

# Hurricanes Helene & Milton cause catastrophe

By Hailey Hargraves  
reporter

Many students and their families had to rethink their Fall Break vacations due to hurricane damage in the southern states. But Hurricanes Milton and Helene meant much more to residents of those states than simply a ruined vacation.

Both hurricanes formed on the Gulf of Mexico and hit the western area of Florida before turning northward.

The latest hurricane, Milton, made landfall on Oct. 9. Milton was categorized as a Category 5 a few days prior and hit the land as a Category 3, moving over land as a Category 1. At Milton's peak, the winds reached 180 miles per hour. However, as Milton reached landfall, the winds declined to 105 mph, still causing major destruction.

In the same manner as the wind, the amount of rain decreased as Milton drew closer to land. The storm surge was expected to reach 15 feet, and the rain fell a total of 12.5 inches. The rain and winds caused major damage to trees and buildings. Visitors making their way to Florida vacation destinations farther south witnessed the destroyed billboards and huge, uprooted trees along with familiar stops boarded up due to damage. The devastation Florida residents faced resulted from wind, rain and tornadoes that formed. There were 19 confirmed tornadoes across the state, and 150 tornado warnings. The total number of tornadoes that had taken place in a single day was previously seven, the total number of tornadoes from Milton was 19.

Many cities declared emergencies, including Tampa and St. Petersburg. Residents were urged to find shelter, and more than 5.5 million people were urged to evacuate. Because of the huge number of people evacuating, gas stations state-wide were down 25 percent of the total amount of gas and the main Florida highway was backed up.

The destruction caused by Milton left at least three million people without power, billions of dollars in damages, and 24 fatalities.

Hurricane Milton came two weeks after Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida. Helene was categorized as a Category 5 hurricane and hit as a Category 3 on Sept. 26. Helene was set to hit Florida but did more damage to surrounding states. North Carolina was hit with intense wind and historical flooding. The state saw more than 200 deaths from the destruction caused by Helene. Officials are still cleaning up the wreckage in both Florida and North Carolina.

The wreckage of Milton and Helene caused approximately \$100 billion in destruction. These hurricanes were the 13th and 14th of the season, and they will go down in history as some of the most destructive hurricanes to ever hit Florida.



Student Council collected water bottles, paper towels and other supplies for Hurricane Milton relief in North Carolina. Mr. Kevin Leineweber, science teacher, took supplies to North Carolina during Fall Break. Gillian Semmler photos

## School clubs to join Trunk or Treat at bus garage instead of at GHS

By Deiana Forde  
copy editor

Ghosts haunt the pavement, leaving specks of Halloween spirit and glee that welcome the community to the Greenwood bus garage's annual Trunk or Treat.

The event will take place next Wednesday from 6 - 8 p.m., and many school clubs are helping out.

"A couple of years ago, we were talking here in the Transportation Department about things we could do to give back to the community, and the idea was brought up to host a Trunk or Treat and have the drivers decorate the backs of their buses for the kids to visit and get candy," Assistant Director Tami Spray said.

Mrs. Spray explained the event will take place at the Greenwood Transportation Center behind the middle school.

"It is a fully fenced bus lot, which makes a safer environment. All Greenwood Community School students are invited to participate," Mrs. Spray said.

Two things people love, candy and fun, are all made possible by contributions.

"This year we are actively looking for corporate and individual sponsors to help with the purchase of candy to pass out to the kids. Last year, the attendance was so large that we ran out of candy right about 7 p.m., and we had to call our director to go purchase more so that we did not have to close down early," Mrs. Spray said.

Seeing everyone gather together to enjoy every Halloween is the best part for her.

"The first year we hosted, we had participants from Southwest, Westwood and Isom. Last year, those schools also participated along with an IMPD officer who decorated his squad car with large bulging eyes. This year, we already have multiple groups from the high school planning to join us along with some of the OG groups," she said.

Usually, the Service Club hosts its own event, but a new year brought new perspectives.

"This year, we are doing things differently because our bus garage has been holding a Trunk or Treat for the past three years, and instead of having our own, we are participating in theirs," Mrs. Lisa Laug, Service Club sponsor, said. "There are so many different events during Halloween so we decided to participate together as one group instead of



Join us for our 3rd Annual  
Greenwood Community Schools Transportation  
Trunk or Treat  
Wednesday, October 30th  
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Hillbilly Hotdogs food truck will be on site  
Hayrides and Fun!!

doing so many other things."

Though there will be no Halloween event at the high school, students and their families are encouraged to support a good cause.

"We will still collect funds for UNICEF for the event by collecting donations at the Trunk or Treat. We also plan to post on social media and tell our friends about the event to increase outreach. So, the hope is to still raise money for UNICEF and help the little kids get candy for Halloween like they did when we hosted our UNICEF last year," Mrs. Laug said.



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