



His Word

The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

Psalm 103:19, KJV

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ACC, SEC announce TV schedules

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Crime at the Border

Covington man pleads guilty to smuggling



Special Photo

A Covington man tried to use his tractor-trailer to sneak illegal aliens past border patrol in Texas.

Attempted to get 117 illegal aliens past border patrol in Texas

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

LAREDO, Texas — A Covington man admitted in federal court Monday he tried to smuggle 117 undocumented immigrants in a tractor-trailer past a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint in Texas in February.

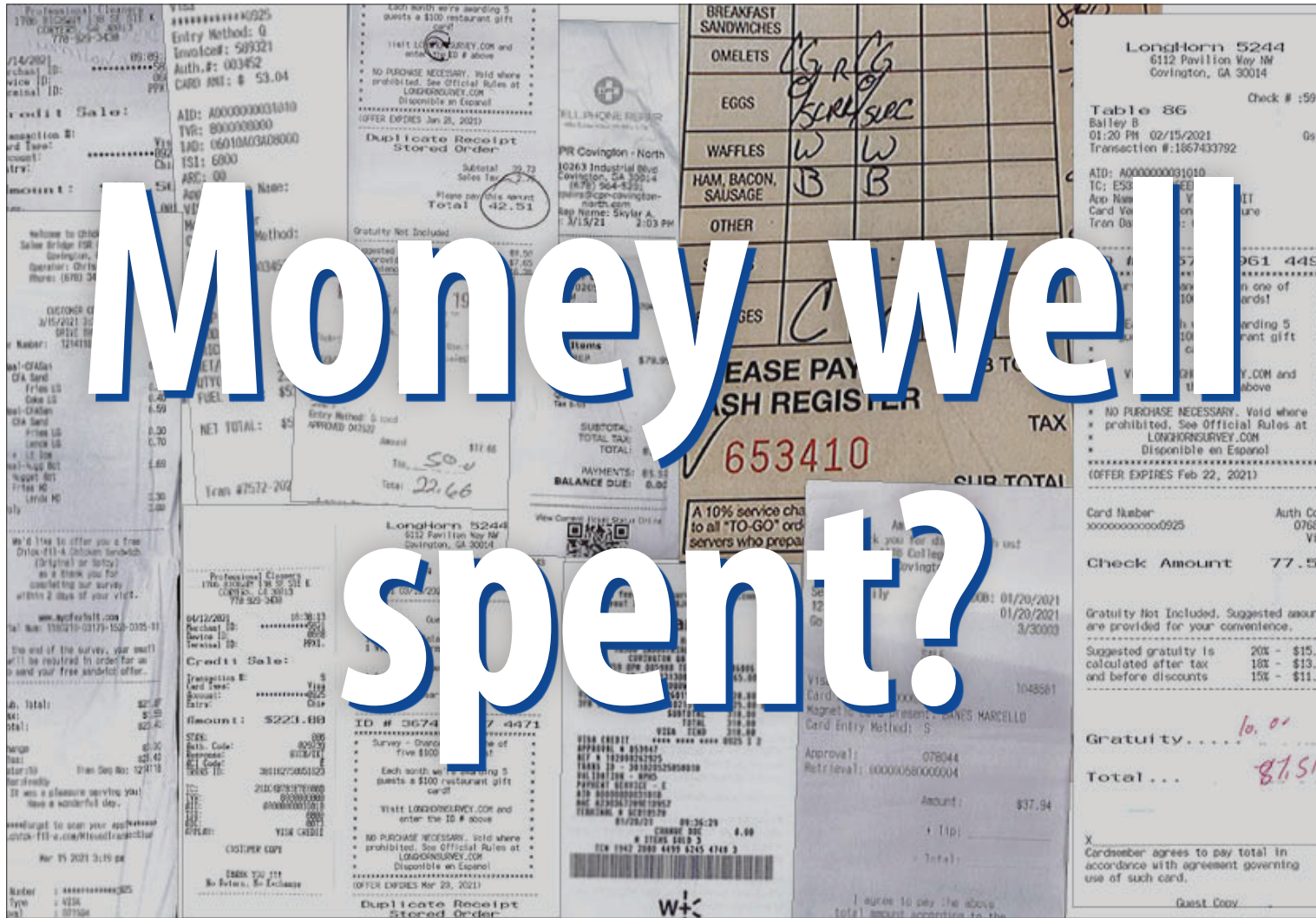
Jonathan Kyle Price, 42, pleaded guilty Monday, July 26, to a charge of Conspiracy to Transport Undocumented Aliens in U.S. District Court in Laredo.

Price admitted he agreed to smuggle 117 aliens past a Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 35, according to information from the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Texas.

He was allowed to remain on bond pending an October sentencing hearing where he

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Part II of a Covington News series



Taylor Beck | Illustration

Newton County P-card records from June 2020-June 2021 revealed

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

Nothing personal. That's what the policy and procedures framework adopted in 2013 says concerning how Newton County employees and elected officials are to use their purchasing card (P-card).

As reported in Part I of a series on P-cards within the July 24-25 edition of The Covington News, the cards are simply meant to be a

“more efficient, cost-effective” way to complete small-dollar purchasing transactions, but not “bypass or avoid appropriate purchasing procedures.”

Though the cards operate similarly to a personal credit card, there is to be nothing personal about them except the name listed on the card.

Per the policy, P-cards are “not for personal use,” and must be used for buying “supplies that are deemed

necessary for the operation of the county,” and for “legitimate business purposes only.” P-cards may not be used for “entertainment, alcohol or cash advances.”

In recent weeks, residents have raised concerns over P-cards and even accused officials and employees of misuse.

Many have alleged some purchases previously made public could be classified as personal and illegitimate concerning county business.

Others want clarity on how certain purchases may or may not be deemed personal and for county business.

In an effort to provide this clarity, *The Covington News* submitted an open records request to the Newton County finance department, calling for all P-card spending records of all 50 Newton County P-card holders from June 2020 to June

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CATCH UP: This article is Part II of a Covington News series explaining what P-cards are, analyzing the usage and spending habits of Newton County P-card holders, and uncovering why residents are calling for change. Part I was published in the July 24-25 print edition and is available online at CovNews.com.

Developer cites 'economics' in return to larger travel center plan

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — A developer has changed its plan for a travel center in northeast Newton again to create more space for a convenience store and fast-food restaurants compared to one it showed county commissioners in June.

JPC Design Construction has submitted a concept plan for a building three times the size of the one it showed the Newton County Board of Commissioners June 15, officials confirmed.



Special to The Covington News

The updated plan for a travel center at I-20 and Georgia Hwy. 11 is shown.

Jeremy Crosby of JPC said the company needed a larger building and more space for amenities simply to

make it financially feasible for the developer to operate based on the price of the land at I-20 and Georgia Hwy. 11.

“It’s just economics,” Crosby said. “We have to have more to offer.”

The building planned for the site

has increased from the previous 8,000 square feet in June to 24,900 square feet and includes room for at least three fast-food restaurants.

Crosby said anticipated demand from the traveling public on I-20 required more gas pumps and space for bathrooms — which will cover 4,000 square feet of the building — than the previous plan.

The new plan’s design is similar to a travel center that JPC’s parent company, Jackson-based Jones Petroleum, operates near

I-75 in Butts County, Crosby said.

It is expected to accompany JPC’s request for a conditional use permit on which the board of commissioners on June 15 delayed action until its Aug. 17 meeting.

JPC included Burger King and Dunkin’ Donuts in the latest plan. Both had committed to locate in the building from the start of JPC’s effort to gain approval of a travel center development on the 46-acre site in January,

See DEVELOPER, A5



Inside

What’s happening around the region?

See A3

Weekend Weather Forecast



Saturday, July 31
High: 96° Low: 74°
• 20% chance of rain



Sunday, Aug. 1
High: 95° Low: 72°
• 50% chance of rain

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, Aug. 6

- The city of Covington's "Magnolia Drive-In" presents "Jumanji, The Next Level" at 6:15 p.m. at Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. Gates open at 6 p.m. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/352455076445428?ref=newsfeed> for more information.
- The city of Covington's "Magnolia Drive-In" presents "Top Gun" at 8:35 p.m. at Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. Gates open at 8:25 p.m. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/208839041165696?ref=newsfeed> for more information.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive is set for Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark St. in Oxford Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 800-733-276 to learn more.

Friday, Aug. 13

- Live at Legion Concert Series featuring Blair Crimmins & The Hookers playing swing and jazz at 7 p.m. at Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. For more information, visit <https://cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=visit-calendar&evtid=815>.

Friday, Aug. 20

- Free Family Movie Night featuring "Playing with Fire" Aug. 20 at Wolverine Field at 8134 Geiger St. in Covington. For more information, visit newtonrecreation.com.
- The Almond Turner Foundation Golf Tournament is set for a 9 a.m. "shotgun start" at the The Oaks Golf Course, 11240 Brown Bridge Road. Proceeds benefit the AJT Foundation Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 404-236-9807 or visit theajtfoundation.org.

Ongoing

- The county's new Splash Pad is open to the public for the season at Denny Dobbs Park, 6244 Highway 212, daily except Monday throughout the summer. Days and times are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and closed on Mondays for maintenance.
- Farmers Market hosted by the Newton County Parks and Recreation is held every Tuesday through Oct. 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Denny Dobbs Park at 6252 Hwy. 212 in Covington.
- Oxford Farmers Market is scheduled for Thursdays and Fridays, noon to dark; and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the City Green on Emory Street. Oxford Farmers Market is open to farmers, growers, artists, makers and craftsmen who grow or make their own produce or items. For more information, email oxfordfarmersmarket@oxfordgeorgia.org or call 770-786-7004.

