

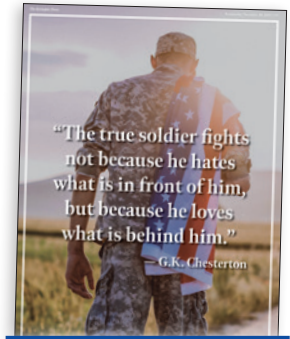
The Covington News

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021  TELLING THE STORY SINCE 1865

His Word

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
Ephesians 3:20, KJV

Veterans Day



The Covington News honors area veterans and all war heroes with special section dedicated to Veterans Day.

[See V1](#)


Inside




YMCA hosts 20th annual Cheerios Challenge 10K, 5K

[See A2](#)

Weather Forecast

 **Wednesday, Nov. 10**
High: 74° Low: 51°
• Mostly sunny

 **Thursday, Nov. 11**
High: 67° Low: 50°
• 70% chance of rain

Sports



Area teams prepare for the first round of the GHSA playoffs

[See A8](#)

Best of Newton



Time for YOU to decide who's the best of the best!
[See B1 for your ballot](#)

Index

Obituaries, [A2](#) Sports, [A8](#)
Opinions, [A4](#) BON Ballot, [B1](#)
Legal, [A5](#)

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Veterans Day

Remembering war time

Area WWII veteran opens up on military service; would 'do it again' if called on

By **PHILLIP B. HUBBARD**
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — John Burson was only 19 years old when he was drafted into the Army to serve in World War II. When the country needed him, Burson said he wanted to go do his part.



John Burson

And that he did. In fact, Burson was so eager to help his country that he and one of his friends almost went and volunteered a year earlier.

Burson told his mother that he was staying over at his friend Grady's house and Grady told his



Phillip B. Hubbard | The Covington News

John Burson is pictured during his time in the Army. He was drafted at the age of 19 and served for three years during World War II.

parents the same thing. But they both boarded a bus from Monroe to Atlanta to enlist in the US Army.

They traveled all that way, but they couldn't go through with it when they arrived in Georgia's

capital. "By the time we got to Atlanta, we changed our minds," Burson said. "We spent the night up there and caught the next bus back home. My mother asked me not to volunteer that, when they need you,

they'll get you." Around a year later, they did. When Uncle Sam came calling, Burson's stepfather tried to give him an out, too. Growing up on a

[See WAR, A5](#)

Sweeping election changes approved

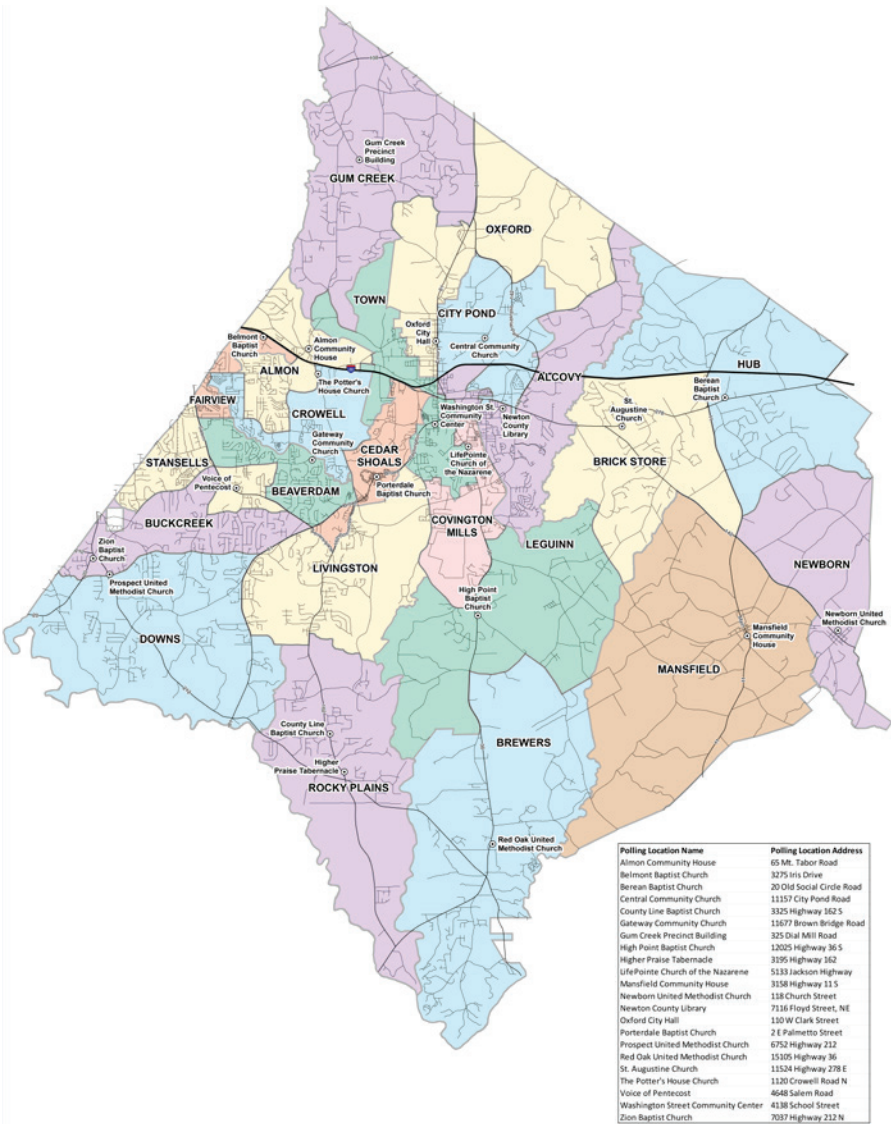
Board votes to add Sunday voting days, reduce election precincts

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Board of Elections chose Monday to change where and when voting will occur in Newton County for the 2022 elections.

Board members voted to reduce the current 22 voting precincts, shown, to 17 in an effort to equalize the wide-ranging numbers of registered voters now assigned to election precincts. They also voted to approve one Sunday advance voting day for each of the May primary and November general elections; and two early voting locations for the entirety of the advance voting periods rather than phasing them in over time as done for the 2020 elections.

Democrats and Republicans in the



audience and on the board split over establishing Sunday voting days and the number of advance voting locations.

Democrats generally favored a Sunday voting day and up to

four advance voting locations, while Republicans opposed Sunday voting and backed only two early voting sites.

Board Chairman Phil Johnson broke a tie in both instances.

Johnson supported Democratic member Kelly Robinson's call for two Sunday voting days in 2022, and Republican member Dustin Thompson's

[See CHANGES, A3](#)

Newton County Schools lifts mask mandate

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Starting Monday, face coverings will no longer be required for students and staff at Newton County Schools. Newton County Schools Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey announced Saturday, Nov. 6, the decision to lift

the district's mask mandate that initially went into effect Aug. 9. Despite no longer being a requirement, Fuhrey said the use of face coverings



Samantha Fuhrey

would continue to be "strongly recommended." "It was stated, at the time the mandate was instituted, that it would be temporary and correlate directly to our community conditions," Fuhrey said in a news release. "After continuous review of

[See MASK, A3](#)



Special Photo

Veterans Support Group CFO Jim Dunn stands with his service dog outside the McDonough office of the nonprofit he founded with the late Bob Van Dunk.

Help comes in many forms

Nonprofit aids local veterans with physical, mental challenges

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
tspigolon@covnews.com

MCDONOUGH, Ga. — Some veterans may have found that maneuvering through the maze of paperwork to receive federal benefits was harder than finding their way through unfamiliar overseas jungles or mountains. Jim Dunn and Bob Van Dunk also found out the hard way about the red tape involved in filing service-related claims for benefits. They met as volunteers at the Stockbridge VA Outpatient Clinic and went on to form a partnership in September 2018 that became the Veterans Support Group Inc. (VSG).

The nonprofit is officially the Henry County Veterans Support Group Inc. but serves veterans from anywhere — though they primarily come from Henry, Newton and Clayton counties, Dunn said.

It was founded with the purpose of "supporting veterans from all branches of service with free assistance with service-related claims, providing guidance in obtaining medical attention and housing and through weekly support group meetings," according to its website. Dunn is a Vietnam War veteran who served in the Marine Corps from 1969 to 1973. He worked in the automotive industry in finance and sales before retiring and working as a school bus driver for the Henry County School System for four years. He also suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from his time in the service, he said. After retiring, Dunn volunteered at the Stockbridge VA Outpatient Clinic assisting veterans at the check-in desk — which is where he met Van Dunk and discovered veterans' increasing need for assistance with filing for VA benefits. Van Dunk died in February, leaving Dunn to lead the fast-growing organization which outgrew two locations before settling in its current offices in a historic building.

See [HELP, A5](#)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 10

• Moving Newton Transit Master Plan final public open house, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Turner Lake Banquet Facility, 6183 Turner Lake Road NW. Visit the project website to review the plan's preliminary recommendations and complete the feedback form at movingnewton.com/provide-feedback.

Wednesday, Nov. 17

• "Pictures with Santa" hosted by Element Funding at 1108 Clark St. from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 770-728-1993.

Thursday, Nov. 18

• Annual Lighting of the Square, 6 to 7 p.m., Covington Square. Choral performance by the Oxford Singing Children and the Oxford Youth Singers on the stage in front of the historic clock tower starting at 6 p.m., followed by Santa appearing for the ceremonial lighting of the Square.

Friday, Nov. 19

• Covington on Ice: Ice Skating at Legion Field opens for season, 5 p.m., Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. (through Feb. 21). For more information, including pricing and hours of operation, visit <http://icedays.com/covington/>.

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 Deadline for Placing Orders: 12 Noon on Monday, November 22nd
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Participants in the Cheerios Challenge 5K race leave the starting line Saturday morning.

All ages turn out for 20th annual Cheerios Challenge

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com
 COVINGTON, Ga. — Hundreds of runners of all ages filled the streets surrounding the Covington YMCA and Legion Field Saturday for races in the 20th annual Cheerios Challenge.

Some local runners shone in the 10K and 5K races before mostly younger runners competed in the one-mile fun run and Trix Tot Trot.

Cheerios Challenge helps support a YMCA financial assistance program that provides access to Y programs for individuals and families who otherwise could not afford to participate. Executive Director Louly Hay-Kapp said the Covington YMCA was "proud" to host the event, which included the Truist Post Race Festival at Legion Field.

"The funds raised through this event enable the Y to continue to support children and families in need in our community," Hay-Kapp said.

"It was especially meaningful to gather as a community after this challenging time," she said, in reference to postponement of the 2020 event scheduled in April 2020 because



Some attendees of the Cheerios Challenge and Truist Post Race Festival pose with mascots representing some of General Mills' cereal brands Saturday morning.

of the pandemic.

