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Give Cheese A Chance rescheduled

Tickets still available for Halloween party

SHARON MCBRAYER

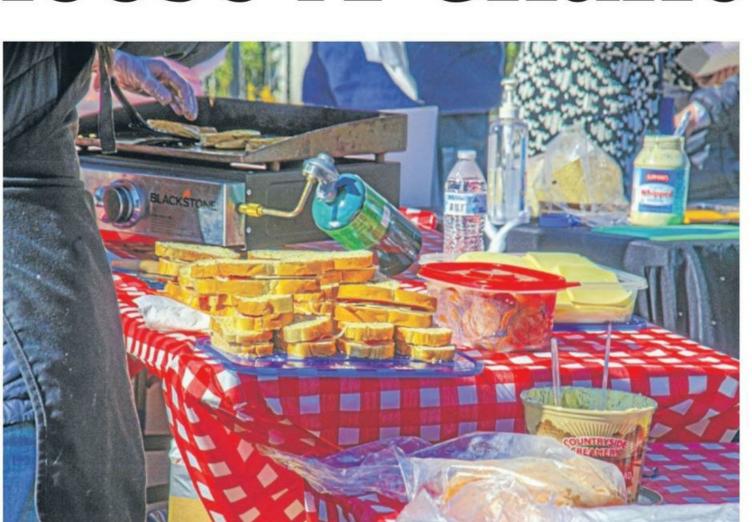
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Give Cheese a Chance, an annual fundraiser for Meeting Place Mission, has been rescheduled to Nov. 17 after the event was postposed after the remnants of Hurricane Helene hit Burke County.

The event brings teams together to compete to make grilled cheese sandwiches, which are judged by event attendees.

The date change is aimed to avoid financial burdens on competitors and allow for city cleanup from Hurricane Helene, said The annual Give Cheese A Chance fundraiser for Meeting Place Mission is Suzy Fitzgerald, board member set for Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Old Burke County Courthouse in Morganton. of Meeting Place Mission. The Courthouse square, was originally men and one for women and chilscheduled for Oct. 6, about a week dren. after the storm impacted the area.

that (the event)," Fitzgerald said. Meeting Place Mission works to end homelessness in Burke them," Fitzgerald said. "Because, petitors.



NEWS HERALD FILE PHOTO

fundraiser, which will take place County and it operates two emer- I mean, they put all the work and on the Historic Burke County gency homeless shelters, one for the labor into it. It's their cheesy

> Fitzgerald said the nonprofit would be best to reschedule.

goodness that makes the whole

Fitzgerald said all of the tickets was just way too soon to try to do for the event to check what date still be valid and there are still tickets available for \$25. There

event worthwhile."

This year, a ticket will allow attendees to try every single grilled chased on the nonprofit's website. cheese sandwich and get three Some VIP tickets are still availjudging tickets to pick three favorites. The winning top three competitors will receive a trophy time," Fitzgerald said. "Some and a gift certificate from Fonta people dress up and some people Flora Brewery, Fitzgerald said.

For the first time, family tickets are available online at www. meetingplacemission.org or on the Meeting Place Mission Facetwo adults and two children, Fitzgerald said.

Paper tickets for the event can cane Helene. be purchased from board members or Toner's Irish Pub.

Halloween party in Morganton

Later this month, the Meeting Place Mission's annual Halloween party fundraiser will be held on Oct. 26 at CoMMA in Morganton.

"We really just felt like Oct. 6 contacted all of the competitors that have already been sold will for the holiday, or not, dance the or who are homeless," Fitzgerald night away to a DJ and enjoy some said. "The reasoning behind why food. Those who dress up will people are homeless doesn't de-"So we really tried to work with are also spaces available for com- have a chance to enter a costume contest, Fitzgerald said.

Tickets are \$30 and can be pur-

able, she said. "A ticket gets you a really good don't, but everybody has a really good time. It's a lot of fun."

Fitzgerald said the fundraisers come at an important time because she believes there will be book page. A family ticket is for more pressure on organizations like the Meeting Place Mission due to the damage left by Hurri-

"You know, and they're going to be displaced for a little while," Fitzgerald said. "I don't think we have too many quick fixes for people who lost housing and things like that."

Fitzgerald suspects the number of people the organization serves will increase.

"We serve people who are either Those attending can dress up at imminent risk of homelessness termine whether or not we help them."

FEMA opens centers in McDowell, Caldwell

BILLY CHAPMAN wchapman@hickoryrecord.com

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has opened disaster recovery centers in Caldwell and Mc-Dowell counties.

The recovery centers can assist those affected by Hurricane Helene with applying for assistance and finding out what kind of assistance is available.