Submit your events to news@covnews.com or mail to 1166 Usher St., Covington, GA 30014

Development moratorium questioned

Chairman says public asking why subdivision plats still being approved

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — A moratorium did not affect some development plans officials considered in recent months because they were submitted before county commissioners approved the ban in January. But some members of the public still are confused about how the county planning commission can consider plats for approval when a moratorium is under way, said commission Chairman Landis Stephens. "They think we're pausing on all growth," Stephens said. The Newton County Board of Commissioners recently voted to extend until Sept. 21 the moratorium on new applications for zoning petitions and petitions for preliminary plats and concept plans for new residential development. County planning commission members indicated Tuesday night that some residents had not heard details before their meeting about preliminary plats and had concerns about them. Those concerns apparently led the planning commission to delay action until Aug. 24 on a preliminary plat for a multi-use project containing 20 townhomes and a retail center on Salem Road near Georgia Hwy. 81. Stephens also asked if county commissioners knew about the plans, as well, since they often hear from residents about

planning commission issues. Development Services Director Judy Johnson said the department she leads publicizes what will be on the agenda prior to the meeting by publishing information in the county's legal organ. "There was never any smoke and mirrors," she said. She said preliminary plats the Newton County Planning Commission considered Tuesday, July 27 — and a third still awaiting action — were the last three submitted before the moratorium went into effect. Johnson said the county development ordinance only allows the planning commission — not the Newton County Board of Commissioners — to approve preliminary plats. She also noted a county commissioner appoints each planning commissioner from the district where they live and "you should be reaching out to that commissioner" with any concerns, Johnson said. If the planning commission approves a preliminary plat — which typically is a rough outline of plans — the Development Services staff handles the other steps that end with approval of final plans for placement of roads, home lots and other amenities. Johnson said she told the board of commissioners previously there were pending petitions the moratorium would

not affect because they were submitted before it took effect. She said she told the board of commissioners some applications take "months to move forward." Board of commissioners members first approved the moratorium Jan. 19 so they could consider updating the county development ordinance to take into account "current trends for residential development" the ordinance may not "adequately" address. "Trends" include building densities, lot sizes and more that are common in newer residential subdivision plans than when the ordinance was written, officials said. Commissioners voted to extend the moratorium after voting earlier this year to extend it to July 20. Johnson told the board of commissioners the extension to September was needed because her staff had not been able to schedule a work session with the board. She said the work session would allow the the planning staff to work with the commissioners on specific changes they wanted to make in density requirements and other areas in the ordinance, she said. County planning staff members need "direction from the board" to consider specific changes in the ordinance — which allows up to 12 units per acre in some developments.

Commemorative bricks offered in new Bicentennial Park

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

To commemorate Newton County's 200th birthday, the Newton County Bicentennial Committee is inviting the public to purchase a commemorative Leave a Legacy Brick to be placed at the newly named Bicentennial Park in downtown Covington.

For \$75, up to 25 characters such as a name, phrase or title of a business or organization can be placed on a brick. The purchase will go toward funding bicentennial celebration activities and marking a place in history. For more information, call 770-784-2000 or visit <https://www.co.newton.ga.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=371>.

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Alvin (Bill) Reed Morrison
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Alvin (Bill) Reed Morrison, 87, of Covington, Georgia, died on Monday, July 5,

2021, after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Maryland in 1933, to the late Harry and Marie Morrison, he was the youngest of six children. He would tell the story that his mother

named him Alvin, but his three older sisters decided to call him Willie. That name stuck throughout his life and his nickname would later be shortened to Bill. While attending military school in Virginia he met, and later married, Jane Elizabeth Manuel (who sadly passed away in 2011). He served in the Army for nine years, and was honorably discharged in 1962. He began his career in the paper product and packaging industry and would continue in that field until his retirement in 2004. Bill and Jane moved to Covington



Alvin Morrison

in 1967, where they raised three daughters, Kim, Kelly and Kristi. After retiring, he kept busy by joining a local fitness center, reading, doing handyman and carpentry work, and working at Molly's Corner. He enjoyed telling stories and was an expert at making a short story long. He is survived by his three daughters and their spouses and families: Billy and Kim Lancaster of Madison, Georgia, Adam and Kelly Grossman of Miami, Florida, Stephen and Kristi Bradford, of Covington, Georgia, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren and other family and friends. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his memory to the American Cancer Society.



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REGIONAL REPORT

Read about what's happening across the metro and beyond Newton County's border >>

Kemp puts more funding toward fighting crime
Gov. Brian Kemp is committing up to \$2 million from the Governor's Emergency Fund to the state Department of Public Safety's Crime Suppression Unit.

This move Wednesday was the latest he and other state Republicans have taken to combat rising crime rates, particularly in Atlanta.

In May, Kemp committed \$5 million from the emergency fund for the same cause.

The \$2 million he's freeing up now is not part of that \$5 million package, which was allocated for the fiscal year that ended June 30, Kemp spokesman Cody Hall said. However, not all of the earlier money had been spent when fiscal 2021 ended, Hall said.

"This additional funding is necessary to keep the streets of Atlanta safe and protect residents and visitors alike," the speaker said. "Our state law enforcement personnel are working around the clock to bring criminals to justice, and I greatly appreciate their work on behalf of all Georgians."

Georgia Democrats want Medicaid expansion added to special session

Democrats in the Republican-controlled General Assembly are asking GOP Gov. Brian Kemp to add Medicaid expansion to the legislature's upcoming redistricting special session.

A letter dated Tuesday signed by 67 Democratic members of the Georgia House and Senate called the need for legislative action to expand Medicaid coverage "urgent."

"This governor has made it clear he wants to expand the scope of the session beyond redistricting," said Rep. Matthew Wilson, D-Brookhaven, the chief signatory to the letter, referring to Kemp's announcement last week that he will add tackling the recent rise in violent crime to the special session agenda. ... If we're going to include other items in the special session, Medicaid expansion must be a top priority."

Georgia Democrats have pushed for Medicaid expansion since then-President Barack Obama steered the Affordable Care Act through a Democratic Congress in 2010 with no Republican votes.

Kemp instead proposed a more limited expansion, which the Trump administration approved last year. But the new Biden administration has put that plan on hold because of concerns that it includes a work requirement for Medicaid recipients.

Port of Savannah enjoys record year

The Port of Savannah has become the first container port in the Southeast or on the Gulf Coast to move more than 5 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cargo in one year.

The port handled 5.3 million TEUs during fiscal 2021, which ended June 30, a 20% increase over the previous year, the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) reported Monday.

The record came during a difficult year that saw major disruptions to supply chains around the globe.

"GPA leadership, our employees and our partners across the logistics community put in a tremendous effort

to make this milestone possible," said Joel Wooten, incoming chairman of the ports authority's board.

"Growing our business by 20 percent in a single year is an amazing accomplishment and secures Savannah's position as the fastest growing gateway in the nation over the past 10 years."

Part of the reason for the Port of Savannah's rapid growth in container traffic is that the authority added 210,000 TEUs of container capacity during fiscal 2021 by expanding container handling space and adding equipment at the port's Ocean Terminal.

The port also saw a 14% increase in rail volumes at Savannah's Garden City Terminal and a 26% increase in cargo lifts at the Appalachian Inland Port, a facility the ports authority opened in Northwest Georgia in 2017 primarily to bring exports by rail to Savannah.

Fiscal 2021 also was marked by progress on the multi-year deepening of Savannah Harbor, a \$1 billion project now 90% complete and due to be completed in December. Another project expected to open this winter is the \$220 million Mason Mega Rail, two sets of nine working tracks that will raise rail capacity at the Port of Savannah to 2 million TEUs per year.

The ports authority's trade in autos and heavy machinery also saw significant growth during the last fiscal year. Roll-on/Roll-off cargo reached 703,528 units, with the Port of Brunswick alone handling more than 685,000 units of vehicles and heavy machinery. Total Ro/Ro volume grew by 18% over fiscal 2020.

State commission awards six licenses to grow marijuana, make cannabis oil

The state commission in charge of Georgia's medical marijuana program has announced its intent to award six licenses to companies to grow the leaf crop and convert it into low-THC cannabis oil.

Two so-called "Class 1" licenses will allow the licensees to grow marijuana under close supervision in up to 100,000 square feet of growing space. Four "Class 2" licensees will limit recipients to not more than 50,000 square feet.

The announcement of winning licensees was long in coming. While the General Assembly first legalized cannabis oil for the treatment of certain diseases in 2015, it wasn't until 2019 that lawmakers passed a bill giving patients a legal means of obtaining the drug inside Georgia.

The legislation created the state commission to oversee the program, but it got off to a slow start. Members of the commission weren't appointed until November 2019, four months after the law took effect, and it took another year to release a request for proposals from interested companies.

Sixty-nine businesses submitted competitive bids for the six licenses.

The businesses chosen to receive Class 1 licenses are Florida-based Trulieve GA Inc. and Biomedical Sciences LLC. Class 2 licenses will go to FFD GA Holdings, TheraTrue Georgia, Natures GA and Treevana Remedy.

