

# Marine Corps...from Page 1A



Marines coming out of the service are probably not even aware that there's a Marine Corps League, Coleman said, "so we've got to do a better job of educating the public, of educating our young Marines out there, both male and female, that we're here."

"When you are part of the Marine Corps, there is a deep brotherhood that exists," Coleman said. "I think that when you come out of service active duty, you may not feel that as much, and that is one thing the Marine Corps League does provide."

"That brotherhood continues, and it's very evident through the detachment and through the organization. When you can be in a position to assist fellow Marines in times of need, that's an awesome thing."

Coleman served from 1982-88, having joined the U.S. Navy to attend medical training before going on to the Field Medical Service School to become a Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer Third Class – or combat medic – with the Marines.

He recently retired from a civilian career and has been committing more time to the local Marine Corps League group.

Unicoi Detachment is

heavily involved in the annual Iwo Jima commemorative ceremony held every February at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center, helping to find speakers, write press releases, coordinate efforts with the Rec Center, provide a color guard and more.

The Marine Corps League also sponsors many programs benefiting Marine veterans and their families, active duty Marines and their dependents, and their communities, Coleman said in a recent news release.

"Detachments are involved in programs such as Toys for Tots, Fallen Marine, Boy Scouts of America, JROTC Unit(s), Young Marines Leadership and Service, and Marine 4 Life," Coleman said. "In addition, they visit shut-in Marine, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplain veterans, provide support regarding the application of VA benefits, send care packages to Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains serving abroad, and provide color guards for funeral and memorial services."

For membership information, contact Ashford Todd, Sr. Vice Commandant, at 83ashtodd@gmail.com, or Alton "Doc" Coleman, Jr. Vice Commandant, at acoleman0801@yahoo.com.

home from Afghanistan or elsewhere, or they've relocated to our area and are trying to set up home and don't have any furniture, or they've fallen on hard times; we're there to support them and help them get adjusted."

On top of his duties as Jr. Vice Commandant, Coleman is the Marine 4 Life Liaison for Detachment #783, a position that originally came about to help Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen and Chaplains "transition from active duty to civilian life."

"I myself carry that further," Coleman said. "Typically, when the calls come in for help, either they're sent to me or I get a call from one of our members saying, 'Here's a person who needs help,' and I am the one that takes that rein."

"So, it's not just transitioning from active duty to civilian life; it's any Marine or FMF Corpsman or Chaplain that needs assistance."

When it comes to recruiting from among the younger generations, Coleman realizes he's got a few challenges on his hands. For starters, belonging to a veteran service organization can be time-consuming.

"Probably one of the biggest hurdles for us to overcome with the younger Marines is that these guys are still in the workforce," Coleman said. "When they come out, they've got to go to work. So, meeting at 5:30 p.m., even though it's only one day a month, might not always be possible for them."

"So, that's something I don't know when we'll address it – it probably needs to be addressed – but there's definitely a place for them. We do Toys for Tots drives, and there are other things that they can do outside of the once-a-month meeting."

And it's likely that

scared of this virus.

"This pandemic isn't under control, and I personally don't think it will be by the end of this year. I do think that some of this has political ties, though. The virus is real, but the way we are advertising it and talking about it is twisting the story."

"We have the news that is just turning this into whatever gets them views, and I think that has led to more panic than necessary."

Brittney Manseur of Fannin County worries about students who are returning to classes in the next few weeks.

"I just don't understand how colleges and schools are going back like this," Manseur said while shopping at Brasstown Pharmacy Drug & Gun Aug. 7. "My son is a biology major, and I have no idea how he is going to make

it through.

"Most of his classes are hands-on activities. He is working in a lab with others all day, and I don't see how that will work with all of these rules and social distancing. We can't enforce it in the street and then ignore it in classrooms."

"I feel like schools are moving forward faster than everyone else, and they aren't taking the time to think about what this means in the long run. I know that some places have the option for online learning, but learning something like biology online is near impossible."

"You can't learn a hands-on skill by staring at a screen all day. I just worry about all those people that are going back to college because they need that education to make it through life. For them, it is either go to school and take the risk or miss out on a vital life goal."

