

20th Annual YMCA Apple Festival 5K attracts 183 runners

The 20th Annual Alexander County Family YMCA Apple Festival 5K attracted 183 runners this year. The popular annual race was held Saturday, October 21.

Ethan Walker, age 16 of Charlotte, took top honors in the 5K with a time of 18:51. Blan Hodges, age 18 of Hiddenite, placed second at 20:04, and Hunter Townsend, age 25 of Taylorsville, finished third at 20:14.

The top three females were Sonya Kiziah (21:48, 10th overall), Camella Church (22:02, 11th overall), and Stacey Hingson (23:01, 16th overall). All three of the top females are from Taylorsville.

Douglas Pennell of Taylorsville won the Male Masters Award for runners age 40+ with a time of 21:22. Kelly McNeil of Jefferson won the Female Masters Award with a time of 24:08.

Male age-group awards were presented to: ages 9 and under – Riley Kiziah (23:16, 18th overall), Colt McKee (24:57, 27th overall), and Jordan Schiebel (32:28, 89th overall); ages 10-14 – Cole Harris (20:22, 4th overall), Luke Kiziah (21:12, 6th overall), and Samuel Campbell (22:58, 15th overall); ages 15-19 – Dustin Adams (26:53, 42nd overall), Victor Carrizales (31:08, 82nd overall), and Ridge Bowen (33:08, 94th overall); ages 20-24 – Marcus Stoltzfus (22:25, 13th overall), Micah Beiler (24:51, 25th overall), and Justin Kerley (25:48, 37th overall); ages 25-29 – James Eno (28:53, 120th overall); ages 30-34 – Cody Winger (23:45, 21st overall) and Neil Del-Valle (27:11, 45th overall); ages 35-39 – Nike Pennell (20:27, 5th overall), TJ Hayes (25:21, 31st overall), and Kelly Pennell (29:08, 63rd overall); ages 40-44 – Joe Cornwell (21:39, 8th overall), Shawn Pennell (22:50, 14th overall), and Nathan Walker (24:44, 24th overall); ages 45-49 – Kenneth Little (23:03, 17th overall), Hunter Nichols (25:31, 33rd overall), and Eli Richards (27:08, 44th overall); ages 50-54

– Tony Blevins (22:14, 12th overall), Cary Cash (25:06, 29th overall), and Todd Rhodes (25:42, 35th overall); ages 55-59 – Allen Walker (23:28, 19th overall), Paul Shook (29:50, 73rd overall), and Ricky Speaks (33:29, 95th overall); ages 60-64 – Gregory Kiziah (21:45, 9th overall), Roger Bumgarner (32:57, 92nd overall), and Wayne Dubnansky (34:23, 104th overall); ages 65-69 – Gary Walker (32:48, 91st overall), Randy Tesch (34:06, 101st overall), and Vincent Ester (52:55, 173rd overall); ages 70-74 – John Jarrell (25:19, 30th overall), Jimmy Deal (28:04, 52nd overall), and Ronald Roseman (56:41, 177th overall); ages 80-89 – Walter Pharr (44:35, 152nd overall); and ages 90 and over – Byron Logan (54:04, 176th overall).

Female age-group awards were presented to: ages 9 and under – Allie Schiebel (30:29, 78th overall), Madison Schiebel (32:28, 88th overall), and Maggie Hayes (36:19, 110th overall); ages 10-14 – Haley Queen (25:38, 34th overall), Abigail Dejarnette (25:49, 38th overall), and Caroline Deal (25:50, 39th overall); ages 15-19 – Rylie Rhyne (23:41, 20th overall), Rachel Watkins (24:07, 22nd overall), and Kaylin Dyson (24:51, 26th overall); ages 20-24 – Sara Stoltzfus (29:33, 69th overall), Bailey Kerley (30:08, 76th overall), and Shana Loudermelk (33:36, 96th overall); ages 25-29 – Josie Hayes (36:19, 111th overall); ages 30-34 – Lauren Davis (28:38, 62nd overall), Brittney Payne (33:07, 93rd overall), and Breanna Hucks (33:59, 99th overall); ages 35-39 – Andie Smith (25:31, 32nd overall), Kisha McKee (26:41, 40th overall), and Jenna Buff (28:07, 54th overall); ages 40-44 – Briddie Littau (29:41, 72nd overall), Jenny Owens (38:26, 117th overall), and Sherry Pendell (41:48, 135th

