

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Zell

Never before, or after, has there ever been a political figure that equates to Zell Bryan Miller.

A maverick if you will, Zell blazed a trail that only Zell could blaze. He helped enact legislation that actually meant something to his constituents and didn't eat a hole in the taxpayer pocketbooks.

According to multiple news reports, Georgia's former Governor and U.S. Senator, has officially retired from public life and is undergoing treatment for Parkinson's Disease.

To continue his legacy, *The Miller Institute* is launching a leadership program for young professionals in Georgia, according to his grandson, Bryan Miller, who chairs, and is the CEO of *The Miller Institute*.

"My grandfather devoted his entire life to serving the people of Georgia and bringing progress to the state he loves," said Bryan Miller, chairman and CEO of *The Miller Institute*. "We want to continue that legacy of service through *The Miller Institute*, and are excited about the creation of the Miller Leadership Academy, which will prepare young professionals for successful careers in public service."

The academy will begin in Athens, Georgia in January with a leadership summit, followed by four more summits in Macon, Augusta, Columbus, and Savannah throughout 2018.

Miller, now 85, was elected lieutenant governor in 1974, won the governorship in 1990 and was re-elected in 1994. He was then appointed to the U.S. Senate in 2000 by then Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes to complete the term of the late U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell. Miller declined to seek election to the post when the term expired in 2004.

Elected as a conservative Democrat throughout his career, Miller supported Republican President George W. Bush's successful re-election bid in 2004 and authored a book criticizing the Democratic Party.

His greatest legacy as governor was steering legislation that created the Georgia Lottery through the Georgia General Assembly to raise money for a proposed college scholarships pro-

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Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



Temptation

C. S. Lewis imagines the world of temptations and tempters in his book "Screwtape Letters." In it, he has an evil creature Screwtape writing letters to his nephew Wormwood, a demon in training. Lewis hoped that the uninformed would be drawn to it as a sort of a joke, but indeed he was as serious as temptation really is.

Much of the advice Screwtape gives Wormwood is intended to keep people from acknowledging the reality of God (the "Enemy") by maintaining an unhealthy connection to the world around them. Lewis' world at the time was the Blitz of London in 1941.

His primary inspiration was the Bible, which, for one example, records the temptation of Jesus. The devil made efforts to connect Jesus to this world by using the human need for food and desire for possessions. Jesus responded by reciting the Hebrew Scriptures, which emphasized dependence on God and otherworldliness. Much about resisting temptation is packed into the words, "You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only" (Luke 4).

Lewis portrays Screwtape writing: "Our best method of attaching them to earth is to make them believe that earth can be turned into Heaven at some future date by politics, or eugenics, or 'science,' or psychology, or what not." Indeed God made us stewards of the earth, but to the extent improving conditions on earth or the plight of people omit the Creator, they are in vain. The temptation is to believe in human devices to fix everything that is wrong. "The wisdom of this world is foolishness before God" (1 Cor. 3:19).

Lewis addresses the long-term habit of godlessness. The temptation is to think of life as a continuously running play rather than the final act before eternity's curtain call.

Screwtape's letter says, "The job of their Tempters was first, of course, to harden these choices of the Hellward roads into a habit by steady repetition. Thus gradually there comes to exist at the center of the creature a hard, tight, settled core of resolution to go on being what it is, and even to resist moods that might tend

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All Things New

Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. How many more people are going to have to die on the highway in front of Walmart before anything is done to make it safer?

A. A lot of people from GDOT have been working on a solution for a couple of years. About three months ago they came to Blairsville and spent even more time evaluating the entire area to see what would be the best method to make it safer.

Q. Has the county not given them input on what we think would help?

A. We certainly have and were instrumental in getting the deceleration lane into Walmart moved closer to the store almost two years ago. This improved visibility for vehicles coming down the ramp and wanting to head back to Blairsville so their view would not be blocked by cars in the deceleration lane. This was a huge safety improvement and it was a long time after that was installed until we had another major traffic accident. There was a serious but not fatal accident there several months ago and that is when GDOT came back to try to make more improvements.

Q. When will the Georgia Department of Transportation make the needed improvements and why has it not already happened?

A. As frustrating as it is, GDOT has a lot of roads and lots of intersections that need improved and they have been working to get to all of them. When they told me that they hoped to have the work done before the end of the year, I told them that I hoped no one would be killed before then. Unfortunately, that just happened two weeks ago.

Q. Why doesn't GDOT simply close off the crossover to prevent people from crossing four lanes when leaving from the lower drive of Walmart?

A. That will be done as part of the new construction plan, but several other issues have to be addressed in the meantime.

