

**Trust in Christ, never need to fear death**

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# The Mount Airy News

Serving Surry County since 1880.

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Thursday, February 15, 2018 • 75¢

## Alexander leaving city for school post

By John Peters  
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A long-time Mount Airy official will be leaving her post next month to accept a newly created job with the city school system.

Catrina Alexander, director of the city Parks and Recreation Department, will be stepping down from that job to fill the city school system's new career development coordinator position.

Funding for the post, as well as an expansion of career and technical education services to the middle school, are being provided by a seven-year Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Grant, according to the school system.

"We are extremely excited to welcome someone of Mrs. Catrina Alexander's caliber to our organization," the school system said in a written statement announcing the move.

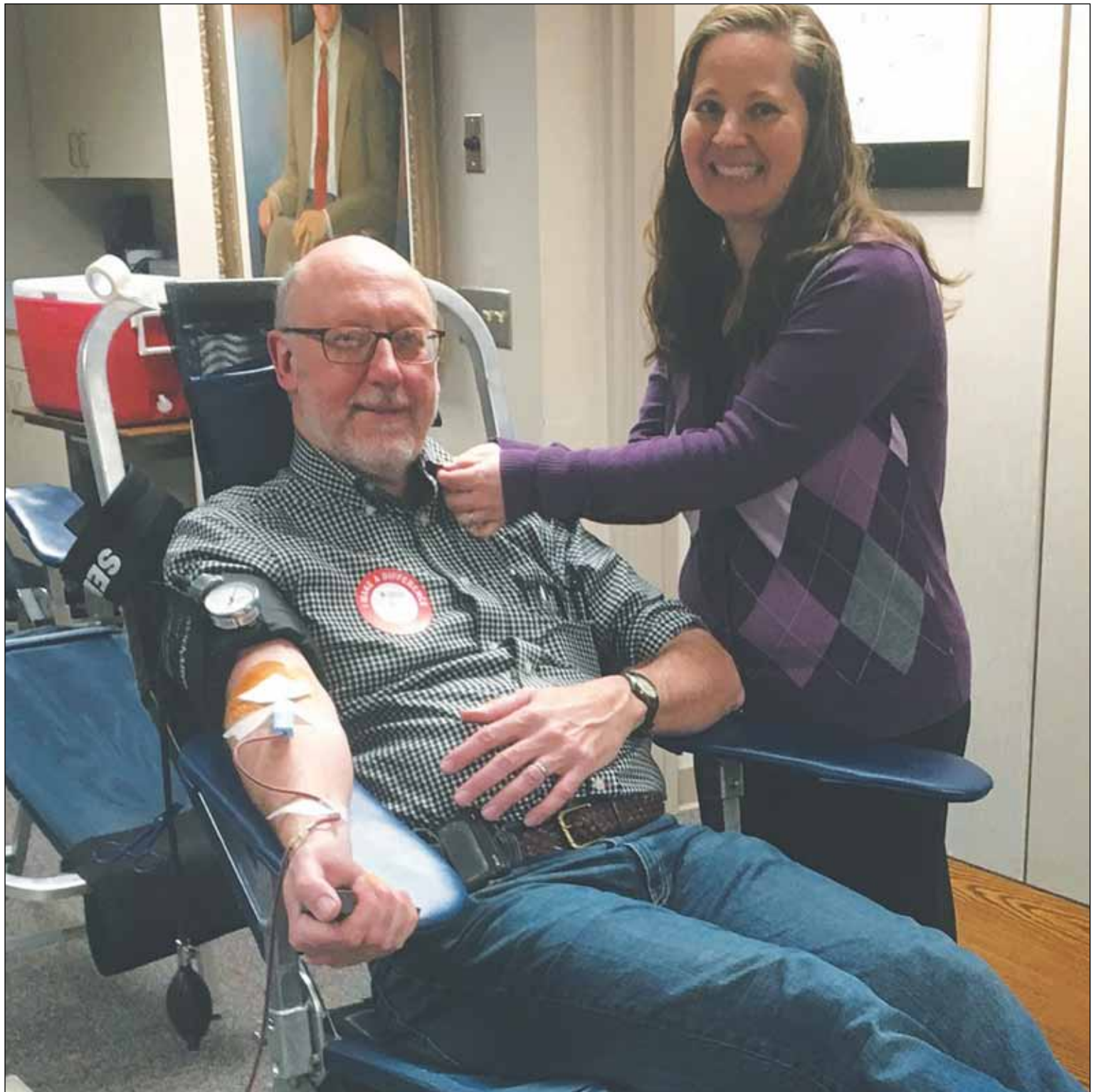
"Mount Airy City Schools will benefit from all the gifts, talents and abilities of Mrs. Alexander. Our ability to add this position will be a great asset to our students as Mrs. Alexander has a strong background in creating partnerships, writing grants and building relationships. We look forward to seeing this position provide students with guidance on career choices, opportunities for students to work closely with local industry and develop entrepreneurship experiences for our children."

