

THE NEWS HERALD

Friday, October 4, 2024

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BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BURKE PROVIDING FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN



SUBMITTED, BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Heritage Middle School students enjoy a meal cooked with vegetables grown in their greenhouse and container garden in 2022. Burke County is providing meals to children in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Grab-and-go meals will be provided until schools reopen

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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Burke County Public Schools will be providing free meals to children until all of the schools in the county reopen.

The school system announced that grab-and-go meals are available for anyone from infants to 18 years old starting Thursday.

The school system said parents can stop by one of the four sites from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to pick up a free breakfast and free lunch for any child from infant to 18 years old. Children do not have to be present to pick up meals, it said.

The four sites are:
■ Liberty Middle School, located at 529 Enola Road in Morganton.

■ East Burke Middle School, located at 3519 Miller Bridge Road in Connelly Springs.

■ Mountain View Elementary, located at 805 Bouchelle St. in Morganton

■ Glen Alpine Elementary, located at 302 London St. in Morganton.

Those picking up meals should drive through the car rider line, according to Burke County Public Schools.

HURRICANE'S AFTERMATH

Helene's death toll passes 200

Rescuers still trying to reach remote areas of North Carolina

JEFF AMY AND JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, N.C. — Rescue crews and volunteers facing obstacles at every turn in North Carolina's remote mountains paddled canoes across swollen rivers and steered horses past mudslides in the rush to reach those stranded or missing after Hurricane Helene's rampage that killed more than 200 throughout the Southeast.

Now a week since the storm first roared onto Florida's Gulf Coast, the search continued for people who have yet to be heard from in places where phone service and electricity were knocked out. Pleas for help came from people running low on medicine or in need of fuel for their generators.

How many people are missing or unaccounted for isn't clear. The death toll grew to 215 people on Thursday as more victims were found, making Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. About half the victims were in North Carolina, while dozens more were killed in South Carolina and Georgia.

Along the Cane River in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge mountains, rescu-



MIKE STEWART, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dominick Gucciardo walks to his home Thursday in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in Pensacola, N.C.

ers from the Pensacola Volunteer Fire Department cut their way through trees at the top of a valley where a wall of water swept through for hours last week.

Pensacola, which sits a few miles from Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi River, lost an untold number of people, said Mark Harrison, chief medical officer for the department.

"We're starting to do recovery," he said

Thursday. "We've got the most critical people out."

Harrison helped dispatch volunteers driving all-terrain vehicles on supply runs to people still on ridgetops. Many don't want to leave their houses, while others lost their vehicles and need help getting to town.

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Google plans to pump even more AI into search engine

'Overviews' summaries on results pages to include more links to other sites

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google will inject its search engine with more artificial intelligence that will enable people to voice questions about images and organize a page of results, despite the technology's past misadventures with misleading information.

The changes announced Thursday continue an AI-driven makeover Google launched in May, when it began responding to queries with summaries written by the technology at the top of its results page.

These "AI Overviews" raised publishers' fears that fewer people would click on search links to their websites and undercut the traffic needed to sell digital ads.

Google will address some of those ongoing worries by inserting even more links to other websites within

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