The Bethlehem Star

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Bethlehem resident starring in new Luke Combs' music video

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.

Alexander County resident Courtney Little is currently starring in a country music video for one of the hottest acts in Nashville. Little, who is a 2017 graduate of Alexander Central High School, is the lead actress in Luke Combs' new video for "One Number Away." Courtney is the daughter of Gail and Buddy Little of the Bethlehem Community,

ON SET - Courtney Little displays her full FX makeup during shooting of "One Number Away", the latest video for Country Music star Luke Combs. ★

Combs is a native of Asheville and is currently one of the hottest country music acts in the Music City. His newest video was released on January 29, and Little plays the lead role in the piece.

"Being the lead actress in the Luke Combs' "One Number Away" music video was so surreal. When I was asked to be a part of it, I was so excited! I mean seriously, who doesn't love country music and Luke Combs?" Little said. "We worked very hard for a week and filmed many different scenes in the small town of Forest City, NC. My favorite part was the car wreck scene, my special FX makeup was awesome! The video was so amazing and it's so cool to see all of it come together. I would like to thank everyone for supporting me and congratulating me. I can't wait for you all to see what is next."

Little is no stranger to the camera or being in the spotlight. A cheerleader at West Alexander Middle School and ACHS during her school days, she is currently a member of the Charlotte Hornets Honeybees Dance Team. She is joined on the Honeybees squad by older sister Laura. Just last weekend, Little completed her reign as Miss Teen North Carolina United States. She currently resides in Charlotte and plans to enroll at UNC Charlotte next fall.

The video is available to view as several spots online and can be seen on CMT or GAC on cable or satellite TV. To see the video online go to www.lukecombsmusic.com, www.cmt.com, or www.greatamericancountry.com.★

Scenes from Luke Combs "One Number Away" video released January 29.

West Alexander's Brown wins County Geography Bee; Warner is Runner-up

The Alexander County Middle School Geography Bee was held Thursday, January 11, 2018, at the Alexander County Board of Education office. Michael Brown, West Alexander Middle School student, was the winner of the county competition. Adan Warner, West Alexander Middle School student, was the second place winner.

The format of the competition included interactive rounds where students responded electronically. They were also asked to complete a map identifying middle eastern countries. Moderator for the event, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Hefner read the questions aloud.

A total of eleven students from the middle schools competed. One was absent from the event. Each school conducted competitions to determine who would advance to the county level.

The judges for the event were Technology Facilitator Jamie Curtis and Career and Techincal Education (CTE) Director Susan Gantt. Central Office Director Teresa Smeeks was in charge of technology.

Middle School winners who advanced to the county competition were:

EAMS
Sara Diaz
Hunter Jamison
Lillian Haney
Jacob White*
Myla Ratchford
Noah Palinkas

WAMS
Michael Brown
Garrett Jolly
Noah Foster
Adan Warner
Connor Wingler
Shaere Delgiudice

*Jacob White was absent from the district competition. ★

The Alexander County Middle School Geography Bee was held Thursday, January 11, at the Alexander County Board of Education office. Michael Brown, West Alexander Middle School student, was the winner of the county competition. Adan Warner, West Alexander Middle School student, was the second place winner. The top-two placers are pictured with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jennifer Hefner. ★

Alexander's Castellaw & Godfrey earn top five finishes at NCHSAA 3A Indoor Track Championships

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.

A pair of Alexander Central runners earned top-five finishes at the NCHSAA 3A Indoor Track and Field State Championships held at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem on Saturday, February 10.

ACHS senior Bryson Godfrey and sophomore Cooper Castellaw led eight ACHS participants at the state finals with top five finishes in individual events.

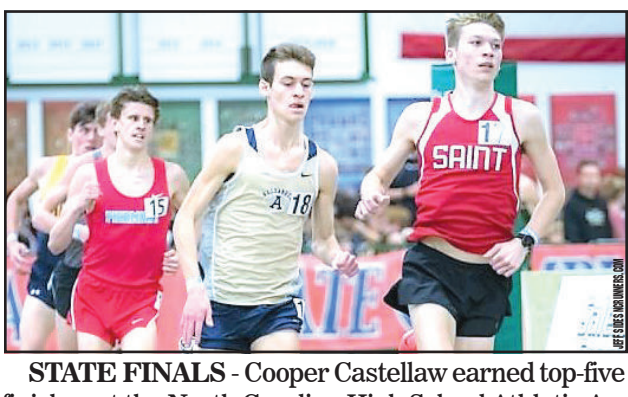
Godfrey posted a time of 6.55 to claim fourth place overall in the 3A 55-meter sprint. The senior sprinter added a fifth-place showing in the 300-meter dash with his time of 35.72.

Castellaw posted a pair of personal best times on the way to a fifth place showing in the 3,200-meter run and a sixth place finish in the 1,600-meter run. Castellaw ran a time of 9:39.24 in the 3,200 and a time of 4:25.67 in the 1,600-meter event.

Jesse Schronce, a junior jumper for the Cougars, placed 10th in the high jump and 25th overall in the triple jump.