"We are so grateful for the support of the work of the Y," Hay-Kapp said.

The races, which are official qualifiers for the Peachtree Road Race, centered on the Covington YMCA building at 2140 Newton Drive, with races beginning at the Y and ending at Legion Field behind the Y on Mill Street.

Henry Meller, 14, of Covington was the overall winner out of 264 participants in the 5K race, according to results posted by Orion Racing.

Meller, who is a member of Eastside High School's cross country team, won with a gun time of 19:49.

Gabe Ferguson, 16, of Social Circle, finished second at 20:13. Mark Peace (20:18) and Richard Pennington (20:44) finished third and fourth, followed by another local teen, Henry Ferguson, 13, of Social Circle, at 21:08.

Others in the top 10

included Eric John, 50, of Covington (21:10); Richard Jackson, 55, of Social Circle (22:43) and Hudson Ferguson, 12, of Social Circle (22:48).

In the 10K race, Blake Brashear of Atlanta was the overall winner with a gun time of 37:10 minutes. Tyler Shelton, 48, also of Atlanta, placed second and topped the 45-49 age group with a time of 42:05.

Robert Meller, 48, of Covington was the top local finisher in the 10K with a third place finish and a gun time of 45:00. Meller finished second in the same event during the 2019 Challenge, which was the last in-person race in the series.

Joyce Zhang, 18, whose hometown was not listed, was the top female finisher. She also led her 15-19 age group and earned fourth place overall with a gun time of 45:57.

Richard Jackson of Social Circle placed

fifth overall and was the top finisher in the 55-59 age group with a gun time of 45:58.

Others in the top 10 included four Covington men, Donny Hartman (48:29), Tim Kirkland (49:39), Brian Patrick (49:56) and Luke Smith (50:57). A total of 70 participants were listed.

Cheyenne Britt, 7, of Monroe, and Jayden Wagstaff, 5, of Covington, were listed as the top finishers in the one-mile fun run which drew 68 participants.

Kellan Von Broembesen, 7, Jackson Dobbs, 11, and Nathan Thomas, 12, all of Covington; and Wesley Penley, 7, and Cade Conyers, 6, both of Oxford, were also in the top 10.

The Cheerios Challenge began in 2001 in conjunction with the Y's Healthy Kids Day and has grown from 45 kids running the one-mile race to more than 1,300 adults and children of all ages in four different races.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?

On Tuesday, November 30th, at 6:00 p.m. the Griffin Regional Educational Service Agency will conduct the South Metro Atlanta GaTAPP (*Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy*) Information Session hosted by Griffin RESA virtually via Zoom. The GaTAPP program is designed to attract highly motivated professionals outside the teaching profession who hold a Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college/university and are interested in pursuing a teaching career. Human Resources Directors from Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Griffin-Spalding and Thomaston-Upson School Systems will be in attendance at this event to virtually provide information on prospective employment opportunities for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year and for the 2022-2023 school year. Space will be limited and only those with reservations will be admitted.

To reserve your space, please RSVP to TAPP at TAPP@griffinresa.net.

To register, please send an email to TAPP@griffinresa.net



Oaks Golf Course announces last day for tee times

Course to close as redevelopment of 250-acre site nears commencement

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

PORTERDALE, Ga. — Area golfers have only a few more days to tee off at The Oaks.

Golf course officials recently announced that after 32 years of operation, the last day of tee times available to the public would be Sunday, Nov. 14.

“We have enjoyed serving the public and appreciate the time you spent with us on the golf course,” a newsletter stated. “We would love to see you one more time before closing our doors.”

The course is closing to be redeveloped. As proposed by Covington-based Infinity Homes and Development, the more than 250-acre site will be transformed into a



The Oaks

The Oaks Golf Course in Porterdales, originally a nine-hole course, was first designed by early golf legend Bobby Jones, who was one of the founders of Augusta National and Masters Tournament.

mixed-use area with roughly 140,000 square feet of retail space, 142 single-family homes; townhomes and a 360-unit apartment complex, as initially reported by *The*

Covington News in May.

The \$215 million development project went through a rigorous rezoning process involving both Newton County and Porterdales governments

before being granted approval.

Formerly home to two dairies, Bibb Manufacturing Co. first developed the land along the Yellow River as a nine-hole golf course for its employees in the 1930s. One of the course designers was said to be early golf legend Bobby Jones. He was a friend of prominent Newton residents such as Charlie Elliott and liked to hunt and fish in the county, according to The Oaks’ history. Jones won numerous tournaments in the early 20th century and was a founder of what would become Augusta National Golf Course and The Masters Tournament.

The Oaks operated under various names into the 1980s, but then stopped being used as a golf course. Former owners allowed vegetation on the site to grow wild for many years until an Atlanta group later redeveloped the site and opened The Oaks golf course under

Richard Schulz’s guidance in 1990.

The course was later expanded to an 18-hole course with a driving range and putting green. Putters Restaurant and the Champions Room, including a kitchen, bar, banquet room, locker room and second floor, were added to the clubhouse in the late ‘90s.

Despite its announcement to close, resident golfers may be able to visit the historic links a few years from now. Per developers’ plans, about 60% of the site will be left both as open space and part of a planned nine-hole, par-3 golf course because of the existence of a 108-acre floodplain on the east side of the site nearest Brown Bridge Road and the Yellow River.

Developers intend to complete the area’s redevelopment by 2025.

News Editor Tom Spigolon contributed to this report.

Kemp, Carr sue over Biden vaccine mandate; court halts measure

By **TIM DARNELL**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A federal appeals court has halted enforcement of the White House’s employer vaccine mandate a day after Gov. Brian Kemp and Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr filed a lawsuit against the requirement.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana issued an emergency stay Saturday on President Joe Biden’s mandate that businesses with 100 or more workers be required to vaccinate their workers by Jan. 4, 2022, or face mask re-



Capitol Beat News Service

Gov. Brian Kemp addresses the media about the lawsuit filed against Biden’s vaccine mandate.

quirements and regular tests.

Last week, Kemp, Carr and Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black filed a separate lawsuit against Biden’s vaccine mandate for

federal contractors.

Friday’s lawsuit claimed the vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 or more workers exceeds the U.S. Department of Labor’s authority and

conflicts with the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The mandate was set to be enforced by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA).

Georgia joined Florida and Alabama, along with several private employers, in filing the lawsuit in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Georgia Highway Contractors Association, the Georgia Motor Trucking Association and Robinson Paving Co. are among the companies that joined in the

latest lawsuit.

“In addition to vilifying Americans for their personal choices, Biden’s vaccine mandates are unlawful and a recipe for economic disaster,” said Kemp. “With inflation skyrocketing, the supply chain screeching to a halt, and job creators across the country desperately searching for more workers, Biden is pouring gasoline on a fire.”

“This unlawful mandate is yet another example of the Biden administration’s complete disregard for the constitutional rights af-

forded to our state and our citizens,” Carr added. “The federal government has no authority to force health-care decisions on Georgia’s companies and its employees under the guise of workplace safety.”

Anthony Coley, a spokesman for the Justice Department, defended the mandate.

“The OSHA emergency temporary standard is a critical tool to keep America’s workplaces safe as we fight our way out of this pandemic,” Coley said. “The department will vigorously defend this rule in court.”

CHANGES:

Continued from A1

motion for two advance voting locations with a third location ready in case the first two became overwhelmed — as occurred at the county Administration Building during the first days of early voting in the 2020 General Election.

The advance voting locations for 2022 will be the Turner Lake building at 6185 Turner Lake Road in Covington, and Zion Baptist Church at 7037 Hwy. 212 in west Newton County.

Election officials also would prepare the Newton County Library on Floyd Street for use as an advance voting site in case the others become too crowded, he said.

During a public comment period before the votes, Republican Party chairman Brendan Cherry said there was not a great need for

Sunday voting because of lower turnouts for Saturday voting and the recent Virginia election showing voting at relatively lower rates on Sundays.

He said the new law allows a second Saturday advance voting day which should allow increased weekend access for those whose jobs restrict the times they can go to the polls.

However, Kathy Wilborn said she believed a Sunday voting day allowed greater access no matter the turnout.

“We should be trying to encourage as many people to participate in the (process) as we can,” she said.

Robinson said her stand on the issues before the board was based on data and current conditions.

She said four early voting locations would reduce the lines seen during advance voting

at the elections office in 2020. It also would make in-person voting easier to access and reduce the number of provisional ballots cast by those going to the wrong precinct.

It also would offset the new law’s changes that reduce the amount of time voters can request absentee ballots from six months to 78 days, and not require those mailing absentee ballots to count on an increasingly unpredictable U.S. Postal Service to deliver the ballots in time to be counted.

Thompson countered that the turnout for the 2020 election should not be used as evidence of the need for more access.

He said the election was an “unusual” event and 16 days of early voting provided “ample opportunity for everyone to vote.”

Thompson added that

the Newton County elections office’s limited staffing and funding meant it did not have the resources it needed to provide four advance voting locations, and offer Saturday and Sunday voting days as well.

The Georgia General Assembly’s sweeping voting law changes earlier this year allowed two days of early Sunday voting and an additional day of mandatory Saturday early voting.

It also required ballot drop boxes to be inside a building and only accessible during the times early voting is allowed — which was 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 2020 — rather than 24 hours a day as previously allowed.

Only one drop box is allowed for every 100,000 voters in any Georgia county, meaning Newton can only utilize one drop box

countywide because it has around 85,000 registered voters.

The elections office had drop boxes available at the Administration Building and on Salem Road in west Newton — though officials complained the Salem Road box was under-utilized.

Johnson said moving advance voting from the Administration Building to the Turner Lake recreational facility will allow more voting machines to be available in one location and provide better shelter from the elements for voters waiting in lines.

He said he favored offering one Sunday voting opportunity for each scheduled election in 2022 as a way to find if there was enough demand for it. If few vote on those days, the board can later eliminate their use, he said.

The precinct changes reduce the number of precincts and make them more equal in size, Johnson said.

He noted that the current 22 precincts ranged in size from 880 voters in Newborn to 7,000 at a west Newton precinct. The new 17 precincts range from 5,394 to 3,884.

Major changes include combining the Mansfield and Newborn precincts; Brick Store and Hub precincts; and combining four precincts into new Gum Creek and Oxford precincts.

However, election director Angela White-Davis said she had not finalized contracts for use of all of the precinct locations. The board voted to make the precinct changes contingent on securing all the contracts.

MASK:

Continued from A1

the COVID-19 data and consulting with our local medical professionals and advising the school board on their feedback, beginning Monday, Nov. 8, masks will be strongly recommended for all students and staff.

“While we are loosening our mask requirement, it continues to be important that students and staff wash

their hands, use hand sanitizer, and watch their distance as an integral part of our layered prevention strategy.”

