



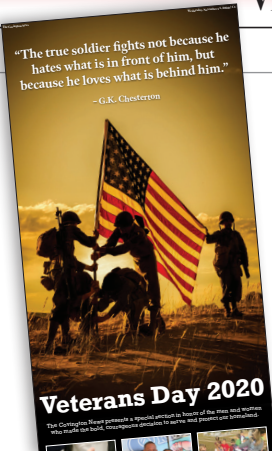
The Covington News

VETERANS DAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020



TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1865

\$1



INSIDE: VETERANS DAY SPECIAL SECTION

The Covington News staff helps honor the bold and courageous men and women who chose to serve and protect our homeland, **starting on C1**

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SPORTS: PLAYOFF PICTURE

What will it take for each Newton County school to make the postseason?

See A7



His Word

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13, KJV

General Election

Biden declared president-elect

Trump refuses to concede, threatens more legal action on ballot counting

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and WILL WEISSERT**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday and offered himself to the nation as a leader who “seeks not to divide, but to unify” a country gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.



Joe Biden

“I sought this office to restore the soul of America,” Biden said in a prime-time victory speech not far from his Delaware home, “and to make America

respected around the world again and to unite us here at home.”

Biden crossed the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania. His victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed processing.

Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting. But Biden used his acceptance speech as an olive branch to those who did not vote for him, telling Trump voters that he understood their disappointment but adding, “Let’s give each other a chance.”

“It’s time to put away the harsh

See BIDEN, A3

Christmas in Covington



File | The Covington News

Covington’s Lighting of the Square has been recognized as one of the “Top 10 Tree Lighting Events in Georgia” by Trips to Discover.

Lighting of the Square slated for Nov. 19

By **TAYLOR BECK**

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — With roughly two weeks until Thanksgiving, the city of Covington is gearing up for the holiday season.

As Christmas lights and decorations have been put out in recent weeks, city officials announced Wednesday, Nov. 4,

that the traditional Lighting of Downtown Covington would be held Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.

Unlike years past, the Square will not be shut down completely, according to Downtown Coordinator Nic Matthews. There will also be no fireworks. However, Santa will still be on hand to help turn on the lights. There will be a brief performance by

the Newton County Arts Association prior to the lighting.

This year the city will have a live tree on the Square. During a recent council meeting, City Manager Scott Andrews said city staff had purchased a tree from Berry’s Christmas Tree Farm that stands approximately

See CHRISTMAS, A3

Newton elections board considers 3 advance voting sites for runoffs

By **TOM SPIGOLON**

tspigon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County’s elections board on Monday, Nov. 9, discussed how it will participate in the state’s presidential ballot recount and the January U.S. Senate runoff as it voted to certify last week’s General and Special Election.

The board voted to investigate having three advance voting locations available throughout the three-week period before the Jan. 5 runoff election for Georgia’s two U.S. Senate seats.

It is considering offering in-person advance voting sites with 16 ballot-marking devices at each location beginning Dec. 14 at the Newton County



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

The Newton County Board of Elections and Registrations meets Monday, Nov. 9.

Administration Building in downtown Covington and the Newton County Library in east Covington.

Chairman Phil Johnson proposed offering three locations after seeing heavier-than-anticipated demand at the two locations it offered prior to the Nov. 3 election.

“That should allow us to avoid those long lines,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he is working to secure a third location at Zion Baptist Church on Brown Bridge Road in western Newton.

He said its size would allow voters to wait in line inside a building rather than outside in the elements as was the case at the Porter Memorial Library on Hwy. 212.

See ELECTIONS, A2

Winter sparks worries of new COVID-19 wave in Georgia

By **BEAU EVANS**

Capitol Beat News Service

Nearly eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia officials and public-health experts are eying the upcoming winter season with caution amid a recent uptick in positive coronavirus cases and the dual impacts of the flu.

Cases of COVID-19, which had killed 8,156 people by Friday and sickened hundreds of thousands more in Georgia, have declined sharply since a peak in late July when the state averaged more than 3,500 cases per day, according to state Department of Public Health (DPH) data.

But cases have crept back up in recent weeks from a daily average of just under 1,200

cases on Oct. 1 to more than 1,700 cases as of Thursday. The DPH data also shows the state’s case positivity rates and hospitalization counts have ticked up over the past few weeks.

Georgia’s recent increases mirror a spiking trend of new COVID-19 cases across the U.S. that soared to more than 113,000 nationwide on Thursday – though Georgia’s case rates have not risen so steeply as in many other states, said Jose Cordero, an epidemiology professor at the University of Georgia (UGA).

“Right now, we are in an upward trend,” Cordero said. “When you have a virus like

See WAVE, A2

Drugmakers tout vaccine breakthrough

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

Drugmakers Pfizer and BioNTech announced Monday early positive results from their joint coronavirus trial.

The company said that the analysis found the vaccine was more than 90% effective in preventing the disease among trial volunteers who had no evidence of prior coronavirus infection, according to a report from the *New York Times*.

No serious safety concerns have been observed, the

See VACCINE, A2

Volume 155, No. 54



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Inside

Dig into a sweet dish all peanut-butter lovers will enjoy

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Obituary

Linda Lee Hammer
Covington

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SINCE 1865

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ELECTIONS:

Continued from A1

“The property owner has to agree,” he said.

Election director Angela Mantle also will need to find 32 workers to staff the voting locations for three weeks during the Christmas holidays, he said.

Officials did not anticipate the heavier-than-anticipated turnout at the Porter Library location because it had seen relatively low turnouts when it was used previously, Johnson said.

He added that election officials would need to find ways to secure the voting equipment at the library and third site.

Democratic board member Kelly Robinson said she wanted the elections office to see if it could provide the west Newton location all three weeks rather than only one week in which Porter Library was available.

Republican board member Dustin Thompson asked Johnson to find an alternative location if church officials will not allow its use.

Thompson suggested the Newton County Sheriff's Office's Westside precinct but Johnson said it likely would be too small.

In addition, the Newton office may need to conduct a separate runoff election Dec. 1 in a Public Service Commission race between Republican incumbent Lauren “Bubba” McDonald and Democrat Daniel Blackman, Mantle said.

• Also Monday, Johnson said Newton would participate in the recount of the ballots cast in the county but “we do not yet have guidance from the (Secretary of State) on the procedure.”

He said once the Newton board receives the Secretary's guidance it would give notice to both political parties.

“We would want monitors from the political parties and participation by the board members,” Johnson said.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has said he likely will order a recount

of Georgia's votes for president in the Nov. 3 election because only about 10,500 votes separate Democrat Joe Biden and Republican President Donald Trump out of 5 million votes cast.

• Board members voted to certify the Newton County election, including the General Election of candidates for federal, state and local offices, three statewide questions and the county Special Election in which the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax was defeated.

A total of 54,445 Newton Countians participated in the election either by voting absentee, in-person during the advance voting period, or in-person on Election Day at any of the 22 precincts.

Turnout for the election — which is the percentage of all registered voters who cast ballots — was 68.92%.

Suspect dies after encounter with Social Circle police, state officials investigating

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga.

— The Social Circle Police Department has asked the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to investigate an incident in which officers used a Taser on a man who fled and later was found dead.

City police requested the GBI to investigate the death of Seneca Williams, 43, whose body was found more than 17 hours after the early morning encounter on Saturday, Nov. 7.

A GBI news release stated Social Circle Police Department officers were investigating an apparent vehicular hit-and-run incident Saturday at 2 a.m.

Officers approached Williams who they believed was the driver responsible for the hit and run and knew there were active warrants for his arrest on other charges, the release stated.

“As officers initiated contact with Williams, Williams fled on foot. Officers pursued Wil-

liams and deployed a Taser,” it stated.

“As officers attempted to take Williams into custody, he failed to follow the officers' commands and continued to physically resist officers.

“During the incident, Williams fled the scene on foot and was not seen again by officers,” the release stated.

On the same day at 7:30 p.m., a resident discovered a body, identified as Williams, behind a residence in the immediate vicinity of the original encounter with officers, the release stated.

Police department officials then contacted the GBI office in Athens to initiate an investigation.

Williams was been transported to the GBI Crime Lab where results of an autopsy by a GBI medical examiner were pending, the release stated.

Anyone with information regarding the investigation can contact the Georgia Bureau of Investigation at 800-597-8477.

WAVE:

Continued from A1

[COVID-19], you have it not in a single wave but in multiple waves. And that's exactly what

we're seeing.”

Georgia might even experience back-to-back waves of increas-

ing COVID-19 infections if people abandon masks, social distancing and other safety precautions during the holiday season, said Isaac Fung, an associate professor of epidemiology at Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

With cold temperatures not yet present in Georgia, Fung traced the current creep in positive cases largely to people who have disre-

garded safety measures as the pandemic rolls on without a vaccine likely available until next year.

“If people continue to be relaxed about wearing face masks, we could potentially see a major increase after Thanksgiving and another wave after Christmas,” Fung said. “It is certainly a very challenging circumstance for many individuals, especially older age groups.”

At the same time, the rate of COVID-19 tests aimed at helping pinpoint where outbreaks occur has declined in Georgia recently, as noted in a White House task force report issued Nov. 1. Fewer tests make it tougher to gauge the true extent of the virus' reach in local communities, the report says.

That knowledge gap could heighten the risk of spreading coronavirus in gathering places

like bars or indoor parties, particularly if family and friends sick of being socially separated throw caution to the wind for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, said Cordero.

“If you have people that you don't know whether they're positive or not, you're going to have more [cases], especially with the asymptomatic spreaders,” Cordero said.



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15 YEARS Pursuit of Excellence Award

For the 15th consecutive year, Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, Covington, has been named a recipient of the National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Award. This Award is presented by NFDA annually to firms that have demonstrated a commitment to raising the bar on funeral service excellence by adhering to strict ethical and professional standards and providing outstanding service to families and communities.

Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!

NFDA NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION Pursuit of Excellence

VACCINE:

Continued from A1

companies said.

COVID-19 has killed more than 1.2 million people worldwide, including more than 239,000 in the U.S. and 8,223 in the state of Georgia.

Pfizer plans to ask the Food

and Drug Administration for emergency authorization of the two-dose vaccine later this month, after it has collected the recommended two months of safety data, according to a report from the *New York Times*. By

the end of the year it will have manufactured enough doses to immunize 15 million to 20 million people, company executives have said.

