

Clemson's win meant more after Helene

October 1, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Derrian Carter; Greenville News| Section: Sports | 425 Words Page: B1 OpenURL Link

CLEMSON — Clemson football praised its fans, who were affected by Hurricane Helene and still were able to attend Saturday's game vs. Stanford.

The storm caused devastation in South Carolina, including 25 deaths as of Sunday afternoon, according to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Hundreds of thousands are still without power after the hurricane passed through on Friday.

Despite this, Tigers fans filled Memorial Stadium to watch Clemson's 40-14 win against the Cardinal.

"Our crowd was awesome," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It's been a tough few days, a lot going on, everybody impacted by the hurricane. Thoughts and prayers with them. We have a lot of people on our staff impacted, myself included."

The Tigers (3-1, 2-0 ACC) look to win their fourth straight in their first road ACC game against Florida State (1-4, 1-3) on Saturday (7 p.m., ESPN) at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Swinney said defensive tackles coach Nick Eason had "family challenges" this week and was away from the team since Wednesday before returning for Saturday's game. He added that he and his staff had trees down in their neighborhoods and near their houses, and many of his players who are from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina have been affected.

Swinney also said the storm altered Clemson's preparation leading up to the game, thanking the logistics staff for attempting to create normalcy amid the circumstances.

Clemson's game was not canceled despite the storm's damage and Stanford arriving a day late. Still, Tigers quarterback Cade Klubnik said he was shocked to see the support on Saturday.

"In the midst of all of that, we step on the field, and it's dang near soldout," Klubnik said. "That's incredible."

Tigers fans watched Clemson win its 801st game, tying Auburn for the 13th most in FBS history. Swinney earned his 173rd victory to tie Bobby Bowden for the most coaching wins leading an ACC program.

Klubnik threw four touchdowns and rushed for another to propel them to their third straight win. Defensively, they contained Stanford, recording three turnovers, three turnovers on downs and four sacks.

"I don't think really anybody expected the storm to hit us as bad as it did, and it threw off our routine a little bit, in terms of our Friday night and Saturday schedule," Klubnik said. "But in the midst of all the chaos, we just wanted to put some smiles on some people (Saturday), and I hoped that we did that."

Derrian Carter covers Clemson athletics for The Greenville News and the USA TODAY Network. Email him at dcarter@gannett.com and follow him on X, formerly known as Twitter, @DerrianCarter00

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What's open in WNC? Where to get gas, groceries, wifi, water

October 1, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Brandi D. Addison; USA TODAY NETWORK | Section: News | 262 Words Page: A2 OpenURL Link

As North Carolina recovers from Hurricane Helene, residents are searching for essential services like gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies.

Here's a guide to what's open and operating across the state as communities begin to rebuild.

See map: What's open and where to buy groceries and gas

NOTE: The map is provided by Citizens Emergency Map. This is NOT an official state or federal resource. Anyone can contribute to this map.

Residents and local businesses from across the state have contributed to an interactive map, highlighting open grocery stores and gas stations in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Continuously updated, the map helps people find the nearest available resources as recovery efforts progress. Here's what's open:

Food and Groceries

Food Lion: 179 Paragon Pkwy, Clyde, NC

Trader Joe's: 120 Merrimon Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

Ingles Markets (Cash Only): 575 New Leicester Hwy, Asheville, NC

Walmart: 1636 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC

Publix: 165 Weaver Boulevard

Food Distribution

Monte Vista Hotel (Food and WiFi): 310 W State St, Black Mountain, NC

Bears Smokehouse: 135 Cox Ave, Asheville

Gas Stations

Arden Quality Plus: 2273 Hendersonville Rd, Arden, NC

Sheetz: 5440 Asheville Hwy, Hendersonville, NC

Construction Supplies

Ace Hardware: 800 Fairview Rd, Asheville, NC

Wi-Fi Locations

Buncombe County Health Department: 40 Cox Ave, Weaverville, NC

Citizen Vinyl: 14 O'Henry Ave, Asheville, NC

DoubleTree Hilton Downtown: 199 Haywood St., Asheville

Asheville Shelter, Ferguson Building: 340 Victoria Road, Asheville

Water Sources

Lowe's: 95 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville, NC

Home Depot:

795 Fairview Rd, Asheville, NC

127 Acton Cir, Asheville, NC

Pisgah Brewing Company: 2849 US 70 (Water available from 2 to 5 p.m., BYO sanitary container)

Publix: 165 Weaver Boulevard

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What to do if you suspect price gouging, other scams

October 1, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Molly Davis; Asheville Citizen Times | Section: News | 333 Words Page: A4 OpenURL Link

At least 30 people have died and thousands are without power, water and cell service following devastating storms across North Carolina caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

As recovery efforts are ongoing, residents throughout Asheville and surrounding communities are in need of potable water, food, gas and other supplies. Families waited in line in West Asheville to buy water and other essentials Sunday morning, before officials released information about water and food distribution sites.

Attorney General Josh Stein reminded North Carolinians Sunday that it is against the law to unreasonably overcharge for goods and services during a state of emergency.

Residents can report price gouging or other Helene-related concerns to the North Carolina Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or www.ncdoj.gov/pricegouging.

What is price gouging and is it illegal?

North Carolina state law prohibits price gouging, or charging an unreasonably excessive price for essential goods, in cases of natural disaster. When a state of emergency is declared in response to a natural disaster, the state's law against price gouging goes into effect.

Under state law, the Attorney General's office can seek refunds on behalf of customers who have been affected by price gouging, and penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation can be issued against perpetrators.

