



ALEXANDER CENTRAL GRADUATES RECEIVE RURITAN SCHOLARSHIPS — A number of students from the Bethlehem Fire District received 2026 scholarships from the Bethlehem Ruritan Club. Above, left to right: Caleb Carmichael, Addison Jack, Maddox Reese, Makayla Williams, Jacob Davis, Laney Mayberry, Kade Church, Allison Koenig, Issac Bowen, Adalynn Mitzel, and Makenna Harrell.

Ruritan Club awards \$5,800 in scholarships

The Bethlehem Ruritan Club recently awarded \$5,800 in scholarship assistance to 12 students from the Bethlehem Fire District. Students from both Alexander Central High School and Alexander Early College received scholarships this year. Dr. Warren Hollar and Jewel Clark presented scholarships and were impressed with the quality and number of applicants for the 2026 scholarships.

Each year the club recognizes one of the students as the recipient of the Tommy Hefner Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is provided in memory of Tommy Hefner, an active Ruritan member



HOPE COX
Tommy Hefner
Scholarship Recipient

and community businessman, who died from a heart condition. This year, the Bethlehem Ruritan Club awarded the Tommy Hefner Scholarship to Hope Cox. Hope is the daughter of Rachael Cox. She plans to attend NC State University where she plans to major in animal science with plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

The Bethlehem Ruritan Club provided two trades/technical scholarships with financial assistance from major sponsor Anchor Richey EVS, Rick's Truck Garage, and club fund raising activity. Trade scholarships were presented to Jacob Davis and Maddix Reece. Jacob, the son of Josh and Stephanie Davis, plans to attend Caldwell Community College to become a lineman. Maddix, the son of Heather Reece, also plans to attend Caldwell Community College to become a lineman.

Nine other recipients from Alexander Central High School included four students planning health services careers, two planning teaching careers, and

three in the field of engineering. These nine recipients include the following:

Laney Mayberry, daughter of Clint and Mila Mayberry, who plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill to major in exercise science. Her career goal is to become a physician's assistant.

Adalynn Mitzel, daughter of Beth and Shain Mitzel, will attend Appalachian State to major in exercise science. Her career goal is in physical therapy.

Makayla Williams, daughter of Amber and Brian Williams, will attend Lenoir Rhyne College with a major in nursing.

Kade Church, son of Kevin and Anna Church, will attend UNC-Charlotte to seek a fire safety engineering technology degree.

Issac Bowen, son of Amanda and Marcus Bowen, plans to attend NC State University in the area of horticulture science.

Allison Koenig, daughter of Stacie and Brian Guidry, plans to attend NC State University in the area of French world language education.

Caleb Carmichael, son

of Matthew and Ashley Carmichael, will attend Appalachian State in the area of drafting/engineering.

Addison Jack, daughter of Andi and Jeremy Jack will attend Lenoir Rhyne University to gain a BSN in nursing.

Makenna Harrell, daughter of Kristy and Richard Harrell, plans to attend Lenoir Rhyne University to pursue a major in secondary education.

Nancy Garrison, president of the Bethlehem Ruritan Club, expressed the club's appreciation for the support of local businesses, industries, and individuals in making fund raising activities successful. A special thank you goes to those businesses and individuals who provide legacy gifts to the scholarship program.

Students who are residents of the Bethlehem Fire District, graduating from Alexander Central High School or Alexander Early College, and entering their first year of college are invited to apply for Ruritan scholarships in future years.

Summer Meal Pick-up ongoing at West Alexander Middle School

To ensure your children stay nourished and healthy while school is out, Alexander County Schools is providing seven free breakfasts and seven free lunches each week for every child in your household.

Summer Meal pick up will be every Monday from now through August 17.

Monday pick up will consist of seven days breakfast and lunch, with one gallon

of milk per child 18 and under.

Meal pick up locations will be as follows every Monday and Thursday:

- West Alexander Middle School 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- Stony Point Elementary 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- Alexander Central High School 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Families may register at <https://forms.gle/ir5zfnDrDgKPUIh8>.

ACHS Class of 1976 plans 50 Year Reunion, deadline July 31

Graduates of ACHS Class of '76 will hold their 50 Year Class Reunion on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Brushy Mountain Golf Club in Taylorsville, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The cost is \$56.00 per person (non-refundable) and must be received no later than July 31. Space is limited to 150 people, therefore the committee encourages classmates to

respond quickly.

Money orders/checks should be made out and mailed to: ACHS Class of 76, P.O. Box 46, Taylorsville, NC 28681-0046.

For questions and updated information, visit the Facebook page, Alexander Central High School (Class of 1976). You can also reach out via Facebook to Jill Little King or Clara Bentley Bostian.

VBS set for June 25-28 at Antioch

Antioch Baptist Church is excited to announce their annual Vacation Bible School from June 25 to June 28, 2026. This year's theme is "Candy Valley Adventure" where classes will take a sweet look at the life and ministry of Jesus.

Groups will be offered for everyone from potty trained 3-year-olds through classes for youth and adults. There will be fun skits, great music, live action Bible stories, hearty snacks, hands on crafts, and dynamic games and recreation.

VBS is one of Antioch's largest outreach events and they would love to have the community join them from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evening, June 25-26, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, and 5-7:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, June 28 for Family Night. The church will take up both a monetary offering and a non-perishable food offering to support the Antioch Blessing Box.

The church is located at 580 Antioch Church Road, Taylorsville. If you need more information, please contact the church office at 828-632-2929.



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