm president, North Carolina will get the support it needs and deserves," Trump said, which is counter to reports by state and federal officials that aid is flowing to the region. "You didn't get the proper support of this administration. They spent their money on illegal migrants. They didn't have any money left for North Carolina. That's not the way it's supposed to work."

Democrats including state Sen. Kandie Smith of Greenville and the family of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said during a news conference in response to the Trump tour on Monday that he uses issues like immigration to sow seeds of hatred rather than unite the country.

"In 15 days, our country will make a choice. Between someone who divides us, who encourages violence and who uses hate to gain political power, and someone who has spent her lifetime in public service fighting for working and middle-class families," said Arndrea Waters King. "Our religion teaches us to love our neighbors, to care for the poor, and for the sick. But Donald Trump stands for none of those things. As a Christian, as a faith leader, and as a King, I am supporting Vice President Harris and Gov. Walz, and I know that North Carolinians are ready to do so as well."

Trump on Monday promised to begin a massive deportation of illegal immigrants immediately upon taking office, and he pledged to use expansive tariffs to build and support American manufacturing. "Outside of love and religion it's the most beautiful word there is — tariff," he growled.

He blamed the Biden-Harris administration for high energy prices that he said are at the root of inflation and the

prime cause of higher grocery bills and everyday expenses. He will end green energy policies that cause high energy prices, he said.

"We will quickly become energy independent," he said. "We're going to frack, frack, frack and we're going to drill, baby, drill."

It's a message that many in the audience drove hours to hear, including Jimmy Lane who arrived early Monday from Myrtle Beach. Lowering gas prices and closing the border are driving his support of Trump, he said.

"You can't have inflation, move interest rates up and then have an open border where you have millions more consumers just pouring into the system," he said. "How does that affect inflation, right? Supply and demand."

People from the Greenville area, eastern North Carolina and farther away filled the turnstiles before the doors to Minges opened at 11 a.m. Many said they had already voted. Several said God anointed Trump. One woman carried a sign that said "Jesus is Lord" and "Hey Kamala, I'm at the right rally," referring to the earlier visit by Harris.

Two women with a group visiting from Japan waved Trump flags and wore signs that said "Trump was chosen by God" and "Trump fights Evil." One used a translator on her smartphone to say "We are here to support the people who support Trump."

People were still making their way into the coliseum as the event began with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem about 1:30 p.m.

Chris Poland, a diesel mechanic from Nash County, rushed in shortly before the opening prayer. He and dozens more filed into a standing-room area on the basketball floor many rows from the stage.

"I was hoping to get a seat but I'm glad to be standing," said Poland, who arrived at the athletic complex about 11:30 a.m.

Poland voted last week. He said he was there because Trump "needs all the support he can get. It's just for morale and getting everybody ready for a better future."

The first supporters arrived as early as 4 a.m., with Donald Duke and his family from Henderson at the head of the line.

Duke, 38, a former Marine and current police officer and first responder, said he had already participated in early voting but made the 90-minute trip to support Trump. He said inflation is his chief concern.

"Take a look at the prices today compared to where they were four years ago — enough said," he said. "My paycheck tells me; my bank account tells me. I make more money now than I made all my life and I can't tell it."

Emma Haight, 16, from Greenville, came with her aunt and two cousins because she is a big fan of the former president, even though she can't vote.

"I love him so much. He's like our hope, literally, our only hope right now ... Trump is more for the people," she said.

Republican leaders revved up a packed house and urged supporters to turn North Carolina red on Election Day.

U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop, GOP candidate for state attorney general, told the crowd that ballots cast by registered Republicans through Saturday had nearly matched that of Democrats, who typically outpace the GOP in early balloting. He said the Democrats' advantage was at 22,000 ballots.

"And Republicans can still beat the Democrats on Election Day as we usually do," Bishop said. Early voting continues through Nov. 2. Election Day is Nov. 5.

"You have built the foundation for complete victory on Election Day," he said. "You have begun the process of beating Democrats at their own game."

He told the crowd they could not coast but need to double down.

"We must build a victory that is too big to rig," he shouted, drawing an echoed roar and previewing a slogan Trump would revisit himself.

Laurie Buckhout, candidate for North Carolina's 1st District congressional seat, recalled July 13, the day when a gunman attempted to assassinate Trump at an outdoor rally in Pennsylvania. She described how he rose bleeding above a cadre of Secret Service agents with his fist raised after his ear was grazed by a bullet, risking further exposure.

"I've done 26 years in the Army and 11 in combat and I've never seen courage like that," Buckhout said. "He raised up and said 'keep fighting' to inspire us ... I can't wait till we get courage and fight like that back in the White House."

Buckhout was among many Trump thanked for supporting him. Another was U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, who reminded the crowd earlier that Trump had endorsed him in Greenville in 2021 during the state Republican convention. That was Trump's fourth visit to Greenville since first running for president in 2016; Thursday was his fifth.

"With your help this November we are going to fire Kamala Harris and we are going to save America," Trump told the crowd before rolling off a string of promises that ranged from removing "critical race theory and transgender insanity from schools" to protecting the right to bear arms.

"We are going to restore the greatness of our nation for every race, religion, color and creed," he said. "With your support we will cut your taxes, end inflation, slash your prices, raise your wages, and turn the United States into the manufacturing superpower of the world. It will be very quick ... We will build American, we will buy American, we will hire American. I will end the war in Ukraine, I will stop the chaos in the Middle East and I will prevent World War III. Nobody else is going to do that."