In addition to the dual competitors, five more Cougar athletes competed at the finals. Logan Ellis ran to an 11th place finish in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:42.28. In hurdles, senior Donovan Smith finished 18th among the men with a time of 8:40 in the 55-meter race.

On the women's side, three ACHS ladies competed on Saturday at JDL. Chesney Price reached 8'6" to place 12th in pole vault, while Sage Harrington placed 14th in triple jump with a distance of 32'5". In throwing, Alexander's Madison Ratchford was 17th overall with a distance of 30'10.5" in the women's shot put. ★



STATE FINALS - Cooper Castellaw earned top-five finishes at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 3A Indoor State Championships this past weekend in Winston Salem. Castellaw was fifth in the 3,200-meter run and sixth in the 1,600-meter run. ★

ACC Barnstorming Tour returning to ACHS April 12

On Thursday, April 12, the ACC All-Stars will return to Alexander County for a basketball game at Alexander Central High School. The ACC All-Star team will be coached by UNC legend Phil Ford and former Duke standout Nolan Smith. The ACC roster will be announced soon, as will the roster of the team opponent, an all star team from the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference.

General Admission tickets for the game are only $12 presale and $15 at the door. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for $50 each. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and the game will tip off at 7:30 pm.

For the past 39 years, The Sumner Group has sponsored and coordinated the ACC Barnstorming Tour. Over the years, the Tour has provided a rare up-close-and-personal look at such standout players as Michael Jordan, Len Bias, Dereck Whittenburg, Tyler Hansbrough, Nolan Smith, and Tyler Zeller to fans of all ages across the southeastern United States. This season promises to be another exciting year in Barnstorming history. The tour will consist of 10 games over three weeks following the completion of the NCAA Final Four in April.

In addition to the basketball games, each stop will also consist of a 3-point contest and a dunk contest. Players will be available following the game for a limited autograph session with general admission ticketholders. VIP ticketholders will enjoy reserved front row seating to the game, a post game reception with the ACC All-Stars, and a photo/autograph session.

A portion of the proceeds from each game will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Additional proceeds will also benefit the Alexander Central High School Cougar Club. *Follow us on Facebook at ACC Barnstorming Tour and on Twitter @ACCBarnstorming.

Tickets for the game will be available soon online and at selected ticket outlets across Alexander County. ★

Noted Evangelist, Writer, and Apologist will speak at Bethlehem Baptist Church

Alex McFarland, noted speaker and apologist, will be speaking at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7500 NC Hwy 127N, Taylorsville, NC, on Saturday, March 3, from 1 to 5pm, and Sunday, March 4, from 9 to 11:30am.

One of the leading figures in apologetics, McFarland has been interviewed by Billy Graham, James Dobson, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Chuck Colson, and CBS, Fox and NBC news.

In 2000, through the 50-States-50-Days Tour of Truth, McFarland and his ministry conducted a crusade that made appearances in every state. The crusade across America included 64 evangelistic services and became the subject of his first book, followed by STAND: Core Truths You Must Know for an Unshakable Faith, released in 2005.

Since October of 2004, he has been on the staff of Focus on the Family, traveling and speaking before various audiences, writing for periodicals, organizing apologetics conferences and speaking to the media on topics relating to the Christian world

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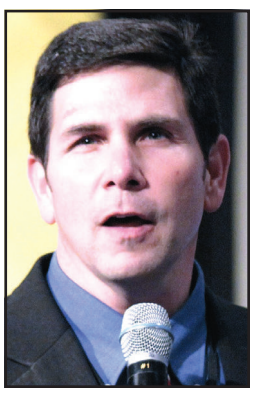

McFARLAND

Bethlehem Elem. duo are top spellers in Alexander

C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N — The 2018 Alexander County Schools Spelling Bee Champion is Carter Payne (left), a third-grader at Bethlehem Elementary School; Runner-up is Brianna Jimison (right), a fifth-grader at Bethlehem School. They are shown with Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Hefner. ★

Eighteen students representing Alexander County's elementary and middle schools took the stage at Alexander Central Auditorium on Monday, February 12, 2018, to compete for the top honor of Spelling Bee Champion. A third-grade student from Bethlehem Elementary School, Carter Payne, emerged as the 2018 Alexander County Spelling Bee Champion. Brianna Jimison, a fifth-grade student from Bethlehem Elementary School placed second in the county-wide event. The competition was won with the words influenza and oolong. Students successfully spelled words like retrospective, chinchilla, pueblo, ventiliate, and layette.

Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Hefner welcomed contestants and guests to Alexander Central Auditorium for the competition. Cristi Julsrud, East Alexander Middle School Teacher, served as the pronouncer. Judges for the event were central office directors Teresa Smeeks and Susan Gantt along with Amy Dawson, Digital Innovation & Learning Specialist for Alexander County Schools. Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Betsy Curry assisted Dr. Hefner with presenting the awards.

Payne will advance to the regional competition in Winston-Salem on Sunday, March 18, 2018. ★

Next Star prints March 15

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Tuesday., March 13, 2018, before 5 pm.

LRU's Madi Suddreth Named AstroTurf SAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week

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