

• 2018 NWC TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS •



**CHAMPIONSHIP HAT TRICK FOR CASTELLAW** - Alexander Central High School junior Cooper Castellaw posted first place finishes in the 800, 1,600, and 3,200 meter runs to lead the Cougar Men to a runner-up finish at the NW 3A/4A Conference Championship held at Watauga High School on May 2.

## Cougar athletes place second at NWC Track & Field Championships

ACHS Teams earn runner-up finishes in Boone May 2

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.

Juniors Cooper Castellaw and Lyndon Strickland posted multiple individual championship performances for the ACHS Men's Track & Field Team during the Cougars' runner-up performance at the NW 3A/4A Conference Championships held May 2, at Watauga High School in Boone.

The Alexander Central Teams placed second behind 2018 league champions Watauga in both the men's and women's championship meets.

In distance events, Castellaw captured the NWC title in the 800, 1,600, and 3,200 meter runs. Castellaw posted strong times in all three races as he dominated the distance events with his three victories. He recorded a time of 2:02.85 to take the 800-meter title and posted a time of 4:36.29 in the men's 1,600-meter (one mile) run. In the 3,200-meter (two miles) run, he recorded a time of 9:48.54.

Strickland was the other multi-event winner for Alexander in the men's discus and shot put. Strickland recorded a conference best throw of 157'11" to win the discus and won the shot put with a throw of 48'4". Alexander's Isaac Chapman

placed second in the men's shot put to earn All-Conference honors.

Jesse Schronce claimed the men's high jump conference championship with a height of 6'2". He added a fourth place showing in the men's long jump.

ACHS also earned All-Conference with Logan Ellis (second place) in the 400-meter dash and in the 4x100 meter relay with a runner-up finish.

The Lady Cougar Track Team also finished second in the Boone meet. Alexander claimed a pair of conference championships in individual events. Chesney Price was the winner of the NWC pole vault title with a jump of 9'0. In the women's discus, Alexander Madison Ratchford posted a first-place finish with a 106'9" throw.

Other All-Conference performances were earned by the following Lady Cougar athletes:

- Lexsis Mayberry, second - 400-m;
- Brianna Abernathy, 2nd - high jump;
- Key Key Miller, 2nd - triple jump;
- Kacey Payne, second place - shot put;
- 4x100 relay, second place;
- 4x200 relay, second place;
- 4x400 relay, second place;
- 4x800 relay, second place.

## Wells wins primary

**Wells takes State Senate District 42 Republican Primary**  
N.C. State Senator Andy Wells of District 42 has won the Republican nomination, defeating Alexander County challengers Dustin Long, of Stony Point, and Ryan Huffman, of Hiddenite, and Catawba County candidate Mark Hollo, according to unofficial results in the May 8 Primary election. Wells will face Democrat Ric Vandett in November.

Overall in the District (Alexander & Catawba), Wells garnered 9,000 votes (47.47%), with Hollo next at 6,495 (34.25%) followed by Huffman with 2,232 (11.77%) and Long had 1,234 (6.51%).

In Alexander County, Hollo easily took the county with 1,046 votes. Wells had less than half that, with 488 votes in Alexander, followed by 58 votes for Huffman and 30 for Long.

"I appreciate the strong support I received across the district and look forward to continuing our work next week, as the Session begins, to improve the quality of life in Alexander and Catawba counties," Wells told *The Times* on Tuesday night in an emailed statement.

**Single-digit voter turnout noted in Alexander, Caldwell**

Mid-term primaries often are plagued by low voter turnout. Alexander had 8.84% turnout (2,140 out of 24,205 registered voters cast ballots), Caldwell saw 7.48% (4,063 out of 54,288 voters), and Iredell had 9.57% (11,281 out of 117,885). Remaining neighbors Wilkes County had 18.31% (7,807 out of 42,643 voters) and Catawba County contests brought 24.01% turnout (19,033 out of 79,270 voters).

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## Alex. Library, HMA present "She Persisted: Women of Civil Rights Movement" Exhibit

In their new exhibit, "She Persisted: Coretta Scott King and Women of the Civil Rights Movement," the Alexander County Library and Hickory Museum of Art have partnered to offer perspectives on the lives of women whose courage changed the course of history.

In an open call for "She Persisted," regional artists of all ages were asked to explore visual interpretations of the lives, legacies, written, or spoken words of women whose sacrifices in pursuit of Civil Rights helped form a more perfect Union.

Artists were encouraged to submit two pieces for the show, allowing participation in two exhibit locations: the Alexander County Library in Taylorsville and Hickory Museum of Art's off-site Around Town exhibit space at Atlanta Bread Company in Hickory. Both exhibits will be on display May 7 - June 30, 2018 and are free to visit.

The Alexander County Library will host an Art After Hours reception honoring all exhibiting artists on Friday, May 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Main Library, which is located at 77 First Avenue SW in Taylorsville.

Art After Hours will include an artist talk and light refreshments. This special evening will feature performances inspired by the Civil Rights Movement. In a moving performance, #teenhandz, a local group of young people who perform sign language and praise dance, will share their interpretation of "Stand Up for Something" by Andra Day featuring Common. The reception will also feature a musi-

cal performance of "If You Knew My Story," from the Broadway musical "Bright Star," by Abigail Young and a group reading of the Pearl Cleage poem, "We Speak Your Names." The event is free to attend and all are welcome. To learn more, visit [www.alexanderlibrary.org](http://www.alexanderlibrary.org) or call (828) 632-4058.

Co-curated by Alexander Main Library Exhibit Curator, Miranda Burgin, and Hickory Museum of Art Associate Director, Clarissa Starnes, this unique concept has created two dynamic exhibits, strengthened by diversity and bound by a common purpose.

"By asking artists to shine a light on the stories of women of the Civil Rights Movement, we have created a space for art to do what art does best," said Miranda Burgin, "Art tells stories that the writers of history may choose to forget or may never have known."

"The artists of "She Persisted" have created a profoundly moving and deeply personal exhibit, honoring multi-generational women who paved the way alongside the women who still march for freedom," Burgin went on to say. "This evolution of our theme reflects Coretta Scott King's own words, 'Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation.'"

"It's exciting to have this opportunity to partner with another organization in our region that is as passionate about showcasing local artists as we are," said Clarissa Starnes. She concluded with "This exhibition has a powerful message and we are excited to join with the library on this collaboration of unit-

ing our local communities together as one."

The public is invited to attend the exhibit reception at Atlanta Bread Company in Hickory on June 14. Hickory Museum of Art will host a reception on Thursday, June 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Atlanta Bread Company, located at 1756 Catawba Valley Blvd SE, Hickory. "Around Town" featured artists will be in attendance to provide insight into inspiration behind their artwork. Enjoy a bowl of soup, salad, or tasty sandwich from Atlanta Bread's extensive menu. As always, HMA members receive membership 10% off total purchase when presenting their membership card.

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