

# Historic rainfall wreaks havoc in NC

## Unnamed storm brings unexpected damages

Gareth McGrath and Cybele Mayes-Osterman  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The storm, hovering off the North Carolina coast, wasn't strong enough for the National Hurricane Center to give it a name, and Sunday night some local officials decided it was safe enough to send students to school.

But only a few hours into Monday, it quickly became apparent that this wasn't a typical summer weather system. The storm dropped levels of rain seen once every 1,000 years on some parts of southeastern North Carolina.

Floodwaters washed away roads, surged into homes, stranded drivers for hours and prompted water rescues in several communities in the state's New Hanover and Brunswick counties. Some roads will be closed "for the foreseeable future," according to the North Carolina Transportation Department.

Pictures and videos flashed around the country, prompting questions of how this could happen from a storm that was barely on anyone's radar.

Southport reported around 23 inches of rain within 48 hours. AccuWeather meteorologist Aaron Jayjack was reporting live in the area when a bridge collapsed behind him, plunging a vehicle and its driver into the water. The man was rescued by bystanders and sustained minor injuries, Jayjack said in a live broadcast.

Carolina Beach, another coastal town, saw more than 18 inches of rain in 12 hours, according to the National Weather Service.

Some roads in Carolina Beach were flooded at least 3 feet deep, the weather service warned on X. The town's fire department rescued 57 people and 12 animals in a 10-hour period Monday, according to Carolina Beach Mayor Lynn Barbee.



A man looks over the standing floodwaters Tuesday in Carolina Beach, N.C., after an unnamed storm that moved through dumped several inches of rain.  
KEN BLEVINS/WILMINGTON STARNEWS

Officials had to bring children home from school in a high-water vehicle, the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office said on Facebook.

Jamie Johnson, who lives in Carolina Beach and owns a boutique there, said she's never seen flooding like that.

"None of us have," Johnson said. "We were in the streets looking at each other like, 'What the heck is going on?'"

Experts said Monday's extreme rainfall is another stark reminder that it doesn't take a named storm to trigger extremely dangerous conditions, something that's becoming more common as the planet warms due to climate change.

"We saw tropical storm-force winds, but there was no defined center of circulation," AccuWeather lead hurricane expert Alex DaSilva said in a release. "This is yet another reminder that slow-moving tropical systems that are not officially named can still create dangerous and even deadly impacts."

"During my 50-plus years here I've seen a lot of hurricanes but I've never seen rain and flooding like this,"

Barbee said Tuesday morning.

The mayor added that many people appeared to be caught off guard by the storm's ferocity – a situation that might prompt a rethink of how to prepare for storms as seemingly benign as an unnamed low-pressure system off the coast.

"I think because it was unnamed, it set us all at ease," Barbee said, noting town officials were prepared to deal with several inches of rain – not 18. "That might have to change."

The storm also impacted parts of Florida, and flood warnings were in effect for that state's northeastern coastline until early Wednesday. Beaches saw dangerous rip currents and rough surf of up to 6 feet, according to the Florida Times-Union, part of the USA TODAY Network.

Forecasters expected the storm to continue moving north across North Carolina into the Mid-Atlantic, triggering thunderstorms and heavy rainfall, until dissipating on Wednesday.

Gareth McGrath reports for the Star-News. Cybele Mayes-Osterman reports for USA TODAY. Contributing: John Staton and Allison Ballard, Star-News

## Charges

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"To say you're going to do a couple gun charges — that is not going to be sufficient to do it," DeSantis said.

As it stands, Routh faces a possible 15 years in federal prison for felony possession of a firearm and a possible five years for possessing a firearm that obliterated a serial number. DeSantis said Tuesday that Florida's Office of the Statewide Prosecutor has jurisdiction over crimes committed across multiple counties, which DeSantis said in this case, includes Palm Beach, Martin and potentially Broward.

