



The Bethlehem Star



PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 45
Carrier Route Presort

VOLUME XLVI NUMBER 1

Serving the Bethlehem Community of Alexander County - Published by The Taylorsville Times

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

Alex Sports Hall of Fame enshires Class of 2017

Longtime Bethlehem resident Dale Yount among five individuals inducted November 20

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.

The Alexander County Public Education Foundation held its Sixth Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Monday night, November 20, at McLindon's Restaurant at Brushy Mountain Golf Club in Taylorsville.

A crowd of more than 250 family, friends, and sports lovers converged on BMGC to honor five inductees, who will now be considered Hall of Famers for life. Following dinner at McLindon's, the festivities for the official induction of the sixth Hall of Fame class started.

Johnny Bruce, who

serves as the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, explained the selection process to the crowd and introduced members of the selection committee.

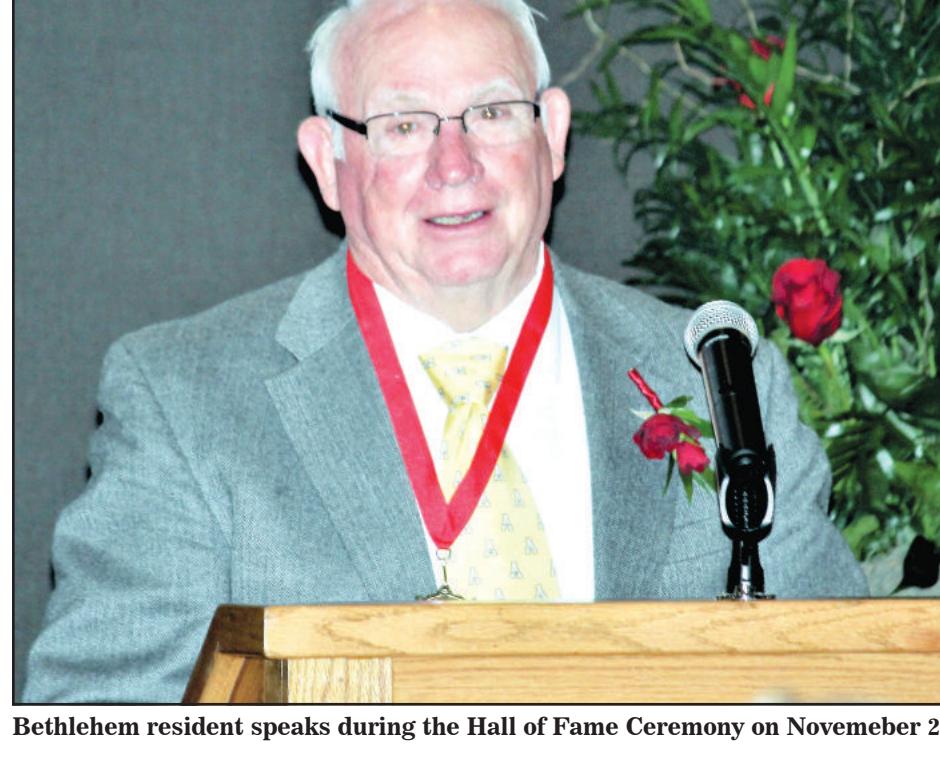
Each Hall of Famer was presented with a medallion and a Hall of Fame plaque. In addition, the Hall of Fame inductees will be honored with a plaque featuring their individual busts. These plaques will be permanently displayed at the entrance to the Alexander Central High School gymnasium.

Master of Ceremonies Richard C. Gilbert of WACB

Radio introduced each inductee. Bruce and selection committee member Anna Ferguson conducted the official induction, presenting each person with a Hall of Fame Medal and a plaque. Following the official induction of each new member, speeches were delivered by all five Hall of Famers.

Prior to the induction of this year's class, the Hall of Fame Selection Committee honored the 1942 Stony Point Baseball with a "Special Team Recognition" Award.

The 1942 Stony Point High School Baseball Team • See HALL OF FAME Page 11



Bethlehem resident speaks during the Hall of Fame Ceremony on November 20.

Ritchie celebrates 90th Birthday with TPD Gathering



LOCAL OFFICERS HONOR FORMER POLICE CHIEF RITCHIE

This week, officers of the Taylorsville Police Department reflected on the history of the department. On Sunday, December 3, 2017, family, friends, and members of the law enforcement community gathered to celebrate Johnson Ritchie's ninetieth birthday (which actually happened to be on December 6). Johnson Ritchie was Chief of the Taylorsville Police Department from 1971 to 1993, when he retired from law enforcement. Prior to his time at the Taylorsville Police Department, he worked as a Deputy Sheriff under Alexander County Sheriff Ted Little. There were numerous officers who served under Chief Ritchie in attendance. Pictured above, left to right: Lieutenant Kermit Sipe (1969-1994), Chief Dennis James (1991 to present), Chief Ritchie, Officer Gordon Knight (1986 to present), Chief Tony Jones (1988-2014), and Chief Deputy Tod Jones (1988-1990). Many remarks were made about the successful careers officers have had who got their start during Chief Ritchie's tenure. Sheriff Chris Bowman (not shown) remarked how much the relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department improved during the Johnson Ritchie era. The most common theme was Chief Ritchie's work ethic. His willingness to work hard all his life is likely the key to his longevity and respect in the community. *



