# DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

MY NEW YEAR'S

EVERY TIME I SEE

A CRISIS ON TV

RESOLUTION IS TO STOP

HOARDING FOOD+SUPPLIES

#### America Needs the Marines

way start our New Year, than to comment on our "The Proud, the Few", Ma-





rines. Our unique United States Marine Corps is a small determined service we simply cannot do without. They are specialized because of their history, training, and dedication to America, our Constitution INCLUDING what I do here, our First Amendment Rights. Specialized because from day 1 they live for their "do or die" abilities and very strict discipline to do so. All military services can and will commit to those values when called upon. Whether those missions require the taking of lives in order to save lives and freedoms of others, security of our nation, or anything in

Recently I received an article written by a Captain in the Marine Corps Reserve who seemingly advocated some sort of "progressive" idea of absorbing the USMC into the Navy and Army. Which is precisely what prompted me into typing my "two cents" worth here! I won't go into all the minutia and nano details of what this Marine suggested. However I will say his notion of "modernizing" our Marines by phasing the USMC into our other branches of military is ENTIRELY WRONG.

Our USMC needs to be autonomous and remain a small, ready, willing and able dedicated fighting group just as they were originally created to be. They are very special and our nation NEEDS our USMC when no other military force will be able to get the job done. I am not and wasn't a Marine. However as one of nine Coasties who were assigned to a "riot squad" with nine Marines and trained for about five weeks under a tough Marine Gunny Sergeant, I learned to love and respect my counterparts in the USMC, and they in turn resoundingly reciprocated. Had we been deployed we had each others backs and would have depended on one another for any given issue. Unlike we Coasties, the Marines were committed to extremely disciplined decorum 24/7. My USMC counterpart, a young buck sergeant, and I spent a lot of time together on and off duty. As a USCG Petty Officer I was surprised and astounded at the instant absolute respect and "snap to" attention given me when this three chevron Marine invited me into the USMC barracks and living spaces for the enlisted Marines I was working with at the time. There absolutely is NO, ZERO, NADA other substitute for our USMC and they do not need to be changed into some-

My utmost respect and regard for our Marines is under stated with my use of a capitol "M" when I spell Marine. Just as I use a capitol "V" for Honorable Veterans. Come to think of it, our SÖVEREIGN REPUBLIC would be non-existent without those six military services serving America in their "special jobs". Absorbing the Marine Corps into other military branches is a non-starter in this old Coastie's opinion. Working together as liaison services has always been a success. But our fine Marines just need to remain Marines!

Semper Fi/Semper Paratus



#### **Mass Resistance**

Dear Editor,

"No one saw it coming," Joe Biden lied in interview on ABC news, 12-23-21. This blatant Biden lie from the Executive Branch, can only mean one thing, the administration is protecting Big Pharma profits, while the majority of world's people go unvaccinated and the vaccine formula is kept secret by Moderna and other drug makers.

The science is well known that says: until the whole world is vaccinated, no one is safe from Covid 19 infection and that the variant viruses will continue to mutate and spread. Public health measures which protects average people against death and disease, but lowers corporate profits is the crux. For example, people drive less during the pandemic, therefore Big Oil calls for keeping markets open and social interactions unchanged as with children attending schools, workers continue working, attendance at public events, etc., must remain open.

"When Big Government leaders lie, the truth becomes a traitor," says ex-Governor Jesse Ventura. Capitalist, corporate control of our economy and politics is the number one cause of 800k U.S. Covid deaths. The only solution is to fight for change by organized resistance, mass protests, civil disobedience, strikes, boycotts and demands for a public accounting of leaders' for their lies and crimes.

Lance Jobson

### Thank You, Towns County

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the residents of Clay County Care Center I would like to thank the community of Towns County, who became their secret Santas and made their Christmas so very special. Thank you all very much. And from all of us have a very Happy New Year.

Rosemary Harvey, CCCC Community Life Coordinator

#### **Changes to Hamilton Gardens**

As one of the many volunteers who worked at restoring and enhancing Hamilton Gardens since early 2016, I'm devastated by what Georgia Mountain Fair has done to the Gardens in the two short months they have been in charge of the management. We knew the new management would have new ideas. but the removal of a beautiful, functioning fountain from the center piece of the Celebration Plaza was an atrocity. Especially the fact that it was placed in the back where there is no power

That being said, to rip out the Children's Daffodil Memorial Garden that was dedicated to the children murdered in the Holocaust was criminal. The list of atrocities goes on and on, from ripping out mature perennials, to removing all plantings from the herb garden, and removing the sundial. The list is endless. And the saddest part is that all of these things were made possible thanks to private donations from the community. It's like none of it mattered that the management before 10/31/21, between volunteer hours and contributions, put \$1,000,000 into the property. I for one will never set foot there again. Linda Jones