Under the 2019 legislation, licensees will be limited to producing low-THC cannabis oil containing no more than 5% THC, the

psychoactive ingredient that gets marijuana users high.

The drug will be sold at licensed dispensaries or specially licensed pharmacies to patients

suffering from a range of diseases including cancer, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease and Parkinson's disease, among others.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING CITY OF MANSFIELD, GA

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and Council of the City of Mansfield, GA will hold a Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:30PM for the purpose of approving the electrical contractor for 108 5th Avenue. This meeting will be held at the Mansfield Community House, 3158 Hwy 11 S, Mansfield GA 30055.

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- In person: Stop by 1166 Usher St. NW in downtown Covington
- Email: news@covnews.com

Dick Yarbrough columnist

Final Olympic memory a lasting one

One last word about the 25th anniversary of the Centennial Olympic Games and then we will move on. Nostalgia is not one of my strong points but having been associated with such a high-profile, once-in-a-lifetime (for me) event makes it hard to not take a quick peek back, especially when I keep getting asked about those times.

For instance, a reporter wanted to know if I could single out one personal highlight from my involvement in the 1996 Games. That took a moment because there were a lot of them: Seeing the Olympic flame being lit in Olympia, Greece; walking on the actual field where the ancient Games were conducted some 2,000 years ago; watching the Olympic flame pass through the White House Rose Garden with my daughter; getting to run the Torch in my mother's hometown of Cartersville with my son and son-in-law by my side.

But the most satisfying personal moment occurred on the final night of Olympic Games competition. There is a back story, so bear with me.

I grew up in East Point, south of Atlanta. In our church was a distinguished gentleman by the name of Fred Alderman. I knew him only as a quiet and dignified man and very polite to everyone including a kid like me. But that is all I knew about him.

Years later after having joined Southern Bell Telephone Company, I was selected to be part of a program to visit with AT&T shareowners and bring them up-to-date on the latest developments in the business and to ensure that their telephone service was satisfactory.

One of the names assigned to me was Fred Alderman. I could not have been more pleased. Although in truth I occupied a low rung on the corporate ladder, I hoped he would be impressed to see that the kid he had known from church in East Point was now a telephone company manager.

It was a pleasant conversation that evening as I filled him in on the doings in the Bell System. At one point he excused himself for a moment and left the room. As I awaited his return, I noticed a book on an end table entitled "Amsterdam Olympics." I was casually



leafing through the book when suddenly I came across Fred Alderman's picture with three other athletes and a caption reading "4x400 gold medal winners." This quiet man I had known all my life was an Olympic gold medalist? I had no idea. I'm not sure if anyone else in East Point did, either.

Forget the shareholder visit. I wanted to know all about the experience and about the gold medal. He said the medal was somewhere upstairs, tucked away in a drawer. He talked about how he had been selected to compete in the Amsterdam Olympics. He was the NCAA sprint champion at Michigan State and was paired with three other collegiate sprinters from around the U.S. Later, I found that they set a world record in the 4x400 in Amsterdam with a time of 3:14.2.

The years passed but not my admiration for the man. When I joined the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games I promised Fred Alderman that he would see the 4 x 400 relay finals as my guest. And he did, although by now he was in a wheelchair.

What I was not prepared for was that Mr. Alderman's family had located and brought to Atlanta the other surviving member of that 1928 gold medal relay team, George Baird. Baird, a sprinter at the University of Iowa, had passed the baton to Fred Alderman in the finals in Amsterdam.

The two men had not seen each other since getting off the boat from Amsterdam in New York 68 years earlier. Now, here they were together once again in my box at the Centennial Olympic Games. Fred Alderman, 91, and George Baird, 89.

It was fascinating to watch these two old comrades as they sat silently and observed the finals, even leaning into the turns in their seats as the runners were doing on the track. To cap off a perfect evening, the United States 4x400 relay team won gold that night as they had in 1928, albeit with a faster time: 2:55.9.

Fred Alderman died two years later at the age of 93. But I had kept my promise to my hometown hero, an Olympic gold medalist. That was a moment I will forever treasure. Thank you for letting me share it with you.

Dick Yarbrough is an award-winning columnist from Georgia. Reach him at dick@dickyarbrough.com.

Taylor Beck editor and publisher

Envious of Yeezy's current crib

When I was a child, I remember dreaming of one day living in the White House, in a mansion by the beach, and even a castle on the moon.



At school, I sometimes daydreamed what it might be like to live there, you know, like be innocently believed all of our teachers did.

If ever out shopping with my parents, I'd try hiding among the countless racks of clothes in an effort to be left behind and enjoy a one night stay at the local OshKosh B'gosh. But, my plans would always be foiled. After I'd plead my case as to why she should put custody of her children on the line by allowing

me to "get lost" for the night, she'd roll her eyes, laugh and say, "In your dreams."

I also wondered what it would be like to stay overnight inside a museum, graveyard or a zoo, but then again, there have been enough movies to know how that goes. Plus, I'd prefer to come out of these experiences alive.

Today, I find myself envying Kanye West of all people. Not because of his talents, riches or fame — though it would all be nice to have. No, I envy The Louis Vuitton Don because he's living my childhood fantasy.

This week, shortly after his "listening party" at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, we learned the 21-time Grammy award-winning rapper has decided to kick off his Yeezys and stay awhile. No, not just in Atlanta

— he's taken up residency at the stadium while putting the finishing touches on his next album "Donda" before its Aug. 6 release.

I know what you're thinking. Bizarre, right? But once you let it sink in, channel your inner childhood self and think about how cool that must be.

Sure, he's having to sleep in what I'd describe as something similar to a prison cell, and I'm sure he's hard at work and focused on his album. But don't think he's spending all of his time bunked on a twin-sized bed. I'll bet he's having lots of fun beyond those concrete walls.

Can't you just picture Kanye playfully snooping around every inch of that stadium, pulling staff members into an epic hide-and-seek contest or even onto the field for a game of

tag football? And, no doubt, he's got to be watching TV or playing a couple video games up on the Jumbotron whilst sitting in a luxury stadium suite.

And imagine the food he could be enjoying. Forget the old ballpark franks or nachos and cheese. I could see Kanye sinking his teeth into a juicy chopped brisket sandwich or some pulled pork mac and cheese — the high dollar stuff. And lest we forget about Chick-fil-A — "... my number one, with the lemonade ..."

Oh, to be Kanye for a day.

I have some advice, kids: Dream big, dream Yeezy.

Taylor Beck is editor and publisher of The Covington News. He may be reached at tbeck@covnews.com.

Samantha Fuhrey guest editorial

NCSS ready to welcome back students

Hello Newton County School System stakeholders, and welcome to my first update of the 2021-2022 school year.



Last week was an exciting week in the Newton County School System for sure! We welcomed our new teachers on July 19 and our returning teachers and staff on July 22. Everyone has hit the ground running! Rest assured we are all working hard to ensure a smooth start to the school year, and we cannot wait to welcome our students on Monday, Aug. 2. It is so hard to believe that's next week. We cannot wait to see them!

Teachers are busy getting classrooms and lesson plans prepared, the school nutrition team is planning delicious, nutritious meals, our mechanics are ensuring our buses are in tip-top shape, and our bus drivers are reviewing their routes as we all prepare for our students to return. To help ensure a smooth start, we encouraged you to join us this week during our district-wide Open House program. This was a wonderful way for you to meet your child's new teacher, obtain class schedules and school supply lists, parking and bus route information, and

just learn all about the upcoming school year. Please note that our schools had expanded their traditional Open House hours this year to allow for social distancing.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school for assistance.

Also, it is absolutely critical that we have your current email and contact information so that we can easily provide you with school system information throughout the year. We use our School Messenger system as our primary tool for communication and messages are delivered both via telephone and email; if your Infinite Campus information is not accurate, you will not hear from the school system at all. Please take a moment to check your information.

We have received inquiries about our mask-wearing expectations for this school year, which is also addressed in our Return to School Plan that was shared with stakeholders on June 4. As of this moment, our plan is to highly recommend but not require students or staff wear masks — but that could change depending on our community transmission of COVID-19. As you are likely aware, our state and nation are seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases. As such, to get

ahead of the increase, I continue to recommend adhering to the three W's philosophy whether you are vaccinated or not — Wash your hands frequently, Wear a mask when around anyone outside of your immediate family, and Watch your distance when out in public. Our goal is to open our schools and have them remain open without closures and quarantines if possible — but it will take everyone — students, staff, and visitors, doing their part to keep our schools safe and healthy.

It's important to mention again that our "Safe Return to School" plan is on our website for your reference at www.newtoncountyschools.org. The plan itself is dynamic and could change over the course of year depending upon the CDC and Department of Public Health's continuing guidance.

My commitment to you is to do my very best to keep you in-

formed, tell you what I know, and make all decisions with the health and safety of our students and staff as our No. 1 priority

While we had all hoped that the words COVID-19 would be in our past, unfortunately, it continues to be a topic for our nation, state and community. As such, as in the past, I will lean heavily on our medical partners from both Newton Piedmont Hospital and the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale Health Department. The health and safety of our students and staff are always our No. 1 priority. Please help us keep everyone safe.

I hope you and your student enjoy the remainder of your summer break. Rest assured, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our students for the start of the 2021-2022 school year!

Samantha Fuhrey is the superintendent of Newton County Schools.

