

**LOCAL PARTICIPANT** - Doug Gillispie, age 45 of Hiddenite, was the first person from Alexander County to finish the 7th Annual Lake Hickory Triathlon with a total time of 1:43:52. Gillispie placed 98th overall out of 154 competitors. Gillispie is the EMS Director for Alexander County. ★

## More than 150 finish Annual Lake Hickory Triathlon July 22

The Alexander County Family YMCA hosted the 7th Annual Lake Hickory Triathlon on Saturday, July 22 at Dusty Ridge Park. The event, which featured 154 finishers from all over

North Carolina and nearby states, included a 400-yard swim, 16-mile bicycle ride, and a 5K run.

The top three overall finishers in the 7th Annual Lake Hickory Triathlon included: Jake Baugher, age 17 of Mooresville, 1st place with a total time of 1:07:18; Kevin Parks, age 29 of Charlotte, 2nd place at 1:07:31; and Jared Eytcheson, age 18 of Cary, 3rd place at 1:08:25.

The top three female finishers in the 7th Annual Lake Hickory Triathlon included: Olivia Romine, age 17 of Greensboro, 17th overall with a total time of 1:20:10; Natasha Newman, age 31 of Charlotte, 19th overall at 1:20:55; and Karen Wandel, age 43 of Cornelius, 26th overall at 1:25:16.

The event attracted a

large number of out-of-county competitors from the following cities and towns: North Carolina - Mooresville, Charlotte, Cornelius, Cary, Valdese, Newton, Greensboro, Raleigh, Hickory, Connelly Springs, Huntersville, Clemmons, Catawba, Matthews, Brevard, Winston-Salem, Monroe, Lewisville, Morganton, Boone, Troutman, Maiden, Oakboro, Advance, Salisbury, Mt. Holly, Mt. Airy, Denver, Pfafftown, Woodleaf, Statesville, Indian Trail, Davidson, Trinity, Apex, Sherrills Ford, Greenville, Kernersville, and Hillsborough; Virginia - Abdingdon, Rome, Daleville, and Richmond; Maryland - Lavale and Frostburg; and South Carolina - Fort Mill; and Pennsylvania - Warrington.



## Mt. Pisgah Church Preschool begins enrollment for Fall 2017

Parents looking for an exceptional classroom experience for their preschool-aged child, one that provides them with almost consistent individualized attention, should look no farther than Mt. Pisgah Preschool in Bethlehem. Preschool provides a foundation for learning, both socially and academically, that will help children go on to succeed in elementary school.

Director Linda Bloom states, "With a teacher to student ratio of 1:5, we are able to give each child individual attention and guide their academic and social development in a way that best suits that particular child. For many children, preschool is their first experience in a structured setting with teachers and groups of children. It's an opportunity to learn to share, follow instructions, and begin the foundation for learning that will occur in elementary school."

With smaller class sizes and student to teacher ratios that allow more focus on the individual child, Mt. Pisgah Preschool provides a secure environment that promotes learning by nurturing warm relationships between students, parents and teachers. Teachers build a close personal connection with each child in their care. The Preschool has been open to the public for three and four-year old students for over 35

years and is located in its own facilities within the Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church property on Route 127 in Bethlehem (located in front of the Lowe's shopping center).

Opening parent's meeting for the Fall 2017 school year will be held in August, with the school year starting September 5th, 2017. "In order to keep our student to teacher ratios at optimum benefit to the individual student, we encourage early enrollment for our new students," states Mt. Pisgah spokesperson, Susan Lydick Greene.

"I encourage parents look-

ing for a Preschool where their child is going to thrive, to contact the office for an application as soon as possible."

For more information about the program or directions, call either Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, at (828) 495-8251, or Mrs. Bloom directly at (828) 2562503, or drop by the church office to pick up an application. For directions and further information, visit the Preschool's Facebook page, which can be found at <https://m.facebook.com/mtpisgahpreschoolhickory/>. ★

### Remi Strong planned for August 26

A Remi Strong fundraiser will be held Saturday, August 26, from 5:30 - 10:00 p.m. at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, Hwy. 127, Bethlehem Community. A silent auction will be held from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and will include gift cards, crafts, necklace, plants, mirrors, lamps and lots more.

A family friendly movie will be shown, with popcorn, drinks, pizza, kettle corn, snow cones, and cotton candy. Bring chairs and blankets to watch the movie.

There will be plenty of fun things for kids including a petting zoo, the Woodland Fairy Brucie Abella, games, face painting and lots more.

Remi is a CDH baby. She was born with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, which means that some or all of her organs move up into the chest cavity causing the heart and lungs to be compressed and not have room to develop. She will have a long stay in the hospital due to this condition. Remi has been able to have her repair surgery, but still has a long road to recovery.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and support this fundraiser. ★

## 8th Annual Bethlehem Day featuring variety of local talent

The 8th Annual Bethlehem Day Festival on Saturday, September 16 from 10AM to 4PM will feature five different groups performing a variety of music ranging from percussion and keyboard to strings and piano to guitar and song. MUSIC AND FUN for everyone begins at 10AM Styx & Stones, 11AM Suzuki School, 12 Noon New Horizons Fiddle Group, 1PM Zephyrs Woodwind Group, and finishes with Dave Privette & Friends at 2PM. The annual fall event also features, inflatable entertainment and activities for children, arts, crafts and information vendors, all kinds of food & drinks. Classic Car Cruise-In Noon to 4PM. For information call 828-234-6690 or 828-495-1057 or [bethlehemday@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemday@gmail.com). Application forms available online at [bethlehmcda.org](http://bethlehmcda.org).