Q. What are the changes planned for the Walmart intersections?

A. As you know, there are two intersections. The first one

See *Paris*, page 5A

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



Letters to the Editor

Be a saint

Dear Editor,

When I read Psalm 117:1 which says: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations, all ye people," a few questions come to mind, like do we see any evidence of this taking place in our nation?

How about in your community or just in your neighborhood. Can we see the world turning to God?

Where are the nations who worship and adore Him and are in submission to Him?

Folks, we are living in times when God has been mostly replaced by a lie, instead of the truth and sadly more lies are being spread throughout the world and the devil is having a hey day and souls are being won over in record numbers.

The simple fact is that the nations today are not praising and worshipping God like they should.

Yes, we might see evidence of it in your little corner of the world; however the time is coming when "God shall bless us and all the people of the earth shall fear Him (Psalm 67:7)."

Our God is not dead, but is making up His church from all races, tribes and tongues and

See *Combs*, page 5A

Sorghum Syrup Festival

Dear Editor,

We had a visitor here from New York state who attended the Sorghum Festival and who had many questions about this plant.

We knew about the syrup and the grain, but little else, so we suggested she ask at the Sorghum Festival.

This is the shocker - no one knew anything about sorghum other than the syrup which - by the way - was not available early on during the first day of the festival.

Our visitor asked several people working at the festival and got little information. Here in Union County we have a Sorghum Parade

See *MacCloud*, page 5A

Mountain Climate Change

Dear Editor,

We have all heard about the effect of global climate change on the arctic regions and on cities, towns, and homes along the coasts, but what about here in the counties of north Georgia and western North Carolina? In what way does global climate change affect the climate in the mountains?

On Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m., in the Moore room of the Hinton Center, in Hayesville, North Carolina, retired biology professor, B. K. Hull, will speak on the subject of Mountain Climate Change. The program is sponsored by the Public Policy Network, an organization dedicated to bringing information about a variety of policy issues to the citizens of Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina and Towns and Union

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Revenue flows vary

Dear Editor,

Transmission projects announced during the last 10 years are now beginning to come on-line. Combined with new wind and solar installations, these projects have become important pieces of the economic puzzle in the rural Midwest and Great Plains. The significance of renewable energy to rural economic development is well understood; however, less is known about the impact of transmission development.

We explore this further in our newest report, "Generation and Delivery: the Economic Impact of Transmission Infrastructure in Rural Counties." We examined state statutes governing revenue collection, distribution, and implementation at the local level in three states - Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Kansas.

As our examples illustrate, there is considerable variation in the flow of revenues from power lines. Each approach reflects different

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"Look, Momma, a Braves fan!"

Smoke Alarms Work

Union County Fire Department joins other fire departments in the common goal of saving lives. Every day, we respond to emergencies in which we are called upon to help save lives.

We may be called to a medical call, a motor vehicle accident or a fire. However, the best way that we can save lives is prevention. One of our best prevention programs is the Smoke Alarms Program. We have written many columns about smoke alarms; we constantly promote them; and we install them free in homes throughout Union County as requested by the homeowner.

Most of the time, we are writing about how well smoke alarms work; how reliable they are and how they can save your life. In this column, we would like to share a story of a recent fire that is a great example of why everyone should have smoke alarms in their homes.

An occupant had built a fire in the fireplace of the home. They had a fire for the last couple of nights. At approximately 4:45 a.m., the smoke alarms in the home started to sound waking everyone in the home. There was some light smoke in the home at that time. The occupant naturally thought that it was caused by smoke backing up in the chimney. However, upon further investigation, they found that the home was actually on fire around the chimney, in the walls and attic.

They immediately got everyone out of the home and called 911 to report the fire. When the fire department arrived, we found heavy smoke coming from the roof vents indicating fire in the attic. Firefighters made entry to the home and had to pull some wall and ceiling to find all of the fire. The fire was quickly extinguished after it was located.

Smoke alarms work. This fire occurred at 4:45 in the morning when most people are not up and going. Due to the occupants being warned early by the smoke alarms, everyone got out of the home and the fire was extinguished quickly with minimal damage.

If the occupants had not had smoke alarms, the fire would have grown significantly, spreading through the attic. The home would have filled up with smoke before the occupants would have realized; making it difficult to see and breathe.

This is a good example of how valuable smoke alarms can be. They can warn you early making it easier to escape and call for help. The sooner the fire department can get there, the minimal the damage.

Our ultimate goal is to have smoke alarms in every residence of Union County. If you would like more information on free smoke alarms in-

See *Chief*, page 5A

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief

David Dyer



Uncle Pick

Walker Pickens Cummings was born Jan. 30, 1910.

He was the older brother to my Grandfather, Coon Cummings. My grandfather adored his older brother and the two boys were inseparable. Papa tagged along with Pick to many activities.

