## **Former ACHS Football** Coach, Chris Deal, passes away June 28

By D.N. PENNELL, Jr.

Former Alexander Central Head Football Coach Chris Deal lost an 18-month battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) last week when he passed away in Greenwood, SC. Deal was 50 years old.

A former lineman at Statesville High School and

Lenoir-Rhyne University, Deal's first head coaching job came at Alexander Central when he took over the program in 2001. He coached the Cougars for six seasons, earning four playoff berths. Deal and Coach Glenn Wilson are the only Cougar head coaches with multiple playoff victories, each winning two post-season games.

In Deal's final season in Taylorsville (2006), the Cougars posted a 9-4 record, including a 1-1

playoff mark. He finished with a 32-40 overall record, but saw his teams win 23 games in his last three seasons on the ACHS sideline.

After six years at ACHS, Deal became the head coach at Lexington Senior High School. He also served as the head coach at Patton and TC Roberson High School.

Deal and his family moved to Greenwood, SC, where he closed out his coaching career as an assistant coach at Emerald High School.

three children, Hannah, Luke, and John Isaac.

A celebration of life service for Deal was held on Sunday, July 3, at Saint Mark United Methodist Church

# **\*SCHOOLS:** Alex. Co. Schools announces administrative changes

 Contd. From Page 1 in psychology from UNC Asheville, a master's degree in library science, and a graduate certificate in school administration from Appalachian State University.

#### **Exceptional Children** and Student Services **Executive Director**

previously announced, Mrs. Jessica Anderson was named the exceptional children and student support services executive director, effective June 1. She replaces Dr. Robyn Helton, who retired on June 1, 2022.

Mrs. Anderson most recently served as the testing & accountability director for the school district. She served as the assistant director of exceptional children in Carteret County for over three years. She has three years of experience in administration at multiple school levels and has served as a dropout prevention director.

Mrs. Anderson has a bachelor's degree in psy-

phones which will provide

coverage when unavailable

with a cell phone. He said

that the safety of social

workers in the field is of

Board of Commissioners

typically meets on the first

Monday of each month

at 6:00 p.m. in room #103

at the CVCC Alexander

Center for Education. The

next regular meeting is

set for Monday, July 18, at

The Alexander County

extreme importance.

chology, a master's in tive July 1, 2022. She will anthropology, and a master's in school administration from East Carolina at Gateway Alternative University. Mrs. Anderson is in the doctoral education program at the University as the assistant principal of North Carolina at at East Alexander Middle Wilmington.

#### **Alexander Central High School Assistant Principals**

Mrs. Ashley Mayo will serve as the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at Alexander Central High School (ACHS) effective June 13, 2022. The position is a 12-month position. She replaces Mrs. Robinette, who was promoted to the position of federal programs and testing & accountability director.

Mrs. Mayo began at ACHS as an assistant principal in 2020. Mrs. Mayo was an educator for ten years. She began her career with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools at Ardrey Kell High School before spending eight years as a science teacher in Caldwell County. Mrs. Mayo has her bachelor's degree in biology from UNC Charlotte and a master's degree in biology from the University of West Alabama. She is currently attending Appalachian State University to receive her graduate certificate in school leadership.

Mr. Brett Huffman has been named to serve in the assistant principal position at ACHS vacated by Mrs.

Mr. Huffman served as the assistant principal and athletic director at Maiden Middle School from 2019 until June 2022. He has experience as an elementary assistant principal and teaching experience in social studies at the high school level and is certified to teach advanced placement courses. Mr. Huffman also has an extensive coaching background.

#### **ACHS Student Success** Center

Center coordinator effec- pal effective July 1, 2022.

replace Mr. Jeff Mayo, who accepted the principalship School in Caldwell County.

Ms. Johnson has served School since August 2021. Before working in Alexander County Schools, she served as the 504 Coordinator/Counselor for Iredell-Statesville Schools and as an assistant principal at Coddle Creek Elementary School, Lake Norman High School, and West Iredell High School.

#### **East Alexander Middle School**

Mrs. Jennifer Miller was named the East Alexander Middle School assistant principal effective July 1, 2022. She is filling the position vacated by Mrs. Amy Johnson's move to the coordinator position at the Student Success Center.

Mrs. Miller recently served as the instructional coach at Wittenburg Elementary School since 2020. She has over 20 years of experience in education with a master's degree in middle grades and secondary education. She is pursuing an add-on license in administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

### **West Alexander Middle School**

Ms. Jessica Mundy was named West Alexander Middle School (WAMS) assistant principal effective June 15, 2022. She is filling the position vacated by Mrs. Katelyn Nash's appointment to the principalship at WAMS.

Ms. Mundy has served as the instructional coach at Hiddenite Elementary School since July 2019. She has a master's degree in school administration from Appalachian State University and has her national board certification.

