

Veterinary hospital brings pet food, beds for relief.

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Chaos hits AP Top 25 with surprising losses.

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THE NEWS HERALD

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

morganton.com

HELENE | AFTERMATH

TIME TO CLEAN UP



WALT UNKS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

A high-water mark is visible on the Silver Creek Restaurant near the intersection of U.S. Highway 64 bypass and Carbon City Road in Morganton on Saturday as floodwaters from the Catawba River and remnants of Hurricane Helene, a tropical storm by the time it reached North Carolina, begin to recede.

Silver Creek restaurant, Ingles clean up from flooding as local businesses begin to recover

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A thick layer of dried mud blankets parts of Morganton, while other parts of the city appear untouched by the path of destruction left behind by Hurricane Helene on Sept. 27.

A week later, businesses in Morganton were cleaning up and some have started the process of rebuilding.

Silver Creek Restaurant on West Union

Street suffered flooding that reached halfway up the building. On Friday, the place had been gutted down to the brick inside and work to rebuild had started.

John Hipple, owner of Mobile Services in Morganton, ate at Silver Creek a lot with his grandson before he took him to school.

Hipple said the company started gutting the restaurant the Monday after the storm.

Ryan Cook, who is helping with the rebuild of Silver Creek, said owner Tom

McCombs expects it will be 60 to 90 days before the restaurant will be ready to open.

Cook said it will be a new restaurant except for the walls.

Silver Creek is just one of about two dozen businesses that Mobile Services is helping clean up from the flood. Hipple said another one they will be working on is Ekornes, which had around 2 feet

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Morganton hospital ER seeing storm-related injuries



Paxson

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Morganton's new hospital CEO started his tenure with a trial by fire.

With less than a month on the job, Gary Paxson, CEO of UNC Health Blue Ridge since early September, had to manage the fallout from Hurricane Helene.

The storm tore a path across western North Carolina, causing flooding, mud slides, downed trees, power outages and deaths.

Paxson and the hospital system initially dealt with power loss and water issues, as well as making sure the hospital had the resources needed to continue operating as normally as possible

during and after the storm.

Paxson said the Morganton hospital went to emergency generator on Friday, Sept. 27. The generator typically has enough fuel to power the hospital for 96 hours, he said.

The hospital was able to have its full power restored on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The hospital also lost water and had to

get an outside tanker truck to pump water into the hospital so it could function safely, Paxson said. It was able to return to city water Wednesday morning, he said.

"The city's done an amazing job of trying to get us back up and running," Paxson said.

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Two differing takes on the direction of the Supreme Court as its new term begins. **PAGE A5**

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Weather

Sunny, not as warm

High 76

Low 45

FORECAST • A8



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