

NC Gov. candidate Mark Robinson makes campaign stop in Valdese.

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Draughn offense finds firmer footing in overtime victory at Chase.

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THE NEWS HERALD

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

SPEED LIMIT DROPS ON 16 STREETS



NEWS HERALD FILE PHOTO

Ben Carswell with the Morganton Department of Public Safety issued a citation for driving faster than the speed limit in a 2022 file photo.

Morganton lowers speed on several roads to 25 mph maximum

CHRISSE MURPHY
cmurphy@morganton.com

Morganton City Council voted Monday night to lower the speed limit for 16 streets.

Morganton Public Safety Chief Jason Whisnant said the citywide speed limit is 35 mph unless otherwise posted.

Whisnant said a committee of staff from his department, public works and development and design assessed a group of streets after multiple citizens expressed concerns

about people speeding on them.

After the committee evaluated the streets, council members voted to reduce the speed limits on the following roads to 25 mph:

- Bristol Street
- North Street
- Park Street
- Sharon Street
- Dogwood Drive

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Official: Festival a success, but food was pricey

CHRISSE MURPHY
cmurphy@morganton.com

If you felt you paid too much for food at this year's Historic Morganton Festival, you are not alone.

Main Street Manager Makenzie McGinnis said turnout for the festival was great this year, but people questioned the food prices.

"We hear you loud and clear that our main complaint was the price of food," McGinnis said. "We totally understand. While there was a variety of prices and places to eat, the food in general has gone up price-wise. But we see that it is high, and we will take that into account next year when picking our vendors and having conversations with those that we want to come back to make sure it's affordable for everyone that wants to attend our festival."

Despite price complaints, McGinnis said sales were solid.

Besides the food prices, McGinnis said the festival was great, attributing some of this year's success to the mild weather conditions. The last several years have seen high temperatures or rainy days that washed out the festival.

She said some vendors said this was one of the top two most organized festivals they attended, and downtown businesses said their sales this weekend broke past festival weekend records.

It was McGinnis' first year planning the festival after joining the city's staff last winter. She had never attended the festival before this year, much less planned it, and thanked everyone who

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Welcome back 'Blondie,' 'Beetle Bailey' and others

A new lineup of comics and puzzles debuts today in the The News Herald, and we're thrilled to have you take a look.

You'll notice our refresh includes bringing back beloved comics, adding features that might be brand new to you and replacing others that were previously in our pages. Our new print portfolio is loaded with favorite classics "Blondie,"



ERIC MILLSAPS

"Beetle Bailey" and others, as well as a new Sheffer Crossword, King Classic Sudoku and more.

We've also enhanced the comics and games on our website by adding two platforms that promise to grab — and keep — your attention.

Visit morganton.com and you'll find:

■ Comics Kingdom, which includes 145 updated strips and timeless vintage comics, including "Dick Tracy," "Popeye" and "Prince Valiant."

■ Puzzle Palace, a showcase of 19 interactive crosswords, word games and other tricky brain teasers including Diagonal Sudoku, Word Sleuth and Dynamic Doublecross crossword.

All of our digital content is already included in a subscription. You just need to activate it by visiting morganton.com/activate.

Subscribers also can unlock our robust E-edition, a digital replica of the newspaper available on mobile devices and computers, at morganton.com/eedition.

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Former Burke teacher, church youth leader sentenced for child sex crimes. **PAGE A7**

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