OBITUARY

and Mansfield, Georgia Garden Club.

Linda Hitchcock-Hammer was the second daughter of James Olin Hitchcock and Ozella Rowland Hitchcock. Linda joins older sister, Mary Sue Hitchcock-Kendrick, who died in 2007. Linda is survived by her husband of 22 years, Iran (Mike) Hammer, a native of Burlington, Iowa. Her two daughters from a prior marriage to Richard Pace — Mrs. Kimberly Ford and David Ford with a daughter, Mrs. Hannah Ford-Lewis and great-grandson, Beau Wiley Lewis; and Ms. Kerry Chapman with three sons; Daniel Chapman IV, Cash Chapman, Cruz Chapman who attend George Walton Academy in Monroe, Georgia, and stepdaughter, Victoria Chapman, a Junior at UGA. Linda is also stepmother to Mrs.

Kristine Marie Hammer-Barrett with daughter, Haley Rose Barrett residing in Chuluota, Florida, and Todd Hammer living in Cardiff, California.

Following CDC Covid19 health protocols, memorial services will be held for Linda at Covington First United Methodist Church, 1113 Conyers Street, Covington, Georgia, on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 2 p.m. The family asks attendees to donate to Covington First United Methodist Church instead of sending flowers or gifts. A reception for family and friends will be held after the service at 2154 Monticello St. You may leave your car in the church parking lot and walk across Monticello Street to the reception.

Visit caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

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Perdue, Loeffler call for Georgia's secretary of state to resign

By BEAU EVANS
Capitol Beat News Service

U.S. Sens. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, both Republicans in tight runoff races to hold their seats, called on Georgia's Republican secretary of state Monday to resign as state election officials continued brushing aside unproven claims of ballot fraud.

The joint call from Perdue and Loeffler came shortly after the top elections manager in Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's office dismissed a string of theories on ballot harvesting and computer glitches that President Donald Trump's allies floated recently to sow doubt in Georgia's election results.

As of Monday afternoon, President-elect Joe Biden maintained a lead over Trump in Georgia of about 10,600 votes, leaving the state on the cusp of flipping to a Democratic presidential nominee for the first time since 1992. State officials have until Nov. 20 to certify the election results and a recount is also likely.

In a joint statement, Perdue and Loeffler called Raffensperger's management of the election "an embarrassment" that lacked "transparency and uniformity in the counting process." Without citing any evidence of fraud or improper ballot counting, the two senators pressed Raffensperger to resign.

"We believe when there are failures, they need to be called out — even when it's in your own party," Perdue and Loeffler's statement read. "There have been too many failures in Georgia elections this year and the most recent election has shined a national light on the problems."

In a long response statement, Raffensperger said he understood "emotions are running high" but that Georgia's elections had run smoothly despite slow results and issues in some counties. He called the senators' claims on transparency "laughable" and said if any illegal votes were found in the coming weeks, they would not likely change the election results.

"As a Republican, I am concerned about Republicans keeping the U.S. Senate," Raffensperger said. "I recommend that Senators Loeffler and Perdue state focusing on that."

Earlier on Monday, the state's election system manager, Gabriel Sterling, during a news conference debunked claims of ballot harvesting or ballot tampering with specific explanations for how some temporary counting discrepancies resulted from human error, not software glitches or partisan sabotage.

Sterling, who is a Republican, has held

multiple news conferences — often twice a day — since the Nov. 3 election to update the public on the ballot-counting process in Georgia and to outline details of issues seen in some counties, which he said were expected in a high-turnout election and quickly fixed.

"The facts are the facts, regardless of outcomes," Sterling said Monday. "In Georgia, we had an actual, accurate outcome."

Sterling acknowledged that investigators may uncover double-votes or other illegally cast ballots in the coming days as an audit of the results kicks off Wednesday — though it's unlikely investigators would turn up enough improper ballots for Trump to bridge Biden's lead, he said.

"Our job is to get it right for the voters and the people of Georgia, and for the people of the United States, to make sure the outcomes of this election are correct and trustworthy," Sterling said. "And at the end of the day, no matter which side of the aisle you're on, no matter which candidate you supported, you can have trust and believe in the outcome of these things."

Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, a Republican, also said Monday morning on CNN that Georgia officials "have not had any sort of credible incidents raised to our

level yet" regarding voter fraud or improper ballot counting.

The runoff races between Perdue and Democratic nominee Jon Ossoff, and between Loeffler and Democrat Rev. Raphael Warnock, have already thrust Georgia into the national political spotlight with control of the U.S. Senate potentially hanging in the balance.

Wins for both Ossoff and Warnock in the Jan. 5 runoffs would likely tip the Senate in Democrats' favor along with control of the U.S. House and the presidency, clearing the way for Biden and Democratic lawmakers to enact their priorities with little resistance for at least the next two years.

Republican and Democratic leaders across the country are poised to pull out all the stops in Georgia with huge campaign donations and high-profile backers expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

While Democrats aim to build on momentum that appears to have swung the state for Biden, many Republican leaders have homed in on the integrity of the election to cast doubt on the overall ballot-counting process in Georgia and other states with tight races.

Notably, outgoing U.S. Rep. Doug Collins has signed on to lead the Trump campaign's push for a recount.

BIDEN:

Continued from A1

rhetic, to lower the temperature, to see each other again, to listen to each other again, to make progress, we must stop treating our opponents as our enemy," he said. "We are not enemies. We are Americans."

Biden, 77, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. The strategy, as well as an appeal to Americans fatigued by Trump's disruptions and wanting a return to a more traditional presidency, proved effective and resulted in pivotal victories in Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Pennsylvania, onetime Democratic bastions that had flipped to Trump in 2016.

Biden's victory was a repudiation of Trump's divisive leadership and the president-elect now inherits a deeply polarized nation grappling with foundational questions of racial justice and economic fairness while in the grips of a virus that has killed more than 236,000 Americans and reshaped the norms of everyday life.

CHRISTMAS:

Continued from A1

30 feet tall.

In recent years, there has been a Christmas parade and a carnival among other activities. But because of COVID-19, the city has decided to "scale back" their 2020 festivities.

"With the safety of the public in mind, plans, this year, are to scale back events associated with the 'Lighting of the Square,'" Mayor Steve Horton stated on behalf of the

city council. "Though a number of activities will occur, the scaling back is associated with trying to help prevent or slow the spread of the COVID 19 virus. Therefore, as we hope and pray for a safe and prosperous holiday season for merchants and citizens alike, we do strongly urge everyone to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines while they enjoy the festivities."

In 2019, the Lighting of Downtown Covington was recognized as one of the "Top 10 Tree Lighting Events in Georgia" by Trips to Discover. Activities from a year ago included horse-drawn carriage rides, a parade with an after-party, a live nativity scene, a Christmas scavenger hunt and a movie night.

This year the event would have coincided with the opening of

an ice skating rink at Legion Field, but Community Development Director Trey Sanders said its opening has been postponed due to "unseasonably warm temperatures."

Other holiday events are in the works for the downtown area, Matthews said. More details are expected to be released at a later time.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

- Newton County Democratic Committee will hold elections for county committee post seat holders at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Interested parties should visit rebrand.ly/NewtonDemsVOTE for specific details on how to register to vote and for details on how to register to be a candidate.

THROUGH NOV. 30

- Virtual Vampire Run from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. All net proceeds from the race will go toward the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Prospective racers can register for the virtual run at runsignup.com/Race/GA/MysticFallsCovington/VirtualVampireRun and help "take a bite out of blood cancers."

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

- The Newton County Democratic Committee will hold its Bi-Annual Executive Committee/Officer Elections via Zoom at 7 p.m. Interested parties should visit rebrand.ly/NewtonDemsVOTE for specific details on how to register to vote and for details on how to register to be a candidate.

ONGOING

- Everyone is invited to join Covington Christian Church on the Round on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for worship. The church is located at 141 Highway 142 in Covington.
- Paint Party at Southern Heartland Visual Art Center has resumed! Hosted by professional gallery artists, this weekly get-together for those in our community interested in painting with others is free and open to the public each Friday from 10-2. Both classrooms will be utilized to insure participants have enough space to social distance from other participants.
- The food pantry at the Covington First United Methodist Church is in dire need of more volunteers now that students and teachers are back in school and unavailable to help with this ongoing and much-needed project. If available to help, email Megan Hulan at foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org to sign up.

Send your event announcements to news@covnews.com.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

RECREATION

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Jasper County Recreation Department

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Tom Spigolon news editor

How close to #OneNewton are we?

How close are we to the #One-Newton objective Chairman Marcello Banes and others are working toward? And how much of the vote in the General Election was a reaction to local, state or national events this year? It's hard to tell.



After seeing the unofficial results of the county General and Special Election last week, it's clear this county over two decades has transformed from a Republican to a Democrat majority for its elected officials. The results generally show most Newton

County voters chose a straight ticket of candidates — either for those with “R” or “D” by their names.

Voters removed Republican holders of two state constitutional offices — tax commissioner and coroner — who had considerable experience in their offices in favor of Democrats with little or no experience.

Some outliers were seen. For example, Coroner Tommy Davis and County Commissioner Ronnie Cowan, both Republicans, won majorities in precincts won by Democratic president-elect Joe Biden.

Voters in their districts also reelected Cowan and Republican Commissioner Stan Edwards with healthy majorities.

However, the Democratic presidential nominee went from winning 39% of Newton County's votes in 2000 to 55% of the vote in the span of two decades.

In fact, the county has not voted this decisively for a Democrat since Jimmy Carter won 62% of Newton's 9,000 votes for president in 1980.

Newton County had doubled the number of voters by the 2000 election when Democrat Al Gore only won 39% of the 18,000 Newton votes cast in his narrow loss nationwide to Republican George W. Bush.

Bush easily won the Newton County vote in 2004 with 62% when he defeated John Kerry.

But with Newton County's population

growth in the mid-2000s came political change. By 2008 and 2012, Newton County chose a Democrat, Barack Obama, narrowly over Republicans John McCain and Mitt Romney.

In 2016, Newton County voters chose Hillary Clinton over eventual winner Donald Trump by 1,000 votes out of 43,000 cast. This year, the margin grew for the Democratic nominee with Biden winning 55% out of 54,000 votes cast — which was almost the total number of all registered voters only four years earlier.

Which brings me back to efforts to create a #OneNewton.

