



Lyle Lovett fires up Opening Nights, local bands play SoundFest

LIMELIGHT, 6B

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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PRESIDENT COMES TO TALLAHASSEE



President Joe Biden lands in Tallahassee to visit Perry and Keaton Beach on Thursday after Hurricane Helene hit last week. See more photos and coverage of the visit at tallahassee.com. MISHALYNN BROWN/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

ON THE GROUND

President Biden touches down in Tallahassee to survey Helene damage in Perry, Keaton Beach

Elena Barrera
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

President Joe Biden came to north Florida to take a whirlwind tour of areas hit by Hurricane Helene, arriving at Tallahassee International Airport Thursday morning.

Air Force One landed around 11:30 a.m. and was greeted by a parade of military members and Tallahassee and Leon County officials awaiting Biden's descent down the aircraft's stairs.

Among them were Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey, City Commissioners Jeremy Matlow, Jack Porter and Curtis Richardson, City Manager Reese Goad, Police Chief Lawrence Revell, Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil, County Commission Chair Carolyn Cummings and County Administrator Vince Long.

Biden individually shook each of their hands and spoke with the welcome crew before being ushered into Marine One, the presidential helicopter, to make his next stop.

The airport was flooded with security personnel and Secret Service members anticipating Biden's arrival. Snipers were positioned on the rooftops of nearby hangars and security vehicles were stationed on the tarmac.

Those traveling with the president

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Biden is greeted by Leon County Administrator Vince Long and Leon County Commission Chair Carolyn Cummings as he arrives at Tallahassee International Airport to visit storm-damaged areas in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

TOM BRENNER/REUTERS

DeSantis OKs request for election flexibility

Gray Rohrer
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Hurricane Helene destroyed polling places in some counties and damaged mail ballot operations in others, disrupting local election administrators' operations ahead of the Nov. 5 general election.



DeSantis

Now, election officials are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis for flexibility in setting up new polling stations and relaxing rules surrounding mail ballots and training for poll workers.

DeSantis listened: Thursday, he said he was issuing an executive order to give county election supervisors flexibility to do just that, with his order covering the 13 counties hit by Helene, saying it would "ensure that residents who were impacted by the storm and displaced still have the ability to vote."

He spoke at an appearance in Manatee County.

The order wasn't immediately available Thursday morning.

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1M still lack power after hurricane

John Bacon and Zachary Huber
USA TODAY

ASHEVILLE, N.C. - The need for power and water grew more urgent Thursday for hundreds of thousands of residents across the Southeast a week after Helene began a deadly, devastating march as a historic Category 4 hurricane slamming onto Florida's Gulf Coast.

Almost 1 million homes and businesses remained without power in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Tens of thousands of residents, most in western North Carolina, remained without running water.

The death toll related directly or indirectly to Helene grew to more than 184, and it was expected the number could rise as search and rescue efforts continued. That includes 91 who died in North Carolina, 36 in South Carolina, 25 in Georgia, 19 in Florida, 11 in

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Biden

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from Washington to Tallahassee included Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik Hooks, Homeland Security Advisor Liz Sherwood-Randall, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and others, according to a White House media advisory.

Afterward, the president was expected to take an aerial tour over ground zero in Taylor County before touching down in Marine One in Perry. In addition to visiting Perry, the president was scheduled to receive an “operational briefing” in Keaton Beach.

Keaton Beach was still trying to recover from Hurricane Idalia, which crushed the Nature Coast a little over a year ago, when Helene came roaring through last week.

Residents who spoke to the USA TODAY Network - Florida said they had just finished the insurance process on their homes or they were still fixing things that were damaged during Idalia. But then Helene’s “unsurvivable” surge and 140 mph winds came whipping through, leaving residents wondered whether it was worth it to try to rebuild again.

After touring the destruction in Florida, Biden was set to head to Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia, to tour parts of the Peach State.

The president’s visit comes amid the state’s recovery in the aftermath of the category 4 storm, which left at least 13 dead, including at least nine in Pinellas County — hundreds of miles away from where the storm made landfall.

Gov. Ron DeSantis did not accompany the president on this visit. He also skipped out when Biden came to Florida after last year’s Hurricane Idalia, though he did meet with him after Hurricane Ian in 2022.

“No, it’s just we had this planned,” DeSantis said, when asked whether there was any reason he didn’t accompany Biden this week. DeSantis spoke from Ana Maria Island in Manatee County, more than 200 miles away from where Biden will visit.



President Joe Biden touches down in Perry after taking in the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene during a tour of the strike zone by Marine One. ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (POOL)

He held a press conference to announce three executive orders related to recovering from Helene: waiving local governments’ rental date requirements; allowing supervisors of elections affected by Helene to set up alternative polling places; and streamlining ports and supply chain operations to mitigate the effects of the port strike and get needed supplies into the state to aid recovery efforts.

Breaking & trending news reporter Elena Barrera can be reached at ebarrera@tallahassee.com. Follow her on X: @elenabarreraaa.



The Air Force One lands in Tallahassee for President Biden to visit Perry and Keaton Beach on Thursday. MISHALYNN BROWN/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Helene

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Tennessee and two in Virginia, a USA TODAY Network analysis found.

The situation remained dire Thursday in and around Asheville, North Carolina, a Buncombe County city of almost 100,000 people anchoring a metropolitan area of more than 400,000 in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Helene had reached the area as a tropical storm six days earlier, drenching the already sodden ground with more than a foot of rain. Hundreds of homes and scores of roads were damaged or destroyed. Many neighborhoods have no electricity or running water.

Buncombe County was distributing ready-to-eat meals and bottled water

with daily limits of two meal packages per adult and one per child. Water for flushing toilets is being made available at a distribution site on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Still, life goes on. Brandon Mashburn was tired of sitting at home without power, water or internet, so on Wednesday he went to Malvern Hills Park. With the help of a hacksaw and some neighbors, he cleared debris so kids would have a safe place to play.

“It’s one of those things that communities came together and said, ‘If nobody’s going to do nothing about it, then we will,’” Mashburn said.

President Joe Biden visited Greenville, South Carolina, on Wednesday and later got an aerial view of the extensive damage in Asheville.

“I’m here to say the United States – the nation – has your back,” Biden said

at an emergency command center in Raleigh alongside North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. “We’re not leaving until you’re back on your feet completely.” Biden was bound for Florida and Georgia on Thursday.

Vice President Kamala Harris also made a trip to a highly impacted state, meeting with local officials and first responders at the Augusta Emergency Operations Center in Georgia. She thanked officials and emergency personnel for their work in the state’s recovery and consoled residents of a neighborhood that had toppled trees and debris on the road.

Hurricane Helene crashed ashore along Florida’s Big Bend near the town of Perry on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 hurricane driving sustained winds of around 140 mph. Those winds quickly diminished, but the drenching rains overwhelmed a 500-mile-long swath of the already-saturated region. Flash flooding from creeks and rivers conspired with Appalachian mudslides to sweep away scores of people, destroy homes and businesses, collapse roads and devastate entire communities.

In North Carolina, the storm washed out both the main pipes and backup pipes at North Fork, one of three water treatment plants serving the Asheville watershed, officials said. Another plant, DeBruhl, could not be reached after storm debris blocked the access road.

Both the state’s National Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are helping to return the plants to normal operations, city officials said. The system’s third main plant, Mills River, was struggling at reduced capacity.

Many Asheville residents have been warned to expect dry faucets for days or even weeks while pipes are repaired; those with water have been urged to boil it before consuming. The water crisis has impeded businesses, hospitals and schools in and around Asheville as locals try to get back to normal.

“The biggest concern for getting students back to school is water,” Asheville City Schools Superintendent Maggie Fehrman said at a press conference on Wednesday. “Without water, we just

simply cannot bring students back or staff back into our building.”

Water distribution sites have been set up at several locations in Asheville. Both the county and the city paid for private supplies of water to be trucked in, and the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have supplied drinking water for distribution around the area.