### **Hiddenite Elementary**

**School** Mrs. Amy Daigle Ms. Amy Johnson was was named Hiddenite 



**REAVIS** 



ROBINETTE ANDERSON



**MAYO** HUFFMAN



**JOHNSON** 





**MUNDY** 

**DAIGLE** 

Mrs. Daigle will fill the position vacated by Mrs. Denita Dowell-Reavis, who transitioned to the public information officer position at the district level.

Mrs. Daigle has been the assistant principal between Bethlehem and Hiddenite Elementary Schools since August 5, 2021. From 2018 to 2021, Mrs. Daigle has served as the assistant principal at East Alexander Middle School. She taught in Catawba County Schools for nine years. She has a bachelor's degree in science from Appalachian State University and a master's in school administration from UNC-Wilmington.



Coach Deal is survived by his wife, Leah, and their

in Greenwood, SC.

# **★ BUDGET:** Property tax rate unchanged

### Contd. From Page 1 to register again to receive

the notifications. · Commissioners held a

public hearing to consider approval of a tax-exempt loan from First Community Bank to the Stony Point Volunteer Fire Department (SPVFD) for the purchase of a 2024 Pierce Saber fire truck. Fire Chief Scotty Abernathy said this is the first truck to be purchased by the SPVFD since 2008. The board unanimously approved the request.

• Zack Shepherd, Vaya Community Health Relations Regional Director, presented an update to the board. He said that since Vaya and Cardinal Innovations consolidated, Vaya now serves an additional nine counties in the Piedmont area for a total of 31 counties. Vaya serves four regions, with 3. County Manager Rick years. French serves on the Vaya Shepherd then presented NC Department of Health and Human Services Child & Family Specialty greatly increase the populations served in the fos-Vaya has some concerns about the CFSP and hopes some changes will occur

• In the County Manager's in the amount of \$650,000 for the renovation of county property located at Taylorsville. More details will be discussed at the July meeting.

Health Assessments. The purchase several satellite and businesses will need 2021 SOTCH was submitted to NCDHHS on February 8 and was approved on April 12. The report is available online at https://alexander-

health.org. Kristy Hunt, Senior Center Director, said that local seniors are enjoying games, gatherings, and birthday lunches at the senior center once again with participation up at all three locations. The center continues to assist with Medicare plans with savings of \$46,772 so far this year. A Senior Celebration was held on May 27 with live music, lunch, a fun walk, games, and door priz-

Thomas Mitchell, DSS Director, said that employee recruitment is improving from a vacancy rate of 23 percent to only 7-8 percent, noting that DSS is now as fully staffed as it Alexander County in Region has been in the past three

In terms of foster care. Health Board of Directors. he said the majority of children heing removed information regarding the Taylorsville, with no foster parents in Taylorsville. The fewest removals are in Bethlehem where the Plan (CFSP), which would majority of foster parents are. Mitchell said that the DSS staff wants to keep ter care program. He said foster children as close to their home and school as possible, so they are working on foster parenting before the plan is rolled classes in the Taylorsville

The new director also Report, Mr. French said wants to provide improved the county has received communication services a Rural Transformation for DSS staff in the field, Grant from NC Commerce especially in areas of the county with little or no cell service. DSS employees will be issued a Verizon cell 16 West Main Avenue in phone so everyone has the same cell coverage, plus the department plans to





Courthouse Park

Saturday, July 16

FIREWORKS! 9:45 pm **Alexander Central High School** 

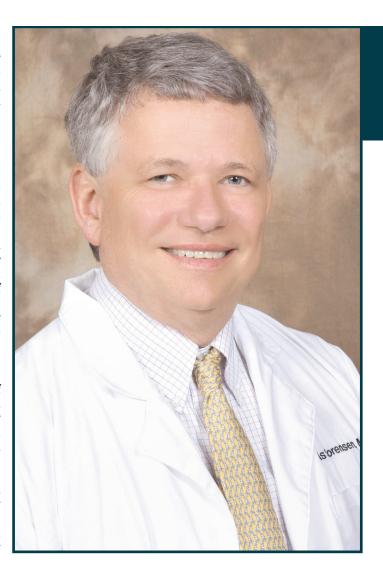


ers held a Consolidated Human Services Board meeting with updates from the health department, senior center, and department of social services.

· Dorian Maltba presented several updates for the health department. Maltba said that since Leeanne Whisnant's retirement, Billie Walker was named Interim Health Director and that she has been promoted to Director of Nursing.

Health Educator Kimberly Edmisten presented an update on the health department's accreditation progress, noting that 92 percent of local data was submitted by May 31. The dates for final local data submission are August 30-31. A hybrid reaccreditation survey is scheduled for September 1.

Edmisten also presented the 2021 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH), which is required each year between Community



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