This year has been different, to say the least. We've had a

divisive presidential election, divisive social unrest and divisive response to this pandemic on the state level.

On the local level, we've seen divisive events such as county government efforts to remove the Confederate memorial statue in downtown Covington.

Local responses to COVID-19, such as the school system opening with only virtual learning and no interscholastic athletics for the first few weeks of the school year, also divided the school system's stakeholders.

Newton County voters decisively turned down a new Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for transportation needs 55% to 45%.

County government

leaders took the initiative to get the special election on the ballot. Then Democrats and Republicans showed they could agree on something.

Half of the 12 precincts that voted for Biden said “no” to the proposed 1% sales tax — meaning both Republicans and Democrats agreed they didn't want to increase the total sales tax to 8%.

We'll see what the 2020 election will mean for Newton County's efforts to unite and move the county forward economically and politically in the years to come.

Tom Spigolon is news editor of The Covington News. He may be reached at tspigolon@covnews.com.

David Carroll columnist

My colorful lunch with Red and Blue

By the time you read this, we may officially have chosen a President of the United States for the next four years. Or not. As I write this column, the election is over, but the vote counting continues. The challenges, the lawsuits, and the recounts could take a while.



Today, whether you are reading a freshly-printed newspaper, or have found me online, it's possible that the losing candidate has already delivered a concession speech. It was surely filled with words of hope and unity. It's also possible that I have won the Publishers Clearinghouse sweepstakes. By now, you know which is more realistic.

On “The Day After,” I invited a couple of my friends for a post-election visit. I baited them with the promise of an outdoor lunch on a beautiful day. As

soon as we sat down, I revealed my true intentions.

You see, politically they're red and blue. They have much in common despite their political leanings, so they get along fine. In the past, we have largely avoided such talk, but I wanted to get their take on the election. I promised them total confidentiality. So for this story, they are truly Red and Blue.

“Let's say your guy wins re-election,” I said to Red. “Now what do we do?” “More babies will be protected,” he said, “we will keep our guns, prices will remain low, and more conservative judges will be appointed to keep us on the right track.”

“And if he loses?” I said. “Well,” he replied, “that would be a disaster. All this progress goes down the drain. You'll have no support for law enforcement or the military, and the rioters will call the shots.”

Blue wasn't about to let that go unchallenged. “OK,” he said. “Let's move away from the Fox News narrative

for a minute. Nobody's coming after your guns. And Biden has had nothing but praise for the military, and for police officers. He served under Obama for eight years, you still have your guns.”

After a few laughs, they agreed that the recent barrage of cable TV shouters and political attack ads had distorted reality, at least a little bit.

Red convinced Blue that President Trump is responsible for a strong economy, and Blue assured Red that former Vice President Biden wouldn't defund the police.

Amid all the partisan potshots, it's easy to forget that our nation has survived some serious wounds and bruises over 240-plus years. Our parents and those who came before them fended off world wars, a civil war, other deadly foreign conflicts, a massive depression, some awful recessions, pandemics, diseases, organized crime, assassinations, race riots, crooked presidents, terrorist attacks, mass shootings, natural disasters, droughts, and disco. Surely we can handle another four years of Trump, or adapt to four years of Biden.

Red joked that if Biden won the election, he might move to Canada. Of course, Red isn't moving to Canada, he has never been north of Hollywood. If I had a nickel for every celebrity who has “threatened” to move to Canada after an election, I wouldn't need that sweepstakes money, would I?

I will admit that after one particular presidential race, I was depressed when the results were announced on election night. I finally went to

sleep, and when I woke up the next morning, the sun came up, and my dog still loved me. Life goes on.

Our lunch conversation soon veered away from politics, and touched on things that matter. Blue's grandson just earned a baseball scholarship. Red's daughter just told him she's expecting a second child. Blue wondered what was being built where that restaurant used to be? We've got enough apartment buildings already. Red asked if school buses are ever going to have seat belts. He can't believe it hasn't already happened, while Blue thinks that's a bad idea. They're both looking forward to the holidays, and they agree that COVID will make it all weird this year.

We went our separate ways with elbow bumps (a poor substitute for hugs), and we loved each other just as we did when we arrived. By now, one of them has surely celebrated a presidential win, and the other probably said some unprintable words about a loss.

We likely won't see each other until after Inauguration Day, and whoever ends up being sworn in will surely be a topic of conversation. Red will look at it one way, and Blue will see it totally different.

Each will still love his family, and one another. I wish more Americans could agree to disagree, no matter who is in the White House. Hopefully the pandemic will soon fade, we will get our lives back, and the shouting will subside. Frankly, our country could use a nap. I bet we'll feel better when we wake up.

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. He may be reached at radiotv2020@yahoo.com.

Readers remember family's legacy of military service

Dear Editor:

On this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020, we extend our appreciation and thoughts to all Americans who are fighting the war against the coronavirus; and we also wish to acknowledge the veterans of the Jones and Moskowitz families who served during major wars from the Civil War to the War On Terror.

During the Civil War 1st Sgt. John B. Jones (Elizabeth's grandfather) and Corporal William E. Jones (Elizabeth's great uncle) were in the 5th New York Cavalry Regiment from upstate New York within the period 1861 to 1865. They fought in many battles, including the Orange Court House, Brandy Station, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Gettysburg.

Donald's grandfather, Pvt. Max Moskowitz, served in the U.S. Cavalry (Roughriders) in 1898 during the Spanish American War.

During World War I Alton Christmas Jones (Elizabeth's father) and William Howard Jones (uncle) served in the USMC and saw action at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, Aisne-Marne, and Meuse-Argonne. William Howard received the U.S. Silver Star and the French Croix De Guerre medals for his “action at Blanc Mont Ridge on Oct. 3, 1918 where he held off a German attack using a machine pistol.”

Donald's father, Sidney Moskowitz, was a machinist who repaired ships at the Charlestown, MA Naval Shipyard during WWII. Elizabeth's cousin, Barney O'Neil, was a U.S. Army in-

fantryman who landed in Normandy in June 1944. Bob Rosenblatt (Donald's relative) served in the Army at the end of WWII.

Barry Rowe (Donald's brother-in-law) was a Commander in the U.S. Navy who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

John Jones and Edward Jones (Elizabeth's brothers) served in the late '50s and early to mid '60s, John U.S. Army and Edward, USMC. Donald Moskowitz was an E5 in the Navy in the '50s and then was a Vietnam era veteran in the '60s serving as a Navy officer on 13 ships. He continued his service to the country with almost 20 years in the American Legion, including positions as Post Commander, Department (State) Treasurer and Department Vice Commander. Robert Nichol (Elizabeth's cousin) was a platoon leader in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. He was in the 1st Infantry Division and the 101st Infantry Division. During his Vietnam service he was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Michael Gerard (Donald's and Elizabeth's son-in-law) was an Airman First Class, USAF in the early '80s. Jeffrey Ammons (Donald's nephew) served as an Army officer during the War On Terror.

Our families wish to pay tribute to the many millions of U.S. veterans who have served our country during the past 245 years.

Elizabeth (Jones) and Donald Moskowitz Londonderry, New Hampshire

The Covington News

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CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Help Wanted

EARLY LEARNING
Center reopening in
Covington! Caring, Excited,
Dependable Teachers
needed for all shifts.
CALL 770-787-3169

LEGALS

Public Notices

Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR
PROPOSALS

THE CITY of Covington, Georgia is seeking to establish a partnership with a qualified Energy Services Company (ESCO) to develop and implement cost-effective improvements and energy conservation retrofits to the City of Covington's facilities pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-37-1 thru 50-37-8

RESPONSES TO this RFQ shall describe the ESCO's capability to identify the need for, design, install, construct, maintain, monitor, audit, manage and arrange the financing of a large-scale, comprehensive energy conservation program and related services. The intent of this project is to provide the City of Covington with an opportunity to realize maximum utility and operational savings which may be then utilized for facility improvements

ALL PROPOSALS must be submitted, to Attn: Scott Cromer, City of Covington, at 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014. Proposals are due no later than 10:00 am on Friday, November 13th, 2020.

REQUEST FOR Proposals and additional information may be obtained by accessing the request for proposals on the City's website at <https://www.cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=business-opportunities>

THE CITY of Covington reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117537
11/14,11

Corporations

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation which will incorporate CONNECTION POINT BIBLICAL COUNSELING AND TRAINING CENTER, INC. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code (O.C.G.A. Section 14-2-202.1). The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 919 Adams Circle, Newton County, Social Circle, Georgia 30025, and its initial registered agent at such address is ANGELA SHELTON.

EDGAR LAW FIRM, LLC
HILLARY W. EDGAR
1132 FLOYD STREET
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014
TELEPHONE (770) 786-1353

PUBLIC NOTICE #117584
11/11,18

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Certificate of Organization, which will incorporate 153 Longstreet Court, LLC has been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 153 Longstreet Court, Oxford, Georgia 30054 and its initial registered agent at said address is Maurice L. Mack."