BBC youths took part in a food drive Turkey Raid to deliver turkeys and fixings to deserving families in the community. Pictured above, left to right: front row - Ronda Deal, Cameron Wilkinson, Adyson Cook, Parker Mosteller, Jesse Crisp, Tiffany Howard, Anna Caviness, Bree King; middle row - Orian Crowe, April Benfield, Kalyee Crews, Mason James, Matthew Austin, Ryann Austin, Curtis Evans, and Harrison Santillon; back row - Jacob Deal, Michael Johansen, Isaac Austin, Erin Gibson, and Hunter McKinley. *

Bethlehem Baptist Youth Turkey Raid brings holiday meals to local families

The Bethlehem Baptist Church youth group invited church members to donate specific food items each week of the month in November leading up to the Turkey Raid day. Twenty-four youth and adults delivered a turkey and fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal, as well as some extra items, to 16 families in the Bethlehem community. Families were identified by a guidance counselor at one of the local schools.

"I'm proud of our young people," says Dr. Wayne Caviness, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church. "They have a heart for others and worked very hard all afternoon." The Rock 127

Youth group is for anyone in grades 6 through 12. They enjoy a full schedule of opportunities for Bible study, fun activities, hanging out, and mission projects.

Bethlehem Baptist Church is a family of believers committed to Jesus Christ. If you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we would be delighted to tell you how trusting in Jesus Christ can bring comfort to your life now and ensure you a place in heaven forever. If you are already a Christian and looking for a church home, please consider joining Bethlehem Baptist Church. Become a vital participant in what God is doing through our church family to reach our community and the world for Christ. For more information about Bethlehem

Christmas in Bethlehem Drive-thru postponed until this weekend

The Christmas in Bethlehem Drive-thru, originally scheduled for last weekend (Dec. 8, 9, and 10), had to be postponed because of weather and will be held this weekend, December 15, 16 and 17, from 6:30 - 9:00 nightly. The drive-thru is located on property adjacent to the Fellowship Advent Christian Church (on Fellowship Church Road at the intersection of Fellowship Church and Icard Ridge Roads one mile south of West Middle School and one mile west of Highway 127). Those wishing to stroll through the village may don costumes inside and interact with the cast in the village and refreshments are also provided in the kitchen area. The event is free of charge and will be a highlight of the Christmas season for any who attend!

Included will be over 25 scenes depicting Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth, with peasants, prophets, shepherds, soldiers, kings, angels, and a cast of over 75 characters. New this year will be a few scenes depicting His life and ministry.

In recent years this celebration has received media coverage from the New York Times and a photo spread in the Advent Christian Witness national magazine. Also, it has been featured in the

USA Weekend magazine, appearing in 620 newspapers across the country. Visitors have traveled each year from Charlotte and beyond to witness this inspirational event, last year totaling nearly 1,000 guests. The public is cordially invited to join those visitors who will attend this year. *

Alexander All-Star Talent Show planned in February 2018

The Alexander All-Star Talent Show will be held on Saturday, February 3, at 6:00 PM at the Alexander Central Auditorium. The FREE community event will be hosted by Andrea Pennell and Janice Gilliam in conjunction with the Alexander Central Auditorium. Free participation is open to children and teens ages 11-18 years old. Individuals and teams are welcome to participate. Entry deadline is January 5, 2018. Contact Christine to register at 828.632.1366 or cdeal@alexander.k12.nc.us

"Yes, you will. Yes you can. Because you're worth it. Everyone has a talent. It's your time to shine!" said Christine Deal, Auditorium Director. *

Wills among Tarheels honored at Dean Dome last month



During the November 29, North Carolina game vs. Michigan, the Tar Heels honored members of the 1993 championship team. It was 25 years ago that they won the National Championship, beating these same Wolverines. Alexander Central Head Basketball Coach Ed Wills, pictured above, served as the Team Manager for Coach Dean Smith on the 1993 Championship Team and was among the team members honored at the Dean E. Smith Center during the UNC win. The Tar Heels topped the Wolverines 86-71 as part of the ACC vs. Big Ten Challenge. *



WAMS Beta Club Induction held

Earlier this fall, West Alexander Middle School held its Annual Beta Club induction for students who standout in the classroom. The 2017 inductees are pictured above from the left. First row: Karen Kerley, Anna Coxey, Haley Lail, Justin Taylor, Layna West, Hailey Bryant, Elizabeth Boles, Rachel Anderson, and Carlie Stafford. Second row: Colby Clark, Abigail Teague, Nolan Heath, Maya Adams, Jackson Reid, Bodie King, Grayson Lail, Jocelyn Longinos, Grace Douglas, and Michelle Vick. Third row: Andrew Bumgarner, Anna Reid, Chase Bostian, Harrison Brashear, Nicholas Blackburn, Weston Pratt, Cade Miller, Rachel Bishop, Josh Barkley, Kaitlyn Walker, Serena Lee, and Abigail Serrill. *

Next Star prints January 18

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be

printed on Thursday, January 18, 2018. The dead-

line for advertising and correspondence is Tuesday,

January 16, 2018, before 5 pm.