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The Covington News (USPS 136140) is published bi-weekly on Sunday and Wednesday for \$60 a year for home delivery or \$80 a year for mail delivery by Newton Newspapers Inc., 1166 Usher St. NW, Covington, GA 30014. This newspaper is printed at the Jackson County Sentinel in Scottsboro, Alabama. Periodicals postage paid at Covington, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015. Contents Copyright © 2021 Newton Newspapers Inc.

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Board narrowly approves warehouse, denies office rezonings

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
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COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County commissioners recently struggled to put to rest some contentious zoning issues opposed by nearby residents.

The board of commissioners narrowly voted to approve and deny separate rezoning requests for controversial commercial projects planned for heavily traveled parts of the county's west end.

County commissioners on July 20 went against the county planning board's recommendation and voted 3-2 to approve a rezoning request to allow construction of a warehouse distribution center on a 28-acre site fronting the north side of I-20 at the Rockdale County line.

Commissioners Stan Edwards, Demond Ma-



Special to The Covington News
From left, Development Services director Judy Johnson discusses a rezoning request for a new west Newton warehouse with the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

son and Ronnie Cowan voted for the rezoning from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial) for the proposed 20 East Logistics Center at 2001 Dogwood Drive.

The approval included a number of conditions, such as developer Native Development Group paying for road improvements for the planned 320,000-square-foot

warehouse.

Development Services Director Judy Johnson said the staff wanted a traffic light analysis and traffic study for the site, which is on a frontage road of I-20 adjacent to the Almon Road bridge over I-20, across from the new Lidl distribution center.

Patrick Carter, representing property owner Cleveland Stroud,

said most of the traffic would go through Rockdale County to get to the site of the planned \$28 million facility.

He said he knew opponents had referred to the fact the facility did not yet have a tenant. However, 75% of logistics centers are built before a tenant is secured and the developer should have no trouble finding one, Carter said.

"Demand for this type of facility is at an all-time high," he said.

Attorney Stephanie Lindsey said Stroud inherited the land and there is more demand for a warehouse than residential construction on the site, she said.

But Commissioner Alana Sanders, who represents District 3 that includes the site, said she supported nearby residents.

She said they were concerned about the impact of another warehouse on their homes when Lidl was already building a dis-

tribution center nearby.

After the vote, Commissioner J.C. Henderson criticized

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DEVELOPER:

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developers previously said.

Nearby residents appeared united in opposing the plan in January when JPC proposed a building of the same size but included facilities for both passenger vehicles and tractor-trailers.

Crosby said JPC has "done what the neighbors asked" and removed any features designed to serve tractor-trailers, such as operating 24 hours.

County Development Services director Judy Johnson said the latest plan JPC submitted is not a truck stop "in any sense of the phrase."

She said the plan does not include an area for tractor-trailer drivers to park overnight. It also does not have fuel dispensers to accommodate any kind of large commercial truck or vehicle, such as tractor-trailers, dump truck or buses.

All fuel dispensers will be for regular sized motor vehicles, and no shower or laundry facilities — a standard feature of a traditional truck stop — are proposed, Johnson said.

LeAnne Long of the River Cove Civic Association said residents in her neighborhood near the site have "major concerns" about

the changes to JPC's June plan.

"Since they have changed the entire concept plan that was originally submitted, a new Letter of Intent should be required and the entire process should start from the beginning to allow for community input," said Long, a former county commissioner.

Long said she and River Cove President Wayne Pugh in May met with JPC officials who agreed to "some changes to the original concept plan" that pared down the plan to 10 acres of the 46-acre site. The Planning Commission gave its approval, she noted.

However, she said JPC then presented a somewhat different site plan at the June 15 county commission meeting that did not include enough buffer space to meet the requirements of the Brick Store overlay district in which it is located.

She said she believed the new plan for the facility is merely one that could be easily altered to serve tractor-trailers in the future.

"The current site plan is just a redo of the truck stop design without the truck parking. However, space is there and waiting for the additional change," Long said.

SMUGGLING:

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faces up to 10 years in prison, the U.S. Attorney's Office stated in a news release.

An arrest affidavit stated Price arrived at the checkpoint and told authorities he was hauling a load of produce, according to a report by Transportation Nation Network.

The checkpoint on I-35 was about 29 miles north of the Mexican border town of Laredo.

"However, he drove away before his immigration inspection was complete," the U.S. Attorney's Office stated.

Court documents said the tractor-trailer proceeded to leave the checkpoint "driving erratically and bypassing other tractor-trailers by cutting them off,"

Transportation Nation Network reported.

Law enforcement pursued "and quickly stopped him," the U.S. Attorney's Office stated.

After they stopped the tractor-trailer, officers said Price was "verbally resistant" to commands but eventually complied with instructions to return to the checkpoint, Transportation Nation

Network reported.

"A service K-9 then detected an odor within the trailer. Authorities conducted a thorough inspection and found 117 undocumented aliens," the U.S. Attorney's news release stated.

Price later told authorities he was surprised to learn he was hauling undocumented immigrants when he believed he was haul-

ing narcotics 160 miles north to San Antonio, according to Transportation Nation Network.

He said he had been paid \$25,000 to haul drugs previously and was promised the same amount again, it reported.

U.S. District Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo will sentence Price Oct. 25, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.



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P-CARD:

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SPENT:

Continued from A6

sheriff's office Random Acts of Kindness program. He also bought a funeral wreath for Jack Simpson's funeral for \$400. Documents show Brown reimbursed the county for both purchases from the Newton County Sheriff's Office Deputies Who Care Fund.

In September 2020 records, Brown showed a spending total of \$1,128.28, though only making five purchases. His report showed a \$989 purchase from Marquis Who's Who Ventures in New Jersey, which Brown later explained was a personal item charged to his P-card by mistake.

"Unfortunately, I have three debit cards that are the exact same color and very similar in design," Brown wrote in his financial statements dated Sept. 22, 2020.

He said he mistook the county P-card as his own, but wasn't aware of his error until receiving the statement.

"With that being said, I have attached a check for reimbursement to cover the payment," Brown stated. "Since this error, I have written 'Newton County' at the top of my P-card to immediately identify it."

Documents did reveal that Brown submitted a check dated Sept. 21 in the amount of \$989 to pay back the county.

From October 2020 to April 2021, there were no other purchases made by Brown that The Covington News deemed questionable, unusual or required explanation, largely in part well-documented bookkeeping by Brown and the finance department.

Reports from May 2021 show Brown spent more than usual, totaling \$3,956.62. However, the report was inflated due to an error committed by a vendor. Brown's P-card was mistakenly charged \$1,305.13 twice by "The Award Group" for the purchase of certificates and frames. The charge was also recorded in the sheriff's June 2021 statements. Through documentation provided by the sheriff, the matter was shown to be resolved.

Also within the June 2021, there was a \$113.50 charge to

Baymont Inn & Suites in Covington. Brown stated the charge was an error and the hotel would be sending credit. There were no documents with the month's spending records to confirm credit was given.

Annual P-card spending total: \$9,672.91

Notable purchases by other cardholders from sheriff's office:

- In June 2020, Capt. Marty Roberts spent \$572.25 for food, snacks and drinks for deputies working the rally on the Square that lasted a reported seven hours. The next month, Roberts spent more than \$300 for refreshments for deputies working another rally. In November 2020, Roberts spent more than \$500 on food and supplies for officers on multiple occasions, including K-9 Deputy Riley. No purpose was listed.

- Training & Travel — July 2020 — spent \$800 for floral arrangements for Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. and Deputy Steven Minor.

- In September 2020, Sammy Banks spent more than \$100 for snacks and drinks for officers working a protest. In October 2020, he spent more than \$60 on two lunches for himself, the sheriff and three others. In January 2021, Banks reported spending \$175.08 on meals at Cracker Barrel for the S.W.A.T. Annual Christmas Brunch.

- Richard A. Howard; November 2020; spent \$95.53 on Chick-fil-A sandwiches and fries. No purpose was listed.

James Brown, Cornish Creek plant manager (\$5,000):

Despite an above average monthly spending limit when compared to other county P-card holders, Brown's usage was quite limited and maintained relatively low amounts. The most he spent in one month came May 2021 when he totaled approximately \$1,700. Every other month was \$1,000 or less.

A spending report for June 2020 was not available, and in July 2020, Brown only made one purchase for a training course in the amount of \$210. However, the August 2020 report showed he

spent \$629 on a recruitment testing tool and an operator learning and recertification course for an employee. An "accidental" purchase at Chick-fil-A in the amount of \$3.86 was listed on the statement. Brown noted his intention to make "restitution" but there were no supporting documents.

For September 2020, Brown spent a total of \$575.38. He made two food-related purchases, totaling \$85.38, for a "Water System Strategic Plan" meeting and a luncheon. The remaining balance was for American Water Works Association membership renewals.

Another food purchase came in October 2020 for a "departmental meeting" in the amount of \$91.97. He also spent \$55 on a membership renewal from BJ's Wholesale Club and \$12.84 for cleaning supplies.

In November 2020, Brown's only P-card purchases were for food in the amount of \$78 to Longhorn Steakhouse with the business purpose described as "strategic planning," and \$50.24 to Donut King with the purpose described as "departmental meeting."

In December 2020, Brown made two purchases totaling \$1,006.24. More than \$400 was spent at Jersey Mike's for refreshments for a groundbreaking ceremony, and \$597.50 was spent to purchase tumblers for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Newton County Finance Director Brittany White said the county is given a certain amount of funds each year to pay for "wellness prizes" that can include tumblers, coolers and coffee makers, as well as exercise equipment located on the third floor of the administration building — all paid for by the county's insurance provider, Cigna. In addition, those funds also pay for half of the county wellness director's salary. This year, White said, the county received \$125,000.