PUBLIC NOTICE #117585
11/11,18

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Certificate of Organization, which will incorporate 8798 Rugby Court, LLC has been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 153 Longstreet Court, Oxford, Georgia 30054 and its initial registered agent at said address is Maurice L. Mack.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117587
11/11,18

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Certificate of Organization, which will incorporate 9109 Spillers Drive, LLC has been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 153 Longstreet Court, Oxford, Georgia 30054 and its initial registered agent at said address is Maurice L. Mack.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117588
11/11,18

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Certificate of Organization, which will incorporate 9127 Lakeview Place, LLC has been delivered to the Secretary of

Fun by the Numbers

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

4	8	7	1	3	5	9	6	2
1	3	6	9	4	2	5	7	8
2	9	5	6	7	8	4	1	3
6	5	1	8	2	3	7	4	9
9	7	3	4	5	1	2	8	6
8	2	4	7	9	6	1	3	5
3	1	9	2	8	7	6	5	4
7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	1
5	6	2	3	1	4	8	9	7

Level: Intermediate

State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 153 Longstreet Court, Oxford, Georgia 30054 and its initial registered agent at said address is Maurice L. Mack

PUBLIC NOTICE #117589
11/11,18

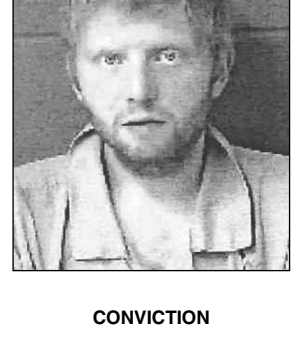
NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Certificate of Organization, which will incorporate 9135 Spillers Drive, LLC has been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 153 Longstreet Court, Oxford, Georgia 30054 and its initial registered agent at said address is Maurice L. Mack.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117590
11/11,18

Convictions

SECOND/SUBSEQUENT DUI



CONVICTION

NAME: MICHAEL PATRICK RAMEY
ADDRESS: 104 FAIRLANE DR., COVINGTON, GA 30014
DATE OF ARREST: NOVEMBER 11, 2017
DATE OF OFFENSE: NOVEMBER 11, 2017
TIME OF OFFENSE: 8:20PM
PLACE OF OFFENSE: PIPER ROAD
DISPOSITION:
PLEA OF GUILTY- DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED TO A TOTAL OF 3 YEARS

W/ THE FIRST 5 DAYS TO BE SERVED IN CONFINEMENT IN THE NEWTON COUNTY JAIL AND THE REMAINDER TO BE SERVED ON PROBATION - \$1,500.00 IN FINES PLUS ALL APPLICABLE FEES AND SURCHARGES - DEFENDANT SHALL PERFORM 40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE & SHALL ATTEND AND COMPLETE A DUI RISK REDUCTION COURSE

SENTENCE DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2020

NAME OF COURT: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117585
11/11

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
PLAINTIFF,

-VS-
ALICIA PHELPS JACKSON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-SUCV-882-3

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: ALICIA JACKSON

PRINCETON WAY

COVINGTON, GA

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **OCTOBER 8, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **APRIL 27, 2020** (date of filing) **CHRISTOPHER JACKSON** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for **Divorce** .

YOU ARE required to file an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the

date of the order for publication with the clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented).

WITNESS THE Honorable LAYLA H. ZON, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 13th day of OCTOBER, 2020.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117447
10/21,28,11/4,11

Juvenile Court

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
B.E. SEX: Female
DOB: 06/17/2013 Case #107-20J-0424
A CHILD Under 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS

TO: **BRITTANY DEMPSEY,** Mother; **MATTHEW EDGE,** Putative Father; **JOHN DOE,** and any unknown, unnamed biological father or other persons claiming to have a parental interest in the minor child named above born to **BRITTANY DEMPSEY** on the date above-listed.

A PETITION to Terminate Parental Rights was filed in this Court on November 3, 2020, by the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, concerning the above child(ren). In accordance with O.C.G.A. §15-11-281, you are hereby notified that this proceeding and the hearing(s) specified herein is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights and to place permanent custody of said child(ren) with the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, pending adoption. The Court shall mail a copy of said Petition to the last known address of the above-named parent(s) within fifteen (15) days of filing of the Order of Service by Publication. This is a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, you, the party(ies) named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as said case may be continued, and until discharged from the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear in said Court at the time and place below stated, each of you then and there to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said child(ren) and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT

GEORGIA LAW provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed requesting the Court to terminate your parental rights to your child(ren). A copy of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights can be obtained from the Clerk of the Newton County Juvenile Court. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for the 29th day of January, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the Newton County Juvenile Court, Newton County Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

IF YOU fail to appear, the Court can terminate your rights to your absence.

IF THE court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your child(ren), the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your

child(ren).

IF THE judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child(ren). This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child(ren) or make any decisions affecting your child(ren) or your child(ren)'s earnings or property. Your child(ren) will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else.

EVEN IF your parental rights are terminated:

(1) YOU will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child(ren)'s care unless and until your child(ren) is/are adopted; and

(2) YOUR child(ren) can still inherit from you unless and until your child(ren) is/are adopted.

PURSUANT TO statute, you are put on notice that as a biological father you may lose all rights to your child(ren) named above and will not be entitled to object to the termination of your rights to such child(ren) unless, within 30 days of receipt of notice, you file:

(1) A petition to legitimate such child(ren); and

(2) NOTICE of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Court in which the termination of parental rights proceeding is pending.

THIS IS a very serious matter. A party is entitled to an attorney in the proceedings. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and to have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney if the Court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

IF YOU have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone number of the clerk's office which is 770-784-2060.

THIS IS a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

WITNESS THE
Honorable Jenny S. Carter, Judge of said Court, this 3rd day of November, 2020.

/S/ JANELL Gaines
JANELL GAINES, Clerk
JUVENILE COURT of Newton County, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117583
11/11,18,25,12/2

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
ANGELA DENICE SWINSON
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2020-CV-2077-1

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

ANGELA DENICE SWINSON filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **October 9, 2020** to change the name from **ANGELA DENICE SWINSON** to **ANGELA DENICE JAGANI**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED OCTOBER 9, 2020

ANGELA DENICE SWINSON
170 REGENCY PLACE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

NOTICE #117450
10/21,28,11/4,11

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF

NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
DAEJOHNEE THOMPSON
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2020-CV-2091-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

DAEJOHNEE THOMPSON filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **October 13, 2020** to change the name from **DAEJOHNEE ASIA THOMPSON** to **DAEJOHNEE ASIA LESLIE**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED OCTOBER 13, 2020

DAEJOHNEE THOMPSON
94 WOODFIELD RD
COVINGTON, GA 30014

NOTICE #117448
10/21,28,11/4,11

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
LANEIR SWINSON
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2020-CV-2076-1

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

LANEIR SWINSON filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **October 9, 2020** to change the name from **LANEIR SWINSON** to **LANIER S. JAGANI**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED OCTOBER 9, 2020

LANIER SWINSON
170 REGENCY PLACE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

NOTICE #117449
10/21,28,11/4,11

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

DATE OF Publication: November 11, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF Community Affairs
60 EXECUTIVE Park South, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30329-2231
(404) 679-4840

ON OR after November 20, 2020, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME Investment Program funds under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Title II of Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended, to undertake the following project:

TIER 1 Broad Review Project/ Program Title: Family and Community Housing Association, Inc. (FCHA) CHIP 2020-104.

PURPOSE: TO provide single family, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation.

LOCATION: SCATTERED sites in Newton County, Georgia

P R O J E C T / P R O G R A M DESCRIPTION: FCHA, Inc. will rehabilitate six (6) single family, owner occupied homes in Newton County, Georgia for low to moderate income households. The homes will be located in scattered sites within Newton County, GA. Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

LEVEL OF Environmental Review Citation: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR Part 58.5(a)(3)(i), and subject to laws and authorities at 58.5(3)(i). Rehabilitations of buildings and improvements when the following

conditions are met: In the case of a building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, and the land use is not changed.

TIER 2 Site Specific Review: The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C (Explosive and Flammable Hazards) and Subpart D (Airport Hazards); Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]; Clean Air Act, as amended, and 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93; 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2) (Contamination and Toxic Substances); Endangered Species Act of 1973 and 50 CFR Part 402; Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981and 7 CFR Part 658; Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR Part 55; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 800; Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 and 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B; Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968; and Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898

MITIGATION MEASURES/ CONDITIONS/PERMITS (if any): Compliance with various laws, authorities and written strategies will be documented and listed in the Tier 2 Site Specific Review project file and if required mitigation measures/ conditions must be incorporated into project contracts and/or permits, development agreements, and other relevant documents will be obtained from the issuing governmental agency. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measure should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

ESTIMATED PROJECT Cost: Total HUD funding: \$300,000. Total anticipated project cost: \$330,000.

THE ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.5(a)(3)(i). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at DCA located at 60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 and is available for public review and maybe examined and or copied by appointment only weekdays 8:30A.M to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANY INDIVIDUAL, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Ryan Fleming. All comments received by November 19, 2020, will be considered by DCA prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DCA CERTIFIES to HUD that Ryan Fleming, in his capacity as Director of the Office of Housing Finance, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The approval of HUD certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

THE U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objections to its release of fund and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the name of Grantee; (b) the Grantee has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Atlanta CPD Field Office at CPD_COVID-19OEE-ATL@HUD.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Atlanta CPD Field Office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

RYAN FLEMING, Director, Office of Housing Finance, **Certifying Officer**

PUBLIC NOTICE #117591
11/11

The Covington News

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

The Covington News

Dig into sweet peanut-butter dish

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Peanut butter is a versatile ingredient that’s at home in everything from savory dishes to sweet desserts. Peanut butter also can be the hallmark of the perfect sandwich or make a great dip when paired with fruit slices or pretzel rods.

This recipe for “Honey Bun Bread Pudding With Peanut Butter-Whiskey Sauce” from “Fire in My Belly” (Andrews McMeel Publishing, LLC) by Kevin Gillespie makes peanut butter the star of a sweet and rich sauce that dresses up store-bought honey buns to make a bread pudding to tempt any sweet tooth.

Honey Bun Bread Pudding with Peanut Butter-Whiskey sauce

Serves about 8 people

Ingredients:
Casserole
3 large eggs
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
9 honey buns (preferably Little Debbie brand)
1/2 butterscotch chips
1 cup Peanut Butter-Whiskey Sauce (see below)

Peanut Butter-Whiskey Sauce

1/2 cup heavy cream
1/3 cup creamy peanut butter

3 tablespoons high-alcohol bourbon, such as Noah’s Mill or Old Rip Van Winkle 10-year

Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Generously butter a 2-quart baking dish.
2. In a very large bowl, whisk the eggs until frothy. Whisk in the cream, salt, and cinnamon to combine. Break the honey buns into -inch pieces and add to the egg mixture. Add the butterscotch chips and stir gently to combine. Pour the honey bun mixture into the baking dish and bake until puffed, golden and bubbly, 40 to 45 minutes. The custard will be set around the edges and the center will be a little jiggly. Remove and let rest on a rack for 15 minutes before serving.
3. To make the sauce: Heat the cream in a small heavy pot over medium heat until it starts to simmer. Whisk in the peanut butter until well blended and smooth. The peanut butter is too fatty to melt on its own; the cream stabilizes it so it won’t separate or seize. Slowly whisk in the bourbon.
4. Serve the bread pudding with the peanut butter-whiskey sauce. You could serve it without the sauce, but if you’re going to splurge, splurge.



Metro Creative Services

This recipe makes peanut butter the star of a sweet and rich sauce that dresses up store-bought honey buns to make a bread pudding to tempt any sweet tooth.

