



# ABC

## Ribbon-cutting held at Bethlehem ABC Store



**OFFICIALLY OPEN** - The Alexander County ABC Board Members, Commission Vice Chairman Larry Yoder, store employees, and local supporters join together for a ribbon cutting to officially open the new ABC Store in Bethlehem. ★

### Doors officially opened Monday, July 27

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new Alexander County ABC Store in Bethlehem on Monday, July 27 at 9:00 a.m. Judy Caywood, Chairperson of the Alexander County ABC Board, offered her thanks to those who have supported the development of the new store.

On behalf of the Alexander County Board of Commissioners, Vice Chairman Larry Yoder cut the red ribbon to officially open the new business.

"This store has taken a lot of planning and hard work by a dedicated group of people. The only tax dollars used for this endeavor was to pay for an ABC store feasibility study; however, this store will be a revenue source for Alexander County. I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this store a reality."

Alexander County ABC Board Members include Judy Caywood - Chairperson, Donny Teague, and Gerald Davis. Ray Abernathy, Jr. is the General Manager.

The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The store is located in the Bethlehem Village Shopping Center at 9469-A NC Hwy 127, Hickory, NC 28601. For more information, call 828-598-0516. ★



**FIRST BOTTLE** - Judy Caywood, Chairperson for the Alexander County ABC Board, makes the first purchase at the new store. ★

## Starnes & Seagle voted to All-Senior West Team

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — With the season lost due to cancellations over the coronavirus pandemic, HighSchoolOT selected 35 seniors each from the eastern and western halves of the state for this year's HighSchoolOT All-Senior East and West softball teams.

After all, when you've put in three years to reach this senior year, there's a body of work that should still be recognized. Career achievements were the primary factor in considering these players, and all stats listed below are career numbers.

Two members of the 2020 Alexander Central High School Softball Team were recognized as members of the West

All-Senior Team. Seniors Mattie Starnes and Ashley Seagle, both of Bethlehem were included on the HighSchoolOT All-Senior Squad.

Mattie Starnes is the daughter of Laura and Jason Starnes. She will be playing college softball at Charlotte.

Starnes' career stats via MaxPreps: 405 BA, 85 hits, 52 RBIs, 15 doubles, 70 runs, 43 stolen bases.

Ashley Seagle will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the daughter of Ginny Eckard and Shawn Seagle.

Seagle's career stats via MaxPreps: 360 BA, 102 hits, 92 RBIs, 30 doubles 6 triples, 8 HRs, 68 runs. ★



MATTIE STARNES



ASHLEY SEAGLE

## Wells named to NCDOT Board

Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) announced on July 30 two appointments to the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

The legislature increased the oversight power of the Board and changed its composition after audits revealed wide-scale financial mismanagement at the Department of Transportation.

In a May 2020 report, Auditor Beth Wood (D) detailed how a lack of oversight, improper budgeting procedures, and general mismanagement caused each of DOT's 14 divisions to overspend its budget, creating a combined \$750 million overage.

DOT's financial mismanagement created severe cash flow challenges. Earlier this year, the agency furloughed all of its nearly 10,000 employees.

The newly constituted Board of Transportation will have a more direct oversight role in reviewing the agency's finances and ensuring proper budgeting practices. The Board must approve the agency's spend plan and other financial matters.

House Bill 77 provides the Senate President Pro Tempore and House Speaker with three appointments each to the 20-member Board of Transportation.

Sen. Berger announced the following appointees. A third appointment will be announced at a later date.

- Andy Wells lives in Catawba County and served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 2013-14 and in the N.C. Senate from 2014-2020, representing Alexander and Catawba counties. Wells brings extensive private sector financial experience to the Board of Transportation. He manages a broad portfolio of real estate projects that includes banks, office buildings, and mixed-use developments. Wells also holds two engineering degrees from N.C. State University.

- Jerry Tillman lives in Randolph County and served in the N.C. Senate from 2003-2020. Tillman came to the Senate after a career in education. He was a teacher, coach, and principal. During his tenure in the Senate, Tillman chaired the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education. ★



ANDY WELLS

## Robin's Run 2020 postponed until October 3

Robin's Run 2020 has been postponed until October 3, 2020, in order to comply with the Governor's guidelines for COVID-19, said race organizer Bob Bowen. ★

## Next Star prints September 17

The next issue of The Bethlehem Star will be printed on Thursday, September 17, 2020. The deadline for advertising and correspondence is Tuesday, September 15, 2020, before 5 pm.



**Kanupp Kennels Ribbob Cutting Held July 30**  
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# Little hurls second fastest pitch ever clocked

*Flame-throwing lefty is grandson of Taylorsville couple*

Last month, a teen flame thrower with ties to Taylorsville had his dream of playing professional baseball become a reality when he was selected in the fourth round of the Major League Baseball Draft on June 10.

Luke Little, who is the son of Billie and Ecford Little of Charlotte was the fourth-round selection of the Chicago Cubs in last month's amateur draft. He was the 117th player taken in the MLB draft which was shorted to just five rounds

due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Little has close ties to the Alexander County community as he is the grandson of Donna and Art Tomblin of Taylorsville.

A graduate of East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, Little was playing his sophomore season at San Jacinto, a junior college in Pasadena, Texas, when the coronavirus pandemic spelled the end of his team's campaign in March.

He returned to Charlotte in mid-March and was

working out with plans to transfer to the University of South Carolina this coming fall.

However, all that changed with a video of Little's May 8th workout surfaced on Twitter. In the video, the 6'8", 225-pound southpaw is seen throwing a fastball that reached 105 miles per hour on a radar gun. With that pitch, Little was clocked with the second-fastest recorded pitch in history.

The fastest pitch ever recorded was 105.1 mph by then-Reds reliever Aroldis Chapman against the Padres in San Diego in 2010.

Little officially signed his first professional contract with the Chicago Cub Organization on June 25. He was promptly assigned to the AZL Cubs Blue Team for more training. ★



**DRAFT PICK** - Luke Little, who is the grandson of Donna and Art Tomblin of Taylorsville, was the fourth round pick of the Chicago Cubs in the 2020 draft. ★



**West Alexander's Rowe voted ACS Teacher of the Year**  
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