overall); ages 45-49 – Karen Loudermelk (28:26, 60th overall) and Karen Echerd (1:02:36, 181st overall); ages 50-54 – Karen Blankenship (31:04, 80th overall), Angela Hines (35:06, 106th overall), and Tonna Caldwell (36:11, 108th overall); ages 55-59 – Donna McLamb (30:37, 79th overall), Beth Pennell (31:45, 86th overall), and Kimberly Pressley (35:12, 107th overall); ages 60-64 – Cecilia Douglas (34:22, 103rd overall), Lynn Duty (44:17, 151st overall), and Sue Miller (50:28, 165th overall); ages 65-69 – Karen Tesch (41:06, 131st overall) and Jane Drum (51:52, 169th overall); ages 70-74 – Joyce Pharr (29:08, 64th overall) and Kathy Roseman (50:28, 166th overall); and ages 80-89 – Janie Mitchell (52:59, 174th overall).

Runners hailed from the following cities in North Carolina: Taylorsville, Hiddenite, Stony Point, Statesville, Lenoir, Claremont, Moravian Falls, Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, Hickory, Conover, Newton, Granite Falls, Charlotte, Hamptonville, Jefferson, Lexington, Moravian Falls, Boone, Glen Alpine, Dobson, and Durham. Runners also came from Due West, SC; Sandy UT; Citrus Springs, FL; and Athens, GA.

The Alexander County Family YMCA would like to express its appreciation to everyone who participated in this year's event. Make plans for next year as the Apple Festival 5K is held on the third Saturday of October every year.

Applications open for NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative grants

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Division is issuing a call for applicants for its annual Bicycle Helmet Initiative.

Helmets save lives. While less than half of all children typically wear one while biking, helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by nearly 90 percent. In an effort to keep children safe while riding a bicycle, the program distributes helmets to children in need. It is open to both government and non-government agencies. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2017. Applicants have the option of requesting 25, 50, 75 or 100 helmets, and awardees will receive them by April 30, 2018.

Applicants are encouraged to partner with groups in the community

to extend the outreach of bicycle safety awareness. Examples of partners include police and fire departments, parks and recreation departments, health departments, community centers, churches and non-governmental organizations.

Funding for the Bicycle Helmet Initiative is made possible through sales of the Share the Road specialty license plate. Residents dedicated to bicycle safety in North Carolina have supported this initiative since it was founded in 2007, and have made thousands of helmets available to children during that time.

For more information and to download the application, visit https://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/safetyeducation/helmet_initiative/.



Sonya Kiziah was the top placing female runner.

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Hedrick becomes third generation attorney

Local native Edward L. Hedrick, V, was sworn in as an attorney by his father, District Court Judge Edward L. Hedrick, IV, in a ceremony on Friday, October 20, 2017, at the Alexander County Courthouse. Edward V (left) is shown with his wife, Saryn Hooks Hedrick (center), as Judge Hedrick (right) administered the oath to his son. The younger Hedrick, age 25, graduated from Alexander Central High School in 2010, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014, and graduated from North Carolina Central University School of Law in May 2017. He took and passed the North Carolina Bar Exam in July 2017. In May 2018, the young attorney will begin practicing in Taylorsville. He is a third generation lawyer -- Edward L. Hedrick, III, (Judge Hedrick's father) was also a practicing attorney in Taylorsville. In addition to family members and friends, attorneys in the Alexander County Bar Association joined in welcoming young Hedrick to the fold.



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