

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## Letters to the Editor...

### Game Changers in Georgia politics

**Dear Editor,**  
I was privileged to attend the Miller Lecture Tuesday evening presented by Bob Short, distinguished Georgia political historian who was introduced by President Cox to a capacity crowd at Young Harris College which included Senator Zell Miller, his wife, family and many prominent friends. Short outlined "game changers" in Georgia politics which included President Jimmy Carter and others, including Governor Miller.

I was impressed to learn as a new resident of Blairsville, having migrated from my native Miami, that Governor Miller was responsible for more than the super highway here from Atlanta which did not exist in the late 50s when my Emory University fraternity struggled up Blood Mountain to Vogel State Park for house parties. It seems the Governor was responsible for advancing high school and college education opportunities for Georgia students with a scholarship program funded by the state lottery which was made "pork proof" to protect it from marauding legislators looking for funding sources for pet projects (such as happens in Florida).

I am also pleased to see that Miller's influence on education is being taken seriously by the Union County School Board in its on-going efforts to expand their admirable early childhood education program. Hats off to the Miller family and all who educate our young!

**Jim Crowder**

### Observations

**Dear Editor,**  
This writing concerns observations about the "Jacksonville" area just inside the Towns County line on State Road 76 (the main artery of travel). Specifically the concerns stated herein relate to the property front SR 76 between the Habitat for Humanity building and Townsend Mill Road. Said property is across the road from Valley Nursery.

For many years the commercial building on this site has been vacant and seemingly unattended. Within the last six months or so, however, the building has been upgraded and appears to be suitable for some type of business occupancy.

I have been informed from the Towns County Commissioner's office (via the Union County Commissioner's office) that a "sign" company is going to be headquartered in subject building. But, what I and a number of other residents in the areas surrounding this property are observing is that the real estate behind this building (and somewhat to one side of it also) is being littered with (apparently mostly inoperable) vehicles of all types. It is difficult to understand how this happening relates to a "sign" company. The property is now unsightly and will inevitably affect property values in the area as this littering continues to grow.

See Brock, page 5A

### Keep small towns small

**Dear Editor,**  
As a person who lived for over 30 years in a small town in Florida about a quarter of the size of Blairsville and I now live in Blairsville I would like to tell everyone what it's going to be like if the city and county keep pushing for more and more development.

First of all the traffic will increase, taxes will go up, crime will be a major problem, more and more money will have to be spent by law enforcement, more jails, more court rooms etc, roads will have to be widened, small mom and pop businesses will no longer exist, major retailers will move in, more schools will have to be built and I could go on and on. I have seen it with my own two eyes in a place that I never thought it could happen. Don't let anybody fool you that the things above will not happen because I guarantee you they will. You will be told that the city and county have no intention of any of that

See Gaye, page 5A

### Congress needs to hear from you

**Dear Editor,**  
Are you as concerned as James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, who believes that ISIS infiltration with Syrian Refugees is "a huge concern"? Add to that: Ann Richard, Asst. Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, who says vetting procedures for Syrians will be expedited. And according to the FBI, Syrians cannot be vetted for terror connections.

Why are the Gulf States not accepting any Syrian refugees, even though they are much better situated, with room for the refugees, resources and common language?

If Congress wants to assist Syrians, it should provide resources to assist only those who are staying in the Middle East.

If you believe this is a serious concern, your voice needs to be heard by Washington. Call the following people at both phone num-

See Gray, page 5A

### Solving climate change would boost economy, not harm it

**Dear Editor,**  
Though there are fears of economic disaster if our country invests in the infrastructure to deal with climate change, the reverse is actually true. A report by the World Bank in June of 2014 stated "policies to cut carbon pollution might actually boost the global economy by up to \$2.6 trillion a year."

Wall Street agrees with these findings. A recent report by Citigroup states "The incremental costs of following a low carbon path are in context limited and seem affordable, the 'return' on that investment is acceptable and moreover the likely avoided liabilities are enormous- actually savings trillions of dollars." They go on to say, "And down the line, a low carbon energy mix could account for \$30-50 trillion in savings from avoiding climate damage."

The risks of not acting on climate change are unacceptable. All the definitive studies ask the question- "Why not act on climate change?" Citizens Climate Lobby has a simple plan for putting a steadily increasing price on carbon and returning all the dividends to us, the people of the United States. Their well respected Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) study found that this

See Dixon, page 5A

## Christ Our Life

Gregory Peck made more than one movie about an assumed identity. That plot device is probably popular because it appeals to our curiosity about being somebody different, or how we would act if we were. Many yearnings including this one, can be traced to some profoundly spiritual truth.