Alexander has held her post since 2005, when she was named the city's first recreation director. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in parks and recreation management from the School of Education and Psychology from Western Carolina University in 1991.

In 2010, she earned the Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certificate, which is the national standard for parks and recreation

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## Doctor helps set example for donors



Submitted photo

Dr. Mark Appler of Mount Airy is presented with his 15-gallon pin by Lynn Wilkes of the American Red Cross in recognition of Appler recently reaching that mark as a longtime blood donor.

By Tom Joyce  
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As a longtime blood donor, Dr. Mark Appler of Mount Airy sees firsthand the need for giving due to his work — but says that even without such exposure he would still be motivated to help.

"I would have probably done this if I had been an auto mechanic," said Appler, who recently was recognized by the American Red Cross after donating his 15th gallon of blood at Northern Hospital of Surry County. That represents 120 donations altogether.

As is the case with many

people who quietly aid their fellow man through various ways on a daily basis, including those rolling up their sleeves to supply a lifesaving substance, Appler reacted modestly concerning that accomplishment.

Appler, a gastroenterologist who is affiliated with Northern Hospital, was reluctant to be singled out for his blood donations.

"There are people who have given more than I have," he said, calling them "unsung heroes." Appler guessed that there were several individuals on the hospital staff who have eclipsed his total.

However, a check of the records led Ashly Lancaster, director of marketing and communications at the hospital, to proclaim that Dr. Appler "is in a class of his own" in terms of blood donations by hospital personnel.

Lancaster mentioned two others with notable donation histories, Brian Moser, manager of environmental services, who has given 49 units to date (six gallons), and Sandra Barr, a registered nurse with a medical-surgical specialty.

Barr has donated 74 units (nine gallons) but can no longer give due to recently

having cancer. Her last donation was in February 2017, according to Lancaster.

She explained that her records access was limited to those giving blood at the hospital. "If we have others who have donated, say at their church each time, I would not have access to their unit numbers," Lancaster explained.

### Following in father's steps

Dr. Appler, who is 63, has been donating blood since his late teens, while in college — a span of 45 years.

"My dad worked for the

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**WEATHER**  
High 75 Low 57  
Partly cloudy



### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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## Special Olympics takes the plunge

Register now for Polar Plunge on Feb. 24

By Bill Colvard  
bcolvard@MTairyNews.com

Next week patrons of Surry County Special Olympics will offer their support to the organization by jumping into almost-freezing cold water, as they have done for the past six years.

The Seventh Annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge will take place at Homeplace Recreational Park in Ararat on Feb. 24, with plunging beginning at noon.

"The water temperature should be about 40°F," said Bradley Key,



Submitted photos

A group of cross country and track athletes from Surry Central High School take the plunge in 2017. Surry Central hosted the Special Olympics spring games that year.

Surry County Parks and Recreation's coordinator of programs, special events and volunteerism. According to Key, participants will have several plunging options. They will be able to walk or jog in from the zero degree

access area, jump in off the side, slide down a water slide or jump off a rope swing.

The pool is drained at this time of the year, said Key, but the park

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# Doc

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telephone company, and my dad was a pretty regular donor," he recalled.

After initially giving blood as a youth, Appler continued doing so after receiving his medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and later moving here in 1985.

"I'm not compulsive about it," Appler said of donating blood.

But the longtime medical professional does admit that the urge to give can be triggered when he's driving down the road and sees the familiar Red Cross vehicle at a church or business for

a collection drive.

And the primary blood-collection agency in this region is quite appreciative of such inclinations.

"The Red Cross is proud to acknowledge and honor committed blood donors, like Dr. Appler," commented Lynn Wilkes of its Carolinas Blood Services Region in Winston-Salem, which coordinates collections in Surry County.

"His dedication to saving lives through blood donations over the years truly displays Dr. Appler's giving spirit and willingness to help others."

Wilkes also referred

Wednesday to Appler's perspective as a doctor donor.

"As a physician, I'm sure Dr. Appler has firsthand knowledge of the need for blood. He sets the example for all of us to try to help meet those needs by rolling up a sleeve and donating blood as often as we possibly can."