Other scams to watch out for after natural disasters

According to the office of North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, scammers have been known to travel to areas affected by disasters during recovery efforts, when information is scarce. These can include home repair and tree removal scams, charity scams and insurance adjuster scams.

To stay safe in the wake of a natural disaster, contact your insurance company directly, do not pay for repair work upfront and do not trust contractors who show up to your home and try to rush you into paying for services.

Remember to research charities before you donate and do not give out sensitive personal information.

If you have been the victim of a disaster recovery related scam, contact the Attorney General's office at (877)5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint/.

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Most Sunday flights canceled at Asheville Airport after Helene floods

October 1, 2024 | Times-News, The (Hendersonville, NC) Author: Evan Gerike; Asheville Citizen Times| Section: News| 188 Words Page: A5 OpenURL Link

ASHEVILLE - Many flights at the Asheville Regional Airport Sept. 29 are still canceled as airlines struggle with the recovery of phone service and internet access, according to an update from an Asheville Regional Airport Tina Kinsey.

All Delta flights before noon Sept. 29 have been canceled and no other airlines are currently operating.

While some flights and airlines may resume service as connections come back online, the airport is urging passengers to check with their airlines about the status of their flight. Asheville Regional Airport's website is not updating accurately with flight information at the moment.

Many roads to the airport are still closed and impassable.

According to the spokesperson, passengers and community members have been sheltering at the airport since Thursday. The airport has been working with its restaurant partner to provide food and water, and all are currently safe, according to the update.

Evan Gerike is a reporter for the Asheville Citizen Times. Email him at egerike@citizentimes.com or follow him on X, formerly Twitter, @EvanGerike.

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Balanced attack lifts North Surry to win over Forbush

October 1, 2024 | Tribune, The (Elkin, NC) Author: Cory Smith | Section: Mtairy | 611 Words OpenURL Link

North Surry downed Forbush 51-21 in a rare Saturday afternoon game.

The Greyhounds led by nine in the second quarter before erupting for the next 28 points. The Hounds put up more than 500 yards of total offense to surpass the 50-point threshold for the second-consecutive week.

The Foothills 2A Conference game, which was pushed back a day due to Hurricane Helene, served as North Surry's second-consecutive win this season and eighth-consecutive against a conference opponent.

North Surry (4-2, 2-0 FH2A) had its most balanced offensive performance of the year while racking up a season-high 545 yards. Quarterback Kam McKnight passed for 274 yards and three touchdowns, while five Greyhounds combined to rush 36 times for 271 yards.

The defending FH2A Champs have accumulated more than 1,000 yards of offense across their past two games.

McKnight earned his 274 passing yards by completing 16-of-22 passes, which marked the senior's second game of the season with a completion percentage of at least 70%. McKnight also had his third game of the season without an interception.

McKnight connected with five receivers overall and threw touchdowns to three different Greyhounds; all five Hound receivers grabbed at least three receptions and averaged at least 12.3 yards per reception. Leading the way for North Surry's receiving corps was Fisher Leftwich with three receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown. David Schuyler added 67 yards and a touchdown in the air, followed by Jasper Wilmoth with 50 yards, Isaac Webb with 40 yards, and Owen McMillian with 37 yards and a touchdown.

Zamarri Sweatman, who ran for more than 300 yards in North Surry's Week 5 victory over Wilkes Central, continued his hot streak by rushing nine times for 115 yards and two touchdowns. The junior ran for at least 100 yards in each of his past three outings.

Leftwich, meanwhile, recorded his first career game of at least 100 rushing yards. The junior carried a team-high 12 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns. Leftwich finished the afternoon with 183 total yards.

Dayvion Duncan added 27 rushing yards, followed by Jhett Tolbert with 22 yards and McKnight with 4 yards.

The Hounds jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first quarter behind two rushing touchdowns from Sweatman. McMillen caught a pass for a 2-point conversion on the first touchdown, then threw the second 2-point conversion pass to Schuyler. Forbush (1-5, 0-2 FH2A) cut the lead to 23-12 with a passing touchdown and 2-point conversion.

Forbush quarterback Tyler Winters also had a strong showing by posting 201 yards and three touchdowns on 12 completions. Neither McKnight nor Winters threw an interception.

The Hounds and Falcons traded passing touchdowns in the second quarter as the home team extended their lead to 23-12. The Greyhounds defense buckled down following the Falcons' second touchdown and held the visitors scoreless until the fourth quarter — allowing the Hounds to score 28-unanswered points.

Duncan and Anthony Williams each recovered a fumble in the win over Forbush. Erik Cabrera led the Hounds with 12 total tackles, including one sack, followed by Schuyler with eight tackles, Peyton Sechrist with six tackles and

Gage Combs with five tackles. Sechrist had two tackles for a loss, and Jaxton Turney added one.

North's offense closed the half with an 8-yard touchdown pass from McKnight to Schuyler and a 2-point conversion run by Leftwich. Leftwich ran for two more scores in the second half, then a McMillian touchdown catch and PAT from Cabrera rounded out North's 51 points.

Forbush's Winters connected with Joseph Barnes for the game's final touchdown. Barnes led all players with 131 receiving yards and two receiving touchdowns.

North Surry continues its quest for a second-consecutive FH2A Championship by traveling to North Wilkes (1-4, 0-1 FH2A) on Oct. 4.

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Starmount's comeback falls short vs. Mount Airy

October 1, 2024 | Tribune, The (Elkin, NC) Author: Cory Smith| Section: Yadkin | 1299 Words OpenURL Link

BOONVILLE — Mount Airy fended off a late comeback effort to defeat Starmount 17-14 in a battle of undefeated teams.

The Sept. 27 game, which was moved back one day due to Hurricane Helene, lived up to the hype and went down to the final possession.