### VENDORS SOUGHT

The Bethlehem Community Development Association is now accepting applications for the 8th Annual Bethlehem Day Festival to be held on September 16th, 2017 at the crossroads of Shiloh Church Road and Rink Dam Road in Bethlehem (Alexander County). Applications fees are \$30 for craft and information vendors and \$45 for food vendors and MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED by September 8th. For more information contact Donna

Reid 828-234-6690 or 828-495-1057. Applications are available at [www.bethlehemcda.org](http://www.bethlehemcda.org) or can be requested at [bethlehemday@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemday@gmail.com).



Hundreds have turned out for the Bethlehem Day Festival the past few years. Above, youngster Layna Dula and Caroline Stikeleather take a stroll through the exhibit, food, and vendor areas during the 2015 festival. ★

## Alex. Central to play in 2017 Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout

This coming fall, the Alexander Central Men's Basketball Team will be participating in a very special event when the Cougars play in the 2017 Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout in Asheville on Thanksgiving weekend.

The event, which is sponsored by NC Basketball Coaches Association, the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the American Cancer Society, and Krispy Kreme is held each year to raise funds for cancer research. The games are played at the University of North Carolina Asheville. This year's contests will be played on Saturday, November 25.

A total of eight games are scheduled on the day, beginning at 9 am. The Cougars are slated to play Owen High School in the eighth and final game of the day at 8 pm.

The event features three women's games and five men's contests.

"It is a huge honor for our program to be invited to play in the Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout. We are excited about opportunity to play at UNC-Asheville against a program with a great tradition like Owen. I think it is going to be a great experience for our kids to be a part of this process. We will be raising money to donate to Coaches vs. Cancer in honor of a local hero and be part of a very special banquet to honor each school's hero," ACHS Coach Ed Wills commented. "I expect this to be a very emotional experience for our kids as they learn some important life lessons. I hope that people in our community will consider donating to this cause as we work to help in the fight against cancer."

As part of the Coaches vs. Cancer event, ACHS and other participating schools will be raising funds to support the fight against cancer. Several fundraising events are currently in the works between now and November.

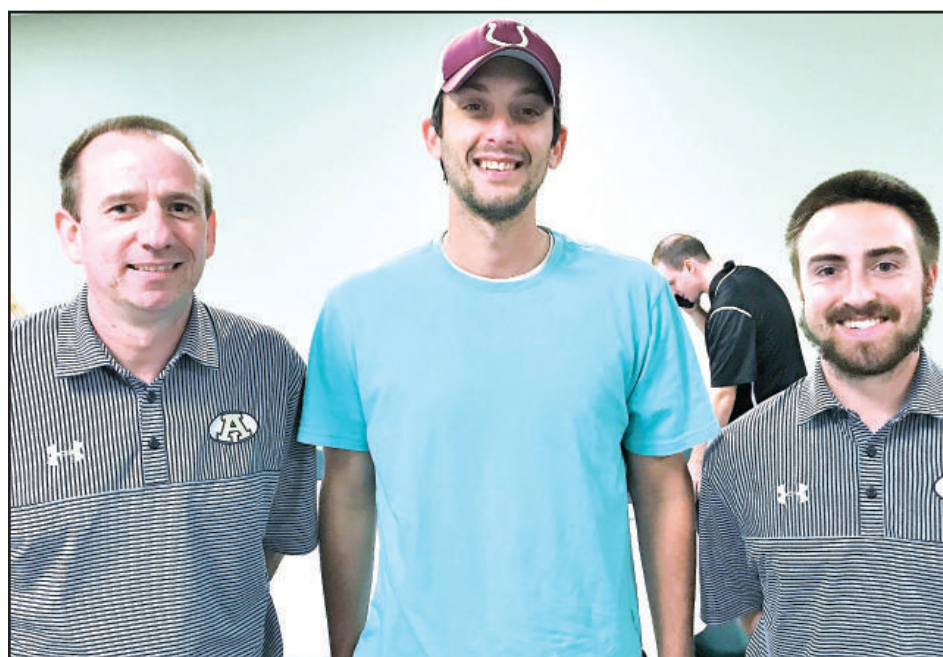
The Coaches vs. Cancer program is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. This initiative leverages the personal experiences, community leadership, and professional excellence of coaches nationwide to increase cancer awareness and promote healthy living through year-round awareness efforts, fundraising activities, and advocacy programs. Since 1993, coaches have raised over \$100 million for the American Cancer Society.

Cancer has touched many in the coaching ranks. The Coaches vs. Cancer program provides coaches with an opportunity to do something about the disease. Through integrated fundraising activities and public awareness campaigns, the coaches are raising the American Cancer Society's community and national presence, and helping them save lives and celebrate life every single day.

Anyone interested in making a donation can contact Coach Ed Wills at ACHS at (828) 632-7063 or by email at [ewills@alexander.k12.nc.us](mailto:ewills@alexander.k12.nc.us). ★



- Saturday, November 25 @ Kimmel Arena
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- 9 am - Northern Nash vs. Weddington (Men)
- 10:30 am - Owen vs. Triton (Women)
- 12 pm - East Rutherford vs. Triton (Men)
- 1:45 pm - Maiden vs. Westover (Men)
- 3:15 pm - N. Guilford vs. E. Rutherford (Women)
- 4:45 pm - Christ School vs. Hoke Co. (Men)
- 6:30 pm - Mtn. Heritage vs. Murphy (Women)
- 8 pm - Alexander Central vs. Owen (Men)



**TIP OFF LUNCHEON** - ACHS Head Coach Ed Wills, left, is pictured with Owen Coach Clint McElrath, center, and ACHS Assistant Cam Gant during a Coaches vs. Cancer luncheon held during the North Carolina Coaches Association Clinic in Greensboro last month. The Cougars will play Owen as part of the 2017 Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout on December 25 in Asheville. ★