Residents from disaster areas can meet face to face with FEMA representatives at the sites. Residents can learn about financial assistance that may include money for basic home repairs, personal property losses, childcare, transportation and other needs.

In addition to the 28 areas in the state already eligible for disaster assistance, FEMA announced Wednesday that residents of Iredell County and 11 other North Carolina counties were eligible for assistance with uninsured

damages. The center in Caldwell County is located at 2345 Morganton Blvd., Lenoir, at the Caldwell County Health and Human Services Center.

The center in McDowell County is located at the McDowell County Senior Center, 100 Spaulding Road in Marion. Both disaster centers are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information about FEMA disaster assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov.

Billy Chapman is a reporter with the Hickory Daily Record. wchapman@hickoryrecord.com

Star relit at Wake Forest as symbol of hope

JOHN HINTON

Winston-Salem Journal

The Moravian Star at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center was relit early Tuesday night as a symbol of hope for the survivors of the recent flooding in western North Carolina.

Dr. Keith Stirewalt, a chaplain and physician assistant at the medical center, called for a moment of silence.

"This evening, we light our magnificent Moravian Star as a symbol — as a reminder of the healing so desperately needed in our state and in our world," Stirewalt said af-

forces the knowledge through us that light can overcome even the darkest of times," Stirewalt said. "Let this light of hope shine, warming all in its radiance."

The star with its shining light "rein-

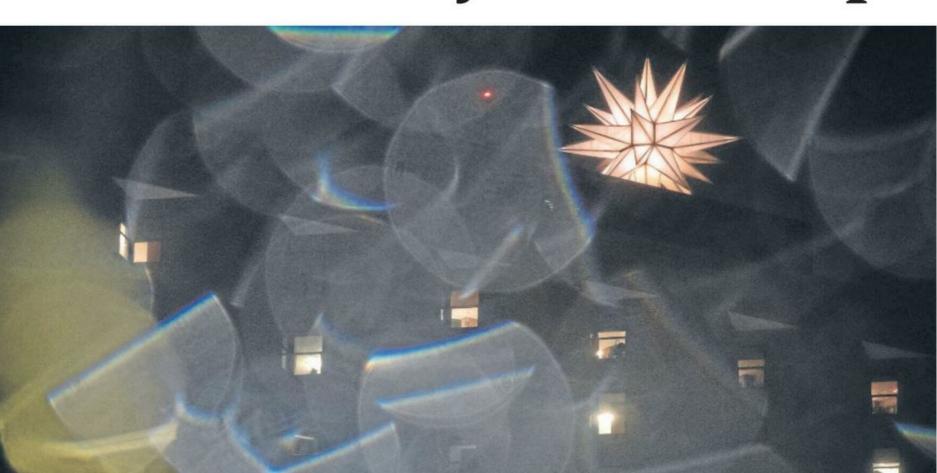
rain forced organizers to cancel a candlelight vigil for the flood survivors.

brated the lighting of the 31-foot Moravian Star atop the medical center to encourage the organization said.

to observe Advent, which marks the beginning of the Christmas season. The star weighs more than 3,000 pounds special moment. and has 27 points that range 7 feet to 11 feet in length and weighs from 30 pounds to 60

pounds each, the medical center said in a statement.

Each of the 27 points is illuminated by a by Hurricane Helene," Wheatley said. 100-watt bulb.



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Steady rain fell on the handful of people The illuminated Moravian star is seen through raindrops on a car window at Atrium Health who attended the star-lighting event. The Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center on Tuesday. The star was lit early this year to show unity and support for those impacted by Hurricane Helene in the western region of the state.

Since 1992, Wake Forest Baptist has cele- that the medical center officials lit the star in the months before December.

the holiday spirit within Winston-Salem, cal residents amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, this spirt of unity is At Tuesday's night ceremony, Cathleen needed." The star will be lit again in early December Wheatley, the president of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, said than 135 patients from western North Carthat lighting the star in mid-October is a olina at its local hospital and clinics, and its

"We are lighting the Moravian star early - to share a sign of hope, strength and solidarity with our western neighbors, and to show our ongoing support for all impacted

Stars hold different meanings for many This is the second time in recent years people, Wheatley said.

"But at the core, they are symbols that give us hope and lead us forward with light," The star was lit in March 2020 to uplift lo- Wheatley said. "They unite us together.

> The medical center has accepted more AirCare and ambulance teams have transported more than 640 patients to hospitals across the region, Wheatley said.

Earlier Tuesday, Baptist employees donated household items and clothes to the United Way, which will deliver the items to people in western North Carolina, Wheatley said.

THE NEWS HERALD

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