

# THE NEWS HERALD

Sunday, October 13, 2024

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

morganton.com

## HELENE RECOVERY CONTINUES



SHARON MCBRAVER, THE NEWS HERALD

Burke County Manager Brian Epley speaks during a press conference Wednesday to update residents about damage and recovery from Hurricane Helene that ravaged western North Carolina.

### Residents can get help, information on financial assistance, debris cleanup and clean drinking water

#### BURKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

As Burke County reaches the two-week mark after Hurricane Helene's impact, the recovery effort continues across government and nonprofit entities to provide residents with access to financial assistance, debris cleanup and clean drinking water. Some updates below are on the new Helene Hub at burkenc.org/Helene.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Survivor Assistance teams** are currently visiting residents throughout Burke County. If you are visited by a FEMA representative, they should be dressed in FEMA attire and have a federal photo identification badge. The teams go door to door in impacted neighborhoods to help people apply for federal

assistance, check the status of an application, identify potential needs and make connections with organizations that can provide resources. Disaster Survivor Assistance crews never ask for, or accept, money. Impacted residents can begin the application for FEMA assistance now. Do not

Please see **HELENE**, Page A2

#### ELECTION 2024

### Officials, tech execs worried most about post-election hacks

Days after voting ends could offer US adversaries best chance for meddling

#### DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Soon, the ballots will be cast, the polls will close and a campaign marked by assassination attempts, animosity and anxiety will come to an end. But for U.S. adversaries, the work to meddle with American democracy may be entering its most critical phase.

Despite all the attention on efforts to spread disinformation in the months be-

fore the Nov. 5 election, the hours and days immediately after voting ends could offer foreign adversaries like Russia, Iran and China or domestic extremist groups the best chance to mess with America's decision.

That's when Americans will go online to see the latest results or share their opinions as the votes are tabulated. And that's when a fuzzy photo or AI-generated video of supposed vote tampering could do its most damage, potentially transforming online outrage into real-world action before authorities have time to investigate the facts.

Please see **ELECTION**, Page A2



MATT SLOCUM, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chester County election workers process mail-in and absentee ballots on Nov. 4, 2020, in West Chester, Pa.