Starmount cut Mount Airy's lead to three points by scoring with just 2:20 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Rams attempted an onside kick that was recovered by the Granite Bears' Fletcher Gallimore. With Starmount out of timeouts, Taeshon Martin ran twice to move the chains and put the visitors in victory formation.

Saturday's game marked Mount Airy's 800th win all-time and extended the program's winning streak to 36-consecutive games — the longest active streak in North Carolina.

Starmount (4-1, 1-1 Northwest 1A Conference) limited Mount Airy to just 18 yards of offense in the fourth quarter, and 12 of those came on Martin's final two carries. The Rams, who struggled to combat the Bears' defense for most of the night, got some momentum going on their first drive of the quarter before Luke Collins was sacked by DJ Joyce. Collins lost another eight yards on the following play, then was intercepted by Martin near midfield.

Kevon Propst and Corey Armstrong led the Rams defense as they forced a three-and-out to set up the home team's best drive of the night. Starmount covered 59 yards on the eight-play drive that spanned 1:56 of game time. The drive ended with Collins connecting with KJ Allen for a 2-yard touchdown, but the score was too little too late as Mount Airy was able to run the clock out by moving the chains after recovering the onside kick.

Mount Airy (6-0, 2-0 NW1A) used the clock to its advantage throughout Saturday's game with a time of possession of nearly 32 minutes.

Defensively, the Bears shut down the run and held the Rams in the negative. Starmount failed to score a rushing touchdown for the first time since 2022. Instead, the home team scored both of its touchdowns in the air. This included a 52-yard pass from Collins to LT Adams on the first play of the game. Following the touchdown Starmount completed just two of its next 13 passes for 9 yards and two interceptions. Collins finished the game 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Mount Airy utilized its passing game some as Landon Gallimore threw for 74 yards and the team's first touchdown, a 31-yard strike to Zach Goins, but stuck mostly to the ground game. Goins' touchdown served as the first points surrendered by Starmount all season.

Martin served as the Bears' workhorse on offense. The junior rushed for 175 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 31 carries. Martin is the first Granite Bear to record at least 30 carries in a single game since Johnathon Smith in 2019.

Four other Bears combined for 38 rushing yards on nine carries.

The Rams initially contained the Granite Bears offense. Mount Airy went three-and-out on its first drive after two negative rushes and an incomplete pass. Mount Airy forced a turnover-on-downs after Third Floyd made a big fourth-down stop on Starmount's next possession, but then the home team forced a fumble that was recovered by Kinston Crater.

Starmount started on the Mount Airy 31-yard line but quickly faced fourth-and-10 following pressure from Joyce and a swatted pass by Ethan Clabo. Floyd halted the Rams' Crater on a fake punt to set up the Bears' first scoring drive. Collins looked to counter the Bears touchdown in the air but had a pass tipped by Goins and intercepted by Bryson Taylor.

Starmount didn't record another first down until midway through the third quarter.

Mount Airy forced the game's only lead change when Martin scored a 35-yard rushing touchdown as time expired in the first quarter. The touchdown was the longest rush by either team and it more than doubled Mount Airy's rushing yards to that point in the game.

The teams traded punts across the next two possessions, then Joyce forced and recovered a fumble for the Bears. This sparked an 8-play drive that spanned 4:18 of game time during which the Rams' Savian Billips and Kevon Probst each recorded tackles for a loss; Probst led the visitors with six tackles for a loss and 17 total tackles. The Rams' bend-don't-break defense held Mount Airy to a 27-yard field goal from Clabo.

The Bears got another shot at scoring when Kylan Mason recovered a squib kick, but the Rams defense held strong and forced another field goal attempt. The second attempt missed the mark as Mount Airy attempted to get it off before the halftime whistle.

Starmount, which became the first team since 2022 to hold Mount Airy to fewer than 20 points, stood tall as its defense stayed on the field for nearly nine minutes of game time in the third quarter. The defense set the offense up nicely when Cody Hernandez picked off Landon Gallimore and returned it to the Bears' 13-yard line. Collins found Allen for a 9-yard gain on the first play of the red zone drive, then a penalty on Mount Airy moved the home team to the 2-yard line.

Mount Airy stopped Starmount at the line of scrimmage on back-to-back plays before Crater made it to the 1. The Rams lined up for fourth-and-goal, but a false start penalty moved them back to the 6. The Rams instead attempted a 23-yard field goal that sailed wide of the uprights.

Starmount found itself up against the clock after the missed field goal with 4:32 left in the quarter. Mount Airy maintained possession through the end of the quarter but only moved forward 27 yards due to four holding penalties. The Bears' drive continued into the first 1:59 of the fourth quarter before punting. Martin regained possession for Mount Airy with the interception before the visitors punted back to Starmount.

Even with their late surge of offense Starmount couldn't overcome Mount Airy's advantage.

Mount Airy has won its past five meetings against Starmount and 10 of the past 11.