In January 2021, Brown only spent \$147, which included \$97 at Tubby Tom's for food for a "strategic planning meeting," and a \$50

purchase for classes at the University of Texas at Dallas Erik Johnson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Brown spent a total of \$955.98 in February 2021. Records show \$93 were for food for a "strategic planning meeting" at Jim N' Nick's Community BBQ restaurant in Conyers. The remaining plans was attributed to business expenditures.

More food purchases were recorded in the March 2021 report, totaling \$38.48 at Little Philllies to supply food for a "departmental meeting."

Spending records for April, May and June 2021 showed Brown collectively spent nearly \$2,500, but all were related to Cornish Creek operations and county vehicle maintenance. No food purchases.

Annual P-card spending total: \$6,127.76.

Marcus Jordan, tax commissioner (\$5,000):

No spending records were available for Tax Commissioner Marcus Jordan until November 2020. After reviewing monthly reports from November 2020-June 2021, The Covington News found purchases made with his P-card were only to pay for government training and related expenses.

November 2020: \$4,900

December 2020: \$2,487.25

January 2021: \$1,435

February 2021: No spending reported.

March 2021: No spending reported.

April 2021: No spending reported.

May 2021: \$924

June 2021: \$1,117.70

Annual P-card spending total: \$10,863.95

Randy McGinley, district attorney (\$1,500):

Only one purchase had been made by District Attorney Randy McGinley over the last year, which came in May 2021 for a government training class in the amount of \$227.96.

Leslie Smith, victim-witness director for DA's Office (\$5,000):

Victim-Witness Director Leslie Smith has used her P-card sparingly over the last 12 months, according to spending records.

In July 2020, she paid \$297.75 to cover costs of the new District At-


torney's Office website.

See SPENT, A8

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PUBLIC NOTICE NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REVIEW AND ADOPTION

BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: Newton County's FY 2022 proposed budget will be available for public inspection during regular office hours (Monday – Friday; 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) in the office of the County Clerk inside the Historic Courthouse, located at 1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014 beginning Tuesday, July 18. A copy of the budget can also be found on the County's website at <http://co.newton.ga.us> under Finance Department.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2022 BUDGET: A Public Hearing on Newton County's FY 2022 proposed budget is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3 at 6:00 PM at the Newton County Historic Courthouse, located at 1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. At this meeting, the Chairman and Board of Commissioners will receive both written and oral comments about the proposed budget for Newton County, Georgia.

BUDGET ADOPTION: The Chairman and Board of Commissioners of Newton County, Georgia are scheduled to adopt the FY 2022 Budget at the BOC Meeting on Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00 PM at the Newton County Historic Courthouse, located at 1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014.

Covington company receives bulk of Shuttered Venue grants

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

WASHINGTON — A Covington-based company received the bulk of the funding in Shuttered Venue Operators Grants for Georgia’s 4th Congressional District that U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson announced Wednesday. J.D. Entertainment LLC received

\$391,798 of more than \$542,000 in funds for four entities in the 4th Congressional District, according to information from Johnson’s office.

The company has operated since 2011. An internet search showed J.D. Entertainment LLC was an entertainment agency but was “permanently closed.”

A person who identified himself as affiliated with the company declined comment.

Johnson voted to establish the Grant program which provides support to businesses in the music and entertainment sector forced to close due to pandemic restrictions.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) administered the grants and recipients received funds based on a formula using 2019 gross earned revenue, a spokesman for Johnson said.

Grants were calculated

for an amount equal to 45% of the recipient’s 2019 gross earned revenue or \$10 million, whichever was less, according to the SBA.

The spokesman said congressional offices do not distribute grants or loans to businesses and do not get involved in application processes.

The SBA opened the Grant application portal in April 2021 for operators of live venues, including live venue promoters, theatrical producers, and talent representatives; live performing arts or-

ganizations; and movie theatres

Entities that had to shutter their doors in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were eligible. That included venues that promoted or booked concerts, plays, dance performances, movie premieres, museum exhibits, and more, the release stated.

For those who are talent representatives, at least 70 percent of operations must involve managing or representing performers, who must be booked at live events and paid

based on ticket sales or entrance fees.

All qualifying applicants must have been fully operational as of Feb. 29, 2020.

The program was initially plagued by technical challenges which have since “been greatly improved,” a news release stated.

Other entities that received funds included:

- Conyers-Rockdale Council for the Arts in Conyers: \$4,291;
- A.R.T. Station in Stone Mountain: \$61,609;
- Onstage Atlanta in Scottdale: \$84,521.



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Plant Vogtle project encounters new delays, higher costs

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia Power’s nuclear expansion at Plant Vogtle is being delayed again due to “productivity challenges” and additional time needing for testing and quality assurance, the Atlanta-based utility announced Thursday.

Under the new schedule, the first of two new nuclear reactors being built at the plant south of August isn’t expected to go into service until the second quarter

of next year. The second reactor won’t be ready until the first quarter of 2023. That amounts to a three- to four-month delay for each reactor.

The total capital cost of the project also is going up by \$460 million, Georgia Power announced.

The first of the two new reactors at Plant Vogtle originally was to be completed in 2016, with the second reactor to go into service one year later. But the project has encountered a

number of delays, due in part to the bankruptcy of Westinghouse Electric, the original prime contractor.

The cost of the project has nearly doubled from the original estimate of \$14 billion approved by the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) a dozen years ago to about \$26 billion. Georgia Power is partnering with three other utilities on the project. The company’s share of the total capital cost is now an estimated \$9.2 billion.

BOARD:

Continued from A5

Mason, a Democrat, for voting with the two Republican members to approve the plan.

“Once again our Republicans have taken over District 3,” he said.

Mason said his votes are not taken based on party affiliation.

“It’s not about what I’m called, it’s what I answer to. And I don’t answer to anything I don’t live up to,” he said.

By the same 3-2 vote, county commissioners went against

the planning board’s recommendation again and voted to deny a rezoning for construction of an office complex that some nearby residents said would add to existing traffic congestion along Salem Road.

The request by CSCL Holdings was for a change from its current R2 (Single Family Residential) to CH (Highway Commercial) to establish “multiple uses to include office use and fast food restaurant.”

Johnson said devel-

opers had proposed installing a 25-foot buffer area, including a privacy fence.

Lindsey, who is a principal in CSCL Holdings, said the site is “more ideal” for an office or salon than a fast-food restaurant.

But Nancy Penn, a Smith Store Road resident, said residents bought their homes with the intentions of being in a residential area.

Lawrence Edwards of nearby Westminster subdivision said his

neighbors are not in favor of the plan. Other retail and restaurants, such as Walmart and Chick-fil-A, already exist in the area.

Mason, who made a motion for denial, said he represented the area and its residents told him development of the site would worsen traffic on Salem Road.

The vote was 3-2 with Mason, Sanders and Henderson voting for denial and Cowan and Edwards opposing the denial.

SPENT:

Continued from A7

In October 2020, she paid \$12.84 for Ribbon for Domestic Violence Month Awareness Bows and \$388 for Domestic Violence Awareness T-shirts.

In April 2021, she spent \$88.99 at Walmart for snacks and drinks for witnesses during trial preparation and office supplies.

Annual P-card spending total: \$787.58

Randi Fincher, purchasing director (\$20,000 monthly spending limit):

June 2020: No spending reported.

July 2020: \$765.18 – for various tags renewals for county vehicles.

August 2020: \$13.31 – for tag renewals.

September 2020: \$117.81 – for tag renewals.

October 2020: \$57.40 – for tag renewals.

November 2020: No spending reported.

December 2020: \$25 – membership renewal for Governmental Purchasing Association of Georgia.

January 2021: \$538.09 – \$531 was for NIGP codes from the GPAG; the remaining \$7.09 was for tag renewals.

February 2021: \$632.37 – \$382.37 was for code enforcement uniforms; \$250 was for government training courses and certifications fees for three different employees.

March 2021: \$244.53 – \$225 was for training fees; \$19.53 was for “six chargers for

sheriff.”

April 2021: \$1,764.23 – \$214.23 was for tag renewals; remainder for training courses.

May 2021: \$10.50 – for tag renewals.

There was a \$190 credit which was a refund for a cancelled training class.

June 2021: \$108.65 – tag renewals.

Annual P-card spending total: \$4,277.07

Coming soon, in Part III of a series on P-cards, *The Covington News* will share comments from a few of the county’s P-card holders as they’re given the opportunity to explain their spending habits and address concerns of the community.

