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Local Weather

Thu 8/1

84/63



Variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially in the morning. High 84F.

Fri 8/2

86/65



Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

Sat 8/3

87/67



Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.

Sun 8/4

84/63



Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Mon 8/5

79/66



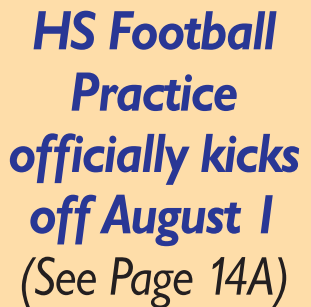
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 60s.

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ACHS Grad plays in Annual All Star Game

(See Page 1B)



HS Football Practice officially kicks off August 1

(See Page 14A)





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DR. RESAT TUKEL

Former Tayl. physician succumbs

Dr. Suleyman Resat Tukel, longtime Taylorsville resident and physician, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, in Izmir, Turkey. He was 84, according to family members.

Obituary information noted that Dr. Tukel graduated from Turkey's Istanbul University Medical Faculty in 1953. After proudly serving in the Turkish Army, Dr. Tukel continued his post-graduate medical training at Columbus Hospital in Chicago, IL, and Memorial

• See TUKEL Page 3A

County partners with Hiddenite Center to open Alex Visitor Center

Alexander County Government has announced a partnership with The Hiddenite Center, as the local arts and cultural heritage organization will assume the additional role of housing the new Alexander County Visitor Center, effective August 15, 2013. This unique collaboration will enhance the county's presence in terms of visitor information and tourism, and will also strengthen The Hiddenite Center's role in the community.

The new visitor center will operate in The Hiddenite Center's Lucas Mansion, located at 316 Hiddenite Church Road in Hiddenite, and will be open during The Hiddenite Center's hours of operation. Beginning August 15th, The Hiddenite Center will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The main role of the Alexander County Visitor Center will be to provide information to the public about county attractions, businesses, and events -- both on the phone and in person. Those in need of information may call (828) 632-8141 or visit The Hiddenite Center's Lucas Mansion, where a wide variety of brochures and other information will be available free of charge.

Alexander County Manager Rick French said he believes the new visitor center will be an

asset to the county that will grow over time.

"We are excited to partner with The Hiddenite Center on this venture as I believe that Alexander County has a lot to offer to both our residents and our visitors," French stated. "The Hiddenite Center has an inviting facility where folks can obtain further information about our parks, attractions, and events. As the county seeks ways to bolster our tourism, the visitor center will be a great resource for our residents and our visitors."

The Hiddenite Center's Interim Director, Karen Walker, sees this additional role as a natural fit for the organization and an opportunity to encourage more people to experience Alexander County.

"We are thrilled to work with Alexander County Government to help residents and tourists discover the many attractions that make our county a truly special place to live, work, and visit," said Walker. "As one of the county's key tourist destinations, The Hiddenite Center is already well equipped to welcome visitors with information and encourage them to travel to places of interest in Alexander County. Housing the new visitor center will only enhance the work of The Hiddenite Center as we continue to provide all of the wonderful arts and cultural heritage

programs that the public regularly enjoys."

The new Alexander County Visitor Center along with The Hiddenite Center's Lucas Mansion Gallery, antique doll exhibits, and permanent collections are FREE and open to the public. Tours of The Hiddenite Center's Lucas Mansion Museum are affordably priced at \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for senior adults and students.

Founded in 1981, The Hiddenite Center, Inc. is a folk-life and cultural arts education and exhibition center housed in

the Historic James Paul Lucas Mansion. The Lucas Mansion is the only site in Alexander County that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to its new role of serving as an Alexander County Visitor Center, The Hiddenite Center features gallery space, a museum restored to reflect turn-of-the-century life, an extensive permanent doll collection, and permanent gem/mineral displays. The Hiddenite Center also offers an Educational Complex that pro-

• See VISITOR Page 2A



TO BE ALEXANDER VISITOR CENTER — The Hiddenite Center's James Lucas Mansion, above, will be home to the Alexander County Visitor Center. The facility will allow some space on the lower level of the mansion to be used to operate the Visitor Center utilizing the Hiddenite Center's staff and slightly extended hours, said County officials.

Alexander's first bank robbery occurred 80 years ago this week

It was Saturday, July 29, 1933. Alexander County and the country's 48 states were in the grip of the Great Depression. It was that morning when four would-be bank robbers attempted to rob the Merchants and Farmers Bank in downtown Taylorsville.

The bank building is located on Main Avenue (it most recently housed the Alexander Chamber of Commerce office) and still stands today.

According to accounts of the robbery from *The Times'* archives, three of the criminals entered the bank. One man put a quarter on the teller counter and asked for change. He then drew a handgun and demanded money. Cashier T.C. Barnes threw an inkpot at one of the robbers, who responded by shooting at Barnes. Bullets struck Barnes in the abdomen, lung, and shoulder. Assistant Cashier Solon Little was also shot in the abdomen. Barnes died the following day, but Little survived the attack.

Two of the four men, R.E. Black and Mike Stefenoff, were arrested,

apparently by a civilian posse, near Pores Knob, and were jailed in Wilkes and then in Taylorsville. However, a mob stormed the jail, forcing Alexander County Sheriff H. Lynn Mays to take the culprits to another county.

The other two robbers, Bascom G. Greene and his son, Lester, made away to Detroit. Father and son later surrendered to the officials at Morristown, Tenn., in February of 1934.

The Sunday, July 30, 1933, issue of *The Charlotte Observer* added that Stefenoff and Black were taken to Winston-Salem for holding. The article indicated that Barnes and Little were then being treated at Davis Hospital in Statesville. The *Observer* article was reprinted in *The Times'* Bicentennial Issue of July 1, 1976.

"Mayor H.C. Payne, who joined in the search, said this was the 'worst crime ever committed in Taylorsville,'" the *Observer* article related.

The article also quoted Rowland Chapman, customer at the bank, who had entered the

bank to have a check cashed, just in time to see one robber shoot Barnes. Chapman ran to the door, but was met by a second man, who grabbed him with one hand and pointed a pistol at Little with the other. Chapman got away and when he got into the street, spread an alarm that the bank was being



SOLON LITTLE

robbed. Alas, the robbers got away before help arrived.

Word was sent to surrounding law enforcement agencies about the tragedy. Wilkes County Sheriff W.B. Summers driving along NC Hwy. 18, passed a car he believed to be the robbers'. Summers turned around to give chase, but lost sight of the car. Soon, the car was found abandoned off the highway. Poses spread out from that location and found Black and Stefenoff, who surrendered without incident, the *Observer* stated.

Sheriff Lynn Mays told the *Observer* that the car had first been abandoned at the Pores Knob Post Office and the robbers struck out through the mountains. After an argument developed, two men returned to the car. Black, Mays said, declared he and Stefenoff started off together. Later, they split up. One was arrested on Hwy. 16 and one on Hwy. 18 in Wilkes, not far from Hollywood Lake.

• See ROBBERY Page 3A

Three drug arrests reported by Sheriff

Three Alexander residents are facing drug charges after officers located methamphetamine at a Taylorsville home last week.

Members of the Alexander County Sheriff's Office have arrested and charged the following suspects after execution of a search warrant at a residence located at 30 Blue Jay drive, Taylorsville, on July 27, 2013:

- Tonya Moore Ferguson, age 41 of Taylorsville, was arrested and charged with trafficking methamphetamine, maintain a dwelling for controlled substance, and possession with intent to sell and deliver a Schedule II controlled substance. Bond was set at \$85,000. Court date set for July 29, 2013.
- Joel Stephen Carter, age 49 of Hiddenite, was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver a Schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$8,000. Court date set for July 29, 2013.
- Jennifer Denise Vanhorn, age 36 of Taylorsville, was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver a Schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$8,000. Trial date was set for July 29, 2013.

Officers seized a quantity of methamphetamine from the residence. More arrests are possible as the investigation continues, Sheriff Bowman stated in a news release Tuesday, July 30.



FERGUSON



CARTER



VANHORN



BANK ROBBERS GOING TO TRIAL — Above, Alexander County Sheriff H. Lynn Mays stands with a hand on the shoulders of bank robbery suspects Lester Green (left) and his father, Bascom Green, right, among a crowd of onlookers in 1934.

★ ROBBERY: 1933 crime turned town upside down

• **Contd. From Page 1A**

Also included in that 1976 issue was an article by Mrs. R.Z. Linney on the trial of the robbers, which was originally printed March 1, 1934, in *The Taylorsville Times*.

Trial for Stefenoff and Black was held in September 1933 in Superior Court at Taylorsville, Judge T.B. Finley presiding. Prosecutor was John R. Jones, Harold D. Burke, J.H. Burke, and Abner C. Payne. The jury returned a guilty verdict and both Black and Stefenoff were sent to death row.

After the Greens surrendered and were returned to Alexander, trial was held February 21, 1934, in

Superior Court before Judge Wilson Warlick. The defense attorneys were Leland Stanford and J.A. Myatt of High Point. John R. Jones, State Solicitor for the 17th District, along with J.H. Burke and Harold D. Burke were attorneys for the prosecution.