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WAS SET IN THE YEAR 2022 **Cousin Eddie** Sometimes on a Saturday **Outside** evening in the winter months, when it was too cold to play The Box outside or perform dangerous experiments in my secret un-By: Don Perry derground laboratory disguised as our basement, the television | worldoutsidethebox.com

> would catch my attention. I wasn't old or wise enough to appreciate the music, but the skits were funny. I remember one skit in particular. It went something like this: "Jack and me went to the circus. Jack got hit by a bowling pin. Jack and me got even with the circus. We bought a ticket but we didn't go in!'

would be left on and Hee Haw

A futile gesture, no doubt, but that little verse came to mind recently on a wintry day when my current secret underground laboratory was short on dangerous experiments and long on tools that wanted sorting and items in need of repair. In the throws of procrastination, I failed to follow my own advice, and like an alcoholic who thinks he's doing better because he's "not drinking as much," I took just a sip of social media.

It starts with a sip and then you come to hours later, tired and angry and your head hurts, thinking, "I just sat down; why

Back to the "circus." We've been under the big top for at least a year, perhaps much longer, and everyone is mad at the circus and longing to get even with it. We're outraged. We're "fiery but mostly peaceful protest" mad. We're storming the Capitol mad. We're so mad that we just have to express our feelings. and everyone wants to hear about them.

It makes us feel good to tell everyone how mad we are, and we know we'll feel even better when our friends "like" our little tantrums and contribute their own. It's good to be outraged

Of course, most of us are too busy to actually climb a wall, break a window or burn a neighborhood business, and those things are wrong, especially when they are done by people we don't like, but we can push pixels from just about anywhere and at anytime, and feel righteous and united in our outrage against the bad people.

Then the professional pixel pushers will gather up our contributions and repackage them with images of the people who were desperate or dumb enough to let their outrage take the wheel. Those people are relatively few in number, but the profes-

sionals will broadcast their antics over and over until everyone has a chance to see them, and express their outrage about them, which inspires more outrage and leads to more burning and breaking, which leads to more outrage.

It's an effective business model, this self-perpetuating outrage circus, and it generates billions in revenue. The best part of it is that the people who traffic in outrage, politicians, pundits, media companies, news networks, social media platforms, apocalypse bloggers, don't have to create or produce anything They just have to do a bit of pixel herding, tweaking and manipulating, and it's almost free money.

Left to our own devices, we're easy marks. We're wired for anger. It's a survival mechanism rooted in the amygdala, the higher brain's "Cousin Eddie" (as in "Christmas Vacation") who shows up at the most inopportune moments to embarrass the rest of the family.

A good portion of human history involves our efforts to overcome the influence of Cousin Eddie. Religion, philosophy and government are all necessary to help us cope with it, and to minimize the damage we do when we can't cope.

Civilization itself hinges on how successful our beliefs and institutions are in elevating our better angels over the fear and anger that can issue forth from those two little almond shaped clusters in our heads, and we've seen what devastation we can cause when they fail.

We've all heard the term "rageaholic," and somewhere in the back of our heads where memories are stored, we remember that "some" people seem to be addicted to getting angry. Not us, though. We don't go around shooting people on the freeway or destroying property or threatening government officials.

But hold on. If arson is the crime, is the one who strikes the match more guilty than the ones who carry fuel to the fire, or the ones who throw gasoline on it? After all, we're about to impeach a president for allowing his own Cousin Eddie to take over his social media accounts. What about our contributions - the memes, the insults, the accusations and the name calling presented in the self righteous cause of partisan politics?

In our defense, as thin as that might be, one might say that we have an addiction. As it turns out, anger really can be addictive. Cousin Eddie is a pusher.

He's handing out neurotransmitters known as catecholamines, and little dime bags of dopamine, adrenaline and noradrenaline, and though we may hate ourselves in the morning, it feels good to feel bad, at least for a moment, so we do it

You might think we would be better off without these little brain buttons inherited from the dinosaurs, but our relationship with Cousin Eddie is more complicated than that. The amygdala is also involved in emotional learning and the process of forming memories. Which makes it prime territory for anyone who wants to manipulate us by feeding our addictions.

As it turns out, our righteous anger is about as valuable to the process of building a better world as Jack's unused circus ticket. Where it does have value is in creating revenue for media giants, and for keeping us all so thoroughly distracted that we miss what's happening to our economy and our national character right under our noses.