A steady stream of people visited a distribution hub set up at Pack Square Park in downtown Asheville, where a dozen volunteers distributed drinking water from a makeshift tap system with PVC pipes attached to a tanker truck. Nearby, volunteers distributed donated ready-to-eat meals and plastic water bags to those who had no containers or jugs.

David Shoham, a professor from East Tennessee State University who was waiting for supplies, has been without water and power since last Friday. He had filled up his bathtub ahead of the storm but has since drawn down his reserve after washing dishes.

“It’s just the reality,” he said. “There’s nothing we can do about it individually. We just have to trust that our institutions are going to step up and get services restored. Yeah, it’s frustrating. But who am I going to complain to? The man upstairs?”

Meanwhile, a storm brewing over the southern Gulf of Mexico is almost certain to bring more heavy rain and flooding to the Florida Peninsula next week, AccuWeather meteorologists warn. “Nearly every indicator” suggests the storm will form by the middle of next week and roll northeastward across the Florida Peninsula.

A swath of torrential downpours will likely douse Florida, especially the central and southern parts of the peninsula, next week, AccuWeather said.

“While the exact track and intensity of the feature unfolding in the Gulf have yet to be determined, Florida will bear the brunt this time around,” AccuWeather Chief On-Air Meteorologist Bernie Rayno said.

Contributing: Reuters

Florida Lottery
Results are for tickets sold only in Florida

FLORIDA LOTTO

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23-10-27-32-33-51

DOUBLE PLAY

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21-2-4-19-23-38
To see payouts on games above, visit flalottery.com.

POWERBALL

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21-2-21-37-43 PB: 21 (x3)
5+PB: \$275M (0). Next jackpot: \$295M.
5 of 5: \$1M (0). 4+PB: \$50,000 (0).
4 of 5: \$100 (16). 3+PB: \$100 (50).
3 of 5: \$7 (1,275). 2+PB: \$7 (1,106).
1+PB: \$4 (8,636). PB: \$4 (19,814).

MEGA MILLIONS

TUESDAY, OCT. 127-35-47-50-66 MB: 25 (x2)
5+MB: \$93M (0). Next jackpot \$108M.
5 of 5: \$1M (0). 4+MB: \$10,000 (1).
4 of 5: \$500 (12). 3+MB: \$200 (33).
3 of 5: \$10 (927). 2+MB: \$10 (884).
1+MB: \$4 (7,020). MB: \$2 (18,081)

JACKPOT TRIPLE PLAY

TUESDAY, OCT. 13-8-20-26-27-41
6 of 6: \$1.65M (0). 5 of 6: \$467 (23).
4 of 6: \$21 (1,249). 3 of 6: \$1 (21,167).
Combo10+: \$10,000 (1). Combo 9: \$500 (15).
Combo 8: \$50 (81). Combo 7: \$20 (546).
Combo 6: \$10 (3,048). Combo 5: \$5 (10,862).

FANTASY 5

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2MIDDAY 3-13-14-26-31
5 of 5: \$54,913.09 (1). 4 of 5: \$102.50 (86). 3 of 5: \$10.50 (2,326).
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2EVENING 2-3-11-20-29
5 of 5: \$0 (0). 4 of 5: \$555 (182). 3 of 5: \$16 (5,452).

PICK 2, 3, 4, 5

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2MIDDAY
0-75-9-72-6-6-05-0-7-4-6 Fireball: 4
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2EVENING
2-05-1-68-9-5-01-1-2-8-1 Fireball: 9

CASH4LIFE

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23-12-13-37-60 CB: 1
5 of 5+CB: \$1K/day/life (0). 5 of 5: \$1K/week/life (0).
4 of 5+CB: \$2,500 (2) 4 of 5: \$500 (6)
3 of 5+CB: \$100 (71). 3 of 5: \$25 (180).
2 of 5+CB: \$10 (1,146). 2 of 5: \$4 (3,564).

Georgia Lottery results: Visit galottery.com or call 1-800-425-8259.

Florida Lottery results: Visit flalottery.com or call 850-921-7529.

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