

# Opinion/Editorial

## Happy New Year

The management of the paper and I wish you all a Happy New Year. May the blessings of this great nation and the All Mighty find you and yours in 2021. Coming on the heels of three of the most productive years of modern times, nearly four, but cut short by a deliberate attack on our nation and nearly two hundred others, 2021 promises to be difficult but the blessings are there if we but look for them.

But first COVID, the Wuhan Virus. We can look forward to three, maybe four vaccines that could consign this virus to the history books. Let us hope that is how it plays out. And then let us turn our concerns and efforts to recreating the booming economy we knew until the end of last January. At that time virtually every quintile of the socio-economic strata in our country were enjoying rising incomes and increased wealth. All the identifiable ethnic groups in the nation found their horizons expanding, their futures brighter.

Returning to those days is going to be difficult but not impossible. It appears that former Vice President Biden will be inaugurated on January twenty first. He will bring with him many of the policies and people from the former administration, higher income and capital gains taxes and insofar as possible the regulatory regime that with the best of intentions will stifle the economic growth that made the former good times possible. No matter the happy talk propaganda. Higher taxes on income and wealth with a heavier regulatory hand from the administrative state always put a damper on economic activity. Don't believe the propaganda that a commitment to "sustainable energy" will make everyone richer and

happier. The mandated use of less efficient energy, more costly to produce will make the producers richer from subsidies and tax credits but not you and me. To this I can only add we are Americans. We will cope. My Happy New Year wish to you and yours is that you will cope and maybe prosper.

The rest of the world faces tougher times without the advantage of being Americans. You can bet that the efforts to halt Iran's proxy war on all who are not Iran, or its few allies will be replaced by a new effort to "reach an accommodation." That policy worked so well in the last administration why not try it again? Meanwhile the US brokered peace between Israel and its Arab and Muslim neighbors may find this new/old Iran policy an impediment. A newly empowered Iran will make a point of attacking this Israeli-Arab détente. I predict Iran will find no success. If US support for Iran increases and US support for Arab-Israeli friendship wanes the leaders of those countries will find another Great Power sponsor. I predict Russia.

While we are looking at Russia's contributions to a Happy New Year, we should look at Europe. In the name of "better relations with our NATO allies and their alter ego the EU, the New Administration will likely end US opposition to the completion of the Nordstream II natural gas pipeline from Russia to Germany. While this will undoubtedly be seen by the Germans and Russia as a real coup, it will most likely be seen by the rest of Europe as US abandonment of them and their interests to two nations which have a history of heavy handedness in their dealings with their neighbors. This will



Ed Scanlon

most likely result in European efforts at accommodation with Russia. Not the result one would expect from a party and administration with an expressed phobia to Russian influence, but then, no one ever accused them of strategic sagacity. The Europeans will cope. Except maybe the Baltic states and Poland. And Ukraine (remember Ukraine, Hunter and all that?) will probably become once again a vassal state of Russia. But, hey! What impact is all that going to have in Manhattan or Hollywood?

Which brings us finally to the Indo-Pacific region. Smaller naval and space budgets will signal to China that the US will no longer be a serious impediment to their hegemonic ambitions in the South and East China Seas, the Western Pacific in general and the Indian Ocean from the Strait of Malacca to the West Coast of Africa. Our allies in those regions will be chagrined but will coalesce around Australia and India and hold on as best they can and hope for better days with a more reliable US partner in the future. American Globalists will attempt to convince them that "it's all for the best", but they live there and know better. Ironically, their trade with China will increase in the short run as they play for time, with the US not so much.

So Happy 2021. There is an old Chinese curse that translates "May you live in interesting times." That we will.

# Family & Marriage

## Be proactive, not reactive

"I believe that everyone chooses how to approach life. If you're proactive, you focus on preparing. If you're reactive, you end up focusing on repairing." – John C. Maxwell

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." – Bible (Philippians 3:14)

Joe and Jane sought assistance from a marriage counselor. Jane was a decision-maker. She liked to plan things, go places, set objectives and go for them. Joe, her husband, used to be that way too. It was probably what brought them together in the first place. As the years went by, however, Joe realized that when Jane made decisions, she wasn't willing to change them. Since most of the decisions Jane made affected their marriage in some way, Joe learned he had basically two options. Either he could go yield to her plans or rebel. He found that rebellion was painful, so he defaulted to the easier path; he simply went along with whatever Jane wanted.

Jane felt like Joe never took the lead in their family affairs; the decision-making burden always fell upon her. Joe told the counselor that whenever he tried to make a decision it was evaluated and frequently overruled by Jane. Hence, he chose the path of least resistance – he gave in. Thus, neither of them was happy, but the battles were avoided.

