

Boone begins
to dig out, sets
off on long road
to recovery.

PAGE A2



Local sports
restart with
Freedom-Patton
volleyball, 2 others.

PAGE B1

THE NEWS HERALD

Thursday, October 10, 2024

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

morganton.com

SHEER TERROR



XAVIER MARTIN, HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Brushy Mountain Builder employees Jake Smith, left, Matt Faw, center, and Keith Kent use chainsaws to cut through debris at Brown Mountain Beach Resort on Oct. 4, 2024.

People at Brown Mountain Beach Resort on Wilson Creek survive floods by climbing tree

CHRISSY MURPHY
cmurphy@morganton.com

It's not unusual for Wilson Creek to flood, with water rising several feet during periods of heavy rain.

But at Brown Mountain Beach Resort, nestled on the creek's banks between the northern mountains of Burke and Caldwell counties, floodwaters had never reached the yurts and cabins guests use at the resort.

As Hurricane Helene approached Jeremy

and Kelsey Wallace, who help run the resort and wedding venue, expected flooding but nothing dangerous.

The Wallaces were wrong.

The couple lost a home and nearly their lives as the creek rose from 2 feet to 28 feet deep. Kelsey, who helps plan weddings at the resort owned by her family, had a couple there that expected to get married that weekend.

Sheer terror

When the water started rising at the resort, Jeremy's mother-in-law, Wendy McDaniel, was trapped inside her house at the end of the property with her dog, Max.

Jeremy Wallace tried to walk to the house to carry her out, but the water was too strong. He and a neighbor, Mike, grabbed a canoe and made their way to the home.

Please see **TERROR**, Page A7

37 structures collapse; 55 businesses deemed unsafe

SHARON MCBRAVER
smcbrayer@morganton.com

Burke County officials are working on the final damage estimates that home and business owners in the area experienced due to Hurricane Helene.

Burke County 911 Assistant Director

Chris White said county emergency workers responded to 37 structure collapses during the storm.

In Morganton, City Manager Sally Sandy said Monday night that 14 homes in the city had significant damage from the storm but were still livable. Another 14 homes were

marked unsafe for occupation and would need contractors to repair the damage.

Sandy said any permits related to storm damage are free.

Fifty-five businesses in Morganton were marked unsafe for the public, but Sandy said all the structures in the city can be

cleaned up and reopened once repairs are made. Nothing has been condemned.

White said Burke County 911 received 4,225 calls between Thursday and Sunday during the storm. In addition, 315 Burke

Please see **BUSINESSES**, Page A7

Valdese councilman steps
down, is immediately
replaced. **PAGE A3**

Inside

360	C1	Lively	D1
Classifieds	B7-8	Sports	B1-5
Opinion	A6	What to Watch	D5

Weather

Sunshine and pleasant

High 74

Low 42

FORECAST • A8



7 65161 17550 8

\$1 • TT • Volume 138, Issue 284 • A Lee Enterprises Newspaper • Copyright 2024 **Follow us online:** [f/Morganton.News.Herald](#) [X/MorgantonNews](#) [i/morgantonnewsherald](#)