Secrets to successful cold weather entertaining

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Upon the arrival of cold weather, people tend to move indoors and limit their time spent in the elements. For those who live in places where there are restrictions placed on indoor entertaining and gatherings, it may be challenging to find ways to spend time safely together as temperatures drop.

The COVID-19 virus as well as other respiratory viruses are spread from person to person through respiratory droplets released into the air while coughing, talking or sneezing, states the Mayo Clinic. A person is more likely to inhale these droplets from an infected person while indoors, especially when they’re in close contact with that person. When outdoors,



Metro Creative Services

Outdoor entertaining in winter may be challenging, especially in regard to keeping everyone warm, but it is possible.

there is a lower risk of contraction.

Outdoor entertaining in winter may be challenging, especially in regard to keeping everyone warm. The

following are some solutions that can help people stay warm and have fun outside.

Invest in fire pits
Fire pits are an af-

fordable way to heat a patio or another outdoor area. They can be great places for friends and family to gather around and enjoy special occasions. They’re

readily available from garden centers and home improvement retailers at a variety of price points.

Permanent fire pits can be built by a homeowner or professionally built by masonry experts.

Install an outdoor fireplace

A step up from a fire pit, outdoor fireplaces not only add warmth, but also improve the ambiance and value of an outdoor entertaining area. Set up outdoor furniture right next to an outdoor fireplace and you have a cozy alternative living room where everyone can gather.

Explore outdoor heating systems

Few things are more effective at warming up outdoor entertain-

ing areas than patio heaters and infrared heaters. These devices are far more effective than average fire pits or fireplaces. One or two heaters will be enough to keep a large entertaining area warm.

Keep cozy options available

Guests should dress warmly, but having a basket of throw blankets, scarves and parkas available for extra warmth while mingling is helpful. Use outdoor rugs to insulate from the cold from the ground up.

Serve hearty foods and beverages

Stews, chilis, soups, and other hot foods can help guests warm themselves up from the inside out. Warmed cider, hot chocolate and mulled wines also can be served to help people stay warm.

Get moving

Incorporate activities that encourage guests to move around and stay warm. Beanbag tosses, dancing and even sports like flag football can keep guests’ blood flowing.

Entertaining outdoors doesn’t have to stop when the weather cools. Find ways to stay comfortable and safe when entertaining outside in the cold.



Have a recipe you’d like to share?

Email it to news@covnews.com and be featured in a future edition of The Covington News.

Prep Football —
Week 11 Standings

Alcovy — 2-5, 2-0 Region 3-AAAAAA (2 games remaining: Fellowship Christian & Evans)

Eastside — 6-2, 4-1 Region 8-AAAAA (2 games remaining: Walnut Grove & Greenbrier)

Newton — 3-4, 1-1 Region 4-AAAAAA (2 games remaining: Grayson & South Gwinnett)

Social Circle — 2-6, 0-3 Region 8-A Public (2 games remaining: Towns Co. & Greene Co.)

Region 3-AAAAAA

1. Evans 2-0, 6-2

2. **Alcovy 2-0, 2-5**

3. Grovetown 0-2, 2-6

4. Lakeside 0-3, 1-7

5. Heritage 2-0, 2-1 (Not Eligible)*

6. Rockdale County 0-1, 0-3 (Not Eligible)*

**Rockdale County schools will not be eligible to compete in the postseason. Evans, Alcovy, Grovetown and Lakeside have all secured playoff spots.*

Region 8-AAAAA

1. Clarke Central 6-0, 7-2

2. **Eastside 4-1, 6-2**

3. Greenbrier 3-2, 6-2

4. Loganville 2-3, 3-5

5. Apalachee 2-3, 2-6

6. Jackson County 2-3, 3-5

7. Walnut Grove 2-3, 3-5

8. Johnson 0-6, 0-9

Region 4-AAAAAA

1. Grayson 3-0, 8-0

2. Parkview 2-1, 6-2

3. **Newton 1-1, 3-4**

4. South Gwinnett 0-2, 5-3

5. Brookwood 0-2, 6-2

Region 8-A Public

1. Washington-Wilkes 3-0, 7-0

2. Commerce 3-0, 7-1

3. Lincoln County 2-1, 5-3

4. Towns County 1-2, 3-5

5. Greene County 0-3, 2-7

6. **Social Circle 0-3, 2-6**



File | The Covington News

With just two weeks left in the regular season, the playoff picture is starting to come into focus for *The Covington News*' four local GHSA football teams. Alcovy and Eastside have already clinched postseason berths, but Newton and Social Circle remain in the hunt as well.

PLAYOFF PICTURE

Tigers, Eagles clinch spots; Rams, 'Skins still alive

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — With two weeks remaining in the regular season, hope is still alive and well for all four local GHSA football teams aiming to make the playoffs.

Alcovy and Eastside clinched spots last week, while Newton has placed itself in favorable positions to

earn a postseason berth in the weeks to come. Social Circle will need some assistance in order to slip into the playoffs, but has yet to be mathematically eliminated.

There are two weeks left in the regular season, and a lot of football to be played, but the playoff picture is beginning to come into focus. Here's where things thing for

each of the four teams in the area entering Week 11:

ALCOVY

The Tigers are going to host a playoff game for the first time since 2011.

After going 0-5 against non-region competition to start the year, Alcovy came out strong for the start of Region 3-AAAAAA play.

A road trip to Grovetown on Oct. 30 resulted in a 44-14 clobbering. For an encore performance the club handed Lakeside-Evans a 35-0 defeat at Sharp Stadium this past Friday.

Consequently, the Tigers' game at Evans on Friday, Nov. 20, will serve as a de

See **PLAYOFF**, A8

Panthers begin playoff run Friday

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The big dance begins this week for the Peachtree Academy football team.

The Panthers earned a No. 2 seed in the GAPPS Class AA 8-Man Football State Playoffs and will host No. 3 Fideles Christian Academy in the first round on Friday.

They're one of six participants in the postseason bracket.

The winner of Friday night's contest will travel to top-seeded Unity Christian School on Friday, Nov. 20.



File | The Covington News

Correction

In the weekend edition of *The Covington News*, inside Sports Extra, the article titled "TIGERS POUNCE" was incorrectly attributed to sports editor Mason Wittner. The article was written by *Covington News* correspondent Garrett Pitts. *The Covington News* regrets its error.

Newton debuts inaugural flag football team

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

MCDONOUGH, Ga. — The first girls' flag football team in Newton High School history made its debut over the weekend.

First-year head coach Chris Ray was ecstatic for the opportunity to field Newton's inaugural team in the GHSA-sanctioned sport.

"I get the excitement from the kids. The girls are excited to be out here. They're excited to play football," Ray said. "I just love to be around that part of the game."

The Lady Rams traveled to Rockdale County on Saturday morning for a pair of games at Heritage High School. After dropping the season opener against defending state runner-up Heritage, they bounced back with a dominant victory over Salem.

On Monday evening, Newton returned to action as the club traveled to Ola High School for a doubleheader against Ola and Mary Persons.

The first game of the night saw the Lady Rams play spoiler by crashing the Lady Mustangs' senior night with a 19-0 victory. A pair of rushing touchdowns in the first half afforded a comfortable lead while the defense forced a flurry of turnovers to keep Ola off-balance.

The Lady Rams continued to lock down defensively in the second half, scoring a touchdown as time expired to place the proverbial cherry on top of their second straight win.

The nightcap didn't go Newton's way. After giving up a pair of touchdowns midway through in the first half, the Lady Rams were never able to fully recover as they suffered a 22-0 loss to Mary Persons.

"We're getting better every day," Ray said. "Our first games were Saturday, and it's only Monday, but I can already see us getting better. We're improving every day and that's the goal. We'll come back to practice [Tuesday] and work on some things to get better for the weekend."

The Lady Rams will travel to Morgan County on Saturday, Nov. 14, for a game at 10 a.m.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Newton's inaugural girls' flag football team is off to a 2-2 start in 2020 following wins against Salem and Ola.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Alcovy Tigers

#11 Caleb Brown

Brown intercepted a pass on Friday night as the Tigers locked down defensively and pitched a shutout against Lakeside. With the victory, Alcovy secured at least a No. 2 seed in the Class AAAAAA state playoffs.



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Eastside Eagles

#7 Jaylen Woods

Woods made his first start of the year at quarterback after returning from a leg injury he sustain before the season. He tossed a pair of touchdown passes to lead his Eagles to a 27-0 victory over Jackson County.



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Newton Rams

#58 Malachi Arnett

Arnett was a force in the interior for the Newton defensive line on Friday night. After giving up 24 points less than a minute into the second quarter, he and the Rams settled in to allow just one more score late in the final quarter.



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Social Circle Redskins

#3 Logan Cross

In what head coach Rob Patton called "the best offensive performance" the Redskins produced all year, Cross went 26-for-36 through the air with 269 yards and one touchdown pass on Friday.



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PLAYOFF:

Continued from A1

facto Region 3 championship.

This is just the fifth time Alcovy has qualified for the state playoffs; the team's first appearance since 2013. The program, which began in 2006, also reached the postseason in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

If Alcovy takes down Evans in its regular season finale, it will earn the No. 1 seed and play host to the No. 4 seed from Region 2. Entering the week, Statesboro and Effingham County were neck-and-neck for fourth place.

A loss to the Knights would result in the No. 2 seed and a home game against the No. 3 seed from Region 2, which currently belongs to Richmond Hill.

EASTSIDE

Like Alcovy, Eastside has already earned its place in the 2020 state playoffs.

The Eagles are flying high in their first season in Region 8-A. Their lone blemish through five region games was a nail-biter at Clarke Central, when they came up on the wrong side of a 35-34 decision.

Clarke Central locked up its second straight region title with a win over Loganville on Friday, but Eastside's still in the running to host a playoff game. Sitting at 4-1 against region competition with two games remaining, the club appears poised to earn the No. 2 seed.

If the Eagles win out against Walnut Grove and Greenbrier, they'd finished second in the region and host the No. 3 seed from Region 5, which currently belongs to Southwest Dekalb.

Back-to-back losses could drop the Eagles to No. 4. However, wins over Loganville, Apalachee and Jackson County earlier this year would prevent them from slipping out of the postseason entirely.

NEWTON

Following Friday night's shutout loss to Mill Creek, Newton head coach Camiel Grant Jr. reminded his team that everything is still in front of them. Not only can Newton still make the playoffs, he noted, but the team can still Region 4-A.