Dr. Henry Cloud, in his book *Changes That Heal*, has an excellent discussion on setting boundaries in marriage. Quoting Dr. Cloud: "Owning our own lives is the essence of freedom, and there is no love

without freedom. Freedom realizes oneself, and love motivates us to give that self to others. When we give before we are free and truly own ourselves, we have fallen short of servanthood and into slavery. Realize what you own, and then share yourself with others. This is to fulfill the law of Christ." The law of Christ Dr. Cloud is referring to is the second of the two Commandments which Jesus said were the greatest commandments, "love your neighbor as yourself." (emphasis added)

Perhaps one of the most important responsibilities we have in our marriages is to learn to love our spouse as we love ourselves. We humans tend to be unbalanced most of the time. We either tend to give in too easily or we focus on our own demands. Neither of these actions is good for healthy relationships.

An important prerequisite to any good relationship is first understanding who we are. If we let the wind blow us every which way, we have no direction, no definition. Much of society seems to be headed that way these days. We give into the latest pressure, whether it is to buy the latest fashions, or to join the crowd in doing or protesting whatever. As you read this can you put in words some of the beliefs/actions that describe you? Or are you just part of the crowd? As the Bible points out, it was the crowd that condemned Jesus to death.

Once we have a feeling for who we are and what matters to us, it is important to set some boundaries. If we are asked to do something of questionable nature, legally, ethically, or relationally, are we able to say no? Maybe, as Dr. Cloud



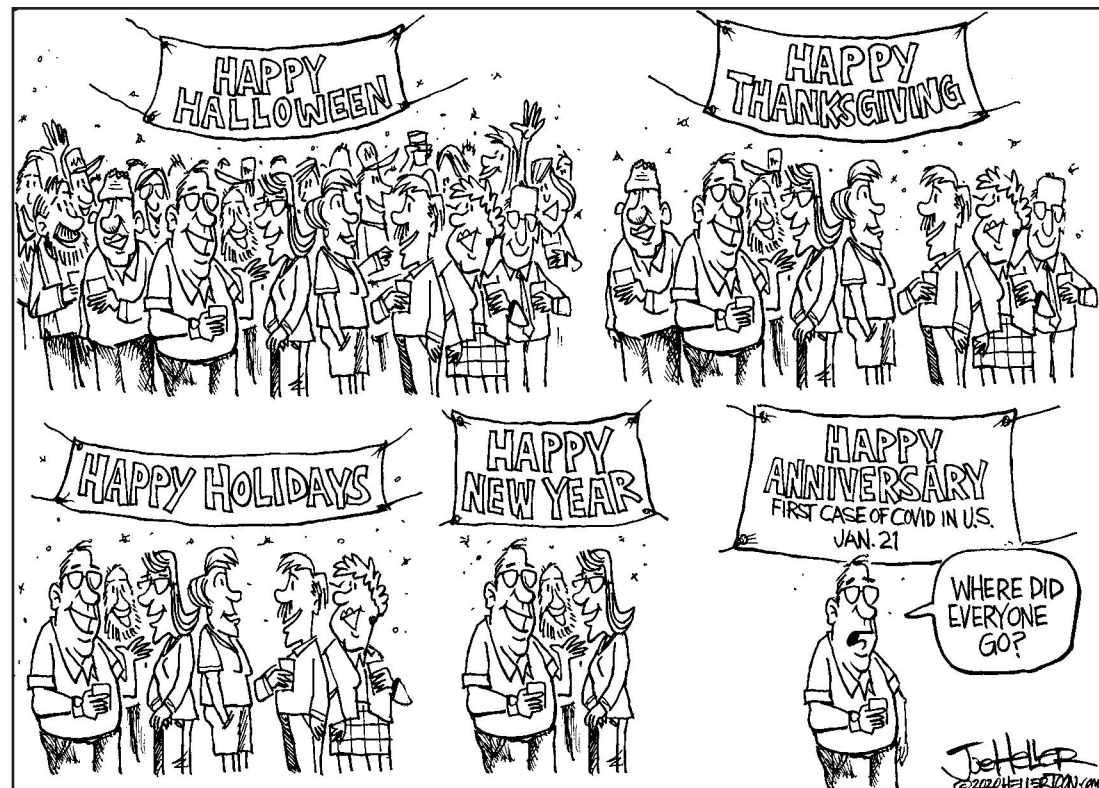
Roger Rollins  
Family and Marriage Coalition

suggests, we need to develop a "no" muscle.

In our individual relationships, there are lots of opportunities to exercise boundaries, but consider this overall context. Our God is love, and embodies both righteousness and mercy. We must learn to speak the truth in love.

Join us for a gala affair with a delicious meal, great fellowship, and an encouraging message celebrating marriage and the family. Our annual Marriage Celebration will be on January 29, 2021, 6:30PM, at the Woodside Plantation Country Club. Cost is \$70 per couple and \$35 for singles. Our guest speaker will be Michael E. Perry, Ph.D. Co-Founder, President/CEO Human Performance and Behavior Expert. Please let us know you will be with us (contact information below). You will be blessed.

The Family & Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com, http://www.aikenfamco.com



## Letter To The Editor

### Comments on intention to challenge electoral college votes

Dear Editor,

Some of the comments about my intention to challenge the electoral college votes from certain states are.....interesting.