At last report from the district, only 12 new COVID-19 cases were reported among students and only four among staff. There were 36 students and two staff members under “precautionary quarantines.” By

comparison, in August there were 154 new cases among students and 24 new cases among staff; roughly 500 students and staff members were quarantined.

“Since Aug. 9, our students and employees have been practicing the three Ws — washing their hands, wearing their masks and watching their distance — and I am

confident their actions have played a huge role in the decrease in COVID-19 cases in both our school system and the Newton County community at large,” Fuhrey said.

However, Fuhrey warned the mask mandate could be reinstated if COVID-19 case numbers were to rise again.

“We are approaching the holiday season and people

will congregate amongst family and friends who they might not ordinarily see,” she said. “The chances of becoming exposed to COVID-19 will be high. So please understand, if our community’s COVID-19 cases increase again, we will be forced to reinstitute the mask mandate.”

Phillip B. Hubbard sports editor

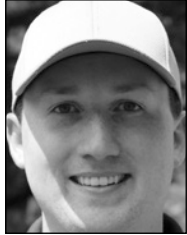


Phillip B. Hubbard | The Covington News

In “victory formation,” Alcovy quarterback Ashton Evans kneels Saturday night to clinch the Tigers’ first region title in program history — something the athletic director and head coach have been building toward for the last few years.

Just what the AD ordered

Immediately following Alcovy’s win Saturday night, I interviewed head coach Jason Dukes. While Dukes was answering my first question, I took notice that he was still holding onto the region championship trophy his team had just won. So, I asked, in a joking manner, “Are you going to go to sleep with that trophy tonight?” Without hesitation, Dukes responded, “It’s going to be on the nightstand, I guarantee you that.” I instantly thought back to my first full week as sports editor. During that week, I went around to all of the local high schools to talk with each athletic director. My second stop was at Alcovy to talk with Thomas Lowe. In that conversation, we talked about an array of subjects, but there was an



overall theme: Win. Lowe said he wanted the athletic program to develop a winning attitude in 2021. Throughout all of my research when taking this job, I noticed that there hasn’t been much winning in Alcovy’s 15-year history. But it seems like the tides are a changin’ for Tiger athletics. A few weeks ago, the softball team advanced to the state playoffs. That was the first time in five seasons Alcovy’s softball program had accomplished that. Then, this past weekend, the football team celebrated winning the program’s first ever region championship. After Dukes responded to my question on Saturday, it became very clear to me how the Tigers’ athletics program has taken the form Lowe wanted. And I came to this conclusion: passion. Dukes going on and placing the region championship trophy on his night stand is a testament to his passion.

Whenever I interviewed softball head coach Miranda Lamb, she displayed passion for the team to be successful. She even told me it was a goal of hers in year one for this year’s senior class to make the playoffs. All of that translated to the team’s performance on the field. No matter the circumstance, the Tigers seemed to perform at a high level and compete as best they could. So, even though the football team lost to Lowndes and Colquitt counties, they still came out on top. Even though the softball team endured Mother Nature cancelling so many games, the Lady Tigers still accomplished that goal. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how you make history.

Phillip B. Hubbard is sports editor of The Covington News. He may be reached at phubbard@covnews.com.

Your Letters to the Editor

Reader says farewell to an ‘old friend’

To the Editor:
We’ve known for some time that she was near the end. Regardless of how long our dearest relationships last, we are rarely ready to see them come to an end and bid farewell. The Oaks Course has been more than grass, sand, trees, creeks and ponds. I opened an office for our company 32 years ago and was quickly introduced to The Oaks as my course. I had only taken up golf a couple of years before and had found the course that I would call home for the next 32 years. I’ve been privileged to belong to a couple of nicer, more exclusive and more prestigious golf clubs. I’ve been fortunate to play dozens of the bucket list courses from Pebble Beach, Medinina, Olympia Fields, Oakland Hills to TPC Sawgrass, Whistling Straits and Colonial in Memphis. All of these were beautiful, memorable and played with dear friends. None of these courses embedded more warm and lasting memories than our Oaks. All of my grandchildren have shared rounds with me at the Oaks. I’ve played with more of my friends at the Oaks than any golf course. I’ve hosted corporate outings, fundraiser outings and after work weekly outings at the Oaks. My only son and I had a standing Sunday afternoon round at the Oaks until his sons came along and our standing round became a “whenever we can” round.

Usually with a grandson along for the afternoon. I had the opportunity to play with more than a few lint head dignitaries that pointed out the layout of the original nine holes. The Oaks became my after work, mental health round, as often as I could make it happen. Often that round would team me up with another random single golfer. I met and came to know many of Covington’s finest citizens in these chance encounters. My bride of 42 years “rode” with me many times. She hates golf. She apparently loves me. More than a few times when she could see me stressed or possibly I was stressing her she would put her hand on my shoulder and say, “Why don’t you go to the Oaks for the afternoon?” The deep friendships became deeper with the fellowship time we call a round of golf. We solved most of the problems in the universe. I played one of their last rounds, before they were taken too soon with Stan Owens, Henry Stephens and Mike Reagin. I’ll miss getting a laugh where we laughed together so many times. Time marches on. Our part of the world is losing a big chunk of history and character. I feel fortunate to have taken many long walks behind the footsteps of Bobby Jones. Farewell, old friend.

Bryan Hays Oxford

Rep. Dave Belton guest columnist

For children’s sake, choose education over partisan politics

As a state legislator, I try to refrain from speaking about national issues that do not have a direct impact on Georgia and hope to remain as nonpartisan as I can. However, I feel I must comment on Virginia’s recent election. To me, the biggest



lesson to be learned from this election is that the federal government made a horrific error when they started threatening parents. Last week, the U.S. attorney general admitted that, based solely on a memo from the National School Board Association (NSBA), he directed the FBI to target parents. The memo called the actions of these parents “domestic terrorism” because they dared to question their

local school boards. The chilling effect of this epic overreach is something we might expect from a communist regime. To openly attack parents, and tell them they have no role in their children’s education, has since proven politically disastrous. To their credit, the NSBA apologized for their odious memo. Meanwhile, the attorney general flatly refused. National defense is the single most important thing our federal government does. With the recent admission by our national intelligence officials that they were, yet again, completely caught off guard by advances in Chinese military technology and the numerous cyber-attacks of the Russians, you would think the FBI had more important things to investigate than law-abiding parents who are exercising their First Amendment right to free speech.

The voters in Virginia seemed to agree with this sentiment. This should not be a surprise. For decades, numerous

studies have proven that what parents want most from their state and local governments is quality education for their children. Fortunately, Georgia has an impressive record on education because of state leaders who have listened to parents. Two decades ago, Georgia was ranked dead last on the SAT. Now, we are above the national average for two years in a row and above the national average on the ACT for four years in a row. Georgia ranks 13th best in the nation on our college advanced placement scores. Georgia is one of only two states that consistently has three universities, Georgia Tech, Emory and the University of Georgia, rank among the top 10. HOPE is the most generous statewide college scholarship, and our HOPE Career Grant pays 100 percent of the cost of technical degrees in more than 17 different high-paying careers. In 1999, our graduation rate was the worst in the nation at 57%. Now, we are at record high of 84%, which is a 32% increase. Even

more impressive, students who participate in the Georgia Career, Technical and Ag Education program have an astonishing 97% graduation rate. Twenty years ago, Georgia was the eighth worst state on the K-12 Nation’s Report Card, also known as the NAEP. Now, we rank 13th best. These epic accomplishments, of course, were not accomplished by politicians, but by our selfless teachers and the parent volunteers who support them. But, state politicians should be applauded for empowering teachers, staying out of the classroom, greatly lessening standardized tests and our generous funding. Over half of Georgia’s state budget goes towards education, a whopping \$20.9 billion every year. In the nine years before the COVID-19 pandemic began, we spent an additional \$4.3 billion of new state revenue on education with nearly half a billion dollars added every single year. We also gave our teachers their biggest pay raise in Georgia history. After COVID-19 hit our state, we added \$580

million in one year alone, even though enrollment declined. Also, because of COVID, the federal government gave Georgia an additional \$913 million in stimulus funding for education, as well as a staggering \$6.5 billion in CARES Act money. Of course, education should not be a partisan issue, which is exactly my point. Instead of waging bitter battles about hyperpartisan issues, both parties should return to “kitchen table” issues, such as education, the economy, inflation and security. Instead of attacking parents, we should empower them. Instead of defunding the police, we should provide our officers with more resources and better training to successfully do their jobs. I encourage both parties to get back to pocketbook issues. And, I hope that both Democrats and Republicans will celebrate our excellent public education systems.

Rep. Dave Belton represents District 112 in the Georgia House of Representatives, which includes Morgan County and the eastern side of Newton County.

The Covington News

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WAR:

Continued from A1

farm in Walton County, Burson's stepfather asked if Burson wanted him to go to the draft board and get a deferment.

Burson's response was, "No, I'm ready to go."

Burson served for three years in the Army where he handled prisoners of war. His main responsibilities were to help get men who surrendered out of harm's way and handle them with care.

Some days, Burson remembered not doing much at all. Other days it was a lot of coming and going. No day was the same as the next.

There was one common thing across

all days for Burson: prayer. Burson said he would pray every night to make it home. As a matter of fact, he said that's what helped him get through each day during World War II.

"I did a lot of praying that I'd be able to come home," Burson said. "After I was discharged, I was in Atlanta waiting on a bus for Monroe. That was the day I lived for, catching that bus back to Monroe and into the arms of my loving mother. I called my sister in Monroe and asked if she could meet me at the bus station. We got in that car and we couldn't get home fast enough. There my

mother was just crying. That was a great feeling."

After his time in the Army, Burson came home and went to work at the Southern Bell Co. He worked there 37 years in Athens, Conyers, Madison and Covington.

Burson, along with his wife of 74 years, Ruth, were married in 1947. They had three children, Janet, Susan and David, who is now deceased. Now, they have three grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

Looking back on his service, Burson can't help but feel pride and appreciation for the country he served.

No matter what may happen, Burson remains grateful for being an American and protecting her during World War II.

"Right or wrong, it's my country," Burson said. "We got a few wrongs but, oh what a great country we have. And it's because we have people willing to give their lives for us to have a good, safe place. There were times I wasn't sure if I'd make it back or not. I have no regrets of serving my country and I'd do it again right here today if they called me. I don't know what a 98-year old can do, but I can do something."

HELP:

Continued from A1

ic home on Jonesboro Street in McDonough.

Dunn recalled that word got out about the nonprofit so quickly that veterans needing assistance were "sitting in the lobby" of a former location and waiting on assistance.

