



LIVING A DREAM - Laura Little of the Bethlehem Community is in her first season as a member of the Charlotte Hornets' HoneyBees Dance Team. ★

Little fulfilling a dream as member of HoneyBees

If you have attended a Charlotte Hornets game this season, chances are you have seen Laura Little of the Bethlehem Community on the court as a member of the HoneyBees Dance Team.

Laura is the daughter of Gail and Buddy Little and joined the HoneyBees last

Shiloh Luth. Church news

Shiloh Lutheran Church (NALC) welcomes everyone to their services and events. Weekly Sunday services are Morning Praise (Songfest) at 9:15 a.m., Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m., and worship at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion is held the first and third Sundays of each month and on special celebrations.

Prayer Group meets on Thursday, February 16 and March 2 at 9:45 a.m. Bible Study is held on Thursdays, February 9 and 23, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. and on Thursdays, February 16, 23, and March 2, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon. Ministering to Inactives will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday service is March 1, with communion at 7 p.m. This begins the Lenten Evening services and continues for five consecutive weeks.

Shiloh Men's Group and Mt. Bethel Men's Group have joined together in planning, implementing and completing agreed upon projects beneficial to individuals and the Bethlehem Community. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Shiloh Parish Hall. All men are encouraged to attend, take part in, offer suggestions, etc. One of the first projects is a Thank You Breakfast for Bethlehem Community EMS, Firefighters, Rescue Squad Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, etc., who put their lives in danger for each of us every day. This event will be held at Shiloh Parish Hall on Saturday, February 25, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. For further information, contact Sam Fox at 828-495-8062, Randy Kerley, or Junior Frye. Shiloh is located off Hwy. 127 in Alexander County, across from the post office and library. Call 828-495-7462 for more information.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams, live the life you have imagined."

- Laura Little

year after earning a spot on the squad for the 2016-17 NBA season. She is a 2014 graduate of Newton-Conover High School and currently is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. She has an older brother, Bryan Little, and a younger sister Courtney,

a senior at Alexander Central High School.

She has been a competitive dancer for twelve years and a cheerleader for seven. She was an Encore, Applause and Star Systems national dance champion and received many judges' awards throughout her time as a competitive dancer. She was named an

All-American Cheerleader for three consecutive years and was featured on ESPN at the Capitol One Bowl in Florida.

Laura, 20, has held numerous local titles as well as state titles including Mini Miss North Carolina Ultimate High Point Grand Supreme, Grand Majestic Miss North Carolina and most recently Miss Teen North Carolina United States. She competed for Miss Teen United States in Washington D.C. where

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Used book sale planned at Beth. Branch Library

Are books overflowing on your shelves or in your closets? Consider donating them to the used book sale sponsored by the Bethlehem Friends of the Library. Dates have just been announced: March 23-25, 2017. The location is the Bethlehem Fire Department, 7373 NC Highway 127, in Bethlehem. Books accepted include gently used books, paperback, hardcover and trade paperbacks. Items that cannot be accepted are encyclopedias, magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books, or books that are badly worn and water damaged. Donations can be taken to the Bethlehem Branch Library, 45 Rink Dam Road or call the li-

brary office at 828-495-8753.

Bethlehem Friends members encourage the public to use this sale as an opportunity to keep books out of the landfill by donating books for the sale and then purchasing low cost, current books.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to support literacy by enhancing services for children and adults at the Bethlehem Branch Library.

Friends' membership drive is currently underway for 2017. A one year membership can be purchased at the library prior to the sale or at the sale. Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for family and \$8 for seniors.★

Alex Republican Party plans Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Mar. 18

The Alexander County Republican Party Lincoln-Reagan dinner will be held on Saturday, March 18, at East Alexander Middle School with a meet & greet at 6 p.m. and the dinner at 6:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker for the evening will be U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx.

