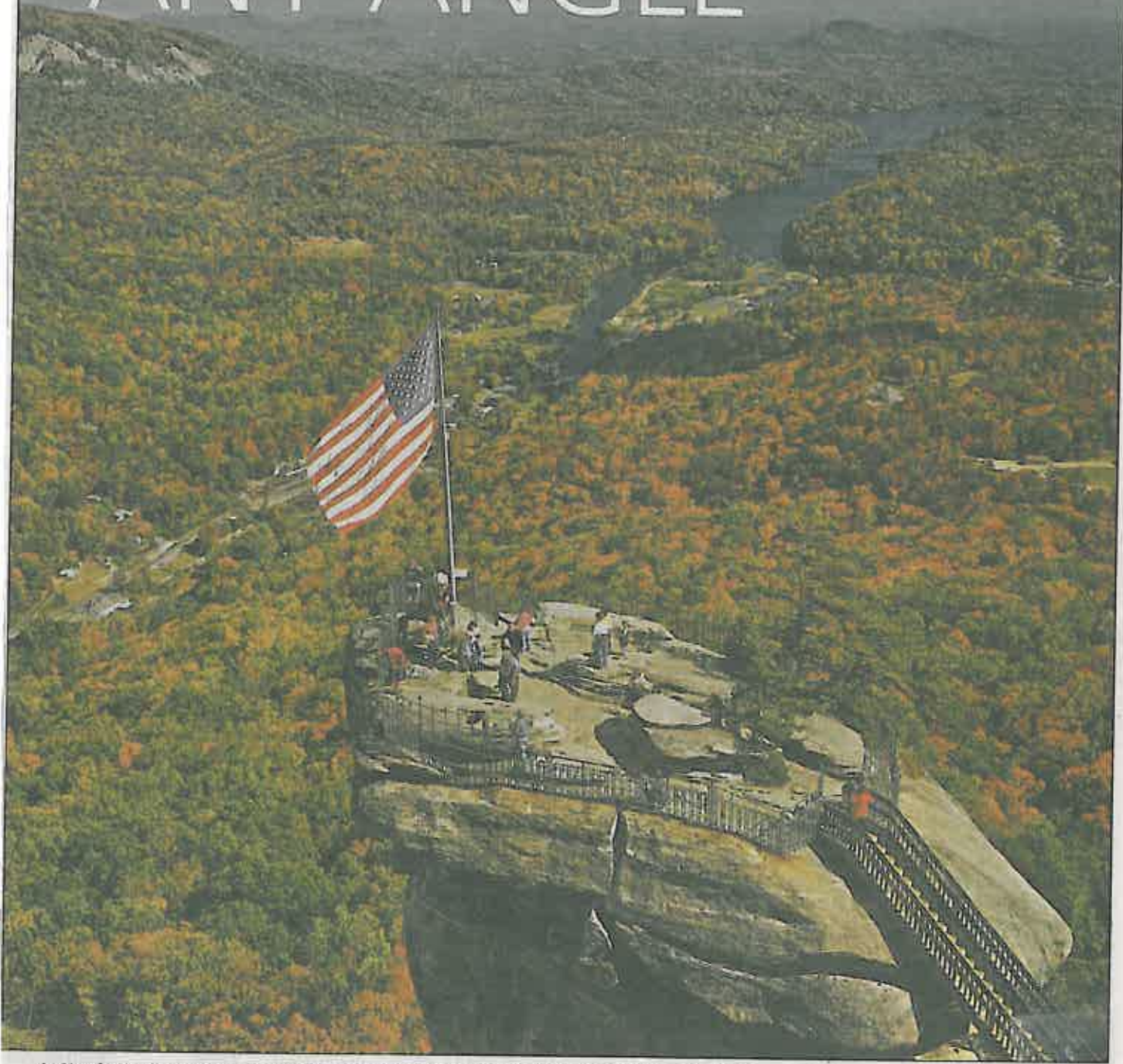


BRILLIANT FROM ANY ANGLE



At North Carolina's Chimney Rock State Park, visitors can see the leaves while rock-climbing. J. SCOTT GRAHAM/CHIMNEY ROCK

See the fall leaves from air, land or river

By Donna Isbell Walker

Staff writer

dwalker@greenvilleonline.com

Autumn leaves in the Southeast are glorious from any perspective. The majestically gilded maples, scarlet-hued sourwoods and sparkling-amber poplars produce an art show that stretches as far as the sky can reach.

But why admire the autumn extravaganza from the front seat of a car or an overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway when you can get a whole other view of Mother Nature's breathtaking creativity?

You can look down on the blazing trees from 1,000 feet in the air, or surround yourself with color as you zip through the forest canopy, or admire the leaves while strapped into a rock-climbing harness suspended over Hickory Nut Gorge.

While the colors have peaked at some of the highest elevations, experts say, there's still plenty to see within a few hours' drive from Greenville. "The maples are just gorgeous, and they're still hanging on" in western North Carolina, said Carolyn Allison, marketing director for Wildwater Adventure Centers, which operates



Zipline tours offer a close-up look at fall colors.

WILDWATER
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ville. 864-282-8988.

Comedy
Eric Barnhart and Gypsy Souls:
The Brown Street Club, Greenville. 864-250-9193.
Furman Symphony Orchestra:
8 p.m. McAlister Auditorium,
Greenville. \$5-\$15. 864-294-2086.

Special events

Enchanted Tracks: 6-9 p.m.
The Pavilion, Greenville. 864-288-6470.
Giant Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze: Denver Downs Farm, Anderson. \$10. 864-940-2293.

LEAVES

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canopy tours and other outdoor adventures in the Carolinas and Tennessee.

So while there's still time, you might want to take a peek at the foliage from a different perspective, and we've found six off-the-beaten-path ideas for enjoying the colors this season:

► **The roof of Biltmore Estate, Asheville.** The top of the ornate mansion offers a view that's "pretty jaw-dropping," said LeeAnn Donnelly, senior public relations manager for the estate. That vista is only available as part of the Architect's Tour, a behind-the-scenes look at the construction and design of the estate.

Visitors to the Biltmore roof are standing 71 feet off the ground, Donnelly said, which offers views of both the front and back sides of the house.

"The backside view looks out across Mount Pisgah, so you can see to Mount Pisgah and beyond

Playhouse, Furman University, Greenville. \$10-\$20. 864-294-2125.

"The Elephant Man": 8 p.m.
Warehouse Theatre, Greenville. 864-235-6948.

Sports

Greenville Road Warriors vs. Florida Everblades: 7:35 p.m.
Bi-Lo Center, Greenville. \$10-\$35. 864-674-7825.

over the sight of fall colors in the Hickory Nut Gorge and over to Lake Lure.

But flinging themselves over the gorge while strapped into a harness, maybe not so much. Rock-climbing, however, is a fun, breathtaking and "adventurous" way to enjoy fall color, said Matt Popowski, public relations and event coordinator for Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park.

Accredited climbing guides are present every weekend, and the adventure is open to novices as well as seasoned climbers. In fact, anyone over the age of 6 is welcome to give it a try, he said.

While the view is similar to the one from the top of the chimney, "it's totally different when it's just you and the rock," Popowski said. "It's exciting, it's a good way to get a thrill while still being able to look out over the fall color."

Chimney Rock is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily through Nov. 5, then 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5

SATURDAY

Special event

Adventure Day
Safe Haven & Education Center, Greenville. 864-282-8988.
Joe Diffie: 8 p.m., Walhalla Civic Auditorium, Walhalla. \$35. 864-638-5277.

Boo in the Zoo:
Greenville Zoo, Greenville. \$3-\$5. 864-467-4333.
CCA's 28th Anniversary: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

couraged. Call 864-4681.

► **Hot-air balloons Over**
It's rare to get a view from above that's as beautiful as a hot-air balloon ride. In what's called a "vintage balloon" ride, the County area, near Lake Hartwell, offers a whole different perspective from high above the trees. Steve Lar and look out of Skyscapes, an fly right which also is if the trees," the Nov. 4-6 B-an actually Anderson fest, is the tree-

The balloon's pretty el several mil people to see, the Anderson colors from including over, ew, right on well, Lambert "I can go u of America thousand feet, rides all over, or I cember, weather down on top o. The cost is he said. "We c.s, \$85 for just float acrtations are exciting for p looking at the inopy tour. a bird's-eye vng quite like top of it." i trees from Skyscapes est canopy. offers balloonrough the through Nov; from tree-er permitting form to tree-\$175 for adult form, "you're children. Res the fall col- required. Cal water's Caro-0552.

► **Zipline & scope; it can**
There's nothing looking at the inside the for

be overwhelming. You almost have to take a step back and take it all in."

But as the leaves start to drop, there's still plenty to see, as the topography of the land and the structure of the trees become more visible, she said.

Zipline tours are available at Wildwaters Adventure Centers through November. Call 877-247-5535.

► **Canoeing on the Chattooga River.** "This is a great time of year to see the leaves on the lake or on the river," said Erin McKergow, Chattooga marketing representative for Wildwater Adventures Center in Long Creek.

There are guided canoeing trips on the Chattooga River or kayak excursions on Lake Tugaloo, as well as all-day clinics for those who want to learn the sport.

"There are definitely some things you can see from the water that you can't see from the land," she said.

"The color has gotten much more intense and vibrant than it was, even all of last year," McKergow said. "The color seems to be much, much better this year. The lake is surrounded by steep hillsides, so you get a long-range view of gorgeous color."

Wildwater Adventures Center offers canoeing and kayak trips on Lake Tugaloo and the Chattooga River through mid-November. Go to www.wildwaterrafting.com.