



**TEE BALL FUN AT BETHLEHEM** — Above, three members of the Bethlehem Yankees 3-4 Tee Ball Team converge on a grounder during a game in June of 2018. Pictured are John Icard, Mason Starnes, and Elizabeth Ashe as they attempt to field the ball for an out. Sign-ups for T-Ball, Softball, and Baseball are now underway through the ACPR.

## ACPR implements COVID 19 “Return to Play” plan for sports

The Alexander County Parks and Recreation Department (ACPRD) is implementing infection prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while our youth participate in fall sports. Due to state guidance, the Recreation Board and county staff approved the following sports to be played in Fall 2020: t-ball, baseball, and softball. As the State of North Carolina continues its phased reopening, ACPRD strives to provide a safe, quality athletic experience for the youth of Alexander County.

It is important that our staff, coaches, players, and parents follow the policies and procedures outlined below. The health and safety of our youth is our utmost priority; therefore, these policies will be strictly enforced. This plan will be provided to our coaches, players, parents, and community as we continue to navigate through these challenging times.

### POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR PRACTICES

- Each player's parent/guardian is required to check the player's temperature just prior to leaving the house for practice. Any child who has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater should not attend practice.
- If a player is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, headache, etc.), he/she should not attend practice.
- For those who wish to watch the practice, ACPRD encourages maintaining social distance from other spectators,

coaches, and players. Face coverings are encouraged.

- Each coach will be responsible for disinfecting all equipment after every practice.

### POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR GAMES

- Each player's parent/guardian is required to check the player's temperature just prior to leaving the house for the game. Any child who has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater should not attend the game.
- If a player is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, headache, etc.), he/she should not attend the game.
- Spectators are encouraged to maintain social distance from others, unless from the same household. Face coverings are encouraged.
- NO handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or other contact will be allowed before, during, or after each game. There will be no spitting allowed. For sportsmanship purposes, coaches and teams are asked to give a head nod or a wave to the opposing team at the conclusion of the game.
- Each coach will be responsible for disinfecting all equipment after every game.

“ACPRD recognizes that are these are difficult and challenging times. We ask everyone involved in recreation sports to do your part to help provide the most healthy and safe environment for our youth. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with these policies and procedures,” ACPRD Jon Presnell said.

that have a lot of physical contact,” Presnell said. “After several meetings with county staff, we felt it would be safer to allow t-ball, baseball, and softball. In addition, these sports didn't get to happen in the spring when the coronavirus pandemic began. Our main goals are to get recreation sports underway while making sure everyone is as safe as possible.”

The Alexander County Parks and Recreation Department (ACPRD) has announced that sign-ups for t-ball, baseball, and softball began on Monday, August 3. Due to state guidance regarding COVID-19 concerns, ACPRD decided to begin recreation sports that have less physical contact than the typical fall sports of football, soccer, cheerleading, and volleyball.

“This was a difficult decision because we know our coaches, parents, and children want to play the traditional fall sports, but the guidance from the state discourages sports

and spectators to participate.

Sign-ups for t-ball, baseball, and softball will run from August 3-24. Games should begin on September 14. Ages for t-ball are 3-4 and 5-6 years old. Ages for baseball are 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12 years old. Ages for softball are 7-8, 9-10, and 11-13 years old. Age cut-off is August 31. Registration will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Alexander County Parks & Recreation Department at (828) 632-1104.

## Signups for T-Ball, baseball & softball continue through Aug. 24

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## South Atlantic Conf. postpones fall competition to Spring 2021

HICKORY, N.C. — The South Atlantic Conference announced Friday that fall athletic competition has been postponed until the spring 2021 semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This announcement comes after the NCAA Division II President's Council announced the cancellation of fall championships earlier last week. This affects football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country and volleyball. A similar decision was announced recently by USA Triathlon to also cancel the fall championship due to ongoing precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. USA Triathlon and the CTCA are also exploring the feasibility of hosting a varsity women's collegiate triathlon season in the spring of 2021.

The seasons for the 2020-21 winter sports of men's and women's basketball and men's and women's indoor track and field remain unchanged at this time.

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the NCAA Championships this year, yet are optimistic they will be able to participate in SAC competition this spring,” said Vice President for Athletics Kim Pate. “These are difficult decisions for all involved, but the safety, health, and well-being of our student-athletes must remain our top priority. We are blessed to have outstanding coaches who are committed to developing our student-athletes not only as players but as people, and I'm confident we will be ready and prepared to get back to competing this spring when the landscape with the pandemic has hopefully improved.”

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## Winners of the Benjamin E Bower Memorial Scholarship announced

The members of the Benjamin E Bower Memorial Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the recipient of the third annual scholarship created to memorialize its namesake. This scholarship is awarded to a deserving scholar athlete from Alexander Central High School and can be used at any accredited two or four year college. The committee was also able once again to renew a scholarship for the 2018 recipient to be used in his third year at Lenoir Rhyne University.

Benjamin E Bower, son of Leo Bower and Kimberly Kelley, was a 2002 graduate of Alexander Central High School and a 2006 graduate of Appalachian State University. He grew up in the Bethlehem Community of Alexander County and excelled both scholastically and athletically throughout his childhood and young adult life. He received many accolades during his high school career. During the time he attended ACHS, he held the all-time bench pressing record and continued to set and reach new goals in this into his adult life, winning in competition in TN when he lived there. Even while battling throat cancer at UNC-CH in 2017, Benjamin continued to work out and was given the nickname of “Hardcore” by hospital staff.

Mr. Bower was also a lifelong learner and believed in the power of an education. Words used by his teachers

and coaches to describe Benjamin were: courageous, driven from within, dedicated, optimistic, of high character with superb integrity, and possessing great leadership skills. The goal of the selection committee was to find a recipient who also embodied these traits.

This year's recipient of a \$500.00 scholarship is Ms. Allie Daughtrey. Ms. Daughtrey, a 2020 graduate of ACHS, is the daughter of William and Kelly Daughtrey. She grew up in the Bethlehem area and plans to attend NC State University this fall where she will major in Fashion Textile Brand Management and Marketing.

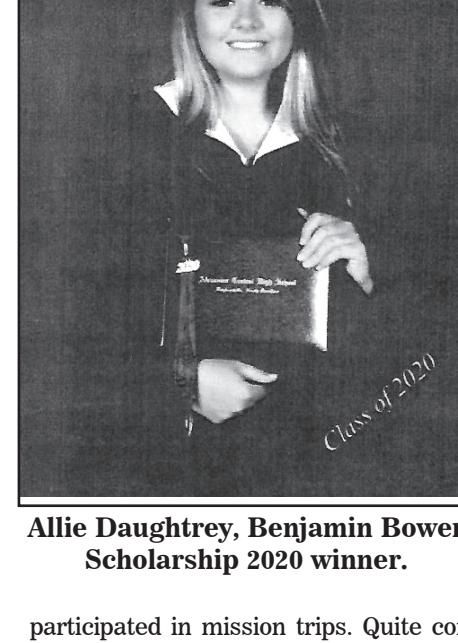
The letters of recommendation we received described Ms. Daughtrey as a smart, amiable, reliable, and sincere young woman who goes above and beyond to help others: “She is an all-around great kid with a delightfully positive attitude.” During social distancing, where attendance and grades were not issued, Allie was a regular attendee in her classes, thus showing an internal and personal commitment to furthering her education.

During her time at ACHS, Ms. Daughtrey participated in the JV and Varsity Volleyball Teams 2016-2020 and played travel volleyball 2013-2019. She was the MVP for two years and also earned NWC 3A-4A All-Conference Volleyball accolades.

Among her many club involvements are Junior and Senior Beta Club, Young Life, Cougar Connect, Spirit Club, and Chorus. She received the Girl Scout Bronze Award and is also very involved in her church as a youth leader and has



Gunnar Anderson (left), 2018 Benjamin Bower Scholarship winner, is shown with Leo Bower.



Allie Daughtrey, Benjamin Bower Scholarship 2020 winner.

participated in mission trips. Quite commendably, Allie served as a tutor in the Writing Center at ACHS and according to Dr. William Vinson, Founding Director, has shown remarkable patience and kindness with her peers.

“We are very excited to assist this promising young lady in her educational endeavors and encourage her to request a renewal scholarship annually as she progresses through her time in college!” said Mrs. Kimberly Kelley.

The scholarship committee is also pleased to announce that a \$1,000 renewal scholarship has been awarded to its first scholarship recipient, Mr. Gunnar Anderson. This will be used for his junior year at Lenoir Rhyne University. Along with contributing as a quarterback for LRU football team for the past two years, Mr. Anderson has also maintained a 3.98 GPA. Mr. Anderson, the son of Ron and Cindy Anderson of the Hiddenite Community, is majoring in Business and Finance.

“We are very proud of this outstanding young man!” said Mrs. Kelley.

The Benjamin E Bower Memorial Scholarship Board requests that the public join them in congratulating Ms. Allie Daughtrey and Mr. Gunnar Anderson on their accomplishments and in giving them continued support as they progress through their educational goals.

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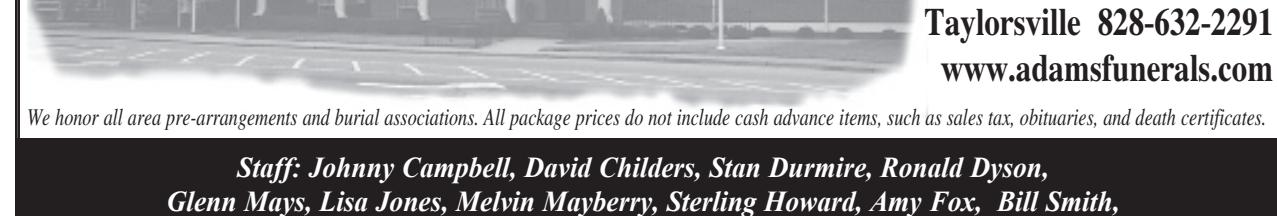
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