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Advance. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Bobby Burns The Daily Reflector, 'Trump vows to deport illegal border crossers to cheers of Minges crowd', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E9902EE2F5D0>



How residents can receive FEMA assistance for private roads, bridges

October 21, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 781 Words OpenURL Link

If an individual had a privately-owned road or bridge damaged or destroyed by Helene, federal assistance may be available for replacement or repairs, according to a press release from FEMA.

What are the eligibility requirements to receive FEMA individual assistance for private road and bridge repair?

To receive Home Repair Assistance for privately-owned access routes, the following conditions must be met:

A FEMA inspection determines repairs are necessary to provide drivable access to the primary residence.

The applicant is responsible (or shares responsibility with other homeowners) for maintaining the privately owned access route to their primary residence.

The privately-owned access route is the only way to reach the applicant's primary residence; repair (or replacement) of a secondary route is necessary for practical use (for example, it is impossible to access the residence without a bridge or road); or the safety of the occupants or the residence would be adversely affected because state or local government emergency equipment (ambulances, firetrucks) cannot reach the residence.

How do I access FEMA individual assistance?

Homeowners and renters in North Carolina designated counties and tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who were affected by Helene should apply with FEMA, according to the press release.

The fastest way to apply is online at DisasterAssistance.gov or via the FEMA app. You may also call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as video relay, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service, according to the press release.

Survivors who applied for assistance from FEMA need to stay in touch with the agency to update their application with any new information. The easiest way to provide new or missing information is by visiting a Disaster Recovery Center or by calling the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362.

Why did I receive less than \$200 to fix my private bridge?

If you report damage to FEMA and receive a dollar amount between \$179 - \$195, you may have received this money to pay a contractor to inspect and provide an estimate of the cost to repair damage to your HVAC, septic system, well, retaining wall or single-family road or bridge. After you receive the contractor's estimate, file an appeal. Your FEMA letter will explain the documents to submit, according to the press release.

The appeal can be submitted in one of the following ways:

Go to a nearby Disaster Recovery Center. Find the center nearest you by visiting fema.gov/drc.

Mail: Individuals and Households Program, National Processing Service Center; P.O. Box 10055; Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055.

Fax: 800-827-8112.

Online at DisasterAssistance.gov. Log into your account and upload supporting documents via the Correspondence Upload Center.

Who applies if

multiple families live off a private road that was damaged?

FEMA encourages each affected homeowner to apply for assistance. In instances where multiple homes share a privately-owned access route, assistance is shared between applicants, requiring additional coordination and documentation between FEMA and the applicants. In some cases, more than one owner may receive funds for a contractor's estimate. Please be sure to use these funds as intended, according to the press release.

FEMA also requires:

Written consent from all applicants as pertains to the shared privately-owned access route.

A declarative statement affirming any assistance FEMA provides will be used to make repairs to the access route, and the applicant understands they are responsible for getting permits and complying with local codes and ordinances.

The households are not part of a homeowner's association or covenant responsible for repair of the access route, or the established homeowner's association or covenant is unable to receive assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) or private insurance to repair the access route.

Is there additional assistance available?

Possibly. Assistance for repairs to private roads and bridges damaged by Helene in North Carolina is being made available through FEMA's Public Assistance Program. The process for implementing this option is currently being finalized and will be shared as soon as it's available, according to the press release.

Individuals do not apply for public assistance. The Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies, according to the press release.

The SBA may also be able to help. Homeowners who share private access roads and bridges with other homeowners may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans. Private roads used to access your residence and the personal contents of your home may be eligible under disaster home loan criteria. Call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services, or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'How residents can receive FEMA assistance for private roads, bridges', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5A94D2E38AC10



Chimney Rock: Rebuilding water, sewer system is a priority

October 21, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC)
Author: VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 656 Words
OpenURL Link

CHIMNEY ROCK — The village of Chimney Rock is going to request \$65 million in Hurricane Helene relief money from the state legislature, and almost all of that money would go toward rebuilding and repairing the village's water and sewer infrastructure.

Mike Hager — who the village council recently appointed to lobby for the village in the state legislature — said the state legislature is meeting Oct. 24 to dole out about \$1 billion in funds for Hurricane Helene relief.

At the village council's regular meeting Oct. 15, Hager said the largest need the town is facing in order to recover is the reinstallation of sewer and water infrastructure. The storm wiped out all of the village sewer and a good portion of the water lines.

That infrastructure will be beneficial for residents returning and businesses being able to one day open again, mayor Peter O'Leary commented during the meeting.

As of the council meeting, water was restored to Terrace Drive residents and the Chimney Rock Fire Station only.

J. Meliski, who was recently appointed over the village's water and sewer utilities, said the town wells that were running on generators are now running on regular power. He also noted that the boil water advisory had been lifted after testing at the wells came back clean.

Meliski reminded residents that the there still is no sewer system and to not use it.

He also noted that many of the septic tanks on Southside Drive were washed away, which is why he is hoping to have sewer connections in that area when the village begins rebuilding the sewer infrastructure. Having sewer access will also help undeveloped lots on Southside Drive become developable for residences, O'Leary noted.

One area of the village that rests near Lake Lure may get sewer back, for those who originally had it, Meliski said. Currently, sand is compacting the drains, but if it is cleared out, sewer might be restored there.

The Department of Environmental Quality and the Army Corps of Engineers were helping with assessments, Meliski said.

At the previous village council meeting, several attendees had questions about Broad River and whether it would be moved back to where it was prior to the storm.

O'Leary touched on the river saying the village knows the river bank will need to be reclaimed in order to prevent further erosion, but the river may not be moved in every area.

"From what I have been told, they are looking at stabilizing where the river is now. But they may not move it back to where it was in every area," he said.