ScoringMount Airy -14, 3, 0, 0 -17

Starmount -7, 0, 0, 7 - 14

1Q11:40 ST 7-0 — LT Adams 52-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

3:24 MA 7-7 — Zach Goins 31-yard TD reception on Landon Gallimore pass, Ethan Clabo PAT

0:00 MA 7-14 — Taeshon Martin 35-yard TD run, Ethan Clabo PAT

2Q1:33 MA 7-17 — Ethan Clabo 27-yard field goal

3QNo scoring

4Q2:20 ST 14-17 — KJ Allen 2-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

Offensive Stats

Mount Airy Granite BearsTEAM74 passing yards and one touchdown on five completions, one interception

213 rushing yards and one touchdown on 40 carries, one fumble

287 total yards

INDIVIDUAL Passing: Landon Gallimore 5-of-16 for 74 yards, one touchdown, one interception

Receiving: Zach Goins three receptions for 54 yards, one touchdown; Saul Oakley two receptions for 21 yards; Zach Goins one reception for -1 yard

Rushing: Taeshon Martin 31 carries for 175 yards, one touchdown; Landon Gallimore six carries for 42 yards, one fumble; DJ Joyce one carry for 5 yards; John Martin 1 carry for 1 yard; Zach Goins one carry for -10 yards

Kicking: Ethan Clabo 2-of-2 PATs, 1-of-2 field goals (made from 27 yards, missed from 24 yards)

Starmount RamsTEAM146 passing yards and two touchdowns on 10 completions, two interceptions

-1 rushing yards on 17 carries, one fumble

145 total yards

INDIVIDUALPassing: Luke Collins 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns, two interceptions

Receiving: LT Adams one reception for 52 yards, one touchdown; KJ Allen four receptions for 25 yards, one touchdown; Kinston Crater one reception for 23 yards; Jymir Billips one reception for 21 yards; Colton Allen one reception for 13 yards; Aamir Adams two receptions for 12 yards

Rushing: Kinston Crater seven carries for 9 yards, one fumble; Jymir Billips two carries for 4 yards; Luke Collins eight carries for -14 yards

Kicking: Yahir Angulo 2-of-2 PATs, 0-of-1 field goals (22 yards)

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Congressman Edwards: Damages from Helene extensive, resources urgently needed

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 372 Words OpenURL Link

After reviewing the damage from Hurricane Helene and the continuing recovery efforts in the region, Congressman Chuck Edwards of North Carolina's 11th District provided an update Monday afternoon.

Edwards reminded residents that the region remains under a "DO NOT TRAVEL" advisory due to widespread road closures and power outages, with emergency crews working around the clock to restore services and clear debris.

After assessing the damage via helicopter with North Carolina House of Representatives Speaker Tim Moore Edwards said the view from above revealed the destructive effects of the storm.

"From the helicopter, it was even clearer just how much devastation Hurricane Helene has wrought across Western North Carolina and the urgency of getting resources to folks, especially for those in more remote areas which are harder to reach," Edwards said. "We discussed the path forward and ways we can optimize congressional resources to support Western North Carolina's recovery. Our district is facing a long road ahead, but Western North Carolinians are resilient, and I will continue to explore every avenue to bring home the support and resources that are needed in our mountains."

In his update, Edwards said Duke Energy expects to restore power to most NC-11 customers by Friday, October 4, though some areas with severe infrastructure damage may experience delays. Nearly 400,000 customers remain without power, and many water systems are under boil advisories, with emergency crews prioritizing potable water supply.

The North Carolina National Guard has deployed 650 soldiers and airmen, along with over 250 vehicles, to distribute supplies and clear debris. They are also conducting air missions for search and rescue operations and supply deliveries. Additionally, 12,000 cases of water have been secured from Pepsi Bottling Co. for distribution, and the state is delivering 40 trailer loads of water and 20 trailer loads of food daily through at least October 6.

Resource hubs and shelters are now operational across the region, with residents encouraged to stay updated on available services. FEMA assistance is also available for individuals in the most affected counties. Despite the challenging road ahead, Edwards is confident in the resilience of Western North Carolinians and continues to advocate for additional resources.

The post Congressman Edwards: Damages from Helene extensive, resources urgently needed appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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U.S. Attorney warns public about scams and price gouging following Helene

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 273 Words OpenURL Link

As communities in the Western District of North Carolina begin to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Helene, U.S. Attorney Dena J. King is issuing a strong warning about emerging scams and price gouging targeting disaster victims. King urges residents to remain vigilant and report any suspected fraudulent activity to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or through their website.

"It is unfathomable that scammers will try to profit from the devastation caused by a natural disaster," said U.S. Attorney King. "Fraudsters will stop at nothing to fill their pockets, and I urge the public to be extra cautious."

Residents are advised to be on the lookout for various types of scams that often arise in the aftermath of disasters, including:

To protect themselves from disaster fraud scams, King offers several key recommendations:

King emphasized that government agencies and legitimate organizations will not ask for money or personal information via phone or email. "When in doubt, contact the agency directly using a verified phone number or website," she advised.

For storm-related repairs, residents are encouraged to hire reputable contractors and always verify references. Be cautious of contractors who make unsolicited offers or promises that seem too good to be true. Avoid making large downpayments or paying in full before the repairs are completed.

Reporting any suspicious activities is crucial. "Reporting scams and price gouging will help law enforcement identify, investigate, and prosecute those who exploit the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene," said King.

To report disaster-related fraud, contact the NCDF at 1-866-720-5721 or online at www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm.

The post U.S. Attorney warns public about scams and price gouging following Helene appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Hurricane Helene Update from Tryon International

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Submitted article| Section: Community | 358 Words OpenURL Link

Tryon International continues to house emergency personnel on property, and power has been restored to property and to some of our neighbors as of 6:30 p.m. Monday evening. The facility has plenty of places to charge phones and to connect to free Guest Wifi for local neighbors who need to recharge or connect with loved ones.

The NC Emergency Management Field Hospital is currently being set up. It is expected to be completed on Tuesday, and operations will begin on Wednesday.

Polk County will have a supply distribution and donation drop off location for hygiene supplies, water, and other essentials at Polk County High School Tuesday from 1 to 6 p.m.

TIEC working with County officials to create a supply distribution and donation drop off point at the Lodging Office at Tryon International. As soon as this location is organized and operational, TIEC will spread the word far and wide so that friends and neighbors can access these needed supplies. It will also be offering a location to fill water jugs and containers with clean water. Hopefully, it will get the approval to begin this on Wednesday. TIEC will share more in our update Tuesday night.