With the help of some city and county officials and a grant from the Home Depot Foundation, it was able to move and expand its services in its current location at 32 Jonesboro St.

VSG helps veterans with paperwork for service-related claims which can reach 100 pages, he said.

"We play it straight with them," he said. "We never make a promise like a lot of people do."

Dunn said VSG's assistance includes giving details to the veterans about what records

are needed for filing a claim, such as medical records and personnel files.

"It's a long process sometimes," he said. "(The VA) wants to know if it's a chronic thing."

He recalled VSG helping a 99-year-old veteran of three wars file his first claim recently.

"Some of them have never been in the medical system," Dunn said.

VSG also seeks to help homeless veterans by offering a washer, dryer, shower facilities and a food pantry, Dunn said.

"We try to help them find a place to live," he said.

The nonprofit will also assist widows and widowers of veterans with filing claims for benefits, or children of veterans with arrangements for nursing home

care for parents.

"We'll do anything we can do for a veteran," Dunn said.

Its Thursday group sessions are intended to help veterans deal with such unseen service-related illnesses as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he said.

Dunn said he found most veterans whose suffer from the disorder — gained through the stress of battle and being on guard against attacks — won't talk about it with those who weren't in combat.

"(Civilians) can't understand it," he said.

He said vets suffering from PTSD in the sessions both men and women. They may be as old as Vietnam veterans, or as young as recent service in Afghanistan.

"They could be like me — I've lived with

it for 40 years," Dunn said, as his service dog Marley barked in the background.

He said some participants stay a few weeks, while some have been in the group for more than two months.

"It depends on how fast (veterans) want to admit they have problems," he said. "A lot of younger guys, they don't want to talk."

Dunn said he helps sufferers learn about what triggers serious reactions to the mental disorder and how to "have a coping mechanism."

"You have to learn to live with it and to calm it back down," he said.

For more information, call (770) 284-3306 or visit vetsg.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notices

Foreclosures

**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated March 5, 2007, from **Marcia E. White, Rhonda L. Kanpp, and Kenneth W. Kanpp** to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., recorded on March 13, 2007 in Deed Book 2398 at Page 561 Newton County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated March 5, 2007, in the amount of \$157,500.00, and said Note being in default, the said Note will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Newton County, Georgia, on December 7, 2021 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 166, OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 3 OF THAT PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED FINAL PLAT FOR COUNTRY VIEW SUBDIVISION UNIT III, DATED APRIL 14, 1988, PREPARED BY AND CERTIFIED BY ROBERT L. BUHLER, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1403. SAID PLAT BEING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 22, PAGE 157, NEWTON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING SAME HEREIN AND MAKING IT A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE THERETO, SAID LOT CONTAINS 0.939 ACRES. The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security

Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property are Marcia E. White, Rhonda L. Kanpp, and Kenneth W. Kanpp. The property, being commonly known as **401 Jack Neely Rd, Covington, GA, 30016** in Newton County, will be sold as the property of Marcia E. White, Rhonda L. Kanpp, and Kenneth W. Kanpp, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, 888-480-2432. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Albertelli Law Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper as Attorney in Fact for Marcia E. White, Rhonda L. Kanpp, and Kenneth W. Kanpp 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 960 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 By: Cory P. Sims For the Firm THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 21-005447 A-4736497

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The Covington News

Business leaders join United Bank Advisory Board

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — United Bank President Thomas Kephart recently announced the addition of local business leaders, Dalton Knox and Brad Bettis, to its Covington Advisory Board.

Dalton Knox has owned and operated several businesses in Newton County. Today he is a partner in Big House Payment Solutions, a merchant financial services company, and an owner of HKM Inc., a custom home building company. A business graduate of Georgia College, Knox currently serves on the Newton Medical Hospital Authority Board, the local YMCA board and as an elder for Eastridge Church. Dalton and his wife, Lisa, have two adult children.

Brad Bettis is owner of Allsouth Constructors, Inc., a water and wastewater plant contractor based out of Covington, specializing in statewide municipal

projects. He earned his BS in Building Construction from Georgia Southern University. Brad's a member and past president of the Covington Rotary Club and an active supporter of the Empty Stocking Fund of Newton County, the Covington Methodist Change the World Day, and Farmers to Families food distribution program. Brad and Marlee, a retired Gwinnett County Schools administrator, have two children with two grandchildren and one on the way.

As members of United Bank's Advisory Board, Knox and Bettis



Brad Bettis



Dalton Knox

will provide input to the Bank's local leadership regarding financial products, services and community involvement, in addition to serving as bank ambassadors and liaisons between the Bank and the Newton County community.

"United Bank is privileged to have these gentlemen on our board, offering their valuable insights and business acumen to our leadership team," said Kephart, who holds the position as Chairman of the Covington Board. "They join a team of outstanding directors who have helped shape how United Bank serves our community since expanding into Newton County in 2007."

[Editor's Note: This information was published in the weekend, Nov. 6-7, issue of The Covington News, but included the wrong photo for Mr. Dalton Knox. United Bank apologizes for this error.]

CORRECTION

In the weekend edition dated Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 6-7, 2021, the headline for Chris Bridges' opinions column should have stated, "Always fun to

be had with high school rivalries."

Also, in the article titled, "DECIDED," the final sentence should have stated, "In the East, 17.51% of eligible

voters cast a ballot for one race compared to just 7.39% in the West where there were two races."

— Staff Reports



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Alcovy players celebrate the Tigers' 28-25 win against Evans on Saturday to claim the Region 3-AAAAAA title.

Phillip B. Hubbard | The Covington News

TOP:

Continued from A8

football floated down into the end zone, Jamel Johnson jumped up to grab it. The connection accounted for a 42-yard touchdown reception that gave the advantage back to Alcovy.

Alcovy's fans were electric in their celebration. It was the total opposite just a few moments earlier when, with 5:42 remaining in the game, Evans dropped back to pass. Facing pressure he forced the ball deep and it was picked off.

The Knights took over possession and it looked as if they would drain the closing minutes and win.

But Damani Dumas had other plans.

On a third and two at the Knights' 30-yard line, backup quarterback DJ Walton kept the ball on the option play. Dumas blew the play up in the backfield for a 1-yard loss that forced a Knights punt.

Following the punt, Evans came out and redeemed himself with, what turned out to be, the game-winning touchdown to Johnson. The game-winner concluded a solid outing by Evans going 10-of-16 for 172 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Dukes highlighted the mental toughness of his junior quarterback throughout Saturday's



Special to The Covington News

Pictured, from left, Erin Griffin and Armani Russ were crowned Alcovy High School's 2021 Homecoming Queen and King during halftime of Saturday's game.

game.

"He's such a nice kid, but he has the tendency to be a cold-blooded assassin," Dukes said with a big smile on his face. "He can put things out of his head and go back to business."

Alcovy's passing attack may have won the game, but it was its rushing attack, led by Tristan Mayweather, that kept the Tigers in the game all night.

Following Fabian Klawawa's 21-yard field goal that put the Knights up 3-0 early, the Tigers responded on their first drive of the game.

Mayweather found paydirt from seven yards out to give Alcovy a 7-3 lead with 4:18 remaining in the first quarter.

The Knights came back with a touchdown of their own, but that

didn't deter the Tigers.

Evans connected with Mathias Height for a 30-yard touchdown bomb. Height finished the game with five receptions for 72 yards and the touchdown that gave Alcovy a 14-10 lead.

On the Knights' next drive, Alcovy halted a fake punt attempt to force a turnover on downs.

It wasn't long before the Tigers took advantage of the Knights' miscue.

On the very first play of the ensuing drive, Evans found Bobby Smith wide open for a 47-yard completion that advanced the ball to the 11-yard line.

Three plays later, Mayweather found the end zone again to extend the Tigers' lead 21-10 less than five

minutes remaining in the first half.

Mayweather turned in an impressive performance on the ground, too. He rushed for 115 yards on 20 attempts and two rushing touchdowns.

All in all, it took everyone pitching in for the Tigers to achieve this historic goal.

Now, finishing the regular season 5-4 overall and becoming region champs with a 5-0 region record, Alcovy sets its sights on the state playoffs. The Tigers will have a first-round bye next week and will host round two on Friday, Nov. 19, at Sharp Stadium.

For Dukes and his coaching staff, they don't plan to rest on Saturday's accomplishment. They want to build on it and make noise in the upcoming playoffs.

"Our message is, focus," Dukes said. "There's a tendency to get distracted and become sidetracked. We don't want that to happen. So, we're going back to work Monday. We're creatures of habit and routine. We're going to continue to work on our things until we find out who we're playing."

Correspondent Garrett Pitts contributed to this story.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Alcovy Tigers

16 Jamel Johnson

In the closing minutes, Johnson grabbed a 43-yard touchdown pass that turned out to be the game-winner. He also had an interception during the contest.



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Eastside Eagles

#14 E'Sean Arnold

Arnold was the captain of the Eagles' offense in its comeback win Friday. He led an 8-minute drive that he capped off with a touchdown run and help take down Greenbrier 38-28.



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Newton Rams

#4 Nicholas Benton

Benton led the Rams' defense for most of the night against South Gwinnett. He provided a highlight play by forcing and recovering a fumble late in the opening quarter.



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Social Circle Redskins

#1 Amarion Russell

In last week's 42-19 win at Greene County, Russell helped lead the Redskins with two touchdowns in the first half and three in total. The third score came in the fourth quarter from 17 yards out to help put the game on ice.



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SEASON:

Continued from A8

Making history did not come along easy. The Tigers were down late against the Knights until quarterback Ashton Evans connected with Jamel Johnson for a 42-yard touchdown with two minutes remaining.

Going through Evans' mind after the play was the halftime speech given by Alcovy coaches.

"It means everything [to win the region championship for the first time]," Evans said. "[Our coaches] have preached for us to finish [games]. They said we have not played a full four quarter game all season, and this is the first time we did it and the first time we needed it."

With the win, the Tigers finished with a 5-4 overall record — the first winning regular season

record since 2013.

The Tigers' season did not start off on the right footing, however, with them losing four of their first five games.

Heading into their matchup against Grovetown on Oct. 15, the Tigers needed to dominate the rest of their region schedule for a shot in the playoffs.

They did just that.

Following back-to-back brutal road trips to Lowndes and Colquitt Counties, the Tigers returned to region action.

Alcovy defeated Grovetown, Lakeside-Evans, Heritage and Evans to end the regular season winning four straight. This is the first four-game winning streak Alcovy has had since 2013.

Now it's heading into the playoffs with the region title and

a first round bye on its side.

Head coach Jason Dukes, who took over the program in 2019, has now led Alcovy to the playoffs in back-to-back seasons following a 2-10 record in his first year.