A portion of the river was previously moved back to where it was prior to the storm because it was impacting the main road.

He also said that Duke Energy is still working in the area and the company will be evaluating Southside Drive once the temporary bridge is in place. According to a Facebook post from the village, the N.C. Department of Transportation started work on the Southside Drive temporary bridge on Oct. 18.

In an Oct. 16 post to the village's Facebook page, it was clear that progress had been made along Main Street. The sidewalk is visible again. And the U.S. Army 101st Airborne was back in the village. Spokes of Hope and Victory Relief were also helping out with recovery efforts.

As for the streetscape work that had been completed in the village area, Buck Mileski said much of it is still intact, but the street lights are gone.

Peter also noted that beginning tentatively Oct. 26, there will be temporary shops for the fall and holiday season from Chimney Rock businesses at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. The economic relief effort will establish a Western NC Main Street shopping experience at the equestrian center.

O'Leary stated that things are evolving rapidly and new information will come out every day. He reiterated that the village will need relief volunteers in the coming weeks. If a group or organization is interested, submit an email through chimneyrockvillage.com.

Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

VICTORIA MCGUINN YOUNG vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Chimney Rock: Rebuilding water, sewer system is a priority', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EE6E09A95F98>



A mobile behavioral health crisis van headed for Lake Lure

October 21, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 83 Words OpenURL Link

LAKE LURE — Partners Health Management and Phoenix Counseling Center have collaborated to deploy a mobile behavioral health crisis van to Rutherford County to provide mental health services to those in need following the impact of Hurricane in Western North Carolina, according to a Facebook post from Rutherford County.

Look for the Phoenix Counseling mobile crisis van at:

Ridgeline Heating and Cooling

1618 Bills Creek Road

Lake Lure, NC 28746

Oct. 23 and 25 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more resources, visit our Hurricane Helene relief webpage: https://bit.ly/3XLcdeQ.

Copyright 2024, The Daily Courier, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'A mobile behavioral health crisis van headed for Lake Lure', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5A94D26D14180



IRS warns taxpayers of charity scams following recent hurricanes

October 21, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: The Herald Staff Reports | Section: Local | 426 Words OpenURL Link

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of Hurricanes Milton and Helene, the Internal Revenue Service cautions taxpayers of scammers who use fake charities to gather sensitive personal and financial data from unsuspecting donors.

According to a press release, scammers commonly set up fake charities to take advantage of peoples' generosity during natural disasters and other tragic events.

"Many people want to help survivors and their families by donating to charities," IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said in a press release. "Too often, criminals take advantage of would-be donors' kindness by stealing money and personal information from well-meaning taxpayers. You should never feel pressured by solicitors to immediately give to a charity. It's important to do the research to verify if they're authentic first."

Tax-Exempt Organization Search tool

Those interested in making donations should first check the Tax-Exempt Organization Search tool on IRS.gov to help find or verify qualified, legitimate charities. With this tool, people can:

Verify the legitimacy of a charity,

Check its eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions, and

Search for information about an organization's tax-exempt status and filings.

Tips to avoid fake charities

Always verify. Scammers frequently use names that sound like well-known charities to confuse people. Fake charity promoters may use emails, fake websites, or alter or "spoof" their caller ID to make it look like a real charity is calling to solicit donations. Potential donors should ask the fundraiser for the charity's name, website and mailing address so they can independently confirm the information. Use the TEOS tool to verify if an organization is a legitimate tax-exempt charity.

Be cautious about how a donation is requested. Never work with charities that ask for donations by giving numbers from a gift card or by wiring money. That's a scam. It's safest to pay by credit card or check — and only after verifying the charity is real.

Don't share too much information. Scammers are on the lookout for both money and personal information. Never disclose Social Security numbers, credit card numbers or personal identification numbers.

Don't give in to pressure. Scammers often pressure people into making an immediate payment. In contrast, legitimate charities are happy to get a donation at any time. Donors should not feel rushed.

The IRS also encourages individuals encountering a fake or suspicious charity to see the FBI's resources on Charity and Disaster Fraud.

Claim a deduction

Taxpayers who give money or goods to a charity can claim a deduction if they itemize deductions, but these

donations only count if they go to a qualified tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS.

Copyright © 2024 Daily Herald. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

The Herald Staff Reports, 'IRS warns taxpayers of charity scams following recent hurricanes', *Daily Herald* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5ACD0C98F6728



JoCo helps WNC survive Helene

October 21, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: Meteorology | 274 Words OpenURL Link

Johnston County Sheriff Steve Bizzell is thanking his home county for raising 16 semitractor-trailer loads full of relief supplies for Hurricane Helene survivors and recovery efforts.

"The Johnston County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the (Johnston County) Board of County Commissioners, Emergency Services, and our 911 Center, began a donation drive on Monday, Sept. 30 in the parking lot of the new public safety center in hopes of collecting supplies to assist our neighbors in the western part of our state that were affected by Hurricane Helene. The outpouring of love and support during this donation drive from our citizens, churches and businesses exceeded all our expectations," Bizzell said in a recent release.

"During the week-long drive, we collected 16 53-foot trailer loads of supplies that were delivered to a distribution site in Henderson County, managed by the National Guard," he added. "The supplies were then distributed out to five different counties in the devastated area. It was amazing to see the employees at the public safety center who worked so hard on the donation line to make this a success. There is also no way this donation drive would have been successful without Airflow Products Company Inc., of Selma, and the generosity of Jeff Holt, Roy Boswell Jr., Adam Boswell and Chris Boswell who provided the tractor trailers, drivers, fuel, pallets and bins.