As a matter of fact, the Rams could finish anywhere between No. 1 and No. 5 in the region depending on how the next two weeks unfold.

The club unloaded an immense amount of pressure on Oct. 30 when it pulled off the upset of Brookwood. Following the defeat against Parkview in its region opener, the triumph over the Broncos pulled the Rams to 1-1 in league play.

Playing in a five-team region, the Rams are currently slotted at No. 3. But there are several ways the next two weeks can play out.

In order for Newton to claim the region crown, it must first take down Grayson and South Gwinnett. Then,



Anthony Banks | The Covington News

With Friday night's blowout win over Lakeside-Evans, Alcovy set up a de facto Region 3-A championship game on Nov. 20. Win or lose, the Tigers will host a playoff game for the first time since 2011.



Anthony Banks | The Covington News

Jevarra Martin Jr. [18] and the Newton offense couldn't get anything going against Mill Creek last Friday. However, in spite of the shutout loss, all of the Rams' goals for the year remain attainable.

Parkview must lose to Brookwood in its regular season finale.

Wins over Grayson and South Gwinnett coupled with a Parkview victory would result in the No. 2 seed for Newton.

The No. 3 seed can be retained so long as the Rams remain above South Gwinnett and Brookwood. If either team wins its final two games, and Newton remains at one region win, they would climb past them in the region standings.

Back-to-back losses to Grayson and South Gwinnett coupled with two Brookwood victories would push New-

ton out of the postseason.

If it sounds complex, that's because it is. The good news is that the Rams still control complete autonomy of their own destiny, which is equivalent to what any good head coach will tell you — they win, and they're in.

SOCIAL CIRCLE

The Redskins have stumbled out to a 0-3 start in Region 8-A Public and enter Week 11 in last place. But their postseason dreams are not yet dead. On the contrary, their path to the postseason is an extremely likely scenario. Allow me to explain.

Social Circle's final two games of the regular season are against Towns County and Greene County, who are currently positioned in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

In the event that the Redskins win out, and Towns County loses to Washington-Wilkes while Greene County loses to Lincoln County, then Social Circle would slip into the postseason as the No. 4 seed.

There are a lot of moving parts, but none that are out of realm of possibility — or even probability.

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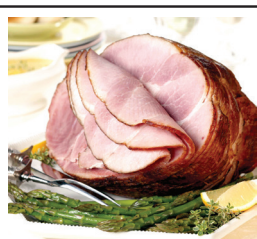
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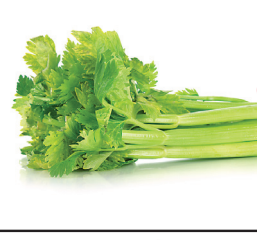
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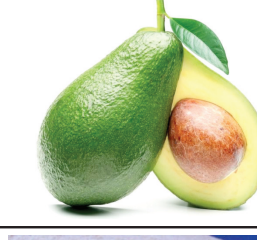
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– G.K. Chesterton



Veterans Day 2020

The Covington News presents a special section in honor of the men and women who made the bold, courageous decision to serve and protect our homeland.



Navy veteran gets medals — finally, *See C2*



Local veterans in business, *See C5*



Mansfield school honors heroes, *See C9*

Navy vet fought military red tape to receive medals — and won



Office of Sen. David Perdue
Retired Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig Petraszewsky speaks after receiving the medals he earned in a 1975 military operation from U.S. Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Conyers in August.

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
tspigolon@covnews.com
COVINGTON,
Ga. — A Covington
man helped evacuate

remaining Americans
and other allies from
South Vietnam as the
fall of the country to
North Vietnam was

imminent in 1975.
As a result, the
then-18-year-old Navy
sailor from Plymouth,
Michigan, was owed

and received the Armed
Forces Expeditionary
Medal for his role in
the heroic effort called
Operations Frequent
Wind.
But years after leav-
ing the Navy, Craig
Petraszewsky sought
some VA medical ben-
efits in 2015 and found
he needed a specific
commendation to get
them, he said.
After some years of
trying and being given

a runaround, Petrasze-
wsky ended up calling
his senator — who
just happened to be a
member of the Senate
Armed Services Com-
mittee.
The effort left the
maintenance engi-
neer with the Vietnam
Service Medal, Human-
itarian Service Medal,
Good Conduct Medal,
Navy Unit Commenda-
tion Ribbon and Meri-
torious Unit Commen-

dation Ribbon.
Petraszewsky began
his work to receive the
medals he needed in
2015. He applied for it
and sent the informa-
tion to an office in Ar-
lington, Virginia, which
turned out to be the
wrong office, he said.
His application ended
up in Millington, Ten-
nessee, where it sat for
months, he said.
See **MEDALS**, C3

A Tribute to Our Soldiers on Veteran's Day



Today we honor
the memories of
the brave American soldiers who made the
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courage, commitment and selflessness will
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Office of Sen. David Perdue
Craig Petraszewsky was honored with the Vietnam Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon and Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES AND IMPROVE THE WORLD — JACK LEW





Office of Sen. David Perdue
From left are Patti and Craig Petraszewsky, and U.S. Sen. David Perdue and his wife, Bonnie.

MEDALS:

Continued from C2

After six months, he re-applied ... then again, for a total of three times in three years, he said.

Petraszewsky said he considered giving up before a friend advised him to call his congressman. He ended up contacting U.S. Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga. — who just happened to be a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

After four months, the senator's staff secured the medals for Petraszewsky, he said.

Petraszewsky said the effort to contact Perdue's office and receive the medals was "pretty satisfying, especially during a pandemic."

"Having been in the military, I know how long these things can take," he said.

Perdue awarded Petraszewsky the medals during an August ceremony at a Veterans of Foreign War post in Conyers.

"Georgia's veterans are truly American heroes. It is my highest honor to be in

Conyers today to recognize Petty Officer Petraszewsky's service to our nation," Perdue said during the ceremony.

"After dealing with the nightmare that is government bureaucracy for more than three years, Petty Officer Petraszewsky contacted our office to help him obtain the Navy medals he bravely earned in battle during the Vietnam War. My team got to work right away to ensure these awards were rightfully received," he said.

After a career which included work as a police officer in Tennessee, Petraszewsky now works as a maintenance engineer.

He also owns a company in Covington he opened in 2013 which produces hot sauce from the peppers he grows in his own yard.

Petreux's Gourmet Hot Sauce offers a variety of sauces — including one he is developing from a cross-pollinated pepper he believes may be the hottest pepper ever grown.

Veterans by the numbers

Former service members make up 7% of US population

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Veterans Day, once known as Armistice Day, was first celebrated on Nov. 11, 1919, the anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1928, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution for Armistice Day to be an annual observation, and by 1938, the day became a national holiday.

Differing from Memorial Day in May, Armistice Day, which would be renamed Veterans Day in 1954 under President Dwight Eisenhower, pays tribute to veterans who survived various wars. Memorial Day commemorates those veterans who lost their lives.

Americans celebrate Veterans Day, while residents of Great Britain, Canada and Australia celebrate Remembrance Day. Those who want to learn more about Veterans Day can consider the following facts.

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were approximately 18 million military veterans in the United States in 2018 — roughly 7% of the nation's population. Women made up approximately 1.7 million veterans. It is projected that number will jump to 17% by 2040.

- California, Texas and Florida comprise the states with the largest number of veterans, equalling 1 million or more.

- Veterans consist of people who served in the military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. Veterans serve in times of war and peace.



Metro Creative Services

Veterans consist of people who served in the military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.

- The word "veteran" comes from the Old English language and means "old, experienced soldier." The first use of the word was documented in 1789.

- Although many veterans are working, and the average annual income of male veterans is \$37,000, some veterans continue to be unemployed. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall unemployment rate for veterans rose to 7.6% in January 2013. The unemployment rate of post-9/11 veterans or those who participated in the Gulf War reached 6.2%.

- Upon retiring or being discharged, veterans may need help acclimating to life outside the military. The Department of Veterans Affairs says about 30% of Vietnam War veterans have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

- Between 1971 and 1977,

Veterans Day was celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. It was changed back to its original date, Nov. 11, in 1975 when President Gerald Ford signed bill S.331 into law. The change went into effect beginning in 1978.

- An American soldier was buried at the national cemetery in Arlington on Nov. 11, 1921. His identity was unknown, and the gravesite is known as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." A guard from the Society of the Honor Guard stands watch over the grave each year on Veterans Day, and the president or another high-ranking member of the government places a wreath on the grave.

Veterans Day occurs each year on Nov. 11, marking the end of World War I. The day has evolved into a celebration and remembrance of the heroism of America's brave soldiers.