Jurors were drawn from a pool of some 100 men from southern Iredell County to be impartial. The 13 jurors were sworn in after 64 potential jurors had been cross-questioned by the defense.

Solon Little, victim of the hold-up, was the State's star witness.

When asked, "Who shot Mr. Barnes?" Little

responded, "Mike Stefenoff, first, and then Lester Green, and Bascom Green shot me."

Other witnesses placed on the stand for the State included: Mrs. Barnes, Bert Beeman, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Price, Ralph Drum, George Pennell, Levi Tolliver, Roy Clontz, Minnie Clontz, Lee Mullis, Rom Brock, H.H. Kilby, and C.M. Ashley.

Attorneys for the defense had seven character witnesses for the Greens from High Point: G.C. Furrow, C.O. Fritz, R.H. Church, J.H. Paschall, H.T. Short, W.C.T. Carter, and Herman Allen.

Bascom Green, age 42, took the stand in his own defense. He noted he had

lived in North Carolina for seven years. His birthplace was in Tennessee. He had served as a mail carrier for one year and the rest of his life in Tennessee he had been a farmer. In High Point, NC, he had worked as a hosiery mill and overall factory operative. He had two sons and three daughters.

The elder Green told jurors that Black had come to him with the idea of robbing the bank in Taylorsville.

"The next day," said Bascom Green in court, "Stefenoff came to High Point to see me and talk it over. I refused at first. Mike said, 'You have already lost

your good name' and that we 'would make a lot of money.' That 'there would be \$15,000 in the bank that morning and that the town had no officers to speak of, just one little sheriff and one little deputy.' "

Stefenoff eventually made four trips to High Point to convince Bascom Green to join in the robbery.

On Friday prior to the tragedy, Bascom Green had wanted to go home, but Stefenoff obtained half a gallon of whiskey and all four men got drunk. Stefenoff promised Green there would be no shooting, as the tellers were unarmed. Bascom Green's story followed that of Little's, except Green indicated that his son, Lester, did not shoot Barnes.

The 1934 article detailed the getaway by Bascom Green's account, how the men stopped behind a store at Pores Knob. Stefenoff and Black left the Greens and all abandoned the car. Lester and his father made their way to High Point by walk-

ing and reached that city the Monday after the robbery. The Greens immediately left High Point for Detroit, where they were employed in an apartment house. They decided in February to give themselves up to the law after having come to Knoxville, TN.

J.H. Burke, prosecuting attorney, argued during the trial that if any person or persons kill another while robbing, then all involved in the crime are guilty of murder.

The jury deliberated only three and a half hours. They returned a verdict of guilty for both Bascom Green and his son, Lester.

Mike Stefenoff was executed May 18, 1934, and the Greens and Black on December 7 of that year.

The foiled robbery attempt was the first bank robbery in Alexander County's history. Incidentally, the men didn't make a single dime from their criminal efforts—they even left behind their quarter on the bank counter.



SCENES PERTAINING TO THE TAYLORSVILLE BANK ROBBERY — The photo collage shown above is from *The Times*' July 1, 1976, Bicentennial issue article regarding the 1934 trial of the Taylorsville bank robbers Bascom Green and his son, Lester Green. The Greens were two of the four men convicted in the killing of cashier T.C. Barnes and the shooting of Assistant Cashier Solon Little. Barnes and Little worked in the Merchants and Farmers Bank in Taylorsville when both were shot on July 29, 1933, during the attempted robbery. The handwritten caption for the photos above reads as follows: "No. 1 - Interior of Bank where shooting took place, No. 2 - Entrance to Bank, No. 3 - Bank building, No. 4 & 5 - Crowds around court house during trial, No. 6 - B.G. Green and son, Lester Green, No. 7 & 8 - Pictures of trial showing defendants and crowd." The collage was credited to Munday's Drug Store.

Brushy Mtn. Film Users Group to meet Aug. 15

The next group meeting of the Brushy Mountain Film Users Group (comprised of photographers of all abilities who still use film or are interested in using film) will be held Thursday, August 15, at 5:30 p.m. at CVCC-Alexander Center for Education, Room 107.

The photo topic for August is photographer's choice. Those attending should bring up to three prints or slides of a subject of their choice.

For questions or concerns, send an email to Micah Henry at saabman84@yahoo.com or contact Janet Cull by email at janetgcull@gmail.com.

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★ TUKEŁ: Doctor passes away in Turkey

• **Contd. From Page 1A**

He returned to Turkey to practice medicine. In 1966, Dr. Tukeł met his future wife, Muazzez. They married three months later and had two sons. In April 1969, Dr. Tukeł and his family left Turkey and returned to Charleston, WV, to practice in a city clinic.