During the dinner, four new members to the Alexander County Republican Party Hall of Fame will be installed. The County Convention will follow immediately following the dinner. The Executive Committee for the term of 2017/2018 will be elected. Also, delegates to the District and State Conventions will be elected. The tickets cost \$25 and those interested in attending may contact Chairman Darrell Seaford at 704-902-3374 for ticket information. ★



FOXX



WINS LOCAL AND DISTRICT, BOUND FOR RALEIGH — Bethlehem resident Alissa Crawford, a senior at Alexander Central High School, recently won the local VFW and District VFW "Voice of Democracy" contest. She is heading to Raleigh soon, to participate in the state-level competition for a chance to win a \$30,000 scholarship. Pictured above, left to right: VFW Post 5466 Commander Terry Harrington, Quartermaster Herb Poole, winner Alissa Crawford, Sr. Vice Commander James Benfield, and District 14 Commander Larry "Moon" Teague. ★

Crawford heads to state in VFW contest

Alissa Crawford, a senior at Alexander Central High School, was named the 2016-17 "Voice of Democracy" first-place winner by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5466 of Taylorsville, receiving a \$50 prize. After winning the local competition, Crawford went on to win the VFW Western District, competing against students from Iredell, Catawba, Lincoln, Cleveland, and Burke counties. She will go to Raleigh in February to compete in

the state-level contest for a chance to win a \$30,000 college scholarship.

Crawford is the daughter of Ashley and Lisa Crawford of the Bethlehem Community. The student hopes to study nursing at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

The prompt this year was "My Responsibility to America." Crawford noted that her father is a veteran. She is also the granddaughter of a Korean War-

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Dawson, Killian among honorees at Board of Education meeting Feb. 7

Alexander County Board of Education members recognized several educators at the regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 7.

Three educators were recognized Tuesday. These included Amy Dawson, Digital Learning & Innovation Specialist for Alexander County Schools, who completed Google for Education Certification; Taylorsville Elementary teacher Michelle Robinson, Digital Badge Winner; and West Alexander Middle School teacher/coach Brian Killian, who was a grant recipient from the American Heart Assoc. & U.S. Games.

Dr. Bill Griffin recognized Communities in Schools representative Angie Yates and Student Success Center Director Angela Charles, who have worked with Griffin and others on a proposed drug intervention class, "Thinking For A Change." This 8-lesson, hour-long class will be administered daily for two weeks at the Success Center during Smart Lunch to students who have controlled substance violations.

Hefner mentioned that the sewer project at the ACHS Baseball Field is done. Minor touch-up work will be done using help from the ACHS Trades classes before the season begins.

The Superintendent noted that Alexander staff presented at multiple State Board of Education events recently and represented the system quite well.

Sharon Mehaffey, Chief Financial Officer, presented proposed policy revisions.

The Board approved a right-of-way agreement for Landis Lane at the West Alexander Middle School property, as requested by adjacent landowners.

Teresa Smeeks, Director of AIG,

Advanced Programs, and Accountability, presented the proposed sixth draft of the 2017-18 school calendar, which was then approved by the Board.

The Board voted to send a resolution to the General Assembly asking for lenience in K-3 class size and suitable funding.★



GOOGLE CERTIFIED — Amy Dawson, Digital Learning & Innovation Specialist for Alexander County Schools (left), who completed Google for Education Certified Instructor status, was recognized by School Board Vice-Chairman Scott Bowman. ★



KILLIAN RECOGNIZED — West Alexander Middle School teacher and coach Brian Killian was recognized for receiving a grant from the American Heart Assoc. The school has hosted Jump Rope for Heart events for 22 years. Above: Killian (left) is shown with School Board member Harry Schrum. ★

Quilt exhibit on display in Bethlehem

Bethlehem Branch Library currently has an exhibit of quilting art by the Brushy Mountain Quilters Guild entitled "Share The Love." It is a special exhibition of all-new quilted art.

The Bethlehem Branch is located at 45 Rink Dam Road in Bethlehem. Bethlehem Branch Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. For more details, call (828) 495-8753. ★

Alex water tap fees discounted through June 30

If your home or business is located on a road that is served by the City of Hickory/Alexander County water system, and you would like to connect to the water line, residents are being advised that the water tap fee will double on July 1, 2017. Water tap charges actually increased January 1, 2017, but due to an incentive, potential Alexander County water customers will pay the former rate through June 30, 2017.

The discounted water tap charges are: \$1,066 (3/4"

meter), \$1,980 (1" meter), \$4,229 (1.5" meter), \$5,190 (2" meter), \$17,430 (3" meter), \$21,814 (4" meter), \$33,940 (6" meter), and \$43,294 (8" meter). Once the incentive expires on July 1, total tap costs will be double these amounts. In addition, current Alexander County water customers have likely noticed a difference in their water bill as the rates have been unified for all customers. The new water rate contains a customer charge of \$8.74 and an availability charge of \$22.24, for a base bill total of



\$30.98. An additional \$3.02 is charged for every 1,000 gallons of water used.

For more information, contact the City of Hickory Public Utilities at (828) 323-7427. ★

Next Star prints March 16

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

