

Bethlehem Star Lighting draws big crowd

Many towns and communities across the nation have special events to celebrate the Christmas season. This year's Star Lighting event in Bethlehem, delayed to Monday, December 3, generated much excitement for the 1,200 people who gath-

ered around bonfires to enjoy the festivities. The celebration was also special because of the community spirit that helped raise a new star to replace the old star damaged by the October 2017 tornado.



Donna Reid, left, leads the Bethlehem Community Choir in hymns Dec. 3.



Above, long time Bethlehem Community resident and noted historian Dr. Warren Hollar addresses the large crowd prior to the lighting of the Bethlehem Star on Monday, December 3. At the left, Mt. Pisgah Pastor Mike Stone presents a check for \$1,500 to Rev. Bill Honeycutt of Promised Land Ministries. The donation was made to the Bethlehem Ministerial Association.

Fun in the Snow!!!



FAMILY BUILDS IGLOO — An igloo in Bethlehem? Yes. Above, Ben, Abi, Ali, Brax, and Bo Moretz worked on an igloo at their home following the big Dec. 8-9 snowstorm. (Photo by Natasha Crouse Moretz.)

• See dozens more readers' photos at [facebook.com/taylorsvilletimes](https://www.facebook.com/taylorsvilletimes).

CVCC has hunting, phlebotomy classes available

CVCC Alexander Center for Education is hosting hunting and phlebotomy classes soon.

Hunter Safety Class by N.C. Wildlife Commission, Saturdays-8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on April 6, May 4, Sep. 7, and Oct. 5, 2019.

Phlebotomy class will start January 30, 2019, and run through May 9, on

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

If there is any interest in a night time CNA class on Monday/Wednesday nights, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., contact CVCC Alexander staff.

The CVCC Alexander Center for Education/Applied Technology may be reached at 828-632-8221.

Five Tips for a Great Season of Winter Sports

(StatePoint) It's time to enjoy all your favorite winter sports. Whether you are traveling afar to hit the slopes or enjoying a close-to-home day of sledding and snow ball fights, it's important to keep in mind that outdoor adventure in cooler weather requires preparation.

Here are five tips to help you best enjoy the season.

1. Dress for Warmth. Going on a ski weekend? Ice skating? To avoid exposure, ensure your clothes and accessories will stand up to the elements. They should be waterproof, windproof and durable, for maximize comfort, warmth and safety.

2. Use Tech Tools. Stay informed with wearable technology, such as the WSD-F30 Pro Trek Smart Outdoor Watch from Casio, which includes a compass, barometer and altimeter for outdoor adventures. The smart outdoor watch offers wearers the pertinent information needed for a safe and happy day of outdoor sports and adventure, including sunrise and sunset times. Apps such as Ski Tracks (which records your day on the slopes) are designed specifically for winter sports.

3. Stay Healthy. Just because the temperature is colder doesn't mean you should skip on the important things you do to stay healthy at other times of the year. For example, drinking water and staying hydrated is important whenever you are physically active. And while the days may be shorter, the sun can still be quite powerful, so keep using SPF on any exposed skin, and wear eye protection such as sunglasses designed for sports or goggles.

4. Consider Renting. Before investing in expensive, space-consuming equipment upfront, consider whether it's more worthwhile to rent or buy these items. Factor in such details as how much use you will get out of the equipment each winter, the location of your upcoming trips, how you are getting there and how much storage space you have at home.

5. Prioritize Safety. Winter sports can be a lot fun, particularly when everyone stays safe and injury-free. Ensure that everyone in your family is properly fitted for safety equipment. For children, sizing may change year to year. Listen to the advice of any instructors you work with and always follow the directions and safety rules at the facility.



CIS seeks donations, helpers in grades 2-3 reading program

The Alexander Missional Network (AMN) in partnership with Communities In Schools (CIS) are excited to currently be working with and growing the Reading Partners Program in Alexander County Schools.

Reading Partners is currently active at Ellendale, Wittenburg, Taylorsville, Hiddenite and Stony Point Elementary.

Reading Partners is a program where volunteers from the community work with second and third grade students to help them learn invaluable reading skills. Volunteers commit to 30 minutes a week tutoring a students.

"Only 30 minutes, and you can give a child the chance to significantly increase their reading levels and create an irreplaceable bonding experience for both the students and volunteers," said April Oxentine, program coordinator for CIS.

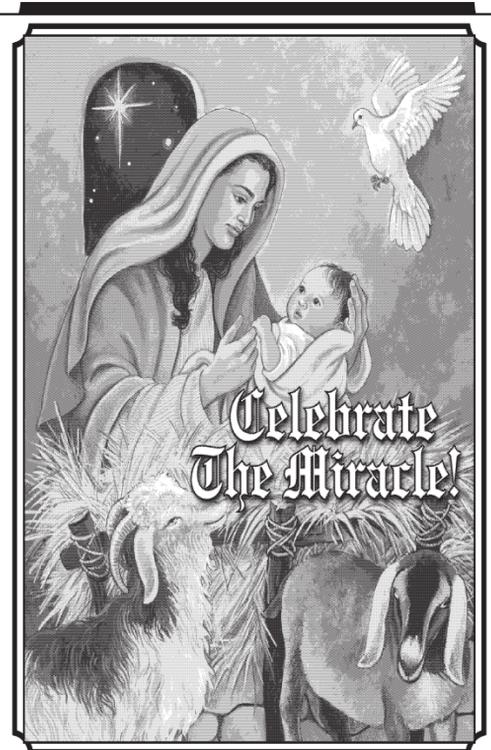
Reading Partners is a non-profit program which CIS and AMN are looking to expand into all seven elementary schools in Alexander County.

Volunteers are especially needed for Wittenburg Elementary.

If you or your business would like to donate, please contact April Oxentine or visit funct.net and click "Donate Now" in the upper right hand corner. Then select other and type Reading Partner's. Or, you can also mail checks to FUMC, P.O. Box 157 Taylorsville, NC 28681. mail a check to FUMC, P.O. Box 157, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

You can sponsor a child for a month for \$45, sponsor a child for a year for \$310, sponsor a school for \$5,126 or give any monthly or one time donation.

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering for the program or donating, please contact April Oxentine at (828)



May your faith be renewed and your spirits lifted as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. With best wishes to you and yours for a truly memorable holiday season.

Gift Certificates Available

BOLIEK'S

TIRE & SERVICE

SPECIALIZE IN ALL MAJOR BRAND TIRES



NC STATE INSPECTION CENTER
FRONT END ALIGNMENTS • BRAKES
OIL CHANGES • INTERSTATE BATTERIES

Gift Certificates Available

FINANCING AVAILABLE THROUGH BASIC FINANCE

828-495-3639

9636 Hwy. 127 N.
Hickory, NC 28601
(Across from Taylorsville Savings Bank)

HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:00-5:30
SATURDAY 8:00-12:30

MASTERCARD & VISA ACCEPTED

Alexander County . . .

We ARE Your Dry Cleaners!

Established 1959

Wyke's CLEANERS & SHIRT LAUNDRY

1413 2nd St. NE (Hwy. 127 N. - Viewmont) **HICKORY** 828-324-8751
Hours: M-F 6-6, Sat. 7-2

★ **DECEMBER SPECIAL** ★
SWEATERS 25% OFF

Fur Cleaning & Cold Vault Storage • Drive-Up Window Service • On-Site Alterations

Next Star prints Jan. 17

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, January 17 2018. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Tuesday, January 15, 2019, before 5 pm.

Subscribe to the Times

828.632.2532