Although Appler says working in the medical field has not been a factor in his longtime habit of donating blood, its relationship to that function does come to the forefront from time to time.

"One thing I deal

with is diverticular bleeding," Appler said of his role as a gastroenterologist, which involves diseases of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon and rectum, pancreas, gallbladder, bile ducts and liver.

The doctor added that it is "not uncommon" to see such a patient receiving a blood transfusion when he comes in to see him or her.

"I've wondered if that was my unit of blood hanging there," Appler said.

"That thought has crossed my mind."

**Upcoming drives**  
The Red Cross

recently issued an urgent call for blood in response to diminished supplies caused by seasonal factors such as bad weather forcing the cancellation of collection events.

In response, a series of drives was scheduled in Surry County, including these for the remainder of February:

- Friday, 1 to 5:30 p.m., Mountain Park community drive, 1137 Zephyr-Mountain Park Road, State Road.
- Monday, 1:30 to 6 p.m., Elkin community drive, 946 N. Bridge St.
- Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Surry Community College,

630 S. Main St., Dobson.

- Feb. 25, 12:30 to 5 p.m., Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 1432 Highway 21, State Road.

- Feb. 25, 12:30 to 5 p.m., Holy Cross Missionary Baptist Church, 344 York Road, Mount Airy.

- Feb. 27, 1 to 5:30 p.m., Franklin Elementary School, 727 S. Franklin Road, Mount Airy.

- Feb. 27, 2:30 to 7 p.m., White Plains Christian School, 609 Old Highway 601, Mount Airy.

Tom Joyce may be reached at 336-415-4693 or on Twitter @Me\_Reporter.

# Alexander

From page 1

professionals, and in 2014 she became a Surry Leadership graduate.

Prior to her time with the city, Alexander worked with the Surry County Health and Nutrition Center and was director of the Surry County Parks and Recreation Department.

The city schools said Alexander has experience in writing grant applications, securing two grants which assisted with the development of Fisher River Park, a 60-acre outdoor recreation facility, and \$1.5

million worth of grant funding that has assisted in the expansion of Westwood Park, restoration of the Ararat River, and greenway bike paths.

"In addition to her work with MAPR (Mount Airy Parks and Recreation), she has also been a member of several boards such as the Mount Airy City Schools Health Advisory Committee, Pilot Mountain State Park Board of Directors, Surry Sunrise Rotary and has served

in several executive roles for the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association," the city schools stated. The Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce named her its 2017 Citizen of the Year.

"I have been fortunate to work alongside so many wonderful leaders within our community and in a profession that I have truly loved," said Alexander. "I am looking forward to supporting CTE and to work collaboratively with



Alexander

administrators, student services personnel, and teachers to facilitate connections with parents, business/industry, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations to support our students.

"I am excited for the opportunity to be part of a wonderful team that works so hard to teach our children the skills they need to become successful adults and lifelong learners."

"Her 25 years of public service to the area, region, and state has provided her with a

wide range of experiences and connections that will enable her to create dynamic partnerships in business and industry and help connect students to careers," the school system said in the announcement.

"Mrs. Alexander's passion for experience-based learning opportunities will make her a great addition to the district team as work in the strategic plan continues to develop and grow entrepreneurship projects for students."

She is slated to being her new job on March 12.

# POLICE REPORTS

- His displaying of a stolen license tag led to the arrest of a local man Monday on multiple violations, according to Mount Airy Police Department reports. A 1996 Honda Accord operated by Brandon Lee Brindle, 31, of 2336 Siloam Road, was pulled over on Park Drive at Sheep Farm Road after Officer J.W. Watson ran a check on the plate.

In addition to possession of stolen property, a violation of driving while license revoked was issued against Brindle, who also was found to be the subject of an outstanding order for arrest for failing to appear in court. He

was held in the Surry County Jail and slated for a March 15 appearance in District Court.

- A larceny occurred Saturday at 601 Vapor and Tobacco on Rockford Street, where an unknown suspect took Zippo lighters valued at \$30.

- Property worth \$3,325 was discovered stolen on Jan. 21 from H&W Trucking Co. on North Andy Griffith Parkway as the result of a break-in, which also resulted in damage to a vending machine of \$500 and the theft of an unspecified sum of money from the device.

The other items taken were eight 12-volt deep-cycle truck batteries, two Paccar 12-volt heavy-duty truck starters, a DeWalt 18-volt cordless drill charger, a 54-piece tap and die set and a decal eraser.