Here are MY thoughts: I was once a Bank Branch Manager. When my Head Teller was out of balance or I had to audit her vault, she and I did it together. She watched. She and I Verified. We both signed off on the balance.

If she had walked away the cash drawer, I could have slipped \$100 out and told her she was out of balance - maybe she took the money or maybe she gave too much to the customer when she cashed their check. It was my word against hers if she wasn't present. That was why we both watched/counted.

When I saw the vote counting officials, in several areas across the nation, send people home - and then keep counting votes through the night without anyone observing; or when they covered the windows where the tabulations were being conducted, in an attempt to keep legal observers from seeing what they were doing behind the glass, I recognized it as, at the very least, malfeasance, and at worse, corruption.

If this election was on the up and up, WHY keep observers from, well, observing the vote count?

If they were honest, how can they explain sending people home in Pennsylvania and then continuing to count votes without legal observers present? If they were all legal voters, why not wait until morning, when everyone returned, to restart the count? Or just Keep everyone there during the count until it was finished? Before mail-in ballots, they were able to accomplish that in a timely manner with same-day, in-person votes.

If these officials weren't attempting to shield their actions from others, why cover the windows or make the legal observers remain 30-100 feet away?

Why the pushback against looking into the forensic evidence

related to voting machines changing votes? (Proven to have happened several thousand times).

"Today we are witnessing Democracy at work. This isn't as some of our .... colleagues have referred to it, sadly, as frivolous. This debate is fundamental to our democracy....."

"The representatives of the American people in this house are standing up for three fundamental American beliefs: The right to vote is sacred; that a representative has a duty to represent his or her constituents; and that the rule of law is the hallmark of our nation."

Nancy Pelosi's words in 2005 I remind so many of you that the DOJ and the FBI have been working against Donald Trump since before his inauguration. Remember the Steele Dossier fabricated and propagated by elements of the FBI and used to hoodwink the FISA Court? How much time and how many millions of tax dollars were spent with Robert Mueller to go down that rabbit hole with less (because it was fabricated) evidence?

I believe this debate is important to our Republic. I look at it as an integrity issue. The integrity of our elections from this point forward.

I am disappointed in the failure of our highest law enforcement and investigative agencies to properly investigate obvious violations of the rights of observers, if nothing else. Throw into the mix the fact that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court made new law in that state which was in direct contradiction to the Legislature's law for mail-in ballots.

I swore an oath to protect and uphold the Constitution of the United States - Not to a single person, so blow those comments - that this is about "loyalty" to President Trump - out of your ear.

This procedure is spelled out in the Constitution; it has been used in the past (the past three Republican Presidents saw the Democrats use this challenge) so it isn't unprecedented; and it is

imperative that we represent the millions who, too, question the processes of this past election.

"The Constitution is the guide which I never will abandon." George Washington

Congressman  
Jeff Duncan  
SC 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

## Weekly Crossword Puzzle

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### CLUES DOWN

- Used in treating bruises
- One who cultivates a small estate
- One who supports the Pope
- Annuity
- Geological period
- Grab onto tightly
- Kept
- Chinese city
- The most direct route
- Type of tooth
- \_\_\_ kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- Popular veggie
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Foolish behaviors
- Witness
- Gives
- Expression of creative skill
- A way to prop up
- Midway between northeast and east
- Winter melon
- Supernatural power
- Target
- Threes
- A type of poetic verse
- They make some people cry
- Kindest
- Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- A way to liquefy

### CLUES ACROSS

- Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
- Silicon Valley's specialty
- Gather a harvest
- Famed mathematician
- No (slang)
- Students use one
- Type of molecule
- Play make-believe
- Large barrel-like containers
- Touching
- Treats allergies
- Calendar month
- Single
- Cease to live
- Brew
- What ghosts say
- Geological time
- Focus
- Discomfort
- A citizen of Iran
- Trip
- Imitate
- Makes happy
- Double-reed instrument
- Body parts
- Transgressions
- One-time emperor of Russia
- Time zone

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

- BRUISE
- ACRE
- POPE
- ANNUITY
- PERIOD
- GRAB
- KEPT
- CHINA
- THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE
- TOOTH
- KOSH
- VEGGIE
- SUPERVISOR
- FOOLISH
- WITNESS
- GIVES
- CREATIVITY
- PROP UP
- MELON
- SUPERNATURAL
- TARGET
- THREES
- VERSE
- CRY
- KIND
- FORMAN
- VENTIMIGLIA
- LIQUEFY

CROSS

- AYP
- SILICON VALLEY
- HARVEST
- MATHEMATICIAN
- NO
- STUDENT
- MOLECULE
- PLAY
- BARREL
- TOUCHING
- ALLERGIES
- CALNDAR
- SINGLE
- CEASE
- BREW
- GHOSTS
- GEOLOGICAL
- FOCUS
- DISCOMFORT
- IRAN
- TRIP
- IMITATE
- HAPPY
- DOUBLE-REED
- BODY PARTS
- TRANSGRESSIONS
- EMPEROR
- TIME ZONE