"It was such a blessing to see the good folks of Johnston County come together to fill the trucks to capacity to help those in need," Bizzell said. "The overwhelming success of this endeavor just shows that there are still good people, and I am so proud to call Johnston County home."

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Record, Record Publishing Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

For the Record, 'JoCo helps WNC survive Helene', *Daily Record, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5ACD3CCD5D3E0



Stein, allies, seek student votes at ECU rally

October 21, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Pat Gruner | Section: Local | 777 Words OpenURL Link

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copyright © 2024 The Daily Reflector. All rights reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Pat Gruner, 'Stein, allies, seek student votes at ECU rally', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E703D1B40F08



Satellite mode a lifeline after hurricane - Some phones can connect in emergencies

October 21, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Felecia Wellington Radel; USA TODAY | Section: News | 913 Words Page: A4 OpenURL Link

The phone wasn't working.

Power and cell service had been out for a couple of days after Hurricane Helene, and Jeff Twersky was trying – again – to see if he could get a connection.

Twersky, 69, a retired trial lawyer, was with his wife, family and friends in Weaverville, North Carolina, just outside Asheville, when the hurricane hit. The group rented an Airbnb in the small town earlier in the week to celebrate a birthday and explore the mountainous region, but they weren't expecting the stormy forecast or the fallout that followed.

Roads were blocked, water was running out, and the ability to reach out to anyone via mobile phone calls or texting was limited, if it worked at all. Thousands across the Southeast were isolated without power or cell service in the days after Helene.

Twersky, who had traveled to the area from Vashon Island, Washington, went outside the night of Sept. 28 hoping there would be more luck at the late hour for getting a connection on his iPhone 16, and it happened.

"My phone switched to satellite," Twersky said, adding he was unaware of the feature. "I managed to get ahold of my daughter in San Francisco."

Satellite mode and cellular networks

A satellite mode or "satellite SOS" feature has been introduced on many newer mobile phone models. The feature allows users to text when cellular or Wi-Fi coverage is unavailable, like in remote areas or during natural disasters.

For Apple, iPhone 14 and newer devices that have been updated to iOS 18 can use the feature. Google has Satellite SOS mode that can be activated on its Pixel 9 models for contacting emergency services. In addition to the tech companies making the devices, cellular networks also work with companies for satellite support, including AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile, which partnered with SpaceX's Starlink.

The satellite SOS solutions are "a new technology that's been integrated into the phone so that if there is no cellular network available, they can fall back to a satellite connection," said John Wojewoda, AT&T's assistant vice president of Tower Strategy and Roaming.

Satellite connection is limited to text messaging, and it requires certain conditions to work, including a clear line-ofsight of the sky and, depending on the device, may require additional steps to activate.

But with few other choices in the midst of a disaster and widespread outages, it's good to have even a limited option.

Satellite SOS isn't the only service solution using satellites.

"AT&T also uses satellite to support the wireless network, the cellular network," Wojewoda said.

When there's a disaster, such as a storm coming in and knocking out power and cell towers, there's a national

team, the Network Disaster Recovery, that not only works on restoring coverage but can turn up service temporarily for a cell site using satellites.

Verizon partnered this year with Skylo, a satellite service provider, to launch direct-to-device messaging service on certain smartphones. Both Verizon and AT&T work with AST SpaceMobile, a satellite communication company, with deals that would bring space-based cellular broadband network accessibility.

T-Mobile and Starlink direct-to-cellular service, which allows wireless emergency alerts and SMS, including texting 911, was enabled in Florida ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall and in areas that had been hit by Helene, according to a statement from T-Mobile.

'It was a lifesaving thing'

Being able to use satellite mode on his iPhone was a lifeline, Twersky said.

Once he was able to text his daughter, he and his group were able to get crucial information about the storm, roads and access that they couldn't get otherwise with the cell outages.

The group also worked to cut fallen trees and clear other debris, but many roads remained blocked.

"At that point, it was three days in," Twersky said. "We basically had no food left. We were running out of water. A couple of us needed medications that were running out. It was a lifesaving thing to find the satellite."

Twersky eventually reached family who could pick them up.

Seeing all the devastation, especially as they left, was difficult. But there's a silver lining.

"We saw a side of community that you don't always see, and I think maybe disaster brings it out," Twersky said.
"The way that the community got together and helped everyone was just incredible."

Evolving technology

Satellite SOS is rather limited in capabilities and basically allows texting only. But the technology is evolving, Wojewoda said.

Bringing in the satellite assets helps with temporary solutions, but companies like AT&T are working on long-term solutions, too.

With people relying more and more on cellphones for communication, climate change worsening floods, storms and weather events means expanded and more permanent solutions are needed.

From a technology perspective, cellular networks want to have capabilities that can be used to provide connectivity all the time when there's a disaster, Wojewoda said.

Companies hope to bolster networks, as well. AT&T wants to increase network resilience and is undergoing a refresh of its power backup systems, "investing millions of dollars in generators, batteries and systems to help keep our network up and running when there is a local power outage," according to a statement from Andrea Huguely, an AT&T spokesperson.

The company also worked with Argonne National Laboratory, a federally funded research and development center in Illinois, to look at climate projections and data. AT&T, FEMA and the laboratory created a Climate Risk and Resilience Portal, a hub that provides climate data for public safety and community leaders.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Felecia Wellington Radel, USA TODAY, 'Satellite mode a lifeline after hurricane - Some phones can connect in emergencies', Fayetteville Observer, The (online), 21 Oct 2024 A4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C58A02B215DA88>



Harris urges Ga. voters to 'turn the page' on Trump

October 21, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Maya Homan; USA TODAY | Section: News | 513 Words Page: A6 OpenURL Link

Amid Georgia's record-shattering early voter turnout, Vice President Kamala Harris returned to Atlanta to urge voters to usher in "a new and optimistic generation of leadership."