In addition to signaling more criminal charges to come, DeSantis suggested that the state-led investigation may provide answers that the federal one cannot. He repeatedly mentioned the ongoing probe into the first attempt on Trump's life at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"I don't think anyone can honestly claim that the federal government has been forthright and transparent about its past investigations," said the governor, who, like Trump, is a Republican. "That's just the reality. That's just how these guys operate."

No one from the federal government spoke at Tuesday's news conference. Representatives from the Secret Service and the FBI instead hosted their own briefing on Monday, praising the efforts of their respective agencies and striking a vastly different tone than DeSantis.

Special Agent Jeffrey B. Veltri said the FBI is in the process of scouring Routh's digital footprint and interviewing his friends, family and former colleagues in hopes of learning what motivated him.

Many questions remain unanswered, including when Routh traveled to Palm Beach County from his home in Hawaii. Veltri said a scratched-off serial number made it difficult to pinpoint where Routh got the semiautomatic rifle he aimed in Trump's direction before being spotted and shot at by a Secret Service agent.

Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe Jr. said Routh did not fire back. Instead, the 58-year-old man fled from the golf course perimeter, where his geolocation data indicates he'd remained for 12 hours Sunday. When he fled, he left behind the gun, a GoPro camera and several other belongings — all of which Veltri said are being analyzed for DNA.

Authorities said they believe Routh worked alone. When asked whether the Secret Service secured the golf course ahead of time, and how Routh managed to avoid detection at its perimeter from 2 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Rowe stressed that Trump's appearance at the golf course was unplanned and "off the record."

"The president wasn't even really supposed to go there," Rowe said. "It was not on his official schedule." Rowe said Routh stood on the public side of the fence near the sixth hole green, aiming his gun while Trump golfed on the fairway of the fifth hole. When asked whether he had evidence to suggest Routh knew Trump would be on the golf course, Rowe said he did not.

DeSantis tried to answer the question himself Tuesday, calling the golf course the "No. 1 place he goes" on the weekends. DeSantis recalled his own time golfing with the former president at Trump International, describing the wooded area where Routh camped out for 12 hours as the course's "soft, white underbelly."

DeSantis introduced Sheriff William Snyder, whose deputies stopped and detained Routh on Interstate-95 Sunday and held him until the FBI and Secret Service arrived. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office had alerted them about the vehicle Routh was driving and its tag number.

"I just want to say this and weigh in on behalf of the men and women of law enforcement, notwithstanding some of the political machinations that will go on, the

navel gazing, the hand wringing and all of that. I want to tell you something: the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is one of the best sheriff's offices in the state of Florida, and Ric Bradshaw is one of the best sheriffs in the state of Florida," Snyder said. "I will stake my reputation on it."

A round of applause followed the remarks. Snyder said he was honored to find the suspect before he got away.

"But governor, I'm here to tell you, there's not a police officer, deputy sheriff, state trooper, Secret Service agent, or FBI agent, that wouldn't have done the same

exact thing we did," Snyder said. "Cops are the best people in the world."

Routh, who made his first appearance in federal court on Monday, has a bond hearing scheduled on Sept. 23. Federal prosecutors have indicated they will seek to keep him in jail ahead of trial, calling him a flight risk and a danger to others.

Until then, he will remain in the Palm Beach County Jail on Gun Club Road, across a canal from Trump's golf course.

TCPalm breaking news reporter Will Greenlee contributed to this report.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County Local Planning Agency will conduct public hearings on October 3, 2024, beginning at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following:

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 24-04, a request to amend Chapter 4, Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan based upon the 2024 Evaluation and Appraisal (EAR) Report. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requested the text amendment described above.
2. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 24-14, a request to amend Chapter 14, Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan based upon the 2024 Evaluation and Appraisal (EAR) Report. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requested the text amendment described above.
3. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 24-01, a proposed text amendment to Chapter 1, Preamble of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Martin County Code, based on the 2024 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requested the text amendment described above.
4. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 24-02, a proposed text amendment to Chapter 2, Overall Goals and Definitions of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Martin County Code, based on the 2024 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). The Martin County Board of County Commissioners requested the text amendment described above.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida. Written comments may be mailed to: Paul Schilling, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. For further information, including copies of the original application documents or agenda items, contact Clyde Dulin, Comprehensive Planning Administrator, Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



## CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A Public and Virtual Meeting will be conducted before the PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD of the City of Port St. Lucie on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm.** on the following:

- PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
- A. P24-108 JOHO PROPERTIES, LLC – VARIANCE  
Property Location: The property is located at 8955 S. US Highway 1. Legal Description: Section 35, St. Lucie Gardens, Block 1, Lot 10. This is a request to grant a variance from Section 158.060(E)(2) of the Zoning Code which requires a minimum lot size of 20,000 SF for all permitted and special exception uses except Single-Family Residence. The subject property is zoned General Use (GU).
  - B. P24-135 DECORATIVE CONCRETE SPECIALISTS OF SO. FLORIDA – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/SMALL SCALE  
Location: The property is located at 2134 NW Commerce Lakes Drive. Legal Description: Go Team Industrial Park, Unit Three, Block "B", Lot 14. This is a request to amend the Future Land Use designation for from Service Commercial (CS) to Heavy Industrial (HI).
  - C. P24-136 DECORATIVE CONCRETE SPECIALISTS OF SO. FLORIDA – REZONING  
Location: The property is located at 2134 NW Commerce Lakes Drive. Legal Description: Go Team Industrial Park, Unit Three, Block "B", Lot 14. This is a request to rezone property from Service Commercial (CS) to Industrial (IN).
  - D. P24-137 LEGACY PARK NORTH AT SOUTHERN GROVE MPUD (MASTER PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT  
Location: The property is generally located west of Interstate 95, east of SW Village Parkway, south of Marshall Parkway and north of SW Hegener Drive. This is a request to rezone an additional 7.5 acres, more or less, of land that is located immediately north of the MPUD boundary line from SLC-AG 5 (St. Lucie County Agricultural – 1 unit per 5 acres) and the Tradition Commerce Park North MPUD to the Legacy Park North at Southern Grove MPUD. The request includes the removal and replacement of the Employment Center sub-district and the Neighborhood Village/Commercial sub-district with the Regional Business Center sub-district, updates to the MPUD development standards, updates to the MPUD development densities and intensities, and other miscellaneous changes.
  - E. P24-142 CITY OF PSL - INTERMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY – LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION – BUFFER WALL  
Location: The property is located on the west side of SE Belvedere Street between Deacon and Thanksgiving Avenues. Legal Description: Port St. Lucie Section 18, Tract "D". This is a request to waive the requirements for an architectural wall on the northern perimeter of the property per Section 154.12 of the Landscape and Land Clearing Code. Per Section 154.03(C)5 of the Landscape and Land Clearing Code. The request is to provide landscaping in lieu of a wall to enhance public safety and allow for ease of maintenance.

You may attend the meeting in person and express your views. If you do not wish to attend, you may file any comments you desire in writing or via mail. The Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council will consider your comments.

If you would like to speak on the item at the meeting and do not desire to attend in person, please contact the Clerk's Office at 772-871-5157 and TDD Number 772-873-6340 by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting and a staff member will provide you with the required call-in information.

NOTICE: No stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council, board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (F.S. 286.0105)

NOTICE: Public and Press are invited to review all the backup for meetings. Copies are available in the City Clerk's Office.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 772-871-5157.

AS A COURTESY TO THE PEOPLE RECORDING THE MEETING, PLEASE TURN ALL CELL PHONES TO SILENT.  
Revised: 9/13/2024 2:56 PM

Martin County - Growth Management

Advertiser:

N/A

Agency:

A-15-All

Section-Page-Zone(s):

CPAs 24-04 & 24-14 E

Description:

Ad Number: 10576995

N/A

Insertion Number:

2 Col x 10 in

Size:

N/A

Color Type:

The Stuart News  
TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Wednesday, September 18, 2024