Many have asked if they can ship TIEC donations to distribute to the first responders and via its pending supply center. The answer is YES: if you are unable to physically bring donations but want to ship supplies to Tryon International for distribution, you can do so at the below address:

Tryon International

Attn: Hurricane Donations

4066 Pea Ridge Road

Mill Spring, NC 28756

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to recovery efforts, you may write a check to the Green River Foundation and mail to the above address with "Hurricane Helene relief" in the memo. 100% of your donation will go to the relief efforts in Polk, Rutherford, Henderson and Buncombe Counties in North Carolina and Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

With power restored, TIEC's team is working on getting as many restaurants operational as possible by Wednesday, October 3, to support the community and the guests and first responders on-site.

Submitted by Tryon International

The post Hurricane Helene Update from Tryon International appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Confirmed: Power restored to parts of downtown Columbus

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports| Section: Community | 90 Words OpenURL Link

Power has been restored to parts of downtown Columbus.

Downtown stoplights are now functioning. The return of electricity is a sign that things are slowly improving in the community more than four days after Tropical Storm Helene caused extensive damage across the region.

Thousands of Duke Energy crew members are working to repair power lines damaged Helene. If you encounter crews out working, please keep your distance to allow them to safely complete their work.

The post Confirmed: Power restored to parts of downtown Columbus appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin. Copyright 2024, The Tryon Daily Bulletin, All Rights Reserved.

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Hope and resilience will get us through

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Jeff Allison| Section: Community | 433 Words OpenURL Link

Our lives changed forever Friday morning when Tropical Storm Helene wreaked havoc on our area. Some have felt the devastation more than others, but all of us feel it. The devastation along Hwy. 176 between Tryon and Saluda, the devastation in Chimney Rock and Lake Lure—there are really no words to describe what families and property owners are going through right now.

Many lost their homes entirely, many homes suffered severe damage from falling trees, some even lost their lives —but these communities are strong, resilient, and full of hope.

The strength exhibited by folks in Tryon, Saluda, Columbus, Landrum, Green Creek, Mill Spring, and all the surrounding areas is incredible. Neighbors helping neighbors, removing debris, and cutting away trees with chainsaws show that Polk County folks know what to do in times of crisis. Often without being asked, community members band together to focus on the tasks at hand—helping with clean-up efforts, transportation, or supplies. The resilience of mountain folk is legendary and has been on full display over the last several days.

Places like Trade Street Diner in Tryon, Hare and Hound Pub in Landrum, and countless churches, community centers and local fire departments have been instrumental in helping those hit hardest by this disaster—and have asked for nothing in return. Heroes don't always wear capes.

As I write this, I'm posted up with my laptop on a vine-covered bank in downtown Tryon while a complete stranger—though not a stranger for long—is charging my phone in her vehicle, which was completely dead and vital to getting out daily news during this crisis. The little ways in which we help each other during this dark time are instrumental in getting through.

But we will get through. We will come out of the other side of this—stronger than before. Our faith compels us to be strong and resilient, but the hope that we all have is the driver that keeps us from giving up. Help is on the way. The electricity will return. The trees will eventually be cleaned up and structures can be rebuilt.

We will persevere.

James Chapter 1, verse 2 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything."

Oure area is in dire need of fuel, food and water, and many types of help—but we are not lacking in anything. Our spirit, strength and hope allows us to persevere.

The post Hope and resilience will get us through appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Tryon Arts and Crafts School temporarily closed

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 376 Words OpenURL Link

TRYON—The Tryon Arts and Crafts School has announced a temporary closure amid the power outage caused by the recent storm. All classes and activities are currently suspended.

All scheduled class sessions are postponed until power is fully restored. Once power is restored, TACS will work with instructors and students to reschedule sessions once operations resume.

For instructors submitting course proposals for the 2025 calendar year, TACS will offer an extended submission deadline once the school has reopened. Similarly, donors to the annual auction will also receive an extended deadline for their contributions once the school is operational again.

TACS anticipates sending the next official update once power is restored, or sooner if new developments arise. The school is committed to keeping the community informed throughout the recovery process.

The school's main facilities sustained no significant structural damage from Tropical Storm Helene, though there may be potential damage to the ramp leading from the front parking lot to the open-air gym. In the early hours of Friday, utility trucks from the Town of Tryon – Harmon Field were washed up against the ramp.

However, the Harmon Field ground-level gym room, which was under renovation for use as a new studio rental, suffered more extensive damage. The room is currently under a foot of mud and debris, with newly constructed walls dislodged and sections of the gym mural panels protruding due to pressure from furniture and mud inside the space pushing outward.

Despite these challenges, TACS remains optimistic and grateful that the main craft school building, kiln shed, forge, and welding studio are intact. The school looks forward to serving the community once again after the recovery is complete.

Harmon Field remains closed due to hazardous conditions. TACS urges the public to refrain from visiting the park until further notice.

TACS extends its wishes for safety and comfort to all during these trying times. In the spirit of creativity, the school encourages everyone to use this time to explore artistic endeavors, even with limited resources. Whether it's creating sculptures from recycled materials or sketching in the mud, TACS reminds everyone that art can be found anywhere.

For further updates, please sign up for TACS' email newsletters at https://tryonartsandcrafts.org.

Submitted by Will Barclift

The post Tryon Arts and Crafts School temporarily closed appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Rutherford County: Here is a list of resources from Rutherford Emergency Management

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 178 Words OpenURL Link

Rutherford County Resources:

Clothing Donations: Drop off at Florence Baptist Church, 201 S Broadway St, Forest

City, NC 28043.