In early 1971, the Tukełs passed through Taylorsville on their way back from a medical meeting in Raleigh. They stopped in the local pharmacy where Dr. Tukeł met pharmacist Larry Jones, who introduced him to the late Dr. Walter Long.

Dr. Long's family had lived in Turkey for a short time, and invited the Tukełs to stay the night to share their experiences. He showed Dr. Tukeł the hospital and successfully convinced him of the need for additional physicians in Alexander County. The family moved to Taylorsville in September, and their third son, Onur, was born the following year.

Dr. Tukeł was well liked by his employees, patients, colleagues, nurses and staff of the Alexander County Hospital, the obituary continues. Tukeł practiced medicine in Taylorsville for 30 years. He was known by many as "the doctor who takes your picture." He retired for health reasons in 2001.

After retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Tukeł moved to Charlotte, to be closer to their family. For the last eight years, the couple had been traveling and splitting their time between

their home in Izmir, Turkey, and Charlotte.

Dr. Tukeł is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Muazzez Tukeł, of Charlotte, NC, his three sons: Ufuk Tukeł and his wife, Sandy, of Delray Beach, FL; Timur Tukeł, of Charlotte, NC; Onur Tukeł of Brooklyn, NY; sister Nurten Kirisci, of Izmir, Turkey; brother, Necat Tukeł, of Izmir, Turkey; and two grandchildren, Guller and Sydney Tukeł, of Delray Beach. He was predeceased by his parents, Mehmet and Hacer Tukeł; and sister, Gulden Yurgun.

Mrs. Tukeł is currently living in Turkey. The family asks that any contributions desired in lieu of flowers be donated in honor of Dr. Resat Tukeł to Alexander Central High School.

Sympathy cards and letters may be sent to: Muazzez Tukeł, c/o Uf Tukeł, 932 Iris Drive, Delray Beach, Florida, 33483.

*Need Cash?
Know a Crook?*

Who Ya Gonna Call?

ALEXANDER COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

632-8555

You DO NOT have to give your name.
All calls are anonymous

Sheriff's Blotter



SHERIFF CHRIS BOWMAN

Alexander County Sheriff Chris Bowman provided information on incidents which resulted in charges against several individuals in recent days, listed below:

- On July 29, 2013 investigators with the Alexander County Sheriff's Office obtained charges on the following individuals: Tommy Edward Teague, black male, of Taylorsville; and Gary Wooden, black male, of Taylorsville. Both were charged with two counts of breaking and entering and two counts of felony larceny.

They were caught in the act of breaking and enter-

ing in Alleghany County on July 23, 2013. Some property located in the vehicle belonged to two victims in Alexander County incidents. Both are currently being held in the detention center in Alleghany County.

- On July 29, 2013, investigators with the Alexander County Sheriff's Office charged and arrested Erik Chumley, age 46 of Conway, Arkansas.

Chumley was arrested for felony abandonment of a child for

longer than six months. Chumley was arrested at his residence by authorities in Arkansas. He was transported to the Alexander County Detention Center and was placed under a \$10,000 secured bond. His first court appearance is scheduled for August 5, 2013.



TEAGUE



WOODEN



CHUMLEY

NC Pre-K applications still available through Partnership

Applications for the North Carolina Preschool Program (NCPK), which is the program formerly known as More at Four, are still being accepted. NCPK is designed to provide quality educational experiences in order to enhance kindergarten readiness for four-year-olds. The program is community-based, voluntary and designed to prepare four-year-olds in North Carolina for success in school.

NCPK is a high quality prekindergarten program with high program standards, teacher education standards, and local administration and eligibility determination. In Alexander County the

Alexander County Partnership administers the NCPK program. Current NCPK classrooms are located at LuLus Child Enrichment Center, First Baptist Child Development Center, Salem Sloan Child Enrichment Center, and Alexander County Head Start.

Pre-kindergarten is a research-proven strategy for school readiness. Parents can have the greatest impact on a child's school readiness as the first and most consistent teacher in a child's life. Children will make the most progress when parents are involved.

If your child turns four years old by August 31,

2013, he or she may be eligible for the program. If you have concerns about your child's development, he or she may be eligible for the program.

For more information, or to get an application, e-mail Susan Cogdill at susan@alexanderchildren.org or call 828-632-3799, extension 12. Applications are available at Alexander County Partnership for Children, 1565 NC Highway 90 West, Taylorsville and the Partnership's website: www.alexanderchildren.org.

Have an event?
Submit it to our Local Events Calendar!
www.taylorsvilletimes.com