U.S. Rep. Nikema Williams delivered opening remarks alongside Sen. Jon Ossoff, Georgia high school student and gun safety activist Tyler Lee, and eight-time Grammy-winning recording artist Usher.

"This is Georgia, and we know a little something about breaking history," said Williams, who chairs the Georgia Democratic Party.

Usher, who was scheduled to perform at Atlanta's State Farm Arena on Sunday, told attendees that he had taken time away from his national tour to stump for Harris.

"It doesn't matter where you're from - she has a vision for our future that includes everyone," he said.

Harris' last visit to the Atlanta metro area – a rally for reproductive rights that was held in Cobb County – was somber, as she shared the story of Amber Nicole Thurman and Candi Miller, whose deaths have been linked to the state's six-week abortion ban.

But as early voter turnout soared to 1.3 million in the first five days of voting, Harris' return to the state took on a different energy: excitement.

"It is time to turn the page," Harris told the crowd of roughly 11,000 attendees. "It is time to turn the page, and America is ready to chart a new way forward."

Rally attendees echoed Harris' enthusiasm. Tinesha Cole, a 52-year-old small-business owner, said Harris' rally was the first one she has attended and that she had been eagerly watching as Georgia's early voter count soared.

"We got great turnout numbers," she said. "Already, over a half a million people have done early voting, which is unprecedented out here. I'm optimistic about what the outcome is going to be."

Another rallygoer, 63-year-old nonprofit worker Philip Rafshoon, said he was feeling "nervous but optimistic" about the upcoming election. He hasn't cast his ballot, but he's planning to do so before the end of early voting.

"I'm waiting for my husband to get back so we can vote together," he said.

Harris' roughly 30-minute speech contained a few somber moments. She began by thanking the workers who have been helping residents recover in the wake of Hurricane Helene, which devastated wide swaths of the state late last month. She also criticized Republican former President Donald Trump's economic plans, and shared a campaign video featuring Thurman's family members that seeks to link Trump's legacy more directly to abortion bans that have been enacted across the South.

Additionally, Harris highlighted Trump's refusal to participate in future debates and mocked his recent spate of canceled events, one of which was reportedly because of exhaustion.

"I do believe Donald Trump is an unserious man," she said. "And the consequences of him ever being again in the

White House are brutally serious."

With the Nov. 5 election nearing, she urged her supporters to cast their ballots. "Democracy is not a state; it is an act," Harris said. "So Georgia, now is the time to act."

Copyright 2024, The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

• Citation (aglc Style)

Maya Homan, USA TODAY, 'Harris urges Ga. voters to 'turn the page' on Trump', *Fayetteville Observer, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 A6 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C58A02909AAFC8



Satellite mode a lifeline after hurricane - Some phones can connect in emergencies

October 21, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Felecia Wellington Radel; USA TODAY | Section: News | 913 Words Page: A4 OpenURL Link

The phone wasn't working.

Power and cell service had been out for a couple of days after Hurricane Helene, and Jeff Twersky was trying – again – to see if he could get a connection.

Twersky, 69, a retired trial lawyer, was with his wife, family and friends in Weaverville, North Carolina, just outside Asheville, when the hurricane hit. The group rented an Airbnb in the small town earlier in the week to celebrate a birthday and explore the mountainous region, but they weren't expecting the stormy forecast or the fallout that followed.

Roads were blocked, water was running out, and the ability to reach out to anyone via mobile phone calls or texting was limited, if it worked at all. Thousands across the Southeast were isolated without power or cell service in the days after Helene.

Twersky, who had traveled to the area from Vashon Island, Washington, went outside the night of Sept. 28 hoping there would be more luck at the late hour for getting a connection on his iPhone 16, and it happened.

"My phone switched to satellite," Twersky said, adding he was unaware of the feature. "I managed to get ahold of my daughter in San Francisco."

Satellite mode and cellular networks

A satellite mode or "satellite SOS" feature has been introduced on many newer mobile phone models. The feature allows users to text when cellular or Wi-Fi coverage is unavailable, like in remote areas or during natural disasters.

For Apple, iPhone 14 and newer devices that have been updated to iOS 18 can use the feature. Google has Satellite SOS mode that can be activated on its Pixel 9 models for contacting emergency services. In addition to the tech companies making the devices, cellular networks also work with companies for satellite support, including AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile, which partnered with SpaceX's Starlink.

The satellite SOS solutions are "a new technology that's been integrated into the phone so that if there is no cellular network available, they can fall back to a satellite connection," said John Wojewoda, AT&T's assistant vice president of Tower Strategy and Roaming.

Satellite connection is limited to text messaging, and it requires certain conditions to work, including a clear line-ofsight of the sky and, depending on the device, may require additional steps to activate.

But with few other choices in the midst of a disaster and widespread outages, it's good to have even a limited option.

Satellite SOS isn't the only service solution using satellites.

"AT&T also uses satellite to support the wireless network, the cellular network," Wojewoda said.

When there's a disaster, such as a storm coming in and knocking out power and cell towers, there's a national

team, the Network Disaster Recovery, that not only works on restoring coverage but can turn up service temporarily for a cell site using satellites.

Verizon partnered this year with Skylo, a satellite service provider, to launch direct-to-device messaging service on certain smartphones. Both Verizon and AT&T work with AST SpaceMobile, a satellite communication company, with deals that would bring space-based cellular broadband network accessibility.

