

Meet shelter's longest resident: Blondie, a people-friendly pup

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Local football schedules coming together after Helene chaos

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THE NEWS HERALD

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FEMA WORKERS GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR IN NC



MADLEINE COOK, FEMA, SOURCE: DEFENSE VISUAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

Damage caused by Hurricane Helene in Old Fort. The photo was taken Oct. 3.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) teams are providing resources to western North Carolina.

FEMA teams are going door-to-door to make sure people and structures are safe and

to sign people up for federal assistance after the remnants of Hurricane Helene devastated the area.

FEMA Media Relations Specialist Nate Custer said the teams are marked with official FEMA identification badges and carrying tablets to sign people up on the spot.

FEMA spokesperson Jann Tracey added that agents are accompanied by local officials.

Custer said the agency is currently in response mode. During this stage, the agency is conducting search-and-rescue operations,

Please see **FEMA**, Page A7

Police chief voices frustration

Sharpe calls for Valdese board to move forward on renovations to department building

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Nearly seven years after the Valdese Town Council was first made aware of ma-

jor cracks in its public safety building, the council is still debating the cost of a permanent home for police officers.

The council has decided where the po-

lice department will be stationed. Valdese purchased in a former office building at 215 Main St. E. earlier this year.

Council members again debated the cost of renovations on Monday night.

Council member Glenn Harvey made a motion to fire Tally & Smith Architecture.

He said the firm's estimated cost to

renovate was more than \$2.5 million and exceeded the anticipated cost to renovate a building that doesn't need major renovation. The building is 7,300 square feet.



Sharpe

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One Burke voting precinct damaged in storm

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Weather

Sunshine
High 80
Low 43
FORECAST • A8



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