# Viral Anxiety...from Page 1A

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

**MONTGOMERY CONCRETE**

~ FOR ALL YOUR CONCRETE NEEDS ~  
Forming through Finishing, House Slabs, Driveways, Sidewalks, Stamped Colored Concrete. Top Quality Work! Big Jobs and Small Jobs! • Insured

See photos on Facebook under Lee Montgomery

**Call 706-781-1806**

**SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS**

**Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!**

**"From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!"**

568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA

FREE DELIVERY! **706-835-1209**

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

Trust Integrity Guidance  
**Taylor Insurance Group**

**WE DO WHAT OTHERS PROMISE**

**Tom Taylor**  
YOUR LICENSED LOCAL AGENT

Medicare  
Advantage Plans  
Supplements, Life,  
Under 65 Health Plans,  
Dental

770-298-9161 ph/text  
1-706-400-5754 Fax  
tom@tomtaylorinsurancegroup.com

**ACS GRADING & EXCAVATING**

Grading, Dump Truck, Gravel, Dirt, Driveways, Underbrushing, Lot Clearing, Water Lines, Basements

No Job Too Small - FREE Estimates  
Locally Owned & Operated

**706-897-0411**

**TOTAL RECOVERY**

**PAINT & BODY**

**(706) 745-9703**

391 BLUE RIDGE HWY  
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

**MEGA-TONE MUSIC**

BUY-SELL-TRADE-CONSIGN

- VINTAGE, NEW AND USED GUITARS, AMPS, EFFECTS
- GUITAR, PIANO, BANJO, BASS UKULELE, DRUM LESSONS
- INSTRUMENT REPAIR
- PA RENTAL

404.310.9356 - 44B Town Square - Blairsville, GA 30512

**Southeast Geothermal & Spray Foam**

**706-745-8685**

1442 Blue Ridge Hwy.  
**www.segeothermal.com**  
**www.sesprayfoam.com**

**Auto Glass worx**

706-897-6981  
Blairsville, Ga.

THE TRI-STATE AREA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH GEORGIA & EASTERN TENNESSEE

Mobile glass replacement services for windshields, door glass, back glass and sliders and vent glass.

553 BLUE RIDGE STREET  
BLAIRSVILLE, GA 30512

**Sugar Magnolia**

Home Decor  
Forever Flowers  
Baby Gifts  
Fashion Acces.  
Jewelry  
Acrylic Dishware

Mon.-Fri 9am-5pm  
Sat. 10am-3pm

**Gifts and Interiors**

267 B Cleveland St. Blairsville  
Backside of the Nationwide Bldg.  
**(706)230-9100**

Michelin BFG Uniroyal

Specializing In:  
Alignment • Computer Balancing  
Brakes • Auto Repair  
Industrial Foam Fill  
Oil Changes

**Thomas Tire, Inc.**  
Auto & Big Truck Service

Oscar Thomas - Owner (706) 745-0264  
76 Shoe Factory Road  
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

**Kieth Prentice**

Prentice Heating and Air LLC  
1376A HWY 51SE  
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

Owner Phone: 706-745-9665  
kieth@prenticeheatingandair.com Fax: 706-835-2684

**Gibson Land Service**  
Travis Gibson  
**706-897-8564**

Tree Removal  
Bucket Truck  
Grading  
Views

24 Hour Service  
Worker's Compensation Insurance

**Litton Landscaping, Inc.**  
1250 Collins Road  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-745-5478  
Cell 706-781-4858

Complete Design  
Installation  
Maintenance  
"We go the extra mile"

**TUFSTUF**

Mountain Wildflower Honey

Sourwood Honey  
Creamed Honey

Honey Taffy  
Beeswax Candles

Blairsville, GA store • UGA Certified Beekeepers  
Local raw unfiltered honey products  
Follow us on Facebook

**954-305-6158 or 407-718-2498**

FREE ESTIMATES

All Materials Furnished

Installing Insulation  
Hanging Sheetrock  
Finishing Texturing

**RICH DRYWALL**

Young Harris Hwy.  
Blairsville, GA  
**706-745-5307**

**KELLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

"May you have joy in the work of the LORD"

Remodeling • Painting  
Yard Maintenance  
& Much More

Mark A. Kelley, Owner  
**706-897-9485**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

**JACKY JONES AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**

We Make Buying Easy!

Ford • Hayesville, NC • 888.342.2282 • Chevrolet • Murphy, NC • 888.614.8960  
Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram • Hayesville, NC • 888.384.3145 & Franklin, NC • 828.369.5003

**JACKYJONES.NET**