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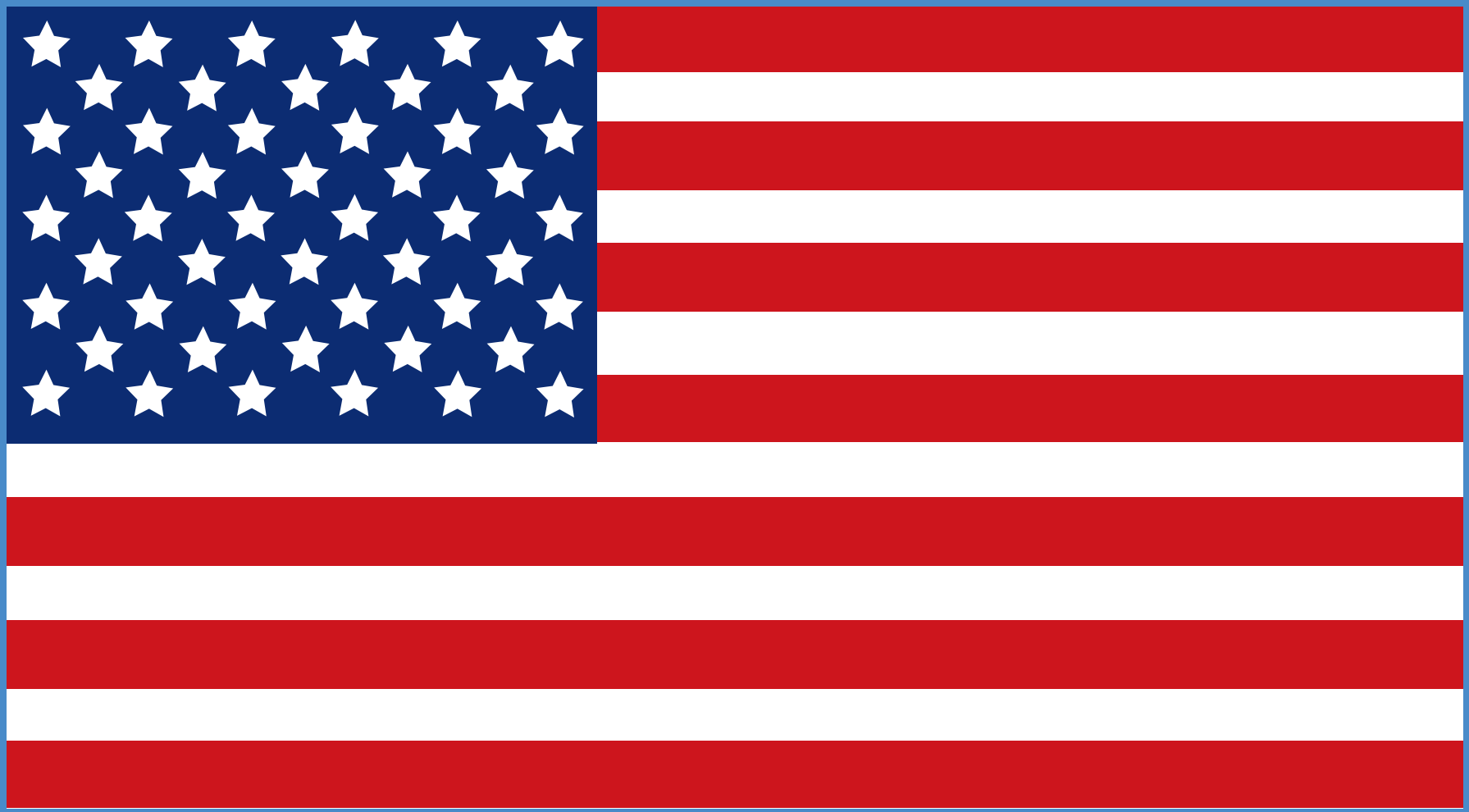
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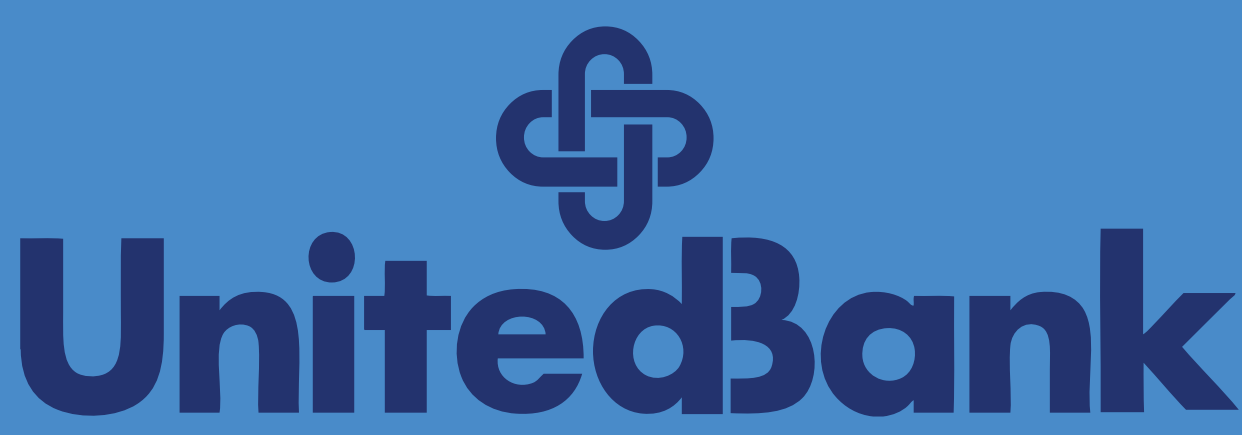
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Veterans in business

Local couple provides service through restaurant

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Ron and Chivon Cyrus both spent more than two decades serving in the United States Army.

Ron joined the service in 1984 and served for 21 years and three months before retiring in 2006. Chivon enlisted in 1997 and served for 20 years and one month before her retirement.

At the time, they'd each spent more than half their lives as members of the U.S. military. It molded who they were and provided the structure through which they operated on a daily basis. More than a decade has passed, however, and they've since traded in their fatigues for spots in the restaurant business.

In late May, the Cyruses stood on a sidewalk and placed their hands on a comically large pair of red scissors to jointly cut a piece of red ribbon. They were the proud new owners of a franchise of Skrimp Shack, a seafood chain from northern Virginia, off of Hwy. 20 in Covington.

Their journey to ownership wasn't overly complex. While visiting family in Virginia in 2018, the Cyruses visited a local Skrimp Shack and were immediately



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Skrimp Shack owners Ron and Chivon Cyrus, of Covington, each served in the U.S. Army for two decades.

impressed by the experience. Shortly thereafter, they reached out to Stacey and Mitch Hartman — the chain's founders — and inquired about acquiring a franchise of their own.

Less than two years later, they were granted the opportunity.

Ron and Chivon take great pride in the work they do at Skrimp Shack. In their eyes, operating a restaurant is more than just giving food to hungry customers — it's providing a service to a community in need.

"I feel if we can do this on a national scale, defending our country and providing a service to our country, then why not our communities?" Ron said.

With more than 40 years of combined service in the military between the married couple, the Cyruses

Wounded Warrior Project, Harley-Davidson partner for Rolling Project Odyssey

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
Wounded Warrior Project

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and Harley-Davidson Motor Co. are again hitting the road to bring Rolling Project Odyssey to wounded veterans.

Rolling Project Odyssey is a unique motorcycle group riding experience that aims to support veterans in their recoveries from invisible wounds of war. First partnering with WWP on the experience in 2015, Harley-Davidson is sponsoring additional group rides to extend the program to more veterans across the United States.

"We are grateful for Harley-Davidson's support and honored to partner with such a legendary brand as we fuel the future of Rolling Project Odyssey," said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael Richardson, WWP vice president of independence services and mental health. "Our goal is to focus warriors on their present to enable the growth of their future. The overall Rolling Project Odyssey experience is designed to encourage warriors to face adversities of the past and accomplish goals together with

peers facing similar challenges, just as they did on the battlefield."

One of WWP's marquee mental health programs for veterans, Project Odyssey helps warriors manage post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other combat stress through adventure-based learning that encourages a connection with fellow veterans and nature. In Rolling Project Odyssey, motorcycle riding becomes the catalyst for the program to provide mental health education, which aims to help warriors manage their invisible wounds, teach them how to enhance their resiliency skills, and empower them to live productive and fulfilling lives.

"Rolling Project Odyssey was a life-changing experience for me," said Jonathan Goolsby, an Army veteran who attended a previous Rolling Project Odyssey in Georgia. "The experience has taught me many things that I have been able to implement into my daily life, like finding my center and keeping my cool when things start to get tough."

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State law allows any court with jurisdiction over criminal cases a chance to establish a court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for some defendants who are military veterans.

Road to recovery

Court program allows criminal charges against veterans to be dropped with program completion

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Veterans are “indoc- trinated with a warrior’s mentality” while serv- ing in the military and often find the process of transitioning to civilian life challenging.

“Compound those challenges with sub- stance abuse and/or mental health issues, you generate a perfect storm for veterans to get into trouble,” said Richard Kringer, coor- dinator of the Veterans Court program within the Alcovy Judicial Circuit.

The judicial circuit offers the Veterans Court program to some veterans charged with crimes in Newton and Walton counties, Kringer said.

State law allows any court with jurisdiction over criminal cases a chance to establish a court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for some defen- dants who are military veterans.

The court can refer the defendant in any criminal case to the court program if the defendant is a veteran and meets the eligibility criteria, according to state law.

Superior Court Judge Layla Zon said veterans courts allow the local judicial system to use a specialized approach to address the unique ex- periences and issues of veterans charged with low-level crimes.

“A veterans treatment court judge, supported by a strong inter-disci- plinary team, is able to better understand the is- sues that a veteran may be struggling with, such as substance addiction, PTSD, traumatic brain

How to help veterans in need



Metro Creative Services

Many veterans aren’t just in need of medical attention, and people can help them in various ways.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Millions of men and women serve in the military and make the sacrifices that such service requires. Risking their lives to serve their countries, veter- ans sometimes endure mental and physical trauma, returning home to face uphill battles as they deal with their injuries.

Many veterans in need are not just in need of medical at- tention. Learning that their efforts and sac- rifices are recognized and appreciated by the ordinary citizens they protect can make a world of difference to veterans as they recov- er from their injuries. Men, women and chil- dren who want to help veterans in need can do so in various ways.

- Visit a veterans hospital. Contact a local veterans’ hospital to inquire about their volunteer programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that each year more than 75,000 volunteers spend more than 11 million hours in service to Ameri- ca’s veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their recoveries. In addition, veterans’ hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.
- Help a neighbor. Unfortunately, many veterans return home with injuries that affect their ability to make it through a typical day without assistance.

Disabled veterans may be unable to do their own grocery shop- ping or maintain their homes. If a neighbor or nearby veteran is facing such hurdles, offer to do his or her shopping or mow his or her lawn. Such tasks won’t take much time but can make a world of difference to veterans.

- Offer professional services free of charge. Professionals who want to help veterans can offer their ser- vices free of charge. Accountants can offer to prepare veterans’ tax returns for free, while attorneys can provide legal advice to veterans who need it. Contractors can help disabled veterans by offering to make alter- ations to their homes for free or at cost.
- Employ social media to help local veterans. Many peo- ple who want to help local veterans might not be able to do so more than one day per week. But some veterans may require daily assistance. Men and women can start a locally-based Face- book group for fellow members of their community who want to pitch in to help local veterans. Such a group can make it easier to share information and arrange help for veter- ans in need.

Many veterans return home from serving overseas in need of help. Offering such help can improve veterans’ lives while letting them know their efforts and sacri- fices are appreciated.

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ROAD:

Continued from C6

injury, or military sexual trauma,” Zon said.

“A primary goal of the program is to reduce recidivism through treatment and intervention with immediate judicial review that supports addressing the veteran’s potential co-occurring substance abuse and trauma problems, utilizing a sanction (and) incentive process,” she said.