Monetary Donations: Visit www.unitedwayofrutherford.org and ensure your donation is designated for Rutherford. Donations are tax-deductible.

Clean-Up Volunteers: Sign up with Baptists on Mission and select Rutherford County as the preferred location: https://baptistsonmission.org/hurricane-helene-volunteer.

Shipping Smaller Boxes (Amazon): Send items to 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale, NC 28160

EOC Food/Supplies Distribution Centers: Open daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. For questions about donating items, call 828-278-8920

Meals, Showers, and Water:

Drinking Water: Broad River Water Authority and the Town of Forest City have tested and verified that water is safe for drinking

Missing People: To report missing loved ones or request a welfare check, call NC 211 (or 1-888-892-1162 if calling from out-of-state) or email EOC@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Home Damage: If your home is damaged and you need assistance with clean-up, contact Crisis Cleanup at 844-965-1386 for access to volunteer organizations

Emergency Shelter: RS Central High School. 641 US-221, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

The post Rutherford County: Here is a list of resources from Rutherford Emergency Management appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Polk County Update: Information about supply distribution and how to make donations

October 1, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Ben Hillyer| Section: Community | 170 Words OpenURL Link

Officials with the City of Tryon and Polk County released the following update to residents on Tuesday, Oct. 1:

Important Numbers

Essential Needs Distribution:

Starting tomorrow (Oct. 2), the following drive-through locations will be open to distribute essential supplies, including water and basic food needs. Donations are on a first-come, first-serve basis, and availability depends on the bulk donations received by the county.

Hours of operation starting Oct. 2 will be from 1 to 5 p.m. at the following locations:

Tryon Equestrian

25 International Blvd, Mill Spring, NC

Columbus Town Hall

95 Walker St, Columbus, NC

Saluda Elementary Bus Parking Lot

214 E Main St, Saluda, NC

Tryon Town Hall

301 N Trade St, Tryon, NC

86 Sunny View School Rd.

Mill Spring, NC 28756

How to make donations

Landfill

Moving Forward

"In the wake of Hurricane Helene, Polk County stands united in the spirit of rescue and recovery. Together, we will support one another, heal our community, and build a future grounded in hope and resilience."

The post Polk County Update: Information about supply distribution and how to make donations appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Top 3: Big-game performances by Washington's Melton, PCA's Eagles

October 1, 2024 | Washington Daily News (NC) Author: Jason O. Boyd | Section: Northside Panthers | 216 Words OpenURL Link

Three of the four high school football teams in Beaufort County were in action a day earlier than normal last week.

With bad weather in the area from then-Hurricane Helene, schools had to move their football games up a day. Washington went to West Craven and picked up a big 44-28 win over West Craven to start Eastern Plains Conference play. Pungo Christian had an easy time with Northeast Academy, winning 57-6. Southside went to Rosewood and dropped a 20-7 decision.

Northside picked up a forfeit as Fairmont, out of Robeson County, couldn't make the 3-plus hour drive to Yeatesville and had to forfeit.

Below are the top performances from the area for the week.

- No. 1: Keondrick Melton, Washington: After rushing for 183 yards and two touchdowns against Pamlico County a week earlier, he followed that with 187 yards and three touchdowns (6, 69, 56 yards) on 23 carries.
- No. 2: Carr Eagles, Pungo Christian: Completed 12-of-13 passes for 315 yards and five touchdowns. He also rushed three times for 56 yards and a touchdown and made a tackle.
- No. 3: Parker Byrd, Pungo Christian: Had six catches for 140 yards and two touchdowns. He also had 10 tackles and a sack.

Other top contributors

The post Top 3: Big-game performances by Washington's Melton, PCA's Eagles appeared first on Washington Daily News.

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A level-1 trauma storm: Mental health effects from Hurricane Helene could be drastic, experts say

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Chloe Nelson Adams Publishing Group| Section: Local | 804 Words OpenURL Link

After Hurricane Helene rampaged through six southern states last week, at least 107 people have been reported dead, with experts estimating up to \$26 billion in property damage.

Residents across Florida's Big Bend and into the Carolinas are battling power outages, destroyed homes and hundreds of closed roads.

With missing family members and limited connection to the outside world, many are battling a mental struggle experts said could grow in the coming days.

Dr. Chris Cortman, a 40-year trauma psychologist in Venice, Florida, said the longterm mental effects of the devastation can be drastic if left untreated.

Of the 107 dead, 30 were from Buncombe County, North Carolina alone.

In the same county, nearly 600 people are still unaccounted for.

With a significant event like Helene "shaking us to the very core," Cortman said control can start to slip, leaving some people feeling vulnerable.

"Horror is the first feeling," Cortman said. "Lots of times, it flies in the face of what we think we can expect out of life."

While a sobering moment in a person's life, a natural disaster offers a community the chance to rebuild connections and reestablish their faith.

For some in North Carolina, communication is not possible.

Isolation, fear leave many in mortal danger

Asheville, western North Carolina's largest city, has been cut off from support or aid by damaged roads, flooding and a lack of power and cellphone service.

As A/C and cellphone service putter out, isolation sets in.

The condition, Cortman said, is a dangerous one, not just emotionally, but medically.

Cortman referenced U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, who compared the mortality impact of being socially disconnected similar to that caused by smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day.

"We could lose as many as 15 years off of our lives if we have chronic isolation," Cortman said.

Dr. Johnathon Abramowitz said PTSD and other longterm disorders could develop from untreated trauma and anxiety associated with Hurricane Helene.