"It's a validation of commitment to the process," Dukes said. "Everybody loves the results. But it's the commitment to the process that gets you there. This shows every kid in our program that, if they stay the course and keep believing, they have the opportunity."

But there is much more to be written for the Tigers in 2021.

Following the first-round bye, the Tigers will host the winner of Creekview and Carrollton in the second round of the state playoffs Friday, Nov. 19.

NEWTON

The Newton Rams are the only area team that didn't make it to the playoffs.

By losing 13-6 to South Gwinnett, the Rams found themselves in a 3-way tie for the bottom three spots in Region 4-AAAAAA.

The three teams in question were Parkview, South Gwinnett and Newton.

Region 4-AAAAAA's No. 3 seed was determined by point differential.

Parkview defeated South Gwinnett by nine

points while Newton downed Parkview by just three points.

So, Parkview received the third seed.

After that, the fourth and final playoff spot came down to the head-to-head matchup between South Gwinnett and Newton.

And, with South Gwinnett defeating Newton, the Rams were the odd man out.

Newton's season ends at 4-5 overall with a 1-3 region record.

in Region 8A-Public. Now, they'll be on the road to Trion High School.

It'll be a tough matchup for the Redskins.

Trion comes into the matchup as the No. 2 seed from Region 6A-Public having only lost one game all season.

Social Circle, however, enters with a 6-4 record and a 3-2 region record.

ALCOVY

While the Alcovy Tigers enter as the top seed from Region

3-AAAAAA, they won't play this week.

They would've faced the fourth seed from Region 1-AAAAAA but, due to Valdosta High School's playoff violations last year, it is deemed ineligible.

So, the Tigers are guaranteed to advance to the second round. The cherry top is the fact that Alcovy will host round two on Friday, Nov. 19.

It'll face the winner between Carrollton and Creekview High Schools that'll take place this Saturday.

Alcovy Tigers 28, Evans Knights 25

TIGERS ON TOP

Alcovy defeats Evans to win Region 3-AAAAAA, first in program history

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Sharp Stadium was rocking all night on Saturday. From senior night recognitions to homecoming festivities, Alcovy fans came ready to celebrate. But the biggest celebration of the night came when Ashton Evans took a knee, the clock hit 0:00 and Alcovy officially made history.

The Tigers defeated the Evans Knights 28-25 on Saturday to capture the Region 3-AAAAAA championship — the first since the program’s inception in 2006.

As the final seconds ticked down, head coach Jason Dukes couldn’t believe what he was seeing.

“I was in disbelief,” Dukes said as he held on tightly to the championship trophy. “I knew the game was over and it was a great feeling. It was a slugfest where our players just fought, fought, fought. We rebounded in the fourth quarter and got a score when we needed to and our defense hung in there.”

It took some heroics



Phillip B. Hubbard | The Covington News
The Alcovy Tigers hoist the Region 3-AAAAAA trophy at midfield after defeating Evans 28-25 on Saturday.

on both sides of the ball down the stretch for the Tigers to come out on top.

Trailing 25-21 with around three minutes

remaining in the game, the Tigers took over possession having not scored a single point in the second half.

Alcovy’s offense



Garrett Pitts | The Covington News
Alcovy's Damani Dumas (23) and Christian Lewis (52) help bring down the Evans quarterback for a sack.



Garrett Pitts | The Covington News
Tristan Mayweather (5) breaks loose from Evans defenders on Friday at Sharp Stadium in Covington.

seemed dormant and flat.

Then, all of a sudden, on the second play of the ensuing drive, Evans heaved the ball

downfield. The ball hung in the air for what seemed like an eternity. As the football floated

See TOP, A7

Players, coaches talk regular season for the record books



Garrett Pitts | The News
An emotional Tigers head coach Jason Dukes carries the Region 3-AAAAAA trophy off the field Saturday.

By GARRETT PITTS
Correspondent

COVINGTON, Ga. — After 15 years, the Alcovy Tigers football program is finally on top.

A 28-25 victory over the Evans Knights capped off a historic 5-0 sweep in the region to give the Tigers their first region title in the history of the program as the champions of Region 3 AAAAAA.

See SEASON, A7

Prep Football: GHSA State Playoffs

Eastside, Social Circle ready for Round 1 matchups



Anthony Banks | The Covington News
Quarterback Logan Cross and the Social Circle Redskins are playoff bound for the second year in a row.

Alcovy receives first-round bye; three-way tie keeps Newton out of postseason

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

Two out of four area teams, including Eastside and Social Circle, are preparing for the first round of the GHSA state playoffs this week, while Alcovy already has a spot in the second round locked up. Newton, however, was bumped from postseason contention after a 13-6 loss to South

Gwinnett.

Even so, each squad finds themselves in unique positions.

EASTSIDE

Eastside’s appearance marks six straight postseasons the Eagles have qualified for. On top of that, they will face a familiar playoff foe.

The Eagles will travel to New Manchester High School in Doug-

lasville to take on the Jaguars. These two teams faced each other last year in the second round of the playoffs where Eastside won 37-7.

New Manchester heads into the matchup as the second seed from Region 6-AAAAA. Eastside, on the other hand, enters as the No. 3 seed from 8-AAAAA.

SOCIAL CIRCLE

For the second straight year, the Social Circle Redskins earned a playoff spot. Going into last week, they were just looking to get the fourth seed. However, when the night concluded, Social Circle jumped Commerce, thanks to the tiebreaker, to claim the No. 3 seed

See READY, A7

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Write in your favorites from Newton County in the various categories below. You may complete just one category, a few categories or all of them. Your choices will be tallied and results published in January 2022 in *The Covington News* as part of the special "Best of Newton" magazine. All entries are due by 5 p.m., November 9, 2021. These entries will be entered in a random drawing for \$100 first prize and \$50 second prize. Entries received after 5 p.m., November 9, 2021 will not be counted and will not be entered in the drawing.

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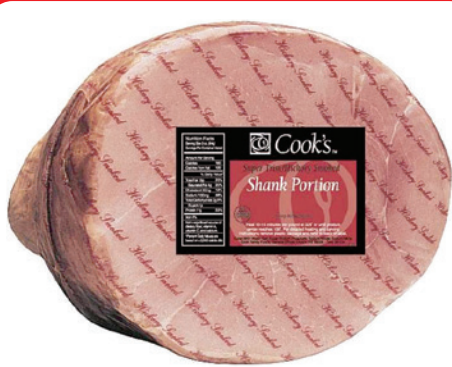
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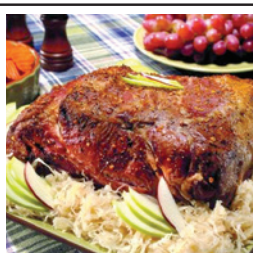
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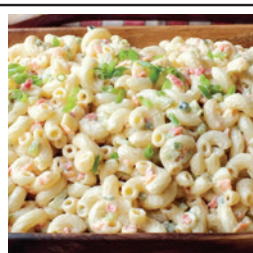
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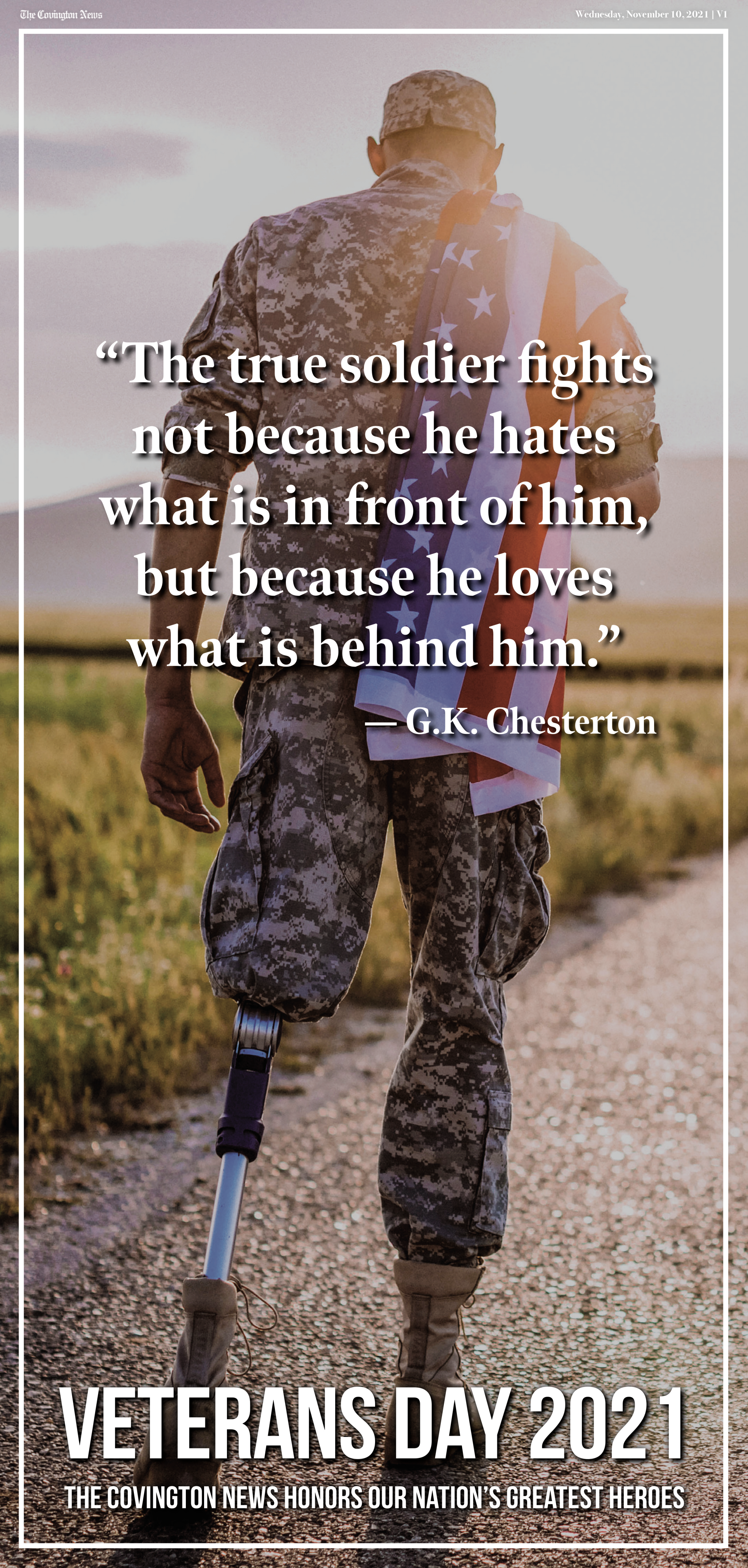
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**Sun
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**Mon
15**

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but because he loves
what is behind him.”