## Apple Tree Pruning

winter is prime apple pruning time. Pruning apple trees is important early in the tree's





life so that it gets started off right. Later on, if you properly prune the tree each year the tree will be more productive, more disease resistant, and have a longer life. Keeping all these things in mind, let's talk about apple tree pruning today. The general advice that I give people when it comes to pruning apple trees is to prune as much as you feel comfortable, then go back and prune a bit more. Most of the time people are afraid of damaging the tree if they cut too far back. However, if trees are pruned at the right time of year and the right branches are cut off, it will be better for the long-term health of the tree. If you have a tree that has not been

pruned regularly, and you're trying to get it back into shape you'll want to start out by pruning out and dead or diseased branches. Second, you'll want to cut out any crossing branches. Crossing branches create open wounds that can be easily infected. After you've pruned out dead, diseased, and crossing branches you want to try to open up the canopy. An open canopy will allow airflow. That's going to reduce the humidity, and therefore reduce the severity of disease occurring. The saying is that you want the canopy to be so open that a bird could flying through it without hitting any branches. A tree that has too many branches will not be as productive. An apple tree is only able effectively produce a certain amount of fruit. Adding fertilizer can boost the productivity. Therefore, pruning might affect the number of fruit you tree produces, but you'll have better quality and they'll be more likely to make it all the way to maturity. Trees that have been properly pruned their whole lives will have more a Christmas tree shape than a teardrop shape. If you have a newly planted tree, you'll need to prune it as well. If you have planted an unbranched whip, you'll need to cut it back to 24 to 30 inches above the ground. This is going to encourage the new tree to branch out. If you don't prune an unbranched whip, you'll probably end up having a 20-foot tall tree that doesn't have any branches on it.

Sometimes people will plant a seed from an apple core that they've eaten. This can be a fun experiment for kids to see an apple tree grow. An issue that you may run into with this is that there is no telling what kind of apple tree will come up. If you plant a seed from your favorite apple, that fruit could have been pollinated by a different variety, leaving you with an unknown cross. Another issue is that nowadays most trees have been grafted onto a rootstock. The grafted rootstock will provide more protection from root diseases and may dwarf the tree, which cuts down on the difficulty of managing the tree.

If you have questions about pruning apple trees, contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob. Williams@ uga.edu.

#### **Habitat History**

Let's talk "Habitat History". Most of you reading this column have heard about Habitat for Humanity, and know that it's a worldwide organization that builds houses for people who normally don't qualify for a conventional home mortgage. But I'll bet that most of you have no idea how all this started!

Habitat **Happenings** Cathy

In 1942, some members of the Rehoboth Baptist Church. near Americus, GA, decided to pool their resources and create a community farm. Clarence Jordan owned some land, so he and several other members of Rehoboth Baptist Church started were shared, and they acted as caretakers of the land and stewards of the natural resources. In 1950, Rehoboth Baptist Church excommunicated the members of the Farm, because people who lived there were treated equally, regardless of race, and this was not an accepted practice at that time. Many of the local businesses in the area started a boycott of the Farm's products, in an attempt to drive the people out of the area. This boycott lasted well into the 1960s, but in 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a letter of support for the Farm owners, and that encouraged everyone

In 1965, Millard and Linda Fuller joined the farm. It was around then that the concept of "partnership housing" was developed. Houses would be built by volunteers, and sold for no profit. Mortgage payments from housing partner families would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters, along with money earned by fundraising, to build more homes. The "Fund for Humanity" was established. The first partnership house was completed in 1969 in Sumter County, GA. The homeowners were Beau and Emma and their five children. Their house was made of concrete block with a modern kitchen, indoor bathroom, and a heating system (which was much better than the uninsulated one-room shack with no indoor plumbing and no heat where they used to live). In 1973, the Fullers took the partnership housing concept to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and spent three years there building houses with the local farmers. When they came back to the United States in 1976, their Organization was officially named "Habitat for Humanity", and Habitat for Humanity International was established.

Habitat Houses have been built in all 50 states and more than 70 countries, providing housing for more than 39 million people! In 1984, former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn joined Habitat for Humanity as volunteers. They have worked with over 100,000 volunteers around the world to build and repair over 4,000 homes. At age 97, President Carter is still actively working with Habitat, and he and Rosalynn have become the first "Habitat Humanitarians", a group of people known not only for their service to Habitat for Humanity, but also their tireless work as spokespeople for the organization. Some of the other 'Habitat Humanitarians" are Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, and Drew and Jonathan Scott. We here at Habitat for Humanity, Towns/Union Counties, Inc., are proud to carry on the legacy of Clarence Jordan and Millard and Linda Fuller, to help provide affordable housing for qualifying families. And now you know

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