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TV:

Continued from A10

Noon, RSN
Georgia Tech at Clemson, 3:30 p.m., ABC or ESPN
Florida State at Wake Forest, 3:30 p.m., ABC or ESPN
• Saturday, Dec. 4
ACC Football Championship Game, TBD, ABC
Charlotte, N.C. – Bank of America Stadium
SEC Football TV Schedule
• Thursday, Sept. 2
Bowling Green at Tennessee, 8 p.m., SECN
• Saturday, Sept. 4
La. Monroe at Kentucky, Noon, SECN
Rice at Arkansas, 2 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+ (Digital)
Alabama vs. Miami (Atlanta), 3:30 p.m., ABC (Chick-fil-A Kickoff)
La. Tech at Miss. State, 4 p.m., ESPN
Central Michigan at Missouri, 4 p.m., SECN
Eastern Illinois at South Carolina, 7 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+
Akron at Auburn, 7 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+
Georgia vs. Clemson (Charlotte), 7:30 p.m., ABC
Florida Atlantic at Florida, 7:30 p.m., SECN
Kent State at Texas A&M, 8 p.m., ESPN
East Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+
LSU at UCLA, 8:30 p.m., FOX
• Monday, Sept. 6
Ole Miss vs. Louisville (Atlanta), 8 p.m. ESPN
• Saturday, Sept. 11
Alabama State at Auburn, Noon, SECN
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, Noon, ESPN
Florida at South Florida, Noon, ABC
South Carolina at East Carolina, Noon, ESPN2
UAB at Georgia, 3:30 p.m., ESPN2
Texas A&M vs Colorado (Denver), 3:30 p.m., FOX
Mercer at Alabama, 4 p.m., SECN
Texas at Arkansas, 7 p.m., ESPN
NC State at Miss. State, 7 p.m., ESPN2 or ESPN
Missouri at Kentucky, 7:30 p.m., SECN
Austin Peay at Ole Miss, 7:30 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+
McNeese State at LSU, 8 p.m., ESPN+/SECN+
• Saturday, Sept. 18
New Mexico at Texas A&M, Noon, SECN
Chattanooga at Kentucky, noon, ESPN+/SECN+
Southeast Missouri at Missouri, Noon, ESPN+/SECN+
Tennessee Tech at Tennessee, Noon, ESPN+/SECN+
Alabama at Florida, 3:30 p.m., CBS
Georgia Southern at Arkansas, 4 p.m., SECN
Miss. State at Memphis, 4 p.m., ESPN2
South Carolina at Georgia, 7 p.m., ESPN
Central Michigan at LSU, 7:30 p.m., SECN
Auburn at Penn State, 7:30 p.m., ABC
Tulane at Ole Miss, 8p.m., ESPN2
Stanford at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., ESPN
• Saturday, Oct. 9
CBS Doubleheader, 3:30 p.m.
CBS Doubleheader, 8 p.m.
• Saturday, Oct. 16
CBS Doubleheader, Noon
CBS Doubleheader, 3:30 p.m.
• Saturday, Oct. 30
Georgia vs Florida (Jacksonville), 3:30 p.m., CBS
• Thursday, Nov. 25
Ole Miss at Mississippi State, 7:30 p.m., ESPN
• Friday, Nov. 26
Missouri at Arkansas, 3:30 p.m., CBS
• Saturday, Dec. 4
SEC Football Championship Game, 4 p.m., CBS

STAR:

Continued from A10

Success didn’t end for Miller once he graduated high school. He took his talents to UNC-Greensboro in Greensboro, North Carolina, while also majoring in Communications.
As a member of the Spartans, Miller made noise.
His 1,410 career points are the 10th most in school history while his 594 made field goals rank him fourth. He even has the program record for the most steals in program history with 241.
Miller concluded his Spartan career averaging 15 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.4 steals and 2.6 assists per game.
His efforts help lead UNC-Greensboro to the 2021 NCAA Tournament.
Just like his high school days, Miller earned many honors as a result of his stellar play in the

Southern Conference (SoCon).
• 2017-18 SoCon All-Freshman
• 2018-19 & 2019-20 SoCon Defensive Player of the Year
• 2018-19 First Team All-SoCon
• 2018-19 SoCon All-Tournament
• 2019-20 SoCon Player of the Year
• 2019-20 First Team All-SoCon
All in all, Miller has had quite the basketball career thus far. Every point, steal, rebound and honor has propelled Miller to achieve the ultimate goal to enter the NBA.
His dream is now reality.
Both high school and college basketball has prepared Miller for the professional level. Now, as a member of the Timberwolves, Miller is off to the NBA to improve upon his basketball craft.

CITY OF PORTERDALE
MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-9, notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, a General Election will be held in the City of Porterdales at 2800 Main Street, Porterdales, Newton, Georgia for the election of the following:

- Council Seat Post 3
- Council Seat Post 4
- Council Seat Post 5

Qualifying will be held at the Porterdales City Hall, 2800 Main Street, Porterdales, Newton County, Georgia. Qualifying dates and times are Monday, August 16, 2021 through Friday August 20, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 4:30 p.m. each day.

The qualifying fee shall be \$72.00.

All persons who are not registered to vote and who desire to register to vote in the general election may register to vote through the close of business on October 4, 2021.

Earliest day for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the General Election is October 11, 2021. The last day to submit absentee ballot application for the November General Election is October 22, 2021.

Advanced In Person (Early) Voting begins for the November General Election on October 12, 2021. The Last Day for early voting on October 29, 2021.

Mandatory Saturday Voting for the November Municipal General Election are October 16, 2021 and October 23, 2021.

Last day to submit absentee ballot application for the November General Election is October 22, 2021.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Should a runoff election be required, such runoff will be held on November 30, 2021.

This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Kathy Boutry
Election Superintendent

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SPORTS

The Covington News

College Football

ACC, SEC announce TV schedules

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

With football season only weeks away, officials with the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Southeastern Conference have released their respective television schedules.

ACC Football TV Schedule

• Thursday, Sept. 2
USF at NC State 7:30 p.m., ACCN

• Friday, Sept. 3
North Carolina at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m., ESPN
Duke at Charlotte, 7 p.m., CBSSN

Old Dominion at Wake Forest, 7 p.m., ACCN

• Saturday, Sept. 4
Colgate at Boston College, Noon, ACCN
Miami vs. Alabama (Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game, Atlanta, Ga.), 3:30 p.m., ABC

UMass at Pitt, 4 p.m., ACCN

Syracuse at Ohio, 7 p.m., CBSSN

Clemson vs. Georgia (Duke's Mayo Classic, Charlotte, N.C.), 7:30 p.m., ABC

Northern Illinois at Georgia Tech, 7:30 p.m., ACCN

William & Mary at Virginia, 7:30 p.m., RSN

• Sunday, Sept. 5
Notre Dame at Florida State, 7:30 p.m., ABC – previously announced

• Monday, Sept. 6

Louisville vs. Ole Miss (Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game, Atlanta, Ga.), 8 p.m., ESPN

• Friday, Sept. 10
North Carolina A&T at Duke, 8 p.m., ACCN

• Saturday, Sept. 11
Boston College at UMass, TBD

Illinois at Virginia, 11 a.m., ACCN

Kennesaw State at Georgia Tech, Noon, RSN

Pitt at Tennessee, Noon, ESPN

Norfolk State at Wake Forest, Noon, ACCNX

Rutgers at Syracuse, 2 p.m., ACCN

Middle Tennessee at Virginia Tech, 2 p.m., ACCNX

South Carolina State at Clemson, 5 p.m., ACCN

Eastern Kentucky at Louisville, 7 p.m., ACCNX

Appalachian State at Miami, 7 p.m., ESPN2 or ESPNU

NC State at Mississippi State, 7 p.m., ESPN2 or ESPNU

Georgia State at North Carolina, 7:30 p.m., RSN

Jacksonville State at Florida State, 8 p.m., ACCN

• Friday, Sept. 17
UCF at Louisville, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

• Saturday, Sept. 18
Boston College at Temple, Noon, ESPN2 or ESPNU

Michigan State at Miami, Noon, ABC or ESPN

Western Michigan at Pitt,

See TV, A9

National Basketball Association



Former Newton basketball star Isaiah Miller is heading to the NBA after being signed by the Minnesota Timberwolves following the 2021 NBA Draft on Thursday. Miller has played at UNC-Greensboro for the last four years.

Special | USA Today

Timberwolves sign former Rams star

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

phubbard@covnews.com

A Newton High School alum was eagerly waiting to hear if his basketball dream came true Thursday night. And it did.

Isaiah Miller was signed by the Minnesota Timberwolves after the National Basketball Association's (NBA) 2021 draft. This is the second straight year that the Timberwolves have signed a former Ram.

The 6-foot, 190-pound point guard enters the league after four years at the University of North

Carolina at Greensboro.

Though his hometown is in New Jersey, Miller was already famous in Covington long before Thursday night.

In his senior season as a Ram, Miller helped lead Newton to a 28-2 record. In the same year, he led the team to the 7A State Quarterfinals, which catapulted them to a No. 4 standings finish in the state of Georgia.

Miller was a Ram for one season during which he averaged 20 points, six rebounds and a little over three steals per con-

test. His first three years of high school were spent at Eastside High School where he averaged 25.3 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.3 steals per game as a junior.

His success on the court led to earning some accolades.

- First-team All-State in 7A North by the Georgia High School Coaches Association
- First team All-Region and All-Metro
- Won the dunk contest at the Underclassman All-America Game

See STAR, A9

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BUSINESS

The Covington News

Study shows Georgia residents have sixth most auto loan debt

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Perhaps no part of daily life changed as much by the COVID-19 pandemic as mobility—how often residents leave their homes and where they go. With stay-at-home orders in effect for large parts of last year, Americans upended their daily routines and, where possible, began working from home, increasing their reliance on delivery services, and avoiding public spaces, including public transportation.

Amid these changes, it wasn’t immediately clear how consumer spending and borrowing would be impacted, especially for cars and trucks. On the one hand, people weren’t traveling for pleasure or commuting to and from work; on the other, individuals that previously relied on public transportation or rideshare increasingly sought to purchase their own vehicles.