T-Mobile and Starlink direct-to-cellular service, which allows wireless emergency alerts and SMS, including texting 911, was enabled in Florida ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall and in areas that had been hit by Helene, according to a statement from T-Mobile.

'It was a lifesaving thing'

Being able to use satellite mode on his iPhone was a lifeline, Twersky said.

Once he was able to text his daughter, he and his group were able to get crucial information about the storm, roads and access that they couldn't get otherwise with the cell outages.

The group also worked to cut fallen trees and clear other debris, but many roads remained blocked.

"At that point, it was three days in," Twersky said. "We basically had no food left. We were running out of water. A couple of us needed medications that were running out. It was a lifesaving thing to find the satellite."

Twersky eventually reached family who could pick them up.

Seeing all the devastation, especially as they left, was difficult. But there's a silver lining.

"We saw a side of community that you don't always see, and I think maybe disaster brings it out," Twersky said.
"The way that the community got together and helped everyone was just incredible."

Evolving technology

Satellite SOS is rather limited in capabilities and basically allows texting only. But the technology is evolving, Wojewoda said.

Bringing in the satellite assets helps with temporary solutions, but companies like AT&T are working on long-term solutions, too.

With people relying more and more on cellphones for communication, climate change worsening floods, storms and weather events means expanded and more permanent solutions are needed.

From a technology perspective, cellular networks want to have capabilities that can be used to provide connectivity all the time when there's a disaster, Wojewoda said.

Companies hope to bolster networks, as well. AT&T wants to increase network resilience and is undergoing a refresh of its power backup systems, "investing millions of dollars in generators, batteries and systems to help keep our network up and running when there is a local power outage," according to a statement from Andrea Huguely, an AT&T spokesperson.

The company also worked with Argonne National Laboratory, a federally funded research and development center in Illinois, to look at climate projections and data. AT&T, FEMA and the laboratory created a Climate Risk and Resilience Portal, a hub that provides climate data for public safety and community leaders.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Felecia Wellington Radel, USA TODAY, 'Satellite mode a lifeline after hurricane - Some phones can connect in emergencies', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 A4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C58C2CDE26F6B0>



Harris urges Ga. voters to 'turn the page' on Trump

October 21, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Maya Homan; USA TODAY | Section: News | 513 Words Page: A6 OpenURL Link

Amid Georgia's record-shattering early voter turnout, Vice President Kamala Harris returned to Atlanta to urge voters to usher in "a new and optimistic generation of leadership."

U.S. Rep. Nikema Williams delivered opening remarks alongside Sen. Jon Ossoff, Georgia high school student and gun safety activist Tyler Lee, and eight-time Grammy-winning recording artist Usher.

"This is Georgia, and we know a little something about breaking history," said Williams, who chairs the Georgia Democratic Party.

Usher, who was scheduled to perform at Atlanta's State Farm Arena on Sunday, told attendees that he had taken time away from his national tour to stump for Harris.

"It doesn't matter where you're from - she has a vision for our future that includes everyone," he said.

Harris' last visit to the Atlanta metro area – a rally for reproductive rights that was held in Cobb County – was somber, as she shared the story of Amber Nicole Thurman and Candi Miller, whose deaths have been linked to the state's six-week abortion ban.

But as early voter turnout soared to 1.3 million in the first five days of voting, Harris' return to the state took on a different energy: excitement.

"It is time to turn the page," Harris told the crowd of roughly 11,000 attendees. "It is time to turn the page, and America is ready to chart a new way forward."

Rally attendees echoed Harris' enthusiasm. Tinesha Cole, a 52-year-old small-business owner, said Harris' rally was the first one she has attended and that she had been eagerly watching as Georgia's early voter count soared.

"We got great turnout numbers," she said. "Already, over a half a million people have done early voting, which is unprecedented out here. I'm optimistic about what the outcome is going to be."

Another rallygoer, 63-year-old nonprofit worker Philip Rafshoon, said he was feeling "nervous but optimistic" about the upcoming election. He hasn't cast his ballot, but he's planning to do so before the end of early voting.

"I'm waiting for my husband to get back so we can vote together," he said.

Harris' roughly 30-minute speech contained a few somber moments. She began by thanking the workers who have been helping residents recover in the wake of Hurricane Helene, which devastated wide swaths of the state late last month. She also criticized Republican former President Donald Trump's economic plans, and shared a campaign video featuring Thurman's family members that seeks to link Trump's legacy more directly to abortion bans that have been enacted across the South.

Additionally, Harris highlighted Trump's refusal to participate in future debates and mocked his recent spate of canceled events, one of which was reportedly because of exhaustion.

"I do believe Donald Trump is an unserious man," she said. "And the consequences of him ever being again in the

White House are brutally serious."

With the Nov. 5 election nearing, she urged her supporters to cast their ballots. "Democracy is not a state; it is an act," Harris said. "So Georgia, now is the time to act."

Copyright, 2024, The Gaston Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Maya Homan, USA TODAY, 'Harris urges Ga. voters to 'turn the page' on Trump', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 A6 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C58C2CB43B8948



Josh Tippel almost died in Hurricane Helene

October 21, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

Author: SCOTT SEXTON STAFF REPORTER | Section: Main | 796 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

BOONE - Josh Tippel is lucky to be alive. He knows it, his friends know it and his family does, too.

The day Hurricane Helene dumped more than a foot of rain on already sodden mountain communities, Tippel was trying to get home from work and beat the worst of it.

He couldn't.

Instead, he found himself trapped by an angry flash flood. Rocks and debris pummeled his car. The narrow road on which he was stuck began to crumble, pieces tumbling down the mountainside.

