



ACADEMIC PROGRESS — Eight schools were recognized for achieving the goal of expected academic progress in the NCDPI North Carolina Academic Growth Awards for the 2016-2017 School Year at the Alexander County Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Pictured above front row from left are: Taylorsville Elementary School Principal Janel Lingle, Bethlehem Elementary School Principal Jill Peek, Wittenburg Elementary School Principal Mary Brown. Back row from left: Alexander Central High School Principal Doug Rhoney, East Alexander Middle School Assistant Principal Jacob Lail, Sugar Loaf Elementary School Principal Cary Cash, and West Alexander Middle School Principal Chad Maynor.



EIGHT BAPTIZED AT BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH — Eight individuals followed Jesus Christ in baptism (Matthew 28:19-20) on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, during the morning service at Bethlehem Baptist Church: Blake Cook, Raegan Sharpe, Rilyn Sharpe, Gracie Evans, Abi Icard, Claire Santillon, Ali Icard, and Makayla Williams. BBC congregation thanks Joy Baptist Church for the use of their portable baptistry. To learn more about a relationship with Jesus Christ, call 828-495-7250 or visit www.bethlehembc.org/believe/jesus. Bethlehem Baptist Church is located at 7500 NC Hwy 127N, Taylorsville, NC.

Alex Hospice to hold Grief Support Group

The death of a loved one is the most profound emotional experience most of us will ever have to endure. Although friends and family members may be very supportive following a death, there are times when society seems to feel the grieving person should be ready to "return to normal." This may happen long before one's journey through the grief process has been completed. Support groups for those grieving the loss of a loved one are helpful by offering support and encouragement to one another through the grief process.

Hospice and Home Care of Alexander, Inc. will be hosting a four-week grief support program in the Conference Room of

the Hospice and Home Care of Alexander County facilities located at 50 Lucy Echerd Lane in Taylorsville. This support group is free to the community and is for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one - it is not limited to those served by Hospice. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Heather Elliott, Hospice Bereavement Counselor at 828-632-5026.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, Hospice & Home Care of

Fellowship Church to host spaghetti festival Sat.

Fellowship Advent Christian Church of Bethlehem will be hosting a special Spaghetti Festival on Saturday, February 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., to which the public is cordially invited. The evening will include live entertainment featuring a variety of local talent, door prizes, and a delicious spaghetti supper (including salad, bread, and dessert). There is no set admission cost, but donations will gladly be accepted toward the church's bus fund. Folks will be free to drop in anytime between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to enjoy a great meal, good fellowship and fine musical fare as they eat. Carry-out meals WILL be available.

Fellowship Advent Christian Church is located in the Bethlehem community at 833 Icard Ridge Road, one mile west of Hwy. 127 and one mile south of West Alexander Middle School, at the intersection of Icard Ridge and Fellowship Church Roads. For further information, please call the church office at (828) 495-8086.

Alexander County, Inc. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. is committed to helping both patients

Christian Fellowship to hold breakfast Sat., Feb. 17

Christian Fellowship Church will hold a breakfast on Saturday, February 17, from 7:00 - 10:00 am. The church is located at 455 Friendship Church Rd., Taylorsville. The menu will include bacon, country ham, sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, grits and pancakes. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a good breakfast.

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ECA clubs have continued to serve community for more than a century

By Der Holcomb
FCS Extension Agent,
NC Cooperative Ext.

More than a century ago, the Extension and Community Association (ECA) or what was originally known as the Home Demonstration Clubs was formed as the volunteer leaders of the Family and Consumer Sciences of North Carolina Cooperative Extension Services to help lead families from a struggling rural economy to a prosperous diverse economy that encompasses both rural and urban lifestyles.

ECA is a grassroots association that has actively addressed the needs of families in their perspective communities for the last one hundred years. First formed in 1913 in fourteen counties, the clubs sought to improve the quality of life for their families and their neighboring families by dispensing research-based information and technique taught by Extension Home Demonstration Agents through practices, example, and community club work. During the Great Depression, the clubs were able to weather the greatest fiscal storm of the twentieth century through county curb markets. These clubs assisted communities and families suffering from the Depression and establish "Community Chests" where they collected food, clothing, and fuel to hand out.

As the years changed, many aspects of ECA evolved from their name to their members but one

thing remains the same and that is their goal to serve the community in which they live in. With dwindling numbers, ECA club members have strived to always carry out the missions and goals of the club and universities. Just recently, the Alexander ECA Club members collected and donated well over 200 items to Caring Hearts Pregnancy Care Center and over 24 throw blankets to the Family Care Center in Alexander County. As a club member, they are expected

to complete at least four service project in a year.

If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful group, the clubs will be having their first area meeting at the Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center. Club members will tour the facility to understand more about their organization and collecting items for the center. For additional information, please call our office at 828-632-3125 or email Der Holcomb at dxiong3@ncsu.edu.



ECA COLLECTS BABY ITEMS — Local Extension and Community Association (ECA) club leaders are shown above with the items collected for Caring Hearts Pregnancy Care Center, from left to right: Wanda Stafford, Der Holcomb, Micki Earp, and Ella Mae Nichols.



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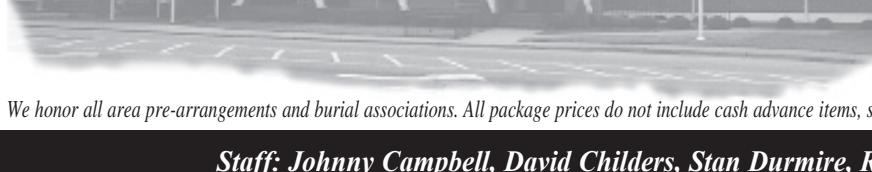
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