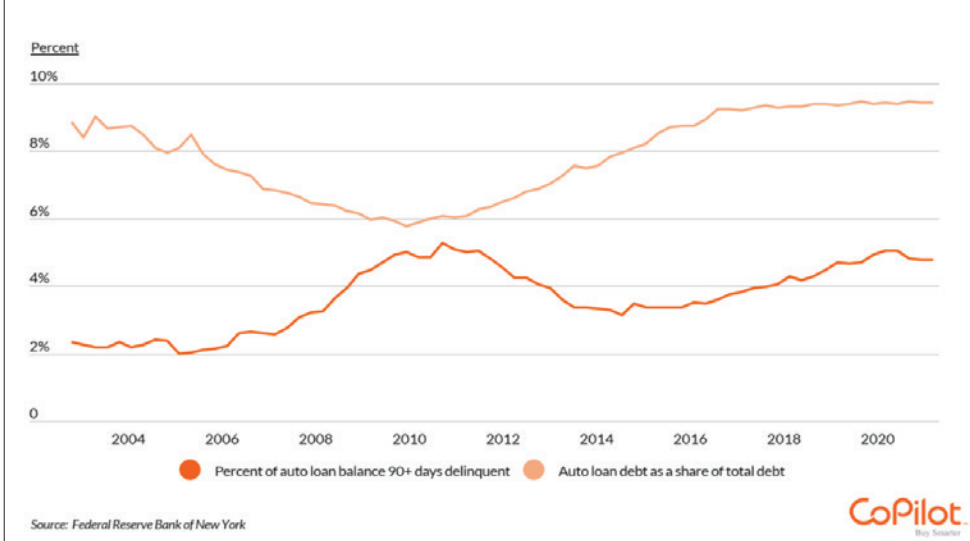
Despite these changes, total auto loan debt continued to grow at the same pace in 2020 as in 2019, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In fact, auto loan debt hit a new record high of \$1.37 trillion last year and now accounts for close to 10% of total household debt.

Fortunately for borrowers, auto lenders were generally as accommodating as credit card and mortgage lenders when granting pandemic forbearances, so the rate of delinquent auto loans, like delinquencies across other loan types, decreased in 2020 after rising for the past half decade.

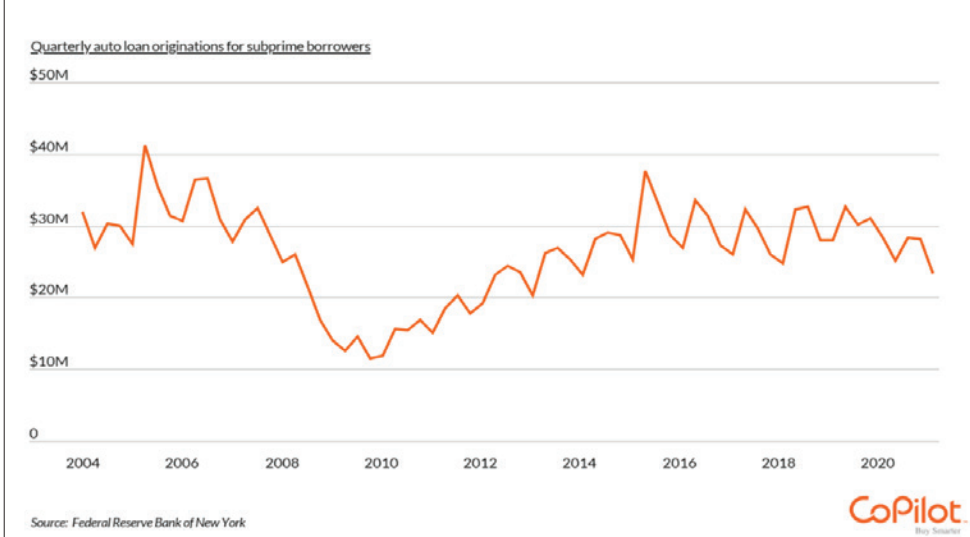
One of the leading reasons for the years-long ascent of auto loan debt and delinquencies has been the steady rise of subprime lending beginning around 2010. Borrowers with the worst credit scores (less than 620) more than doubled the value of new loan originations between 2010 and 2015 to a level that remained relatively stable in the years preceding the pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, however, new dynamics have emerged. Subprime borrowers may still be struggling to make their car payments, but they’re not taking out new loans at the same levels. According to data from the New York Fed and Experian, new subprime loan origina-

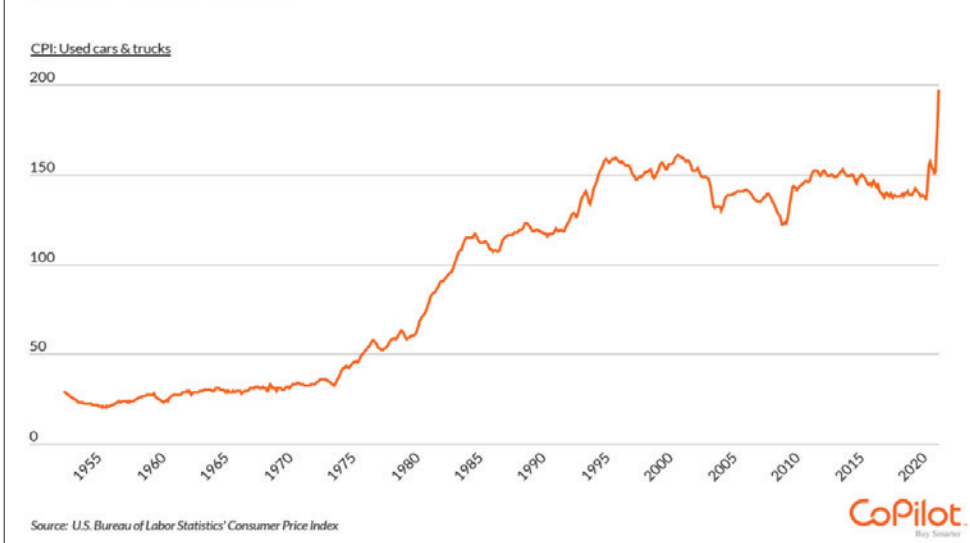
Alongside rising delinquency rates, auto loan debt has grown to account for nearly 10% of total household debt



Increased subprime auto lending helped fuel the rise in delinquencies



For individuals behind on their car payments, now is a great time to sell



tions dropped quickly in 2020, while borrowers with high credit scores—and also young borrowers—made up the difference. Generation Z consumers grew their auto debt by 12% while Millennials accumulated 6% more vehicle loan debt in 2020 than 2019.

Another factor that changed dramatically in the midst of the pandemic was used car prices. The Consumer Price Index for used vehicles had been steadily declining since the end of 2013 until July 2020, when it began to skyrocket. In just over a year, used car prices increased by 45%, including record spikes of 10% and 10.5% month-over-month in April and June 2021.

For borrowers struggling with their auto loan debt or lease payment, there likely hasn’t been a better

time to sell a vehicle and cash in on the high used car prices. The average used car was worth about \$5,000 more in July than in the spring, according to the CarGurus Index. The one catch for potential sellers? Record low inventory of both new and used vehicles means that finding a replacement won’t be easy.

To find out where borrowers are having the hardest time paying their auto loans, researchers at CoPilot analyzed data from the New York Fed and Experian, then ranked states by the percentage of auto loans that were at least 90 days delinquent at the end of 2020. Researchers also reported the percentage of total household debt accounted for by auto loans, total auto loans per capita, and the average credit score in

each state.

The analysis found that the overall auto loan delinquency rate in Georgia is 6.08%, compared to 4.76% at the national level. Out of all states, Georgia has the sixth most auto loan debt. Here is a summary of the data for Georgia:

- Auto loan delinquency rate: 6.08%
 - Auto loans as a share of total debt: 11.24%
 - Total auto loan debt per capita: \$5,750
 - Average credit score: 689
- For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:
- Auto loan delinquency rate: 4.76%
 - Auto loans as a share of total debt: 9.45%
 - Total auto loan debt per capita: \$4,960
 - Average credit score: 710



Special Photo

John Lee Peterson Jr. recently opened a Brightway Insurance location in Conyers, offering a variety of coverage options.

Newton resident opens insurance agency

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Newton County resident and veteran businessman John Lee Peterson Jr. has opened Brightway, The Peterson Family Agency, in Conyers.



John Lee Peterson Jr.

The Agency is located at 2047 Gee Mill Road Northeast, Suite 214, in Conyers near the intersection of Gees Mill Road Northeast and Gees Mill Business Parkway Northeast.

“I’m so excited by the opening of my Brightway business,” said Peterson. “I look forward to providing my friends, family and community with the best Auto, Business, Homeowners and other insurance products. I will always stride to provide the best service that Brightway Insurance offers.”

Peterson comes to Brightway with more than 35 years’ experience in insurance and business management.

He earned Bachelor of Science in Human Services, Master of Science in Special Education and Master of Science in Educational Leadership degrees from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

He also earned a Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida.

Peterson served 13 years in the Army. He had served 28 years as an educator and administrator in both the public and private school setting. He is married with seven children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As a Brightway Agency owner, he looks forward to providing quality insurance options to his community.

“Dr. Peterson comes to Brightway with a wealth of industry experience, and, as a family based business, we are really happy to see him open his family run agency in Conyers,” said Brightway President and CEO Michael Miller. “With the holistic business support we provide and relationships we have with many insurance brands, I am confident he will quickly become a trusted source who the community looks to for expert counsel for all their insurance needs.”

