

LOCAL ATTORNEYS JOIN FORCES — Two legal practices have merged in Taylorsville and Statesville. The firms of Harbinson & Brzycky here and the firm of Bryan Corbett in Statesville are now known as Harbinson, Brzycky & Corbett, LLP. Pictured above, left to right: Bryan Corbett, Joel Harbinson, and Caryn Brzycky. ★

Local law practices merge into Harbinson, Brzycky & Corbett

Two regional law offices have joined forces in the last quarter of 2016. The Taylorsville law firm Harbinson & Brzycky and the law practice of Bryan Corbett in Statesville have merged recently to become Harbinson, Brzycky & Corbett, LLP.

Local attorneys Joel Harbinson and Caryn Brzycky noted that Bryan Corbett opened his law office in Statesville in September 2015.

Corbett, age 30, is married to Alexandria Brinkley Corbett, and the couple welcomed their first child, Hudson Corbett, in September 2015. Mr. Corbett is a native of Iredell and

Alexander counties. The merged firm now operates offices in both Taylorsville and Statesville. The Taylorsville office uses the website www.AlexanderLawyers.com. Their Statesville office will use the website www.IredellLawyers.com.

Harbinson will continue to handle criminal, domestic, and traffic cases in Alexander and Corbett will do the same in Iredell. Also, Corbett will be on the criminal and juvenile court appointed list in Alexander County.

Brzycky will work on Social Security Disability and Workers Compensation cases in

both counties. Harbinson and Brzycky will be handling personal injury and wrongful death cases arising out of both counties -- as well as medical malpractice.

"I am very excited about our partnership and the opportunity to work with Joel and Caryn. Our personalities and approach to certain legal issues compliment each other very well. We look forward to serving our neighbors in and around Alexander and Iredell counties," Corbett stated.

"One benefit of Bryan coming up, for Alexander County, is that we don't have a lot of attorneys" ★ **See MERGER Page 2**

Lady Bulldogs run past East in tourney finals to complete 12-0 season

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.
For ten-plus years, the West Alexander Middle School Girls' Basketball Program has dominated play in the NW Middle School Conference to the tune of nine regular season titles in 11 seasons.

Last week, Coach Brian Killian led the Lady Bulldogs to the school's fifth perfect season since 2006 with a first-place finish in the league championship tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs downed cross country rival East Alexander 41-24 in the title

game to finish the season with a perfect 12-0 record. With the win, West Alexander improved to 121-16 in the past 11 seasons.

A fired up East Alexander Team came out of the gate quickly and built a 9-7 lead at the end of the first quarter.

However, the final three periods would belong to the Lady Bulldogs as West outscored the Falcons 34-15 over the final three stanzas.

Nikki Hagy led West with 15 points and a ★ **See CHAMPS Page 2**



Last month, Alexander County's two Middle Schools faced off in the finals of the NW Middle School Girls' Basketball Tournament. In the end, West Alexander knocked off East to complete a perfect 12-0 season. At the left, West Alexander's Julianna Walter pushes the ball up the floor against East pressure. ★ **See more on Page 2**

Art of John Murgo now on exhibit at Alexander Library

Art After Hours reception planned for Friday, January 13

The Alexander County Library's Main Branch in Taylorsville kicked off their 2017 Exhibiting Artist Series Jan. 3 with a new exhibit by Bethlehem artist, John Murgo.

In "Transformed," the artist combines original photography with digital editing techniques and unique filters to produce abstract images.

The public is invited to attend an Art After Hours reception honoring the artist on Friday, January 13, 2017, from 6-7:30pm at the Alexander County Library's Main Branch, which is located at 77 First Avenue SW in Taylorsville.

Murgo began working with digital photography in 2006, finding the process of digital editing to be a fascinating collaboration between man and machine.

"I immediately began using photo editing programs because my goal was to transform my subjects; however, not all my work is heavily transformed or abstracted," shared Murgo.

"What attracted me to this approach was the fact that these programs required the artist to use himself or herself as a filter. Every image I create is unique because I did the editing, starting with choice of the subject," the artist went on to say. "Then I chose how to transform that image into one that was filtered through me. All my education, life experiences, attitude, and skill are what makes my images mine."