— G.K. Chesterton

VETERANS DAY 2021

THE COVINGTON NEWS HONORS OUR NATION'S GREATEST HEROES

Standard reminisces on service during Korean War

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Edward Artis Standard was born and raised on the Salem Campground off Salem Road in Newton County. Standard grew up as one of nine children with him being the last one living.

He later graduated from Covington High School where he met his wife, Betty, during his senior year. Less than a year after their high school graduation, Artis and Betty Standard were married Aug. 26, 1950. Currently, they happily reside in Covington after living in Oxford for a short while. Standard considers this area “his home.” While that is the case, Standard left home when he enlisted in the Navy shortly after his wedding to battle in the Korean War.

At 19 years old, Standard went to San Diego, California, for basic training. Then, he went to the war from 1951 to 1955. For the first two years, Standard was assigned to the Commander Naval Forces for the Far East in Tokyo, Japan. Standard served as a cryptographer encoding and decoding top secret messages. The latter two years were spent on a ship named the U.S.S. Noble. Aboard the U.S.S. Noble, Standard helped evacuate the Inchon



Artis Standard, of Covington, gazes with pride upon his collection of medals and photos from his time in the Navy during the Korean War. Standard was only 19 years old when he joined the military. He completed basic training in San Diego, California, before being sent to war from 1951-1955.

Islands while Mrs. Standard was giving birth to their first born son back in San Diego. Though it was a crazy scene most days during his service, Standard highlighted how he relished his time in the Navy. “It was a privilege as far as I was concerned,” Standard said. “It was something I felt like I needed to do and I wanted to do. That’s the reason I joined.” As a result of his ser-

vice, Standard received multiple medals. Gov. Brian Kemp presented Standard a Certificate of Honor for his time in the Navy. One of the highest honors Standard received was the Ambassador for Peace medal the Republic of Korea awarded him. Standard’s service continued his family legacy of being military members. He had three older brothers who also served. One served

in the Navy while the other two served in the Army during World War II. According to Mrs. Standard, her husband holds his time in the Navy in high regard. “He’s got a sign in the front yard that says ‘U.S. Veteran,’” Mrs. Standard said. “He buys shirts, he’s got a ring that’s a Navy ring. He’s very proud of being a veteran.” Standard shares his pride with fellow ser-

vicemen that he stays in contact with to this day. As a matter of fact, the Standards graduated high school with Harvey Black who joined the Navy with Standard himself. Their relationship was close to Standard’s heart. “We worked together and went to school together,” Standard recalled. “We stayed together the whole time over there.” Additionally, Stan-

dard met people from Oklahoma and Kentucky. He actually stays in contact with the fellow serviceman from Kentucky. The Standards would meet with them once a year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. After being discharged from the military, Standard began working with the Southern Bell Company which later became

See STANDARD, V4

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Tingler remembers 'dream' of serving in Vietnam

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Vietnam War's ending anniversary is nearing the 50-year mark. For some Veterans who served, it seems like it was just yesterday. For others, however, it's a distant memory.

Roger Tingler served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. He had just dropped out of college for a quarter at 18 years old when "Uncle Sam said 'We need you boy.'"

Now, nearly 50 years removed from returning home, Tingler said he doesn't really think about his time in service.

"It just seems like a dream that happened some time back," Tingler said. "In fact, I've put it so far back in my mind that I can't remember people's names. I don't think you can dwell on it every day. You'll drive yourself crazy if you do."

Tingler said his dad, who served in World War II, was the same way.

Be that as it may, Tingler's pride for serving his country hasn't wavered in the least.

His three-year tenure in the Army began with basic training at Fort Gordon in Augusta. Tingler was then relocated to Robins Air Force base in Marietta for a few months before moving to Fort Benning, near Columbus, at the Ranger's school.

When he went over to Vietnam, Tingler was a gunner on a helicopter where he saw a lot of action.

Tingler recalled his experience that included the "worst day and best day" of his life.



Contributed Photo

Roger Tingler, pictured with his wife Tootles, served in the Army for three years during the Vietnam War. Nearly 50 years later, Tingler said his time in service seems like a dream.

The worst day was when one of his fellow gunners was killed.

"I carried my gunner on the other side of the helicopter dead," Tingler said. "He had just got a telegram 24 hours before saying he had a son born. It was a bad day."

The best day, Tingler said, was when he received news that he was coming home.

Though he was excited to return home, Tingler remembers coming back amid all the Vietnam War protests during that time. That made for quite a hectic arrival.

But it wasn't for his return to his Covington, Virginia, home.

"Now, when I got home, people didn't

treat me like that in a small town," Tingler said. "It was just in the big cities where they were protesting so much. I got welcomed home with my friends and family when I got to Virginia."

It didn't take long for Tingler to make his way back to Georgia.

After his stint with the Army, Tingler began working for Hercules that relocated him to Covington, Georgia.

Upon moving here, Tingler married his wife, Tootles. They have two adult children and now have four grandchildren. He had previously served on the Covington City Council for 20 years.

Though his time with the Army had concluded,

Tingler has still dedicated his life to helping veterans. He's done so mainly through the American Legion, which he's been a part of for 48 years.

Tingler has served in almost every office on the local, district and state levels. In 1999, he was elected National Vice Commander where Tingler would go across the country to different posts giving speeches.

Mainly going to

Washington, D.C., Tingler would talk to congressmen and senators advocating for veterans' rights.

Doing this is considered a "have to" for Tingler.

"We have very few people now in politics that were in the military or know anything about the military," Tingler said. "I was looking through one of the history books with my grandkids. Nothing in there about World War

II, Vietnam or Korea. All the hundreds of thousands of people who got killed to give them an opportunity to go to school and the schools don't teach it anymore about the history of how we got here."

The Vietnam War lasted for 20 years from Nov. 1, 1955, to April 30, 1975. The United States of America entered the war in March of 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson began Operation Rolling Thunder. President Richard Nixon, in 1969, began slowly removing US troops from the war.

Later on Jan. 27, 1973, Nixon signed the Paris Peace Accords that ended the US's direct involvement in Vietnam.

When the war concluded, an estimated 58,220 Americans died in combat.

Now, looking back on his time of service, Tingler stressed how gratifying it was to serve his country at a time when the United States needed it most.

According to Tingler, he "answered the call" just like his dad and other friends did.

"I'm proud," Tingler said. "I am proud to stand up and say 'I'm a veteran of the United States Army' and serve my country. I think it's made my family proud and I think it's made me a better person."



American infantrymen crowd into a mud-filled bomb crater and look up at tall jungle trees seeking out Viet Cong snipers firing at them during a battle in Phuoc Vinh, north-northeast of Saigon in Vietnam's War Zone D, June 15, 1967.
Associated Press

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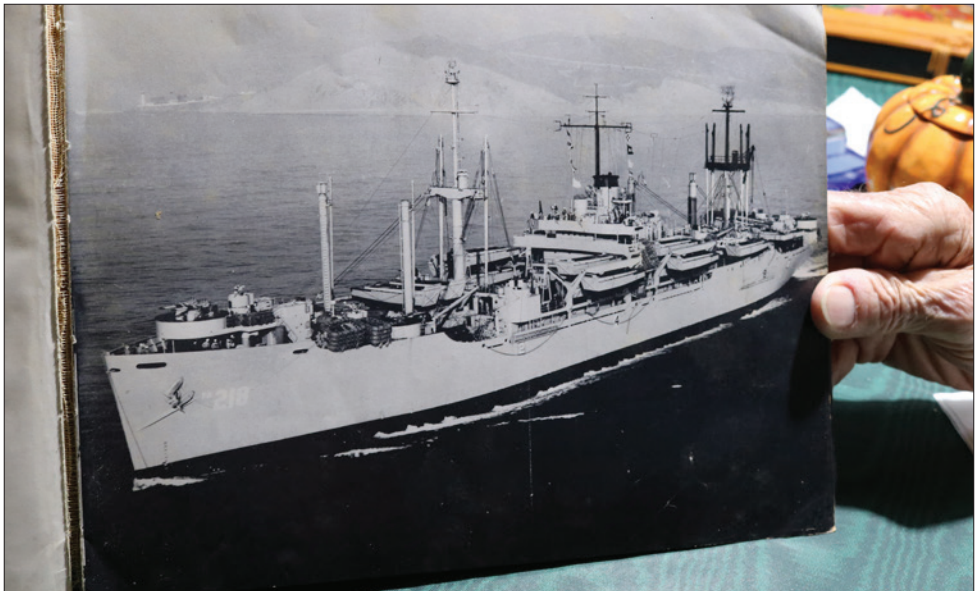
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Artis Standard owns a copy of a book written about the U.S.S. Noble (right) that includes a picture of the ship. Standard was a member of the C1 Division (left) aboard U.S.S. Noble that helped evacuate the Inchon Islands during the Korean War.

STANDARD:

Continued from V2

AT&T. Standard attributed his experience as a cryptographer to his career there. Upon retirement, Standard became a lifetime Elk and joined the American Legion. He has also served for over 12 years on the planning and zoning

committee for the City of Covington. Mrs. Standard expressed her pride in her husband for all he's done. "He's a person who gives of himself," Betty Standard said. "So, that's a big reason why he was in the Navy." Standard's efforts,

along with the thousands of others who served, helped in the Korean War. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 and lasted until July 27, 1953. And, while some experts say the conflict never officially ended, the United States signed the Korean Ar-


mistice Agreement that China and North Korea also signed. South Korea refused to sign so, therefore, the war was not deemed over. When the US withdrew its troops from the Korean War, there were an estimated 40,000 soldiers who died and over 100,000 who were

wounded. Now, nearing his 90th birthday, Standard reflects on his time serving in the Korean War. During his time in service, Standard explored other parts of the world. According to him, that was a real eye opener and makes him more appreciative of

his country and remains proud to have served it. "I got to see a lot of the country," Standard said. "I got to see how people in other parts of the world lived. And we got it made here in the United States compared to other places I've been to."




Artis Standard was awarded the Ambassador for Peace medal (left) from the Republic of Korea during his time of service in the Korean War. Pictured right, Standard and his wife of 71 years, Betty, stand inside their Covington home and hold a collection of pictures and medals he has kept from his time in the Navy.



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UNG cadets Hayley Farmer, Ryan Jones and Ayomide Adekola have been named Distinguished Military Graduates. Jones and Adekola are among the top 10% nationally out of more than 6,700 cadets. Not pictured is Covington native Jarrett Dooley.

Covington native among distinguished military graduates

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

DAHLONEGA, Ga.— The University of North Georgia (UNG) is tied for the most Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG) among the nation’s six senior military colleges for 2021-22, with 32 selected. Nine of those rank in the top 10% of their ROTC class nationally. Jarrett Dooley of Covington, was one of the DMG cadets.