He was, by his own estimation, maybe 2 feet from being washed away. Tippel and frantic onlookers called 911 repeatedly but water-rescue squads had been overwhelmed.

As he waited, Tippel climbed on top of his car and began texting goodbyes to his loved ones.

"I should have died that day, but something or someone beyond my scope of understanding prevented that from happening," he wrote in a recent social media post.

A long wait for help

More than two weeks have passed and mountain towns are still struggling.

More than 100 died in Western North Carolina and 92 others are officially considered missing in what is by far the worst natural disaster in state history.

Rescue operations have wound down, and attention has turned to opening roads, getting those displaced somewhere warm and distributing basic supplies.

Tippel knows that, too.

He and many, many others need all the help they can get - and they will for the foreseeable future.

Because of that, Tippel has started sharing his story. He doesn't want those of us who've only read snippets about what happened to forget.

"Honestly ... I didn't even realize the extent of his ordeal until I read his account," said Kristi Vestal Maier, who coowns with her husband, Mark, a company called Enviroguard in Banner Elk where Tippel works.

Early Friday, Helene didn't look like anything particularly unusual. "It had rained a lot in the days before, but that morning it felt like a regular storm," Maier said.

As the day went on, however, the rain kept falling. The Maiers texted their six employees and told them to sit tight while they checked the roads.

Tippel had already left home.

The road along a mountain ridge started to flood - with him on it - and he decided that if he couldn't turn around, he at least needed to stop. The farther downhill he went, the higher and faster the water would be.

He was trapped by a river that hadn't been there minutes before.

"One more large rock, one more chunk of asphalt, one more strong gust of wind could have sealed my fate," Tippel wrote in a social media post.

The water continued to rise, and he moved to the top of his car. He knew he couldn't walk or swim through the torrent, so he waited for a swift-water rescue team.

The two longest hours of his life passed before Watauga County firefighters could reach the spot.

"It took another hour to figure out a plan of how to get a harness to me so I could be pulled across the river," he wrote. "When I finally reached safety unharmed and the adrenaline began to wear off, I started to fully grasp the miracle I had just experienced."

He was far from alone.

Standing together

In the weeks since Helene, some towns have rebounded faster than others.

Boone is doing OK all things considered, but small communities such as Banner Elk face months of rebuilding as critical infrastructure that supplied clean water was decimated by mud and debris.

So folks like the Maiers stepped in to do what they could. They turned their warehouse - Enviroguard manufactures and supplies restoration and cleaning chemicals to disaster restoration and construction companies - into an overflow storage center for Samaritan's Purse and local chambers of commerce.

"The community and beyond has given tremendously," Maier said. "Our warehouse is packed and (is) waiting to be distributed to those that need it."

And that's why telling (and re-telling) stories like Tippel's matters. People will read and remember it for its drama and joyous outcome.

Tippel's car is a total loss, obviously. Insurance, he said, won't cover enough to pay off the loan "so I'm upside down while I try to find a replacement vehicle."

He'd accept help if offered - Who wouldn't? - but his thoughts go beyond his predicament to others in the community who suffered just as much or more.

His online outreach concludes with thanks for what's been done so far and a larger plea to remember decimated communities. It's a long road back.

"I recognize that there are so many impacted by Helene beyond myself," Tippel wrote, "so also please consider supporting the efforts of organizations and local nonprofits providing disaster relief

"No one expected this to hit us like it did, but we're all resilient and building our way back up one step at a time."

ssexton@wsjournal.com336-727-7481@scottsextonwsj

• Citation (aglc Style)

SCOTT SEXTON; STAFF REPORTER, 'Josh Tippel almost died in Hurricane Helene', *Greensboro News & Record* (online), 21 Oct 2024 1A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C58A0529567D30



Watchdog group asks why - NC utilities can cut off customers despite Helene hardships

October 21, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Joe Marusak; Staff Writer | Section: News | 715 Words Page: 6A OpenURL Link

Gov. Roy Cooper included no provision in his statewide Tropical Storm Helene executive order to bar utilities from disconnecting residents who are behind on their bills - unlike his mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission also has enacted no such protections, unlike its orders during the pandemic.

On Oct. 7, due to Helene, Georgia Power announced it was suspending disconnections and waiving late fees until at least Dec. 15 for residential and business customers. In North Carolina, Duke Energy has made no such public announcement.

The lack of action by Cooper and utility regulators in North Carolina concerns a utility watchdog group.

"While many residents are in recovery mode and trying to put their lives back together, a constant threat haunts some: losing utilities again," Sue Sturgis, a North Carolina-based researcher with the nonprofit Energy and Policy Institute, said in an email to The Charlotte Observer.

At least 100,000 North Carolinians rely on electricity for their medical and assistive equipment and devices, she said.

Any customer can be cut off, watchdog group says

During COVID, Cooper prohibited providers of electricity, gas, water and wastewater services from disconnecting customers and collecting fees, penalties and or interest for late payments.

Cooper's COVID mandate lasted 60 days and gave residential customers at least six months to pay outstanding bills, Sturgis said. His mandate followed a North Carolina Utilities Commission order that suspended disconnections for nonpayment.

"Why aren't North Carolina's utility regulators and its largest utility doing the same for people affected by disaster?" Sturgis asked.

Cooper's press office didn't respond to four email and phone messages from the Observer over the past week.

Duke Energy and other utilities can still disconnect "any customer with a balance, despite the state of emergency that's still in effect," Sturgis said.

Duke is waiving disconnections, official says

Sam Watson, general counsel for the state utility commission, said several utilities, including Duke Energy, are voluntarily waiving disconnection and late fees, among other measures, for customers in Helene-affected areas.