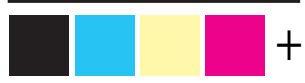
The reception will feature light refreshments and remarks from John Murgo, who will share insight into his creative process. The reception is free to attend all are wel-

Christian Crisis Board to meet

The Board of Directors for the Christian Crisis Center will hold their annual open meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2017. It will be held from 3-4 p.m. at the Alexander Baptist Association, 215 5th Ave. SW in Taylorsville, next door to the Crisis Center. All volunteers of the Center are invited to attend, as well as anyone interested in yearly reports. ★

Next Star prints February 16

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, February 16. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Tues., Feb. 14, before 5 pm.



Bethlehem artist John Murgo

come.

The exhibit will be open to the public through Tuesday, February 28, 2017, during library hours. Visit www.alexanderlibrary.org more informa-

tion and for holiday hours of operation.

To learn more about upcoming events and programs, Like the Library on facebook, or call (828) 632-4058. ★

Diabetes, osteoporosis, other health screenings set Jan. 16

Residents living in and around the Taylorsville, North Carolina can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Taylorsville Presbyterian Church will host this community event on January 16, 2017. The site is located at 75 2nd Street SW in Taylorsville.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at www.lifeline-screening.com. Pre-registration is required. ★



EARLY COLLEGE CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Alexander Early College students delivered over 1,000 pounds of food to the Alexander County Christian Crisis Center on Thursday, December 15, 2016. "With only 56 students, donating over 1,300 items is something to be proud of," said Jason Evans, principal. "AEC has enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the community. Alexander Early College hopes to continue to work with the Christian Crisis Center in the future. AEC would like to thank Mrs. Ratchford and Mrs. Sharpe for leading the effort to collect over 1,000 cans of food." Pictured above: students Maddison Thomas (center) and Obed Renteria (right) with a Crisis Center staff member. Students and staff also participated in the Toys for Tots drive with the United States Marine Corps. Toys collected were distributed over Christmas break to children in need. ★

Bethlehem Community news highlights for 2016

(Editor's Note: The following article contains a brief summary of some of the Bethlehem Community news stories reported in The Taylorsville Times during 2016.)

JANUARY

Duke LifePoint Healthcare announced January 4 that it had acquired Frye Regional Medical Center, a 355-bed hospital in



FRYE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Hickory.

T'neal Howell Herman joined the N.C. Cooperative Extension Office as the new Alexander County 4-H Agent in January.

The Cougar Vision Scholarship Fundraising dinner was held January 30 at McLindon's restaurant with Phil Ford as guest speaker.

FEBRUARY

The February 2016 episode of the Alexander County EDC's Business Spotlight featured Blue Ridge Woodworking, located in Bethlehem.

The Bethlehem Branch Library exhibit for February/March featured works from Full Circle Arts, a not-for-profit co-operative of regional artists of all disciplines.

George H. (Butch) Carter, III, was named as Alexander Central High School Head Football Coach on Feb. 9 by the School Board. The board honored ten teachers as National Certified teachers.

The Bethlehem-Alexander County CROP Hunger Walk in October 2015 raised \$13,672 for world and local hunger. The

funds were distributed on Feb. 4, 2016.

A winter storm brought snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the area February 14-16 and schools were closed Feb. 15-16. The snow/sleet accumulation was up to two inches.

Sandi Daughtry was elected President of Hospice and Home Care of Alexander County for 2016.

MARCH

The Bethlehem Community Development Association presented checks to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scout Troops 275 for their continued service to the community. The BCDA also presented donations to the Bethlehem Fire and Rescue, and the Sheriff's Explorers.

The county commission approved an ordinance for the removal of a dilapidated home in the Bethlehem area found in violation of the county's minimum housing standards. The board approved an amendment requiring sidewalks in Cluster Subdivisions as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

The Bethlehem Friends of the Library announced plans for a book sale March 17-19 at the Bethlehem Fire Department. ★ **See HIGHLIGHTS Page 5**