The University of North Carolina director of clinical training said feelings of helplessness, fear for future storms and

an overwhelming sense of loss are all possible factors that should raise flags for lowering mental health.

"Over time, they might experience symptoms related to trauma, such as flashbacks, nightmares, or avoidance behaviors," Abramowitz said.

For those struggling with fear-induced or health-related anxiety, both experts recommend a strong support system and a clear, reliable source for information about how to stay safe for the next major storm.

"Giving folks a sense of control, even over small aspects of their health and safety, can help reduce anxiety," Abramowitz said.

Physical health threats from Hurricane Helene

North Carolina's Department of Health has issued an array of health advisories to help ease resident concerns in flooded areas.

To avoid contracting waterborne diseases, washing hands frequently during clean-up and wearing rubber gloves, a disposable dust face mask and waterproof boots have been recommended by state officials.

"Assume that everything touched by flood water is contaminated and will have to be disinfected or thrown out," officials posted online.

Unopened bottled water is the safe choice in hydration, though officials said boiled water or disinfected water with bleach filtration is safe to drink, too.

Though infants under six months and pregnant women should not drink boiled water due to harmful nitrates present, officials said stayed hydrated with the resources available is more important.

Flooded areas, regardless how high, should be avoided due to a rise of breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects like mosquitoes.

As for flushing the toilet amid a massive power outage, officials urge residents to not come in contact with sewage or drainage issues to avoid any effects to health or home.

"Do not use your plumbing system if sewage water has backed up into your home," NCHD officials said.

For information on repairing or constructing a septic tank system, residents can contact their county health department directly.

Use survivor's guilt for good

According to the North Carolina Health Department, there is no "right or wrong way" to feel during or after a hurricane.

But for many survivors of a hurricane that left some of their neighbors not so lucky, guilt will grow.

Cortman said that negative energy of beating oneself up should be channeled elsewhere.

"It doesn't make the world a better place," Cortman said. "If you're wallowing in survivor's guilt, go next door and help that little old lady who's struggling."

Though not everyone will have these effects, the UNC professor said, meeting a struggling person's basic needs, food, hygiene, clothing and shelter, can provide immediate emotional support.

Resources like cognitive-behavioral therapy can help individuals process the traumatic event in a "psychologically healthy way," Abramowitz said, and offer longer-term aid, too.

According to Cortman, just lending a helping hand could not only make the difference in a victim's life, but also ignite the public's sense of resiliency like after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"It wasn't just red and blue; we were just Americans," Cortman said. "We're rebuilding and we're strong together. And that has to happen in these communities."

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

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Grey Scheer Retired, Director of Community Relations, Blue Ridge Energy Section: Community | 1124 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 utility — we 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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Officials: Helene is 'the worst natural disaster' in Watauga County's modern history

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan, Luke Barber and Nick Fogleman | Section: Local | 1192 Words OpenURL Link

BOONE — Officials are describing Hurricane Helene's impacts as the worst natural disaster in Watauga County's modern history.

Officials from Watauga County Emergency Services, the town of Boone, and Appalachian State University held a press conference on Oct. 1 to discuss ongoing efforts in the aftermath of the destruction.

"We're now five days into this event, which truly began last Wednesday evening when a stalled cold front brought several inches of rain, strong winds, and even an EF1 tornado to the town of Blowing Rock before Helene's landfall," Holt said at the press conference. "As Helene ripped through the county, the river basins rapidly exceeded their capacity, leading to widespread destruction in their own right. In addition to river flooding, over 20 inches of rain fell over a widespread area, bringing devastation to our infrastructure as the mountains simply gave way under the weight of the wind and rain."

Holt said the storm exceeded all forecast expectations with total rainfall, river flooding in conjunction with tropical storm force winds to combine to bring "the worst natural disaster in modern history to our county."

"Words cannot truly capture the magnitude of destruction as Mother Nature took back her mountains, leaving scars of where roads and homes once stood," WCES Director Will Holt said. "We deeply grieve the loss of life and livelihood, not just Watauga County, but throughout the High Country as our neighbors in Ashe and Avery counties, southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee all come to grips with what is now our new normal for our foreseeable future."

Two people have been killed in Watauga County due to the storm. Holt said numerous others have been injured due to direct impacts from the storm or the cleanup efforts since.

On Tuesday, crews continued to work in the western part of the county to get into those neighborhoods off the main secondary roads.

"Now we are really starting to get into isolated pockets and finding where people are," Holt said. "Even as we make this emergency access, there's going to be construction projects going on long-term to make the roads safe for the traveling public. So just want to reemphasize, if you don't have a need to travel, do not because the emergency repairs we have are just a hold to get to folks that needed access."

Most area have been accessed at least by UTV and teams are hiking into areas on foot that have not been accessible.

"As we work toward short-term recovery, and I say short-term because we know this is a years-long process, we have worked with many volunteer organizations and state emergency management to begin setting up additional points of distribution for food and water, hot meals as well as showers, restrooms and cell phone charging stations," Holt said.

The damage assessment part of the recovery started on Tuesday, and Holt said the total dollar amount from this disaster is going to be very significant, but he does not have an estimate as to how high yet.

"We are deeply grateful for the support that we have received and covet your prayers as we rebuild," Holt said.

Holt said 911 dispatch received more than 2,000 calls for help during the storm's first day and has maintained a high call volume ever since. On average, Holt said the county receives 3,000 calls a month.

He said there are miles and miles of trees, landslide debris, and sinkholes. As of the press conference, more than 200 roads are still closed in the area, and some simply don't exist anymore.

"The High Country will rebound. Our folks are resilient," Holt said. "The stories of self determinate in the face of incredible odds both break our hearts and make them swell with pride."