Customers in need of relief from their bills should first contact their utility, Watson said. If the person they talk with is unable to resolve the issue, ask for their supervisor, he said.

If necessary, Watson said, contact the state's Public Staff Consumer Services Division at 919-733-9277 or 866-380-

9816 or via email at consumer.services@psncuc.gov.

By Tuesday, Duke Energy had restored power to all but 6,500 customers in the Carolinas and to all but 2,221 by Wednesday afternoon, according to the company outage map, down from more than 2.5 million.

Power was restored to all customers in the hard-hit mountain county of Buncombe, which includes Asheville, the outage map showed.

Still, after the deadly wildfires on the island of Maui in 2023, Hawaii's Public Utilities Commission ordered disconnections suspended, Sturgis said.

"Hawaii's largest utility, Hawaii Electric, even publicly announced its moratorium on disconnections," she said. "Why aren't North Carolina's utility regulators and its largest utility doing the same for people affected by disaster?"

"The North Carolina Utilities Commission and the Public Staff know about Duke Energy's voluntary suspension of disconnections and late fees,' Sturgis said. "But how are the people struggling to rebuild their lives in disaster-stricken Western North Carolina supposed to know about the policy?"

"There's been no public announcement by the company or by any state agency," she said. "Duke Energy has repeatedly said it's committed to customer outreach, but it's failing to offer any information up front about the disconnection suspension."

"Compare this with Georgia Power's announcement via press release that it suspended disconnections and late fees through at least Dec. 15 for people affected by Helene," she said.

"Always here to assist customers"

Regarding customers who can't pay their outstanding bills due to Helene, "we are taking a flexible, personal approach to working with those that are facing financial hardships," Duke Energy spokesman Jeff Brooks said in a statement for this story.

"Those in the heavily impacted areas of upstate SC and western NC will be extended the flexibility needed to help them through this difficult time," Brooks said.

"We're always here to assist our customers," he said.

Customers without power are in the "harder and hardest hit areas," Brooks said. "So, these would be places that we are doing more rebuilding of infrastructure than repair. Some areas have been completely devastated, and all infrastructure is being rebuilt."

Joe Marusak: 704-358-5067, @jmarusak

Copyright, 2024, The Durham Herald Company

• Citation (aglc Style)

Joe Marusak, Staff Writer, 'Watchdog group asks why NC utilities can cut off customers despite Helene hardships', *Herald-Sun, The* (online), 21 Oct 2024 6A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5C0FA1B39AA60>



Helene wrecked their Western NC towns - and homes, then came - the bees and fire ants

October 21, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Catherine Muccigrosso; Staff Writer | Section: News | 541 Words Page: 2A

Page: 2A OpenURL Link

An additional struggle to western North Carolina's Hurricane Helene recovery involves an increase in stinging insects like bees, yellow jackets and fire ants. That has had led state health authorities to make a large purchase of allergy medications.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services does not track reports of people who have been stung or bitten by insects. But the agency has had "anecdotal reports of increased numbers of stinging insects in the affected areas of western North Carolina," spokeswoman Summer Tonizzo told The Charlotte Observer Tuesday by email.

"We have made a large purchase of epi-pens and Benadryl," the state health agency said in a statement to The Charlotte Observer late Monday.

The state did not say how much it was spending on that purchase. A state Health Department official was not made available for an interview.

The medication is being distributed to EMS and disaster relief agencies, hospitals and shelter operators.

Helene hit North Carolina on Sept. 26 causing landslides and flooding leaving mass destruction with 27 counties designated as major disaster areas. Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday there were 95 confirmed deaths and 92 people still missing.

NC medical orders and waivers

On Friday, State Health Director Betsey Tilson issued a standing order authorizing pharmacists licensed or practicing in North Carolina an emergency waiver to dispense epinephrine auto-injectors for treatment of allergic reactions to stinging and biting insects, and other allergens, according to the NC Board of Pharmacy's website.

The requests can be made from people with allergies, a caregiver, family member or friend of a person at risk of experiencing or having a history of an anaphylactic reaction.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also activated the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program to help uninsured residents replace lost medications or medical equipment because of the storm.

More contact with insects

Many of the reported insect stings were from electricians and other outdoor workers, according to the Associated Press.

"If your habitat was disturbed, you're going to go out and look for more places to live," said Sarah Stellwagen, assistant professor of biological sciences at UNC Charlotte with a background in entomology.

As for yellow jackets, they can be easily disturbed if someone walks across their ground nest.

"As people are out there moving debris around and getting their property back in order, I think they're probably coming in contact with these things more than they normally would," Stellwagen said.

People also may be around bugs more regularly because they're living without power and spending more time outside, or because of structural damage, homes may not sealed off.

More about stinging insects

Insects, just like squirrels and other animals, also are preparing for winter so there's more competition for food. "There's lots of (insects) cleaning up the organic material as well," Stellwagen said, such as waste and rot after the flood.

She suggested wearing bug spray and watch for nests during cleanup in the mountains. And this time, Mother Nature may be helpful.

"Because it's getting cooler, I think people will start seeing some relief from these things for sure," Stellwagen said, "particularly when we get some regular frosts."

Catherine Muccigrosso: 7043585198, @CatMuccigrosso

Copyright, 2024, The Durham Herald Company

• Citation (aglc Style)

Catherine Muccigrosso, Staff Writer, 'Helene wrecked their Western NC towns and homes, then came the bees and fire ants', Herald-Sun, The (online), 21 Oct 2024 2A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5C0FA0B8C2570>