DMGs are commissioning cadets who finish in the top 20% of Army graduates on the national Order of Merit List by achieving superior grade-point averages, strong performance in the Army Combat Fitness Test, and proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training. “DMG designation is a testament to the dedication, hard work and success of these

individuals, the Corps of Cadets teammates who supported and trained them, and the instructors and cadre who set the foundation for leadership and excellence,” Col. Bryan Kirk, UNG’s professor of military science, said. The nine UNG cadets who rank in the top 10% out of more than 6,700 cadets nationally are Ayomide Adekola, Justin Collado, Jordan Cook, Benjamin Dan-

ko, Henry Gale, Davis Isley, Ryan Jones, Alex Minton, and Benjamin Yetman. Ten of UNG’s DMGs will commission as Army National Guard officers upon graduation. “UNG is one of the main reasons that the Georgia National Guard is arguably the best in the nation,” Billy Wells, UNG senior vice president for leadership and global engagement and a retired Army colonel,

said. “We produce quality leaders, and they are rising to the top of the Georgia Guard leadership.” Positioned in the fastest-growing region of the state, the University of North Georgia comprises five campuses united by a single mission focused on academic excellence and academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The

University of North Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia. With more than 20,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state’s largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees to professional doctoral programs.

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Army



Kenneth Morgan
City Council
Army



Kevin Summerville
CFD
Marines



Larry Manning
IT Dept.
Navy



Lee Harvey
Engineering
Army



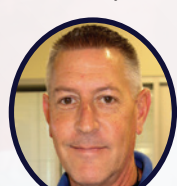
Matt Cooper
CPD
Army



Robert Barber
Water/Sewer
Marines



Robert Leigh
Gas Dept.
Air Force



Rusty Anglin
Airport
Marines



Slade McCullough
CPD
Army



Steve Swann
CPD
Army



Thomas Mason
Fleet Maintenance
Air Force



Tracie Davis
Safety/Risk
Army



Walter Schreiber
CPD
Army



Wesley Couch
CPD
Marines



Woody Mullins
Electric Dept.
Air Force



★★★★★

DAV commander details how local group helps veterans

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — “Disabled” can refer to more than physical injuries for membership in the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

In fact, the organization is open to “any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the (U.S.), and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces ...,” according to information from the organization.

Newton County resident Jeff Smith, a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, is commander of Newton-Rockdale Chapter 55 of the DAV. He leads its monthly meetings on the second Saturday of the month at 2 p.m. at a conference room at the Newton County Sheriff’s Office headquarters on Alcovy Road.

Smith said members also meet at the main station of the Covington Fire Department on Pace Street near the Covington Square Wednesdays to offer their experience free of charge to help veterans maneuver through the paperwork needed to apply for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Raising the flag on the memorial flagpole for fellow Newton-Rockdale DAV member Bobby Huggins in 2020 are, from left, Jeff Smith, Joseph May and Morris Draper.

He said the DAV helps veterans with VA applications because the federal agency’s “information is terrible” and hard for the average veteran to understand.

“Dealing with the VA can be a little difficult,” Smith said.

The local chapter, which boasts 400 members, also offers a variety of free services in an effort to help area disabled veterans.

Its members provide

free transportation to veterans needing rides to the VA Hospital in Decatur. In some instances, it will help a veteran with a utility bill, Smith said.

Chapter volunteers even helped renovate an elderly veteran’s bathroom to make it wheelchair accessible, he said.

“It’s a very active chapter,” Smith said.

Its main source of funds is direct donations — which its

members currently are seeking during business hours outside the Conyers location of Golden Corral restaurant.

The DAV also provides “a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.”

Smith said the DAV works to help any “veteran in need” — from those still suffering the after-effects of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam in the 1960s and ‘70s, to those suf-

fering from exposure to toxins from burn pits used for waste disposal at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan 40 years later.

He gave the example of Navy veterans who may have suffered hearing loss from serving on an aircraft carrier’s extremely noisy flight deck during a time when ear protection was not commonly used.

According to Smith, who served a tour in Vietnam in 1968-69, said the organization works with Covington

VA Clinic on Eagle Drive to help sick veterans and those trying to avoid sickness by getting vaccinated, he said. DAV members made juice and crackers available to veterans who received the COVID vaccine from the clinic, he said.

Members also work to help some veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is a mental health issue veterans can suffer from after experiencing a traumatic event like serving in combat or being assaulted.

Smith is retired from the material handling industry and moved to Georgia in the 1990s. He volunteered for the Navy and served four years, including two years in Vietnam where he developed PTSD.

He said mental health professionals can assist PTSD sufferers in some cases, but talking with other veterans who may also be suffering with it also can help, Smith said.

“Only veterans can understand a veteran’s situation,” he said.

The disorder affects from 11% to 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, about 12% of Gulf War veterans, and 15% of Vietnam veterans, according to statistics from the DAV.

Smith said the local chapter is always seeking new members. For more information, call 678-313-7881 or visit <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/ga/55/default.aspx>.



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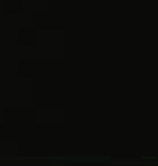







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Newton-Rockdale DAV members use this van to transport veterans from Newton and Rockdale counties to the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur for medical appointments.






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



*You are true heroes,
and we are forever grateful for your sacrifices.*



Honoring all heroes this Veterans Day



Special to The Covington News
Rosie the Riveter helped to tout the contributions of female war employees who were defending America by working on the homefront.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Veterans Day commemorates the hardworking 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.

But while Veterans Day certainly is a chance to honor those who have donned the uniform during wars and military installations, 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 Naomi Parker Fraley. In 1942, Fraley was a machine shop worker at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. She was one of scores of women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, helping 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 "Ros-

ie 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, 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.

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.

Veterans Day is a prime time to delve into American wartime history, and pay homage to all of our nation's heroes.

Ways to show appreciation for military members in unique time

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

United States military personnel serve both domestically and abroad. Active-duty personnel are following in the footsteps of retired veterans and protecting the freedoms of their fellow Americans while also playing a vital role in protecting millions of non-Americans across the globe.

United States military personnel make myriad sacrifices every day. Recognition of those sacrifices is just one of the many ways Americans can show their appreciation for the military, even during the era of social distancing.

• Help a veteran. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2019 there were 17.4 million military veterans living in the United States. More than half of those veterans are 65 or older. As difficult as social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven for everyone, perhaps

no group has sacrificed more than men and women over 65, millions of whom have been separated from their families. Aging men and women spent a year or more isolated at home to protect themselves from a virus that public health officials acknowledged was especially lethal to people over 65. Adults who want to show their appreciation for military veterans can reach out to local veterans' organizations and offer to lend a hand. Such organizations may be delivering meals to vulnerable veterans, driving veterans to appointments to see their doctors or get vaccinated or organizing events for veterans who have already been vaccinated. Pitching in to help with such efforts is a great way to show veterans their efforts are still appreciated, even if it's been decades since they last served.

• Help a military family. Data from the Office of the Undersec-

retary of Defense indicates that there were roughly 1.3 million active-duty military personnel in 2018. Many of those service members serve overseas for months at a time. Their families back home can use a helping hand even in the best of times, but they might be especially needy while confronting the pandemic. Though vaccination projections suggest hundreds of millions of Americans will be fully vaccinated by mid-summer, in the meantime neighbors can help local military families handle life at home. Invite a local military family over for a weekly meal, offer to take kids to a sports practice if it's safe to do so or help out with chores like mowing the lawn or washing the car.

• Donate to charities that serve the military. Adults who have not been vaccinated and are hesitant to be around others can still show their appreciation

for military service members. Various organizations help both active-duty military and veterans, and donating to such charities can be a great way to help an excellent cause. If you're unsure about

which organization to support, visit Charity Navigator at charitynavigator.org. Charity Navigator evaluates hundreds of thousands of charitable organizations and can be an invaluable resource for

prospective donors.

Veterans and active military personnel deserve support. There are various ways for people to express that support, even as the world continues to confront the pandemic.

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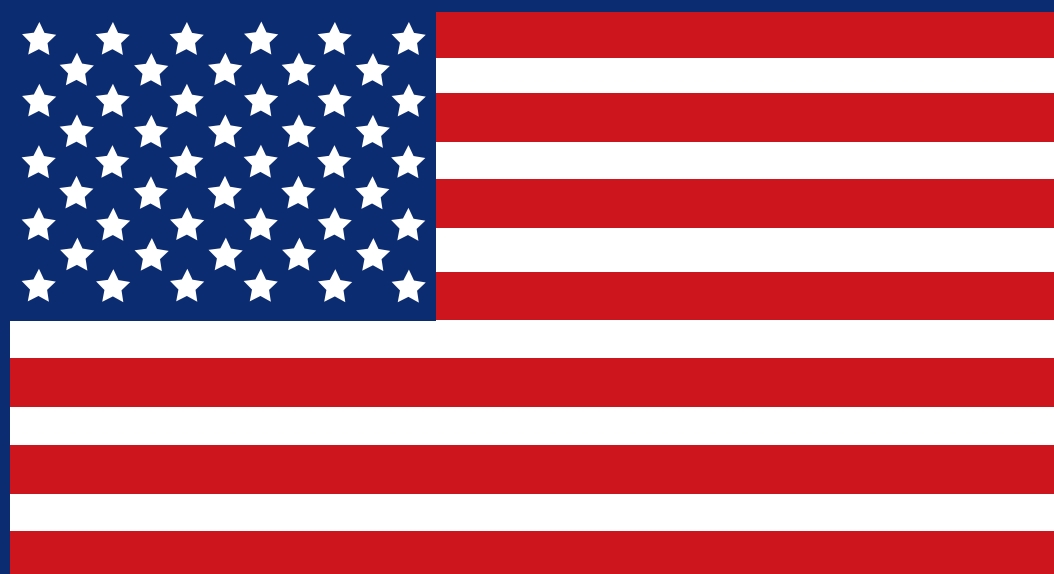
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Special to The Covington News

In Atlanta, a Veterans Day program will be held Thursday by the Atlanta History Center in Veterans Park, located at the corner of West Paces Ferry Road and Slaton Drive. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature speakers, music, and the opportunity to connect with other veterans and their families. The ceremony's keynote speaker will be retired Col. Richard White, who is director/chairman of the board of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Programs, events to celebrate veterans held across metro

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

As Veterans Day approaches, several groups and organizations across the metro have coordinated a variety of programs to celebrate America's war heroes.

In Covington, the local American Legion Post 32 will host its annual Veterans Day program Thursday, Nov. 11, starting at 11 a.m. at the Square. Guest speaker will be Rev. Don Martin, former pastor of Covington First United Methodist Church.