- Amanda Lynn Holt, 30, of 1316 Sam Moir Road, Westfield, is facing a violation of shoplifting (concealment) stemming from a Jan. 21 incident at Walmart, where she allegedly took merchandise with a total value of \$118, including Xbox 360 remote batteries, three phone cases and candy bars. The property was recovered, with a March

21 court date set in the case.

- A shoplifting offense was filed against Gary Dewayne Bowman Sr., 54, of 287 Greentown Road, on Jan. 21 at Lowes Foods, involving unspecified property. Bowman is scheduled to appear in Surry District Court on March 7.

- A license plate owned by CAM Motors on East Pine Street, number ID118957, was discovered stolen on Jan. 20. The tag was taken from a 2015 Fiat 500 while the vehicle was parked at a repair shop in the 600 block of West Pine Street.

# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**  
**February 17**  
5 - 7 pm  
Mt. Bethel Moravian Church  
Includes salad, bread, dessert, & drink  
**DONATIONS ONLY!**  
Proceeds go to the Roof Fund

**COUNTRY BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, Feb. 17**  
7:30-10 AM  
Shoals Ruritan Bldg.  
3025 Shoals Road  
**Donations Only**  
Sponsored by Shoals Ruritan Club  
Proceeds to community projects

**CUPID BINGO**  
**February 17**  
Doors open at 3 pm  
Bingo starts at 4 pm  
VFW Building in Mt. Airy  
Concessions available. Wear pink or red and receive free coverall game  
All proceeds go towards DE-Stress Massage Therapy scholarship program

**Super 75 Kidz Closet Spring/Summer Children's Consignment Sale**  
*(Children's, juniors and maternity wear, toys, shoes, home decor, baby gear, furniture and more)*  
**Feb. 22, 6 to 8 pm**  
**Feb. 23, 5 to 8 pm**  
**Feb. 24, 9 am to noon**  
Fountain of Life Worship Center gymnasium, 154 Cornerstone Lane  
Proceeds go to the Bannertown Volunteer Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary

**BIG COUNTRY BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, March 3**  
7:30 - 10 am  
Copeland Ruritan Building  
Sponsored by Copeland Ruritans  
Country ham, sausage, gravy, biscuits, apples, eggs, and grits  
Eat-in - donations only  
Carry-out \$6  
Ruritans promote goodwill, fellowship and community service

**BINGO NIGHT**  
**May 5**  
Doors open 5 pm  
Bingo starts 6 pm  
North Surry High School  
**Silent Auction table and tons of food. Over 100 door prizes to give away.**  
All proceeds go to raise money to build restroom facilities

Having a Fundraiser?  
**Let us know!**

**"OPEN TABLE"**  
**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**Monday, Feb. 19**  
5 to 6 pm  
Salem United Methodist Church, Mt. Airy  
**Menu:** Chicken and dumplings, roasted vegetables, marinated slaw, dessert.

**BINGO**  
**Saturday, March 3**  
Doors open at 5 pm  
Bingo starts at 6 pm  
Flat Road Ruritan Club  
1070 Linville Rd., Mt. Airy  
**Refreshments available**  
**Door prizes!**  
Proceeds go toward community service projects

**CHICKEN STEW**  
**Saturday, March 10**  
All orders must be submitted by March 2 at midnight  
Francisco Volunteer Fire Department  
**\$5 a quart and preorders only**  
Call the fire department anytime @ 336-351-2696, leave a message with your name and telephone number.  
Proceeds go to the Francisco Volunteer Fire Dept.

**FOOD FROLIC BINGO**  
**March 17**  
Doors open at 6 pm  
Bingo begins at 7pm  
Francisco Community Building  
**Prizes are food-related.**  
Many door prizes. Sponsored by Francisco Ruritan Club.  
All proceeds go towards the Francisco Ladies' Auxiliary projects

Having a Fundraiser?  
**Let us know!**

Community events are sponsored by the businesses listed at the bottom of the page. It is free of charge to non-profit organizations that sponsor fundraising events. Special forms are available at the front office of The Mount Airy News. We publish 12 events weekly on a first come, first served basis. We cannot guarantee publication of an event if it is not presented on the form we provide. No phone calls please.

**Call 786-4141 to sponsor this page!**

<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<b>H &amp; W Trucking Co., Inc.</b> Hwy. 52, PO Box 1545 789-2188	<b>J.G. Coram Co., Inc.</b> 1922 Caudle Road 789-6251	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>
<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>	<b>Wal-Mart</b> 2241 Rockford St., Mt. Airy 336-719-2300 Open 24 hours	<i>This spot could be yours. Call 786-4141 today!</i>