Peck and Audrey Hepburn star in "Roman Holiday," a movie about a princess weary of her official duties and expectations. She assumes the identity of an ordinary tourist, but Peck, playing the reporter, figures it out. In "Gentlemen's Agreement," Peck again plays a journalist. This time he accepts the challenge of writing hard-hitting articles to expose anti-Semitism. So he poses as a Jew.

The intriguing idea of being someone else hints at the Christian life that many encounter only after years of trying to live it. Who wouldn't want to be in touch with your "better angels" or to "be all that you can be"? So we try, but sense something is still missing. Do the phrases "I need more of God in my life" or "I'm going to live for God" really express the most profound meaning of the gospel of Christ?

Authentic Christianity means assuming a new identity. Some of your personality may remain but you have exchanged your life. It's not a life that has only "turned over a new leaf." These words express something quite different: "It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me." "Consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." (Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:11, Col. 3:4). The profound spiritual truth is that Christ is your life. In Him, you assume a new identity! It is not just that you can be better, but that you can share in the divine, eternal life.

Major W. Ian Thomas served in the British Expeditionary Forces in Belgium in WWII, and died just a few years ago. After the War and for decades he effectively promoted Christian education and personal spiritual growth. But in his early life he was ineffective. One evening, he sensed the Lord saying, "For seven years, with utmost sincerity, you have been trying to live for Me,

See Fowler, page 5A

### All Things New

Wayne Fowler



## Questions and Answers

**Q. Why did the County have to adopt a Fireworks Ordinance?**

A. In the 2015 Georgia Legislature a broad Fireworks bill was passed. This was passed as competitive and economically driven legislation so the State would stop losing business and tax revenue to neighboring states on the sale of fireworks. Fireworks can now be sold statewide and the legislation that was passed put little to no restrictions on the sale and shooting of fireworks. Therefore, I thought the need for a local ordinance concerning fireworks was necessary with the main concern being public safety.

**Q. Are snap pops and sparklers considered fireworks and do they fall under these rules and regulations?**

A. Model rockets, pop guns, snap pops, wire and wood sparklers are not considered fireworks and do not fall under the rules and regulations set forth in the ordinance.

**Q. Are there restrictions on the hours I can use fireworks?**

A. Yes, there are some restrictions set by state law. They can be used between the hours of 10 a.m. and midnight every day of the year with some of the major holidays having extended hours. On January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31 fireworks can be used from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. The county cannot set times, but are required to comply with the state law. We know some adjustments to this law need to be made and we hope the Legislature will consider some modifications.

**Q. Can I use fireworks anywhere?**

A. Fireworks cannot be used within 100 yards of a gas station or a facility that refines or blends gasoline. They also cannot be used within 1000 feet of a residential property, national forest, or farm animals. Farm animal in the ordinance includes cows, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, and any animals with hooves.

**Q. Are there any exceptions to the hours and distance regulations?**

A. According to our new ordinance, a special use permit can be obtained from the county. There are certain requirements that will have to be met to get a special use permit. We are currently

See Paris, page 5A

## Congratulations Logan Turnpike Mill

Logan Turnpike Mill owners, George and Cecilia Holland, were recently recognized as the Blairsville-Union

County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Quarter. The recognition is given four times each year to a member of the Chamber who has exemplified outstanding Chamber and community involvement. More than fifty people gathered to celebrate.

George and Cecilia have owned and operated Logan Turnpike Mill for 30 years. Their stone ground grits, pancake mixes, flour, and cornmeal are among the best you'll ever taste. This is because their process uses the whole grain and nothing is removed. In fact, their products are so good, that they were featured on the Today Show by Ironchef contestant and winner, Chef Kevin Rathbun! Logan Turnpike sells their products internationally and has truly helped put Blairsville, Georgia on the map.

In addition to the wonderful business that George and Cecilia operate, they find lots of time to give to others. They have donated product to the Chamber and to Union County for VIP gift baskets as well as statewide conferences and events that have allowed Union County to be featured in a unique way. In addition to their numerous donations, they volunteer in a variety of capacities. Cecilia is a member of the Union County Farmers Market Board of Directors and

See Williams, page 5A

## Jacko

When I was growing up, it was about this same week in October that my dad would come home from work with a couple of big orange gourds. My sister and I would be so excited;

we'd barely get through dinner overcome with eagerness of the great carving. After dinner, Dad would spread newspaper over the kitchen table, and he'd take out his pumpkin carving tools. Essentially they were the same tools that he used in late May to cut the cardoons in the fields, and then again at Thanksgiving to slice the turkey, and after Easter to clean the ham off the bone in preparation for the family favorite, split pea soup. Fifty years ago, the craft section of the W.T Grants didn't have specific tools for carving a pumpkin.

