

IN THE SHADOW OF HOGAN'S MOUNTAIN

BY DR. WARREN HOLLAR, WHOLLAR@CHARTER.NET

Farmers, North and South, a Tough Bunch

My wife and I recently took a trip to Alberta and British Columbia to see the Rocky Mountains. We left North Carolina with a forecast of inches of rain from Hurricane Florence. The forecast for our destination was for the possibility of light rain and small amounts of snow. Fortunately, we packed middleweight coats and clothes that could be layered. From the day after we arrived until we left Calgary, it snowed every day, and, on some days, we saw blizzard conditions. Little did we know that the blizzard-like conditions were weather anomalies for late summer in Alberta just as the arrival of a major hurricane was a weather anomaly in North Carolina.

As we flew over southern Alberta toward Calgary I noticed the huge patchwork of grain fields dominating the landscape. The colors of the fields reminded me of late June or early July in the Southern United States. I didn't know that Septem-

ber was harvest month for wheat, barley, and canola in Alberta.

As we traveled toward Banff National Park and the Rocky Mountains, I noticed the grain fields covered by snow and the sagging stalks of grain. I wondered about the impact on the farmers of Alberta.

I make it a practice to talk with residents of any area where we travel. By coincidence, several of our nearby breakfast or dinner seatmates were farmers from the area. After finding out we were from North Carolina, the Alberta farmers expressed great concern for their farming neighbors to the south affected by the wrath of Hurricane Florence. Not realizing the major impact that a late summer snow storm on Alberta grain farmers, I asked one older gentleman from Red Deer whose farm consisted of over 4,000 acres of grain the impact the snow would have on his crop. To my surprise, the old farmer,

Big Joe, said he might not be able to salvage over half his grain crop. He indicated that there needed to be a dry spell to keep the grain heads from mildewing and rotting in the field. Even if the crop dried out sufficiently, the farmers would need to use a different type of combine and head on the reapers to harvest the crop. Unfortunately, much of the crop would have to be sold for animal feed.

Big Joe, who was at least 85 and with the stereotypical weathered appearance one might expect from a Canadian farmer, demonstrated a wonderful sense of humor that kept both my wife and I in stitches. He said the young people today were just soft. As a young boy, Big Joe said he walked uphill both ways the five miles to his one room schoolhouse while fighting off the bears and mountain lions. He expressed a great sense of the power of God and the impact of the weather. He had little use for the politicians from Ottawa and Washington. He

was not a bit hesitant to express his views about their capabilities for understanding farmers and the fuss they were having over farm tariffs. After being chastised by his well-preserved petite wife, Big Joe grudgingly admitted he was like many farmers in their distaste for any politician who had never sat in the seat of a tractor. He didn't see the need to disrupt the ways it used to be—just be good neighbors.

So, what did I learn? Farming is a precarious occupation that the public often takes for granted. Farmers in both the north and south are impacted by the ravages of weather, whether it be flooding, hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, or hail storms. The changes in weather, political decisions about tariffs, and an ever-changing market for the bounty of the bread basket of both Canada and the United States warrant careful consideration in maintaining the equilibrium for their successful operations. Otherwise, we will not only pay the increased prices in our grocery stores, but also face the reality of a diminishing number of citizens who choose to face the hardships of changing markets and uncertain weather. Next time you pick up some product created from grain in the grocery store, remember the hardships faced by those who till the soil for our benefit.

Homecoming set at Shiloh Lutheran

Shiloh Lutheran Church will be celebrating Homecoming and Heritage Day on Sunday, September 23. The guest preacher will be Pastor Ron Orovitz. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite dishes for the covered dish meal.

This will be a special day for Shiloh as the Word of God, videos of congregational fellowship, worship and other activities will be shared during lunch. Following lunch, memories will be shared along with accomplishments over the past year and also a look into what the future holds for the church.

All former members are invited to attend and enjoy a day of worship, food, fellowship, and fun. The day will begin at 9:10 a.m. with Sunday School opening (song); Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. David Hefner. Shiloh Lutheran is located at 1011 Shiloh Church Road. Turn at the intersection of Shiloh Church Road and Hubbard Road in Bethlehem. For more information, call the church office at 828-495-7462.



I am proud to be an insurance agent

My job is to protect your family.

Business and Personal Lines

- Auto • Homeowners • Commercial
- Life • Health

GGI Garry Goble Insurance



1353 NC Hwy. 16 S.
Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-635-6886

GARRY GOBLE

RICK BUMGARNER

COUNTRYTOWN

828-324-0051



TIRE & AUTO SERVICES CENTER
125 8th St. Dr. SE
(LR Blvd.) Hickory



Complete Auto Service



ACHS Athletic Boosters Club holding Port-A-Pit Fundraiser

The Alexander Central High School Athletic Booster Club has planned a Port-A-Pit Chicken Fundraiser on Saturday, October 27, from 11 am until 2 pm. For a \$10 donation, you can get a Port-A-Pit Chicken with sides, dessert, & drink included. The event is scheduled for the ACHS Cafeteria. Proceeds go to ACHS Athletic Booster Club. Tickets can be purchased from Booster Club members & at the following locations:

* Peoples Drug Store

* Taylorsville Savings Bank Taylorsville Branch

* First Community Bank

* Burger Basket

* PJ's Seafood and Steak

* Sipe Lumber & Sipe Wholesale

* Alexander Central High School Office

* ACHS Football Games



ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



CareCredit Patient Payment Plans

24 Month Interest FREE Financing for any amount over \$200.

\$100 OFF
Zoom Whitening with Philips Zoom in-office whitening.

FREE Custom Sports Mouth Guards For any ACHS Sports Player

You can unlock a smile up to 8 shades whiter in just 45 minutes

Back to School Kid Special

\$125

Children under 12 years old normally \$180 now through Sept. 30, 2018

Preventive Dental Sealants \$25 Each (normally \$45)

NEW & CURRENT PATIENTS

TAYLORSVILLE

556 NC Hwy. 16 South
Taylorsville, NC

828-635-8510

Call anytime to schedule an appointment.

www.carolindentalcarecenter.com

Located between Wendy's and Bojangles
Hours: Mon. - Thurs.
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



ANNOUNCING . . .

Community Events

365 Daily Affirmations

Visit our website: www.alexfuneralservice.com

Send Flowers



Grief & Healing



• Current Obituaries • Visit our Web Store

Planning Ahead



Tribute Notifications



• Helpful links for grief & healing • Options for planning ahead

Alexander Funeral & Cremation Service

PO Box 40 • 193 NC Hwy 16 N., Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-635-8002 • 828-635-6248 (Obit Line)

Website: alexfuneralservice.com • Email: alexfuneralsvc@bellsouth.net

2450 North Center Street (Viewmont)
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 328-2300

BBQ Restaurant
Seafood Restaurant
Serving Bethlehem and Hickory Since 1986!

Are You Ready For Smokehouse BBQ?
CALL US FOR YOUR NEXT Tailgate Party!

Seasonal Hours
10 AM - 8 PM • Monday - Saturday
Closed Sundays