Town of Boone "We are tired, but we are strong," Mayor Tim Futrelle said at an Oct. 1 press conference.

These words reflect the feelings many in Boone have after Hurricane Helene brought historic flooding and rain to the town.

"Our community is strong, and we will find a way to come back. We can't see it right now, but we will come back stronger, and I promise you that," Futrelle said.

The town has begun assessing damage from the storm and Futrelle said it would be days or weeks before the full extent of damage is known.

Planning and inspections are completing building assessments, fire and police are continuing with public safety work and public works and utilities are continuing to manage, repair and restore infrastructure.

"We are finally starting to exit the emergency response phase and into the assessment and recovery phase," Futrelle said.

As of Oct. 1, over 111 structures have been condemned due to significant damage, and the town's boil-water advisory has been lifted.

"We have at least a handful of areas in Boone that still need vital resources," Futrelle said. "We have not forgotten them."

The town has seen an outpouring of support from local, state and federal organizations and agencies.

The town has been in contact with the governor's office, the Attorney General's office, and members of the White House.

Futrelle thanked the community organizations that have been providing services. The Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse and Appalachian State University have all been working within the community to provide food, shelter and emergency services.

There is currently a currew in Boone — and Watauga County and Blowing — until 11 p.m., and Futrelle said the best thing people can do is stay home. The currew remains in place until further notice.

"We are asking folks to stay off the roads," Futrelle said. "We are asking you, as big as your heart is, the best thing you can do right now is just stay where you are."

Appalachian State University Appalachian State University Interim Chancellor Heather Norris began her remarks by noting the "tremendous acts of kindness" and support the university has experienced from neighbors, members of the local community and emergency responders before detailing the impacts of the storm on campus.

"This has been a disaster of monumental proportions," Norris said. "The main impact to our campus was unprecedented levels of flooding. We briefly lost power and internet service on Friday, but all residence halls remain structurally sound. By late Friday afternoon, power and internet service had been restored to campus.

Several academic buildings have significant water management, including Walker Hall, Rankin Science building, varsity gym, and the academic areas of Holmes Convocation Center."

The university continues to provide support to its campus and to community members. Since Friday, Sep.27, the university has served more than 40,000 meals at its Central Dining Hall free of charge to anyone who needs them and continues to do so.

Public wifi remains available at the stadium parking deck, the College Street parking deck, the student union and Central Dining Hall. Student recreation also remains open for students, and the university has partnered with the Red Cross to open an emergency shelter at Holmes Convocation Center.

All App State events scheduled in the Boone area, including athletic events, remain canceled. Athletes continue to play away games.

"We continue working together with local, state, and national resource providers on establishing support resources for those with longer-term needs," Norris said. "We greatly appreciate those who have contributed to the App State disaster relief recovery fund."

You can find local volunteer opportunities at spvolunteer.org.

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U-Haul offering one-month free storage to areas hit by Hurricane Helene

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Mike Sunnucks APG Newspapers | Section: Local | 158 Words OpenURL Link

U-Haul International is offering 30 days of free storage in areas hit by Hurricane Helene.

That includes 437 locations across 10 states (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Indiana and Kentucky.)

U-Haul is offering one month of free storage of its U-Box portable storage containers to storm impacted households as they clean up after record storm surges in Florida and dangerous flooding in the Carolinas and other states. U.S. President Joe Biden said Monday that 100 people have been killed by the Category 4 hurricane with search and rescue efforts continuing in the Carolinas and record storm surges causing substantial damage in Florida.

The U-Haul stores offering disaster help include 136 in Florida, 50 in North Carolina and 48 in Tennessee, according to the company.

U-Haul locations participating in the effort include stores in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, Orlando, southwest Florida, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Asheville, Boone, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Richmond, Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee.

For more information, visit https://www.uhaul.com.

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Local businesses assess damage

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Nick Fogleman nick.fogleman@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 373 Words OpenURL Link

BOONE — As emergency services assess the damage to Boone, business owners are faced with the consequences of Hurricane Helene's historic flooding.

As employees and owners return to assess the damage, many are beginning to confront struggles from costly repairs, curfews and a boil-water advisory.

Bella's of Boone Italian Restaurant has had a few issues with rainwater coming through the door, but nothing like the damage caused by Helene.

"A big rush of water came in through the front door, and the river behind us rose about 15 feet," Assistant Manager Brittany Hiter said.

Employees were able to get to the restaurant on Friday and Saturday to clean water and assess the damage.

Flood water reached the kitchen and damaged the food and equipment the business relies on.

"The watermarks in the kitchen went a foot high, and when I got here today, there were about two or three inches of just sitting," Hiter said. "Our freezer went down, and our booths got soaked."

The historic flooding in Boone caught many people in the area off guard.

"We had no idea it was going to be this bad," Hiter said. "We lost thousands and thousands of dollars worth of food and equipment."

Hiter hopes they can reopen on Monday, but is still uncertain as they continue to address the damage.

Across town at Black Cat Burrito, owner Joseph Miller came in to assess the damage and cook free food for first responders.

"We had some muddy water coming through the door, but the damage was minimal," Miller said. "It was hard to clean up until the water came back on."

The Town of Boone is currently under a Boil Water Advisory and this creates problems for restaurants and businesses as they move forward.

"We're going to open on Tuesday," Miller said. "They're saying the boil water advisory might last a week, and that makes things really, really tough."

Fuschia Moss, owner of King Street Flowers and Gifts, said water didn't damage her business, but weddings for the weekend had to be postponed. She decided to use the unused flowers to give out free bouquets to people passing by on King Street.

"We're making the most of it," Moss said. "Especially the students that are walking by, I felt like it would bring a little smile," Moss said.

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