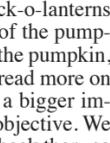
Dad did the heavy duty cutting. He never looked at it as an exact science, as he just stuck the dagger into the top, cut a circle, nearly even around the stem. He'd then stick his hand into the messy innards, pulling out the stringy seeds. I remember always insisting that we keep the seeds, dry them over the winter and plant them the following summer. To appease me, Dad would place a handful of them in an old pie tin and leave them in the window seal of the garage where they would bask in the warm, afternoon sun. A month or two later, he would toss the seeds and the tin, with neither my sister nor I aware of our trashed autumn intentions.

After he had successfully hollowed out the gourds, he would guide us as we drew our child-like conceived ideas of what our jack-o-lanterns should look like in pen on the face of the pumpkin. I always wanted the flat side of the pumpkin, because I thought his face would spread more on that side. Any opportunity to make a bigger impact with my artistry was my main objective. We didn't take photos of the pumpkins back then, so I can only go by memory. If it serves me right, the creative juices flowing always produced basically the same jagged toothed Jack-o-lantern. At the time, it was that year's masterpiece and once Mom added the candle to the inside, the sense of accomplishment was monumental. Within 24 hours, the excitement of our creations had waned

See Leone, page 5A

### Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



...No, not that one. I'm waiting on a newer model.

### Silenced

**Dear Editor,**  
On Tuesday, September 28, 2015, at 6 o'clock p.m., fifteen local pastors stood on the steps of the Blairsville Square and publicly announced the Pastor's Proclamation: their allegiance to our Christian God and to God's Commandments; namely, that they and their churches would not condone or participate in any homosexual unions. In light of the recent Supreme Court decision regarding homosexual marriage, those pastors went out on a limb. It was, and is, a perfect example of the Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates in action. Over a hundred people attended outside on a rainy day in support of them and many, many more signed the Proclamation prior to the event. Those pastors spoke for themselves and hundreds, if not thousands, of people in their combined congregations; not to mention millions of people all over America. To date, there has been no mention of it. Well, this

See Smith, page 5A

### Authority of the Bible

**Dear Editor,**  
Recently a significant representation of the Blairsville community and surrounding area gathered at the steps of the old courthouse. The purpose was to read and sign a proclamation worded and based on the authority of the Bible. This proclamation was signed by area pastors of a number of different denominations. It was in direct response to the recent decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States to allow same sex marriage. It is the stated belief that a lesser power cannot rule over a higher power. God has made it clear in His word that marriage is the union between a man and a woman. I am personally very disappointed that our local newspaper gave no recognition to this now historical event.

Respectfully,  
**Fred Freeman**

### Christian values

**Dear Editor,**  
I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for printing so many letters from those people that continue to support the need to return to Christian values in this country. Without your support the populous of this country may still be in the dark as to how many folks realize that the degradation of our freedoms are being recognized and fought for by so many.

With your normal willingness to support those folks being already stated, I'm very curious as to why you have not made any mention of the pastoral proclamation on Biblical marriage, that was signed by 15 pastors, as well as many other concerned citizens, on the steps of the courthouse just two weeks ago.

So many people, and organizations, have relinquished the majorities' right to attain approval of the minority. I love and respect everyone, as Christ has taught me, but that does not require

See Radcliff, page 5A

### Uncle Pick

Walker Pickens Cummings was born January 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 which 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".

Another time Pick was still in school. The whole family attended the Hallman School. Pick was the eldest and about to graduate and move on to High School in Phil Campbell. There was little trouble that spring day in 1925. Pick was not involved but, the teacher thought he was and therefore received 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 Hallman School 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 to make him think you deserved a whipping. So, I will not go and take up for you. You need to clean up your own reputation". Later, without Pick's knowledge, Lon visited with that teacher and made him realize that kids could not be beaten without consequences.

Dad had the same birthday as his Uncle Pick, January 30th. When Pick was 28 years old his nephew was born. Pick was as proud as a peacock. Pick pulled up into the yard of his brother on January 30, 1938. He picked up his nephew and walked toward the door. He told my grandmother that he was going to show off his nephew to all the neighbors. Granny said, "Pick, it is spitting snow and cold as a blue norther". She told me later, "Pick was disappointed, but, he understood".

See Cummings, page 5A

### Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



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