Written by Steve Frank
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Jane Hodges, Director of the Watauga Board of Elections, emailed yesterday to report that there was one glitch with the election returns in Watauga, but said that while some of the totals were adjusted after finding the mistake, only one changes in the rankings occurred—that Brenda Reece lead the Board of Education voting, Barbara Kinsey second, then Ron Henries, but it did not affect the terms due to that change in the figures. The correction put more distance between Henries and Jay Fenwick, in fourth place, now separated by 244 votes. The issue was found in Transfer 2 precinct, input into the computer twice. Hodges said that the results on election night are preliminary and unofficial, with a number of auditing steps that occur between election night and canvass. The results will not be official, nor will provisional ballots be considered until Friday, November 16th. Hodges also clarified the incident at Green Valley School from Tuesday in which students were being allowed into the voting area as they arrived at school. She said, in the transfer of her call asking about the situation, she was unclear as to whom she was talking to, and instead of the gym teacher, cooperation was refused by the principal. Hodges apologized for mis-identifying the person she last talked to at the school as the gym teacher as opposed to the principal. A Watauga Sheriff's Deputy was sent to the school when cooperation on removing students from the voting area was refused.