Just down the road in Conyers, a Veterans Day program will be held at the Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial, also on Thursday starting at 11 a.m. at the stage area of the memorial. The keynote speaker will be Commissioner Mike Roby of the

Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

In Atlanta, a Veterans Day program will be held Thursday by the Atlanta History Center in Veterans Park, located at the corner of West Paces Ferry Road and Slaton Drive. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature speakers, music, and the opportunity to connect with other veterans and their families. Due to COVID-19 precautions, advanced registration is strongly encouraged.

The ceremony's keynote speaker will be Colonel (Retired) Richard White, who is director/chairman of the board of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

White enlisted in the U.S. Army Airborne Infantry as a private in 1966. The Norcross native went

on to serve 31 years, including 24 months in combat in Vietnam. During his military career, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Combat Infantry Badge, Senior Aviator Wings, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, and Master Parachutist Wings.

The theme of the Atlanta History Center's 2021 celebration is centered around honoring veterans inducted in the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame. The Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization that works to not only honor veterans but also educate younger generations about military heroes. Every November since 2013, up to 15 veterans from Georgia are inducted.

The 40th Annual Georgia Veterans Day Parade was slated for Saturday,

Nov. 6, at The Battery in Atlanta, organized by the Georgia Veterans Day Association. Attendees were also able to view equipment displays from the National Infantry Museum. The event was scheduled to be held from 1-4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, American Legion Post 201 in Alpharetta hosted its fifth annual Veterans Day Cruz-In. An eclectic mix of classic, vintage, off-road, muscle and modern vehicles were on display. The event was free to participants and the public.

Also on Sunday, Downtown Macon was the site of the Blossoms and Bacon Veterans Day Parade. From 4-6 p.m., attendees enjoyed marching bands, military displays and creative floats honoring local veterans.





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Five Georgia state parks, historic sites to visit on Veterans Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Many of Georgia’s state parks and historic sites are home to remnants of forts and earthworks dating to the 17th century. At these special places, history doesn’t just live on plaques and markers; it literally comes alive during re-enactments held occasionally during the year.

In honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, plan a trip to one of these five sites that highlight the history of Georgia’s earliest battles through the Gulf War.

• Georgia Veteran’s State Park, Cordele — GaStateParks.org/GeorgiaVeterans

For U.S. veterans, Georgia Veteran’s State Park can’t be missed, as it was established as a memorial specifically to them. Visit the park’s museum that features armored vehicles, uniforms, weapons, medals, and other items from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War — including the Boeing B-29A aircraft.

• Fort King George Historic Site, Darien — GaStateParks.org/FortKingGeorge
Tour the oldest English fort remaining on Georgia’s coast at Fort King George, which was the southern outpost of the British Empire in North America from 1721 until 1736. The on-site museum offers a film detailing the 18th and



Special to The Covington News
Located south of Savannah on the banks of the Ogeechee River, Fort McAllister State Park showcases the best-preserved earthwork fortification of the Confederacy.

19th-century history of Fort King George, including Gualde Indians, the Santo Domingo de Talaje mission, Fort King George, the Scots of Darien and 19th-century sawmilling.

• Fort Morris Historic Site, Midway — GaStateParks.org/FortMorris

In the late 1700s, the Continental Congress fortified barracks on the Medway River at Sunbury to protect the seaport from the British. When the British demanded the fort’s surrender on Nov. 25, 1778, the defiant Col. John McIntosh replied,

“Come and take it!” The British refused and withdrew back to Florida, but 45 days later, they returned with a superior force, and on Jan. 9, 1779, Fort Morris fell after a short but heavy bombardment. Stand within the earthwork remains and view scenic Saint Catherine’s Sound. A museum and film describe the colonial port of Sunbury and the site’s history.

• Fort McAllister State Park, Richmond Hill — GaStateParks.org/FortMcAllister

Located south of Savannah on the banks of the Ogeechee River,

Fort McAllister State Park showcases the best-preserved earthwork fortification of the Confederacy. Despite being attacked seven times by Union ironclads, the fort didn’t fall until 1864 — ending Gen. William T. Sherman’s “March to the Sea.” Explore the cannons, a furnace, bombproof, barracks, palisades and other remains of the battlefield, and admire artifacts in the Civil War museum. This scenic state park includes cabins, camping, walking trails, and fishing piers.

• Pickett’s Mill Battlefield Historic

Site, Dallas — GaStateParks.org/PickettsMill-Battlefield

In May 1864, the Confederate troops at Pickett’s Mill fought for victory of the battlefield against the Federal Army, resulting in a week-delay of the Federal advance on Atlanta. Today, the Pickett’s Mill Battlefield Historic Site is one of the best-preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation. Travel roads used by Federal and Confederate troops, see earthworks and walk through the same ravine where hundreds died. One of two original cannons used during

this battle is now on display in the museum, on loan from Atlanta History Center. Stay overnight nearby at Red Top Mountain State Park’s new cabins or campground.

Veterans Day events — Nov. 11, 2021:

• Flag Retirement, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain

Visitors can bring used U.S. flags needing retiring to the park for a brief program. Meet at the Stone Amphitheater. Veterans with ID enjoy free boat rental for one hour. \$5 parking. 706-663-4858.

• Free Admission, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Hardman Farm Historic Site, Sautee Nacoochee

Veterans, military service members and their families enjoy free admission to Hardman Farm Historic Site. The last guided tour of the mansion will begin at 3 p.m. 706-878-1077.

• Veterans Day Observance, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Roosevelt’s Little White House Historic Site, Warm Springs

Receive a red poppy made by disabled veterans in honor of those who are serving in our nation’s armed forces. Includes display by Jonnie Classen Melillo on the tradition of the poppy. \$7-\$10. 706-655-5870.


Find more about Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites at GaStateParks.org/History.

A Tribute to Our Soldiers on Veteran’s Day



Today we honor the memories of
the brave American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Their courage, commitment and selflessness will always be remembered with gratitude. We will never forget that freedom is not free.

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Special to The Covington News
Georgia Veteran’s State Park’s museum in Cordele features armored vehicles, uniforms, weapons, medals and other items from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War.

Wheeler Funeral & Cremation Services would like to thank all the Service Men and Women and their sacrifices they have made for our country



Explore the history of Veterans Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Service members make numerous sacrifices in defense of their countries. While the debts to service members may never be the kind that can be repaid in full, paying tribute to veterans, on Veterans Day and throughout the year, can be a great way to show them just how much their efforts are appreciated.

Veterans Day begins with Armistice Day

Veterans Day is a byproduct of the end of World War I, when Germany and the Allied Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ceasing fighting and establishing terms of peace. On Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the signing of the treaty, the first Armistice Day events were held. Armistice Day was initially a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I only, states History.com.

Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday starting in 1938. However, in 1954, after the country had been embroiled in both World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by renaming the commemoration “Veterans Day” to honor veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day in October?

According to Military.com, for a short



Metro Creative Services

Paying tribute to veterans, on Veteran’s Day and throughout the year, can be a great way to show them just how much their efforts are appreciated.

time, thanks to the Uniform Holiday Bill, which in 1968 established three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating national holidays on Mondays, Veteran’s Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October — the first being Oct. 25, 1971. However, many people did not agree with this decision, continuing to honor the holiday on the original date. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a new law that returned Veterans Day to Nov. 11 beginning in 1978. Since then, parades, memorial events, volunteer efforts, and other celebrations revolving around veterans have been held on Nov. 11.

Veterans around the world

Many countries, including the United States, celebrate veterans on or near Nov. 11. America’s closest neighbor to the north, Canada, commemorates veterans on Remembrance Day (also Nov. 11), as does the United Kingdom. Britain also has Remembrance Sunday, which is the second Sunday of November. Remembrance Day also is called Poppy Day, when people of the Commonwealth member states wear a red poppy flower in honor of military members who have died in the line of duty.

Paying tribute
There are various

ways to honor veterans on Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. Federal government closings, educational efforts in schools, parades, and visits to military hospitals or cemeteries may take place. In Europe, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veterans Day and its sister holidays mark the honoring of veterans of all wars, with a particular focus on living veterans. It is a day to celebrate the dedication and selflessness of hardworking military men and women.

Things to consider if interested in military

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

While some people join the military to honor family tradition, better themselves ahead of a civilian career or simply serve the country they love, choosing to enlist is a considered a big commitment as there are various requirements.

Most people join the military by enlisting in one of its six branches, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Space Force. The requirements to join are similar for all branches. The main differences are in age limits, test scores and fitness levels. Men and women meet different fitness standards. Besides the requirements listed here, a branch may have other requirements.

Age Limits

You must be at least 17 to enlist in any branch of the active military. The oldest you can be to enlist for active duty in each branch is:

- Coast Guard: 31
- Marines: 28
- Navy: 39
- Army: 35
- Air Force: 39
- Space Force: 39

Visit each service’s recruiting website for its part-time age limits.

Education and Testing

Anyone wishing to

enlist must take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. The ASVAB has 10 sub-tests.

- Scores on four of those make up the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score. This score determines which branch(es) one may join. Each branch has its own lowest score for joining.

Scores on all 10 sub-tests determine which job specialties you qualify for.

One must have a high school diploma or a GED to enlist. The services accept only a small number of people with GEDs each year. You can increase your chances of qualifying with a GED by earning some college credits and scoring well on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT).

Health and Fitness

You must pass a military entrance medical exam. This includes a physical exam, hearing test, vision test, and height and weight measurements.

Each service has its own physical requirements and fitness standards. These depend on the demands of its mission. Even within the same branch, some jobs have tougher or extra requirements.

Content from USA.gov.

How Veterans Day differs from Memorial Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com


Memorial Day and Veterans Day each honor the military, though the two holidays are not the same. Memorial Day, which is celebrated annually on the last Monday in May, honors the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the American military. Many communities host memorial ceremonies honoring their fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, ensuring such soldiers’ bravery and sacrifices are never forgotten. While

many people now view Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer, the weekend should not be celebrated without also pausing to reflect on and recognize the military personnel who lost their lives in defense of freedom and the American way of life.

Veterans Day is celebrated annually on Nov. 11 and recognizes all men and women who have served in the military. Veterans Day coincides with Remembrance Day, which is a celebrated by the Commonwealth of

Nations, an association of 53 member states with connections to the British Empire. Though Veterans Day and Remembrance Day are each celebrated on Nov. 11, the latter recognizes armed forces members who died in the line of duty, making it more similar to Memorial Day than Veterans Day. It’s not uncommon for people to recognize fallen soldiers on Veterans Day, but many use the holiday to express their appreciation to existing veterans.

We Salute Our Veterans




Join us Thursday, November 11 at 11am on the Square for our Veterans Day Ceremony. Rev., Don Martin, guest speaker.

Covington Post 32


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-John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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