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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024 | A3 THE NEWS HERALD Stump chosen for public health leadership institute

BURKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Jackson Stump, REHS on-site the southeastern program coordinator for Burke U.S. County Environmental Health, has been chosen as a Region IV age programs, su-Public Health Training Center pervise staff and/ member at Emory University's or have demon-Public Health and Primary Care strated leadership Leadership Institute 2024-25 co-potential within **Stump**

hort. plicants to become one of only Health Training Center's Direc-36 fellows from state, local and tor Moose Alperin, "This year's

the eight states in

All fellows mantheir organization.

eight Southeastern states."

The Region IV Public Health communities within Region IV, 2025. Training Center at Emory Uni- the leadership institute was ex-

In 2022, with a new cycle of experience providing 40 contact centers throughout the U.S. and tribal health departments, or fellows are a remarkable group of funding and increased efforts to hours of online and in-person in- a National Public Health Training

leading public health efforts in the mary care to improve health eq- Applications for the 2025-26 uity and health outcomes in the cohort will be accepted in mid-

> Funded by the Health Resources Health Training Center is one of The institute is an eight-month 10 regional HRSA-funded training



places and seen the loss, mine ain't nothing," Houk

Houk, president of the Burke County Farm Bureau, said he hasn't been able to make it out to many of the farms in the county to see how widespread

Mike Causey, NC Insurance Commissioner, said early estimates showed there could be about \$7 billion in crop losses.

McDowell counties, dam- front of Houk's corn field on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Houk lost about 2 acres of his 7-acre corn ages for the agriculture in - crop to flooding from Hurricane Helene on Sept. 27. dustry are estimated to be about \$70 million in plant age show. nurseries alone, NC Co-Williams-Byrd said

on N.C. Highway 181, this vested and sold. is usually the busiest time of the year. Owner Mike damages and lost revenue

Helene caused waterways erybody else is in pretty excited," Houk said. "He'd



FQHCs/FQHIC Look-Alikes, in leaders who are instrumental in integrate public health with pri-teraction and peer consultation. Center Network member.

versity launched the Public Health panded to include emerging pri- and Services Administration, the



"Now that I've went other said.

damage is.

plants a day.

stead. Flooding many of the nursery's and to the west, Houk said get in it to stay in it. 1-gallon plants that were he feels confident farmready to be sold. Other ers will recover. He said cated farmer, you gotta get was swept downstream gates and fencing materi- bad." with the flooding. Some als headed west on Interplants still have roots in state 40 when he's trans- Chrissy Murphy is a staff the ground, but Fitzgerald ported supplies to towns writer and can be reached at said it could take a couple that were hit hard by the cmurphy@morganton.com or weeks before signs of dam-hurricane.



CHRISSY MURPHY, THE NEWS HERALD

In Burke, Caldwell and Jeff Houk, left, and his daughter, Hannah Gordon, get the attention of Houk's dog, Bandi, in



CHRISSY MURPHY, THE NEWS HERALD

Jeff Houk shucks an ear of corn that was damaged in flooding from Hurricane Helene on Sept. 27.

The impact of the flood- nity's going to come tooperative Extension Burke ing on the nursery could be gether and take care of Center Director Spring seen for years, Fitzgerald each other," Houk said. said. Most of the plants the "There's outreach all over. At Fitzgerald Nursery, nursery grows take four to The farmers will stick tojust north of Morganton six years before bring har- gether and help each other

He estimated property the people will overcome." Fitzgerald said workers are to be more than \$1 million. Farm, he's hopeful he can usually loading up three or He said at least 50% of the salvage most of his crops four tractor trailers full of nursery's farms were dam- and has faith things will aged.

But since floods from "That's just us, and evfarms on higher ground."

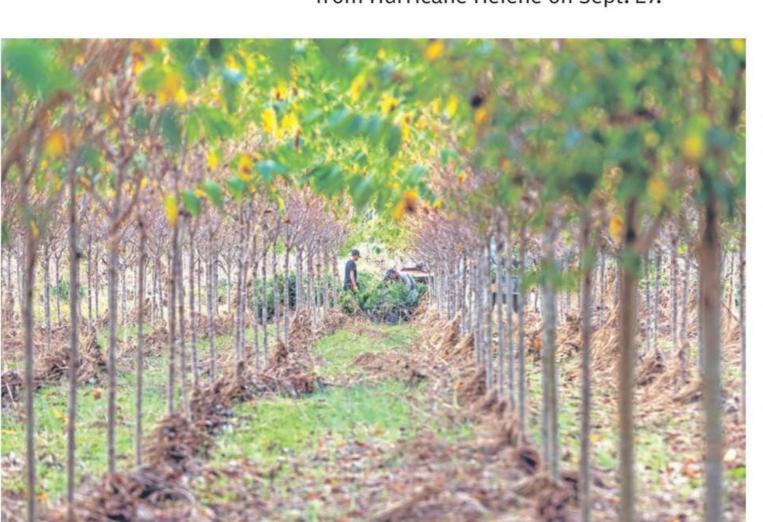
"The farming commuout, and the majority of