If the participant successfully completes the program, the case against the participant may be dismissed or the person’s sentence reduced, according to state law.

The judicial program’s inter-disciplinary team and court are based in Newton County but serve those who live in Newton and Walton counties, Zon said.

A planning group manages the Veterans Court and includes Zon, who is the court’s judge; Kringer; Jillian Hall of the District Attorney’s office; attorney Stephanie Tomys; and Antwanella Hall of the Georgia Department of Community Supervision.

Others on the planning group include Antoinette Major and Earl Nesbitt, both of the Newton County Sheriff’s Office; Dwayne Grayer, Anner Pitman and James Muse, all of the Walton County Sheriff’s Office; Johntavious Jones and Jamie Story, both of View Point Health; Thindwia Cabiness, a veterans justice outreach specialist; Dr. Priscilla Faulkner and Stacia Schmidt, both of Southeastern Psychological Associates; and veteran mentors Gil Baca, James

Johnson, David Lopshire and Anthony Jewel.

Kringer said veterans have a better chance at “overcoming their adversities” when working in collaboration with the court, VA, local treatment providers and other resources.

The Veterans Court program uses a veteran justice outreach specialist to serve as a mediator between the veteran, the veterans court and the VA, Kringer said.

Zon said a veterans treatment court typically is familiar with the operations of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, Georgia Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and volunteer veteran mentors and know how they can all assist veteran defendants.

Funding comes from state grants to local accountability courts administered by the state Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) manages.

The grants include funding for the fiscal year, supplemental funds for meeting additional needs throughout the year; and an emergency grant for such needs as drug testing supplies and treatment due to an unanticipated increase in the number of program participants, Kringer said.

Defendants charged with murder, armed robbery, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, aggravated child molestation, or child molestation are not eligible for the program, according to state law.

Honoring wartime’s unsung heroes

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Veterans Day, which is celebrated annually on Nov. 11, commemorates the hard-working men and women who sacrifice their time and put themselves in harm’s way to defend the country’s core values of freedom and opportunity. While Veterans Day certainly is a chance to honor those who have donned the uniform during wars and military installments, it also can be a chance to recognize the unsung heroes of wartime — those who step into roles so that soldiers and strategists can focus their attention elsewhere.

Take for example Naomi Parker Fraley. In 1942, Fraley was a machine shop worker at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. She was one of scores women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, helping to produce munitions and war supplies. Parker was 20 years old in 1942 and served as the inspiration for what would become one of the most indelible images of the era, known as “Rosie the Riveter.” Parker unknowingly inspired the iconic image after she was photographed at work bent over an industrial machine in a jumpsuit with her hair tied back in a polka-dot bandana. In 2018, Naomi Parker Fraley died at the age of 96, not nearly the household name she perhaps should have been.

Rosie the Riveter helped to tout the contributions of female war employees who were defending America by working on the homefront. Rosie was a successful morale-booster, and some may be surprised to learn that Rosie has various incarnations.

Norman Rockwell’s depiction of a female riveter,



Wikimedia Commons

“We Can Do It!” by J. Howard Miller, featuring Rosie the Riveter, was made in 1942 as an inspirational image to boost worker morale among women during World War II.

which appeared on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on May 29, 1943, became an iconic staple of that time. Muscular, with a rivet gun on her lap, a sandwich in hand and a boot stomping on a copy of “Mein Kampf” — and timed perfectly to coincide with the release of a song called “Rosie the Riveter” by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb — Rosie became a household name. But another Rosie image actually predates Rockwell’s Post cover.

Naomi Parker Fraley was reportedly the inspiration for an ad created by a lesser known artist named J. Howard Miller. Miller produced a “We Can Do It!” poster for Westinghouse Electric in 1942 aimed at boosting spirits among the company’s workers. The poster helped to recruit new female personnel,

according to scholar James J. Kimble. This Rosie was portrayed in a red bandana with her bent arm flexed, rolling up her shirtsleeve.

Both Miller’s and Rockwell’s depictions of female war workers became ingrained in popular culture. Rockwell’s cover art was eventually loaned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for use in war bond drives for the duration of the war. Miller’s version has been emulated for generations and still epitomizes a strong female presence in the workforce.

This Veterans Day is a prime time to delve into American wartime history, with interesting stories like the origins of Rosie the Riveter, and pay homage to all of the heroes that help ensure America’s reputation as a great nation.



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BUSINESS:

Continued from C5

entered the restaurant business feeling prepared to face any challenges that may await them head-on.

It didn't take long for adversity to strike, either.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread and the restaurant business — along with the majority of corporate America — took a hit, they were ready to adapt.

"When it comes to adversity, I think our backgrounds in the military kind of helped us prepare for that because of the ability to adapt to any situation," Ron said. "As combat veterans, we're able to adapt to the situation. And I think this pandemic brings a whole new situation altogether."

Chivon expressed similar sentiments about how her background has prepared her for the past six months running Skrimp Shack.

"One lesson I learned in the military that prepared me for running a business is training in peace time for war. We both deployed, but even when we were not deployed, you still train as you fight," Chivon said. "So now, when it's slow, we know we still have to prepare for the rush."

"You don't just sit back, relax and chit-chat. No. You're cleaning, you're preparing, you're getting mentally focused. You still train



Ron and Chivon Cyrus (center) celebrate the grand opening of Skrimp Shack in Covington in May. The veterans have 40 years of combined service in the military and are proud to continue their service through the restaurant.

as you fight so that when go-time hits — when the pandemic has ended and the floodgates open — we'll be fully prepared."

The Cyruses strived to become woven into the fabric of the Newton County community

when they opened their restaurant. They believe they've accomplished that through the Skrimp Shack's first six months of operation.

Whether it's the hiring and training processes of new employees, the food they've

provided to countless patrons or the conversation they've engaged in a multitude of customers — from fellow veterans, to church leaders, to retired professional athletes, to city employees — the Cyruses are grateful for

the opportunity to be part of Newton County. At the end of the day, they're just trying to make the neighborhood a better place.

"This restaurant is almost an invitation to an extension of our home. If I invite you to my

home to have dinner, I'm going to give you the best I can give," Ron said. "That way, when you walk out that door, you're like, 'Hey, that was a good meal. I want to tell somebody else about it.' That's the extent of all of this."



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Special to The Covington News

For more than 25 years, Mansfield Elementary School has held a Veterans Day program to honor former and current service members. This year, the program will only consist of placing flags on the graves of veterans.

Mansfield Elementary honors area veterans

By **TAYLOR BECK**
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — COVID-19 won't stop students and faculty of Mansfield Elementary School from continuing its tradition of honoring former and current service members on Veterans Day.

For more than 25 years, the school has come together to host a program that includes between 40-60 veterans who are invited by students, said Chris Haymore, principal of Mansfield Elementary School. The veter-

ans speak to the students about their time in the military.

To honor prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action, the school displays a place setting called the "missing man table."

"We have two students whose uncle did not return from Vietnam and was never confirmed killed," Haymore said.

After the program concludes, students from each grade level chooses a time to walk to a neighboring cemetery and place flags on the graves of

veterans.

Haymore said this year would look different due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead of holding its typical program, the students will only be allowed to place flags at the cemetery.

Although they won't get to hear from them this year, Haymore said it is important for students to honor veterans and hear their stories.

"I always tell the kids that they here and study about wars in social studies, but this is not about countries and politics," he said. "This

program is about the individuals who fought, served and died. It gives a face to some of the lessons they learn."

Haymore said students are often proud to be a part of the day's festivities, but local veterans are also grateful for the school's program.

"We really hear from the veterans," Haymore said. "They tell us how grateful they are that we continue to have a program like this. It's good to let them know they are appreciated."



Special to The Covington News

Pictured is the "missing man" table — a place setting to honor prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.



Special to The Covington News

Students and faculty have placed flags on the graves of veterans at a neighboring cemetery for more than 25 years.



"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."
— Elmer Davis



Eyes of a soldier

Metro Creative Services

Combat veterans are vulnerable to PTSD, and the percentage of veterans who deal with it each day is alarming. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as many as 20% of veterans who served during Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom have PTSD. In addition, the USDVA notes that estimates now suggest as many as 30% of Vietnam veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

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Combat veterans often subject to PTSD

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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Every day men and women in the military put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and freedoms of their fellow countrymen. These brave men and women pay a steep price for their service, spending time away from their loved ones and putting themselves at risk of long-term physical and mental injuries.

Many men and women, even those who never served in the military, are aware of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event. Combat veterans are vulnerable to PTSD, and the percentage of veterans who deal with it each day is alarming. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as many as 20% of veterans who served during Operations Iraqi

Freedom or Enduring Freedom have PTSD. In addition, the USDVA notes that estimates now suggest as many as 30% of Vietnam veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

Though it's not exclusive to men and women who have served in the military, PTSD has long been linked to combat veterans. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association notes that PTSD has been referred to as "shell shock" and "combat fatigue" in the past.

While the APA notes that a diagnosis of PTSD requires exposure to an upsetting traumatic event, that exposure can be indirect rather than firsthand. Because some people may assume that only firsthand exposure to trauma can lead to PTSD, many may be suffering in silence. That makes it all the more important that people learn to recognize the symptoms of PTSD. According to

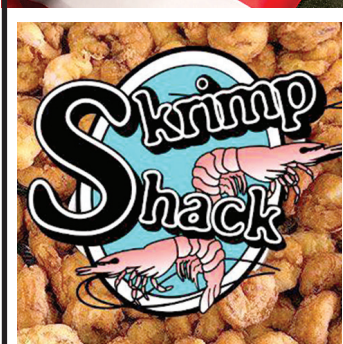
the APA, symptoms of PTSD, which can vary in severity, fall into four categories.

1. Intrusive thoughts: Flashbacks, distressing dreams and repeated, involuntary memories are examples of intrusive thoughts symptomatic of PTSD. The APA notes that some people with PTSD experience flashbacks so vivid that they feel they are reliving the traumatic experience or that it is unfolding before their eyes.

2. Avoiding reminders: Some people with PTSD may avoid people, places, activities, objects, or situations they feel will trigger distressing memories. Soldiers, for example, may avoid interacting with fellow combat veterans. Avoiding discussions about a traumatic event and how they feel about it is another symptom of PTSD.

3. Negative thoughts and feelings: The

See SOLDIER, C11



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-John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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