

Sports

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

MORGANTON.COM

SECTION B

By the Numbers:
Broncos travel to New Orleans on Thursday

PAGE B4



This Week in History: Bob Beamon sets long jump record

PAGE B5

H.S. FOOTBALL

RETURN TO ACTION



BIG RED SPORTS NETWORK

Freedom wide receiver Justice Dominguez' helmet shows a decal honoring western North Carolina following the effects of Hurricane Helene before a football game versus Alexander Central on Friday in Morganton.

Key numbers from Freedom's NWC-opening loss to Alexander Central

JUSTIN EPLEY

Sports editor

The schedule was scrambled and the venue unexpected, but the Freedom and Alexander Central football teams emerged from a three-week hiatus forced by damage from Hurricane Helene to finally play their Northwestern 3A/4A Conference-opener. The return to action after the extended layoff went in the Cougars' favor as they earned a 30-20 victory on Friday night in

a game played at Patton High School following severe flooding at the FHS football stadium.

Here are some key numbers from the Week 8 loss for the Patriots (3-3, 0-1 NWC) in Morganton:

0 — Completed passes for Alexander Central. The Cougars won the game despite going 0 for 3 through the air. The

Please see **FOOTBALL**, Page B2

H.S. ROUNDUP

East Burke football falls to Bunker Hill in 1st game back

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CLAREMONT — The East Burke football team dropped a Catawba Valley 2A Conference road game in its return following a three-week period of inactivity due to Hurricane Helene, falling 34-12 at Bunker Hill on Friday night.

The Cavaliers (1-4, 0-2 CVAC) were led on the ground by running backs Camden Buff (8-42-1) and Zayne Newman (11-24). Quarterback Carter Bennett completed 8 of 16 passes for 93 yards and a touchdown with one interception, hitting targets Barger Shook (3-86-1) and Nathan Rees (3-15).

The EBHS defense was led by Cannon Morrison (11 tackles, one for loss), Jordan Fox (six tackles, one for loss), Ossie Burkeen (five tackles, one for loss) and Zac Bennett (four tackles, interception, two pass breakups).

VOLLEYBALL

East Burke 3, West Caldwell 0: The Lady Cavaliers (11-9, 7-6 CVAC) earned a conference sweep at home in Icard on Thursday, winning 25-10, 25-20, 25-5.

Offensively, EBHS was led by Karlie Chester (nine kills, ace), Addy Fortenberry (five kills, two aces, 20 assists), Kyndal Morrison (five kills), Raegan Carter (three kills), Amanda McLean (two kills), Ashaunah Reinhardt-Phillips (two kills, ace, assist), Ella Beth Oxentine (two kills, assist) and Sarah Angel (assist).

EB's defensive leaders were Hermione Garro (10 digs, 10 receptions), Fortenberry (six digs, two blocks), Bree Winkler (five digs, five receptions), Angel (four digs, reception), Morrison (three digs, two blocks, reception), Reinhardt-Phillips (three digs, two receptions), Oxentine (three digs), Giselle Martinez (three digs, reception), McLean (two digs), Chester (two digs, two receptions), Carissa Towery (two digs,

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page B2

NFL

Falcons beat Panthers for 3rd straight vs. NFC South

STEVE REED

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Bijan Robinson ran for 95 yards and two touchdowns, Tyler Allgeier added 105 yards rushing and a score and the Atlanta Falcons defeated the Carolina Panthers 38-20 on Sunday for their third win over an NFC South foe in three weeks.

Kirk Cousins completed 19 of 30 passes for 225 yards and threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Drake London.

Carolina's Andy Dalton finished 26 of 38 for 221 yards with two touchdowns passes and two fourth-quarter interceptions for the Panthers (1-5), who have lost three straight.

The Panthers trailed 28-20 early in the fourth quarter and were moving the ball effectively on the ground with Chuba Hubbard picking up three first downs before Dalton took a shot downfield and was intercepted by A.J. Terrell.

All of Carolina's momentum slipped away.

Please see **PANTHERS**, Page B2

NASCAR CUP SERIES

Larson dominates at Roval

Bowman disqualified; Logano moves back into title contention

JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

CONCORD — When rain disrupted Kyle Larson's bid to complete both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day — leaving him unable to turn a single lap at Charlotte Motor Speedway — he returned to the track determined to put on a show.

"I don't want to say it's a chip, but I think the fact that

he didn't get to race here and Indy didn't turn out too good, that was the extra motivation," team owner Rick Hendrick said.

Larson raced to his Cup Series-high sixth victory of the season Sunday to easily advance to the third round of NASCAR's playoffs, winning on The Roval — the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think after some of the comments he made after the Indy-Charlotte experience, he did put a lot of weight on his

Please see **NASCAR**, Page B2



CHUCK BURTON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyle Larson, 5, leads the field on a restart during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway road course in Concord on Sunday.