

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
2200 Camp Branch Road  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
October 7, 2022

**Subject: Mountaineer mailing out Free Issues, delivered to mailboxes?**

Surprise of the day when I opened my mailbox to find my very own copy of the Mountaineer, which I did not pay for. I know of several people who also received complimentary issues.

[?]

I'm not complaining, as it turns out, **Vicki Hyatt's** article 'County petitions state to change syringe programs' is on the front page, featuring ... (wait for this) ... "me"! I can't tell you how long it has been since my name has been mentioned in the Mountaineer, especially on the front page.

So, why is this? My initial reactions is that this is the last dying gasp of this newspaper that **Jonathan Key** is driving into the ditch, attempting to woo new subscribers by giving them a taste of what it would be like to get an issue of the Mountaineer in their mailbox. Imagine the cost if that went to every mailbox in Haywood County!

Wait a minute...

Jonathan Key publishes a companion newspaper, freely distributed over in Asheville, called The Biltmore Beacon. Here is a screen shot of the front page of the October 6<sup>th</sup> issue.

**The Biltmore Beacon**  
Published weekly | Asheville, NC  
Thursday, October 6, 2022  
www.biltmorebeacon.com

**Inside:**  
LEAF Festival pg. B1  
Cherokee Events pg. B3  
RECIPE: Tex-Mex It This Week pg. B4

### Smathers family seeks justice after Mission Hospital trauma

**By Vicki Hyatt**  
The Biltmore Beacon

In an attempt to seek justice for "regrettable acts of medical and corporate negligence," Cantor's first family, Mayor Zeb Smathers, his wife, Ashley, and son, Stone, are taking on the most powerful healthcare system in America.

In the medical negligence and medical malpractice court action filed Sept. 23 in Buncombe County, the Smathers family is demanding a jury trial in the case against HCA Healthcare Inc., its corporate structures and Mission Hospital. The

### Malpractice lawsuit could have state implications

**By Vicki Hyatt**  
The Biltmore Beacon

Several legal provisions could be set with a lawsuit that alleges Mission Hospital and HCA Healthcare, Inc. failed to provide adequate care to a child born in Asheville, North Carolina.

### Smathers talks about son's birth

**By Vicki Hyatt**  
The Biltmore Beacon

The Smathers family's joyous celebration of their son's birth was overshadowed by tragedy in Asheville, North Carolina.

**The Biltmore Beacon**  
Published weekly | Asheville, NC  
Thursday, October 6, 2022  
www.biltmorebeacon.com

### Smathers family seeks justice after Mission Hospital trauma

**By Vicki Hyatt**  
The Biltmore Beacon

In an attempt to seek justice for "regrettable acts of medical and corporate negligence," Cantor's first family, Mayor Zeb Smathers, his wife, Ashley, and son, Stone, are taking on the most powerful healthcare system in America.

In the medical negligence and medical malpractice court action filed Sept. 23 in Buncombe County, the Smathers family is demanding a jury trial in the case against HCA Healthcare Inc., its corporate structures and Mission Hospital. The

Same front page article as was seen in the Mountaineer. Over to the right is an expansion of the front page.

Whoa! What is that over in the top right hand corner of the blow-up? It says "RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER", PRSRT STD, U.S. POSTAGE PAID, ASHEVILLE, NC, PERMIT 916. FREE, Published by the Mountaineer.

I rushed back to look at my complimentary copy to see what permit number was used to put this issue in my mailbox.

Guess what?



Whoops. No permit number.

Like I said, I am not complaining, after all, this was the issue they distributed for free with me on the front page. Be sure to read the article.



The image shows a newspaper clipping with a headline and several columns of text. The headline is "County petitions state to change syringe programs". The byline is "BY VICKI HYATT" with the email "vhyatt@themountaineer.com". The article discusses a resolution proposed by Monroe Miller, Jr., a Haywood County taxpayer, to change syringe programs. It mentions that the resolution was passed after two separate meetings and public comment sessions. The article also notes that the resolution is not a ban but a regulation of the programs. At the bottom of the clipping, there is a "Find us on Social Media" section with links to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. To the right of this section is a quote: "The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it." attributed to William J. The clipping also includes a "WORDS TO LIVE BY:" section.

## County petitions state to change syringe programs

BY VICKI HYATT  
vhyatt@themountaineer.com

After two separate meetings where hour-long public comment sessions focused largely on needles carelessly strewn in public areas around Waynesville, the commissioners took action Monday, though not in a way likely to satisfy the complainants.

Waynesville resident Monroe Miller characterized a resolution asking for local enforcement of the needle exchange program as little more than "lip service" and compared its value to that of a roll of toilet paper.

Those upset with needle litter had asked the county commissioners to pass an ordinance banning any free needle or syringe exchange programs from operating in the county.

Instead, the commissioners will petition the N.C. General Assembly to let local government regulate programs that involve the distribution, collection and exchange of hypodermic needles.

While the resolution was a far cry from what the citizens were demanding, the action was as much as the law and state constitution will allow, explained County Attorney Frank Queen.

Because state law authorizes syringe exchange programs, a county cannot prohibit it, nor request a local law exempting the county.

"What's left is what is in the resolution," Queen said of the legal option the commissioners could consider. "The request is not to prohibit anything but to allow local governments to regulate the operation of programs specifically authorized by the (syringe exchange) statute."

The request could not include only Haywood, but must apply across the state, Queen added.

Until two years ago, the county had an agreement with the N.C. Harm Re-

NEED  
othe  
was  
duct  
erati  
prog  
ende

**Find us on Social Media:**

- facebook.com/mountaineerinfo
- @themountaineernews
- @mountaineerinfo

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:**

*"The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."* - William J.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer