

Miller...from Page 1A

accomplishments is Georgia's Pre-K Program, also instituted during his time as governor.

Since its inception, the program has appropriated more

than \$5 billion "to send more than 1.6 million 4-year-olds to Pre-K programs throughout the state," per the Georgia Lottery for Education.

Taken together, the Hope Scholarship and Georgia's Pre-K Program "were his proudest achievements in his 46-year career in public service," per the Miller family.

Miller grew up in the North Georgia Mountains, and he graduated from Young Harris College in 1951.

In 1953, he began his lifetime pursuit of service to others by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps, and a year later,

he married the love of his life, Shirley Carver, in 1954.

Zell and Shirley enjoyed 64 years of marriage and had two sons.

Miller served in the Marine Corps until 1956, and in 1958, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a master's degree in history.

After graduation from UGA, he returned to Young Harris College to begin a career as an educator.

Miller commenced his political career as mayor of Young Harris, the same office his mother Birdie once held, and he served there from 1959 to 1960.

Subsequently, he won election to the Georgia Senate and served from 1961 to 1964, and later, he became the longest serving lieutenant governor in Georgia history with his service of 16 years from 1975 to 1991.

He went on to become Georgia's 79th governor, serving from 1991 to 1999, and from 2000 to 2005, Miller proudly represented his home state of Georgia in the U.S. Senate.

Miller's full obituary can be read inside this newspaper, and for more information on the life and times of Zell Miller, visit MillerFoundation.com or follow #ZellMillerLegacy.

Easter Egg Hunt...from Page 1A

Hunt is not so much a hunt as it is a mad dash to grab as many eggs as possible in an open field of competition.

There are three age groups at the annual egg hunt, which compete for different lots of eggs: toddler to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12.

As a general rule, the older the kids, the faster the eggs disappear, and the rule held true that Saturday morning.

"I worked with children in the past for several years, and I love seeing families come out here and enjoy their time together," said Jennifer Becker of the Union County Recreation Department.

Becker, previously a physical education teacher for kindergarten through sixth-grade students, is now the program director for the rec department, and this is her second year running the egg hunt.

"We would like to thank everybody for coming out today and tolerating this rain," said Becker. "We hope

to see everybody back next year. Hopefully we have better weather."

Rec department helpers that day were Garrett, Delaney, Austin and Skyler, and they began laying the 4,000 eggs in the fields about an hour and a half before the start of the hunt and all the rain.

Of course, the hunt offered free, wholesome, candy-filled fun for the whole family on the weekend before Easter Sunday, and many were thankful for the event.

Ashton Baker of Blairsville brought her three children – one currently in the womb – and niece to the Meeks Park Egg Hunt, and she said it's definitely become a family tradition.

"I enjoy it, because not everywhere does it," said Baker. "And it's good for the kids to get out and be involved in the community."

The hunt was a family tradition for most who attended that day, such as DeeDee Dyer and her daughter, Cienna Hoye-Albietz, also of Blairsville.

Hoye-Albietz used to



Photo by Shawn Jarrard
Union County Parks and Rec Program Director Jennifer Becker, right, has led the annual egg hunt for two years now.

attend the egg hunts with her mother years ago as a child, and now, she brings her own daughter, Scarlett.

"I think it's great that people can get out here and do things like this," said Dyer. "I see a lot of people I know, have worked with and gone to school with. They've got kids, and their kids have got kids."

Overall, the egg hunt was a clear success. Counting the parents, more than 300

people attended the March 24 hunt, which is down from recent years, though the weather has been nicer in past egg hunts.

The rec department raffled off two Easter egg baskets per age group, meaning that six lucky children went home with baskets on top of all the eggs they managed to collect in the 2018 Meeks Park Easter Egg Hunt.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson
Umbrellas and coats dominated the landscape at the egg hunt that Saturday.

Carry Class...from Page 1A

6 p.m., the sheriff and Union County Gun Club Officers will be on hand to answer questions and sign up those desiring to become new members.

An update on the proposed shooting range on U.S. Forest Service land will be given, and further details regarding the range and how to become a gun club member will be available.

Staff Sgt. Billy Purcell of the Union County Sheriff's Office will conduct the Weapons Carry Class after the gun club meeting, at 6:30 p.m.

This will be SSgt. Purcell's fifth time teaching the class.

SSgt. Purcell has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including as a Georgia

P.O.S.T. certified instructor with Firearms and Defensive Tactics as his major course of instruction. Staff Sergeant Purcell is also a two tour Vietnam vet.

The staff sergeant was senior instructor from 1986 to 2010 at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College Police Academy, and in addition, he was the assistant director of the academy from 2002 to 2010.

SSgt. Purcell has a degree in criminal justice and graduated from the Professional Management Program, Command College, and also was a graduate of the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy 159th Session.

In addition to his law enforcement service and education, Purcell was one

of the few officers selected to travel to Israel and serve as a law enforcement exchange officer.

"Once again, this class is back by popular demand," Sheriff Mason said.

The training will cover "Do's and Don'ts" for carrying weapons and provide an overview of how people can legally defend themselves and their property as citizens. There is no fee or test for this class, just free information.

No firearm is required. Civic center parking will be available, and the sheriff asks that attendees not park at the adjacent parking lot for Steve's Steakhouse Cookie Jar Restaurant.

Parking will also be available across the road on the hill at the county permit office.

Sheriff Mason said he will be looking forward to seeing you there.

Helicopter...from Page 1A

For instance, if you are a resident of Union or Towns County and go to Florida on vacation and needed to be life-flighted, as long as you use an Air Methods Company Medical Helicopter, you would be covered under the membership being paid for by Union General Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital, and Union and Towns County Commissioner's Offices.

On average, a medical helicopter flight in this area costs in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Residents of Union and Towns counties will not have any out-of-pocket expenses for them to use an Air Methods Medical Helicopter in an emergency situation.

Any resident of Union or Towns counties that uses the Air Methods helicopter

will receive a bill in the mail; however, the membership will take care of what their insurance does not cover.

If someone does not have insurance, this program will pay all of the costs. Proof of residency will be required to be sent in with the bill.

For questions regarding this FREE membership, please call or email Leslie Daniel at (706) 745-2050 or mchf@uniongeneral.org.

United Community Bank Yard Sale



The United Community Bank Yard Sale will be held Saturday, April 7th, 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Proceeds from the booth rental fee benefits Relay For Life. Contact Elisa Shook Norton for more information, 706-439-2243.