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THE NEWS HERALD

Saturday, October 19, 2024 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES morganton.com

BURKE COUNTY LINES TO VOTE



SHARON MCBRAYER, THE NEWS HERALD

Voters wait in a line inside Foothills Higher Education Center in Morganton to vote inside the Burke County Board of Elections on the first day of early voting on Thursday.

First day of early voting brings long lines to cast ballots

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The first day of early voting brought people from across Burke County out to wait in long lines Thursday to cast their ballot in the 2024 general election. Burke County Elections Director Kenny Rhyme said people were waiting in the parking lot when he arrived at the Burke County Board of Elections office

at 6:45 a.m. He said since the doors were opened at 8 a.m., the lines to vote had not shortened. By the end of the day, around 3,278 had cast a ballot in Burke County. In the 2020 election, 2,822 people voted on the first day, Rhyme said. Many of those waiting in lines Thursday were older or retired, but there also were younger people joining in to vote on the

first day. Elizabeth Crawford, 24, was excited to vote in her first election, so she wanted to vote on the first day. She and her friend, Maria Juan, decided to cast their ballots at the board of elections. "I lived in different states during other elections, and just have been late to the

Please see **VOTE**, Page A3

Schools' fall semester will end after Christmas

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The Burke County Public Schools' fall semester will now end in January, after the Christmas break. That decision came Tuesday night during a special-called Burke County

Board of Education meeting, where the board revised the school system calendar for the year due to the days missed because of the impact of Hurricane Helene. The storm caused the school system to have to shut down schools due to power losses. Karen Auton, deputy school superinten-

dent, said changes to the school calendar were allowed by a state bill. The school board changed the fall semester end date to Jan. 17, rather than the original Dec. 20, which will become a holiday. Auton said the school system lost nine school days with students (58

instructional hours) due to the storm. She said the lost time takes the semester from 78 days to 69 instructional days. Moving the fall semester end date will help balance out the two semesters, Auton

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Meal ideas that make delicious use of pantry staples **LIVELY, D1**

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Weather
Sunny and pleasant
High 73
Low 37
FORECAST • A8



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