One night Pick and Coon went to a church singing at a place called Saint Paul. Uncle Pick's girlfriend attended that church and had invited Pick to the singing.

As was the custom after the service, Pick, who was 18 at the time, was walking his girlfriend back to her home and his younger brother was right there with the pair. Coon was only 13 at the time and had no experience with girls at all. Pick loved his younger brother and decided to help the boy out. Pick's girl had a friend, who was also about 13. So, the problem was solved. Coon found himself in an awkward situation for a 13-year-old. He was walking home with a girl and he didn't know anything about how to treat a young lady.

Pick said he heard a scream and immediately thought Papa had got fresh with the young lady. As he turned to investigate, Coon Cummings came running by Pick and said, "she tried to hold my hand."

Coon never stopped running until he reached his home on Cummings Hill. Later he told me, "I have never been so afraid. I was only 13 and that girl wanted to hold my hand. I didn't know what to do. So, I ran."

Three years prior to the previous event found the young man and his siblings attending the Hallman School. He was the eldest and about to graduate then move on to high school in Phil Campbell. There was a little trouble that spring day in 1925. Pick was not involved but the teacher thought he was and therefore gave him a whipping, which resulted in his back and legs bleeding. Papa said, "Pick never uttered a word. He took it like a man."

Pick went home that afternoon and told his Dad, Lon, all about the beating.

Pick figured his Daddy would go to the schoolhouse and give the teacher a whipping.

Lon told his son, "You may not have been involved in this one. But, you must've done something to get a bad reputation with that teacher and make him think you deserved a whipping. So, I'll not take up for you. You need to remember your reputation follows you around like a young pup." Later, without Pick's knowledge, Lon visited with that teacher and made him realize that kids could not be beaten without con-

See *Cummings*, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



Frost Protection

I'm sure many of us spent the past weekend bundled up inside by the fire with some hot cocoa enjoying the first crisp air of fall and winter. We aren't the only ones who may need some protection from cold temperatures though. Our plants

may spend their lives outside and be somewhat used to adverse weather, but younger, less hardy plants really need our help when it comes to avoiding damage from hard frosts and cold snaps.

Clear, cloudless nights are the worst for frost damage to plants. During cloudy nights and days, the cloud cover helps to keep in heat that the earth has absorbed. Clear nights, however, allow all the heat that has been absorbed throughout the day to rapidly escape, causing the temperature to drop dramatically and moisture left in the air to settle on plants and freeze. The freezing of these crystals damages plant tissues and causes cracks in stems and bark as well as dieback of tender young shoots, leaves, and buds.

Plants that are most susceptible to frost damage are those that are not native to our area, are actively growing, or are not yet cold hardened. Frost damage is a major concern in spring as warm temperatures early in the season cause plants to break their dormant state early, and buds are nipped during the last season frost. However, dramatic drops in temperature throughout the winter can cause significant damage to plants as well. In mature plants, this could mean dieback of branches or the death of buds, causing less new growth or flowering the following year. Young plants with no protection are often killed by prolonged below freezing temperatures.

The best way to protect your plants against frost damage is to prevent it by planning ahead and providing appropriate care as best as you can. When possible, always select cold-tolerant plants and plan your landscaping appropriately.

Brick walls, rocks, and patios are excellent heat sources as they absorb sunlight throughout the day. These can serve as heat sources for sensitive plants. Always try to plant in areas with southern and western exposure as these get the most sunlight throughout the day and are the warmest areas at night. If a plant requires full to part sun, always plant in full sun if possible. Plant early-blooming frost tolerant plants in the coldest part of your property to make sure they do not break dormancy and risk losing their beautiful flowers. Plants still need hydration over the winter, so make sure they are adequately watered. Moist soil also changes temperature slowly, so this can help reduce cold damage to the roots. Use plenty of ground cover such as mulch to pro-

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Blairsville - Union County Chamber

Regina Allison



Take 5 with Sign Makers

This week's article is a special Take 5 with Kim Siekmann; co-owner of *Sign Makers of FLA/GA, Inc.* She and her husband Mark are celebrating an exciting bench mark this year for the business; their 30th Anniversary!

Congratulations Kim and Mark; what an awesome milestone!!

Sign Makers was established in Pompano Beach, Florida in July of

1987 by Mark Siekmann when the company he was working for closed their doors. With \$400 and a 10x10 warehouse, *Sign Makers* was created. They established relationships with customers from the business Mark was working for, and they grew from there! Most of their customers came to them by word of mouth, which is a testament to their high level of customer service and quality products.

They had been visiting Blairsville since 1996 when they bought their first "vacation"

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From the Ground Up

Melissa Mattee



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