At Houk's Green Hill be better next season. "My daddy never got

like Upper Creek to rise, much the same boat, or pick up the pieces to what workers are spending time worse," Fitzgerald said. was left and just rebuild cleaning up the fields in- "We're lucky to have some and do whatever it takes to move back on. You can't destroyed Despite the losses here quit. When you farm, you "If you're a true, dedi-

plants are littered with he's passed truckloads of in it to stay. You've just got trash and debris that farming supplies like hay, to take the good with the

at 828-432-8941.



Javier Lopes, left, and Delmar Perez, right, work together to lift a downed tree into a frontend loader at Fitzgerald Nursery on Oct. 4. **XAVIER MARTIN**

Tax

From A1

and 9,459 people (27.15%) sales tax referendum to the costs related to inflation and voting for it, according to board of commissioners help keep property taxes county and election offi- earlier this year. He and from increasing. cials.

in the state have approved case that Burke residents and a chamber of commerce the quarter-percent sales who shop in Catawba, Lin-meeting, as well as other tax, according to informa- coln, Rutherford or Alex- groups. He is accepting and tion from the North Caro- ander counties are already seeking any invitation he lina Association of County paying the additional sales can to talk about it to vot-Commissioners. Voters in tax. Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln and Rutherford coun- the fairest tax there is and 17.

ties have approved the tax. has said if the quarter-persioner Randy Burns pro- Burke, that money could be posed the quarter-percent used to help alleviate county

Burns called the sales tax

Burke County Commis- cent sales tax is approved in

Commission Chairman Burns said he has spoken Currently, 47 counties Jeff Brittain have made the at local precinct meetings

ers, he said. Early voting begins Oct.



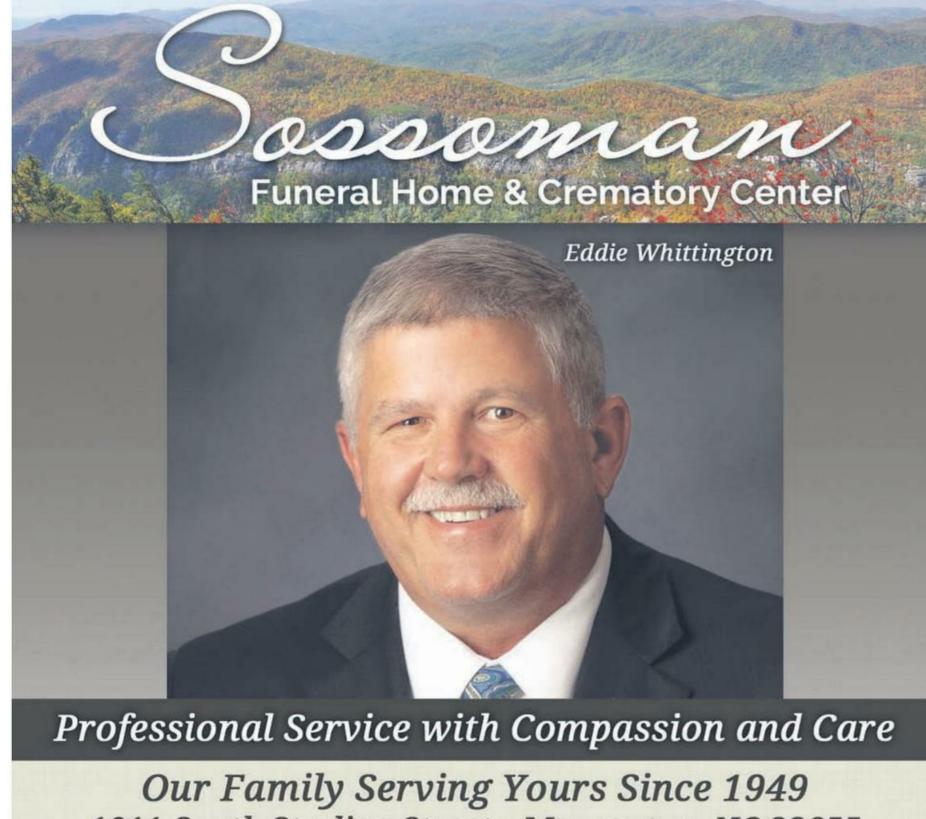
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