Brightway, The Peterson Family Agency offers customized Home, Flood, Auto, Boat, Condo, Renters, Personal Articles, RV, Motorcycle and Umbrella insurance policies from numerous insurance brands including Aegis, Appalachian Underwriters, Bristol West, Foremost, Hagerty, Nationwide, Safeco, Tapco, Tower Hill Specialty, TypTap and many more. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT) and Saturday/Sunday by appointment.

Brightway’s corporate office staff provides expertise and support in areas including Customer Service, Technology, Accounting, Marketing, Distribution, Business Analytics, Carrier Appointments, Licensing, Training, Hiring and Retaining personnel. The company’s signature after-the-sale service empowers Agency Owners, like Peterson, to focus on new business sales and provides customers the personalized service they deserve.

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CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GEORGIA LAW 40-11-2:
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AT Insurance Auto Auction 125 Old Hwy 138 Loganville, GA 30052-4814 AND ARE PRESENTLY STORED AT SAID LOCATION. IF NOT CLAIMED, THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON 08/27/21 10:00 AM

YEAR MAKE Model Color
VIN No

2007 LEXUS IS 250
JTHBK262972028173

2000 HONDA Accord
1HGCG564XYA125966

2004 LINCOLN Navigator
5LMFU27R04LJ20876

2014 NISSAN Altima
1N4AL3AP0EC123267

2016 YAMAHA FZ07
JYARMO6E6GA010045

2008 TOYOTA Camry
4T4BE46KX8R020837

2016 NISSAN Altima
1N4AL3AP6GC264153

2005 NISSAN Maxima
1N4BA41E15C843529

2010 NISSAN Maxima
1N4AA5AP7AC810693

PUBLIC NOTICE #200628
8/1,8

Bids

COVINGTON SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL

THE CITY of Covington (City) is requesting qualifications and proposal from qualified firms to provide engineering services related to utility relocation and/or replacement, landscaping, and hardscaping of the City's Downtown Square.

FOR MORE information contact Tres Thomas at tthomas@cityofcovington.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200585
7/18,25-8/1,8

WATER AND SEWER TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARD DETAIL UPDATES REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING PROPOSAL

THE CITY of Covington (City) is requesting a proposal from qualified firms to provide engineering services related to updating the City's water and sewer technical specifications and standard details to meet current industry standards.

FOR MORE information contact Tres Thomas at tthomas@cityofcovington.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200612
7/25-8/1

Citations

CITATION

TO: DEREK MAYWEATHER

TRENT ADAMS has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) **MYA MOODY** minor(s). All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before AUGUST 18th, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: DANYELL Thomas, Clerk
Probate Court, Newton, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY Probate Court
1132 USHER Street, RM 148
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200633
8/1,8

CITATION

TO: TO UNKNOWN FATHER & ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

CRYSTAL FRIESON has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) **ADIOR STAYS** minor(s). All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before AUGUST 18th, at ten o'clock,

Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Run your classified ad in 124+ Georgia newspapers
reaching over 1 million readers for only \$350

Call Georgia Newspaper Service - 770-454-6776

HEALTHCARE

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

HEARING AIDS!! Buy one/get one FREE! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45-day money back guarantee! 866-395-1310

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+ filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help you get approved! No money out of pocket! Call 1-855-513-8730.

Attention Oxygen Users: THE NEW INOGEN ONEG5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24 hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a Free Info Kit today: 855-968-2718.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. Easy, One Day updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 866-286-5461.

Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-866-971-9196.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-735-0477.

MISCELLANEOUS

COMPUTER ISSUES? Free Diagnosis by Geeks On Site! Virus removal, data recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 off any service with coupon 425221 Restrictions apply 844-739-4842.

Need IRS Relief \$10K - \$125K+ Great Fresh Start or Forgiveness Call 1-855-558-2664. Monday – Friday 7AM - 5PM PST.

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 855-399-5797

INVENTORS – FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE. Have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufacturers. Call 1-844-656-1522 for a Free Idea Starter Guide. Submit your idea for a free consultation.

Cash for Cars! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled—It doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! 833-882-3437.

Donate your car to charity. Receive the maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All Conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details 866-994-1146.

PROBLEM CREDIT REPORT? Lexington Law helps work to challenge inaccurate negative items including: Identity theft, collections, late payments, liens, and more from your credit report. Call for a free consultation 877-250-3937

TV/INTERNET

DISH NETWORK. \$64.99 FOR 190 channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-866-369-1468.

Cable Price Increase Again? Switch to DIRECTV & Save + get a \$100 visa gift card! Get more channels for less money. Restrictions apply. Call now 844-973-0639.

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low as \$49.95/month. (for the first 3 months) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-844-510-9951.

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 855-808-6843.

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included. Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 7/21/21. 1-877-740-8994.

DIRECTV – Every live football game, every Sunday – anywhere – on your favorite device. Restrictions apply. Call IVS- 1-888-505-3785

AT & T INTERNET. Starting at \$40/month w/12 –mo. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get more for your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and save! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-888-581-6815

VACATION RENTALS

Advertise Your Vacation Property to more than 1 million Georgia newspaper readers. Your 25 word classified ad will appear in over 100 Georgia papers for \$350. Call Jennifer @ Georgia Newspaper Service, 770-454-6776

GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR 12 days, departs May - Sep 2022 1-888-498-0222 promo code N7017 YMT Vacations. * Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 9/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.



CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for a **Ground Operations Technician** in the **Airport Department** with a starting hourly rate of \$14.57 to a maximum hourly rate of \$21.39 depending upon qualifications. This position assists in the day-to-day operations and duties associated with the safety, operations, maintenance and security of the City of Covington's Municipal Airport. The employee in this position may be called to respond to emergencies, and must be able to work overtime, including nights and weekends, as required. Minimum education and experience include a High School Diploma or GED equivalent, a valid Driver's License, three years of experience in ground and facilities maintenance and operations, or any combination of equivalent education and experience. Experience in aviation fuel storage and dispensing is highly desirable. Qualified applicants can download an application packet at cityofcovington.org or may apply in person at Covington City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until 4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

a.m.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: DANYELL Thomas, Clerk
Probate Court, Newton, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY Probate Court
1132 USHER Street, RM 148
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200634
8/1,8

Debtors Creditors

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **Penny Lynn Carter**, late of 117 Sidney Lanier Dr. Oxford, GA, Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, a full itemized statement of their claims and of securities held by them to: **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:** Stephen L. Lott Personal Representative's Address: 6215 HWY 278 NW #142, Covington, GA 30014 This 18th

THIS 18TH day of June, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200607
7/25-8/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **BETTYE GRIER**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of JULY, 2021.

RASHONDA SHONDELL JACKSON
3179 TARIAN DR
DECATUR GA 30034

PUBLIC NOTICE #200641
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CARLIE BELCHER**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 23RD day of JULY, 2021.

MARION DRISKELL
40 APPIA WAY
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE # 200636
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CHARLIE JASPER BELL** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 1ST day of JULY 2021.

JERRY BELL
600 WINDERMERE DR
LOGANVILLE, GA 30052

PUBLIC NOTICE #200568
7/11,18,25-8/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CLARA SHEPHERD**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to

law.

THIS THE 23RD day of JULY, 2021.

EARNEST SHEPHERD
10127 LAKEVIEW DR S.W
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200638
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **COTIS D. WEAVER**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of JULY, 2021.

VASHOFANA BAHT-EL
549 CHAUCER WAY
STOCKBRIDGE GA 30281

PUBLIC NOTICE #200643
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS


NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **FREDERICK R. LOVELL** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 30TH day of JUNE 2021.

WESLEY FOUNTAIN
13664 BROWN BRIDGE RD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200569
7/11,18,25-8/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **HARVEY LEE MCCULLERS, JR.**., deceased, late of Newton



ATTENTION


DO YOU LIKE TO DRIVE?

Do you have reliable transportation, a valid driver's license/insurance and are 18 years or older?

Does working early mornings a few hours for 2 days sound nice?

Would you like to make extra money as an independent part-time contractor?

Then a Newspaper Carrier position would be perfect for YOU!!



For more information, contact Circulation Department at 770-787-6397 or come by The Covington News located at 1166 Usher Street, Covington, GA 30014 Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 23RD day of JULY, 2021.

SHARA LYNN GREER
25 BRIAR PATCH RD
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200639
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **JAMES MADDOX**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 23RD day of JULY, 2021.

VICKI MADDOX
10105 N. DINAH CIR
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200637
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **JEFFREY KEITH MITCHELL**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 27TH day of JULY, 2021

BRIDGET L. MITCHELL
30 MILLERS LANE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200635
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **JUDY P. ALLEN**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 7TH day of JULY, 2021.

CLARENCE S. ALLEN
211 MCDONALD RD
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200591
7/18,25-8/1,8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **MYCELLA MCPHERSON**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of JULY, 2021.

MANUEL REID
125 SUMMER WALK DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200642
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **NAKOSHA M. DAVIS**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 27TH day of JULY, 2021

FRIEDA DAVIS
4255 MOUNT READ BLVD
ROCHESTER, NY 14616

PUBLIC NOTICE #200644
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the

debtors and creditors of the Estate of **ODESSIE FINAZZO**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 8TH day of JULY, 2021.

SUSAN F. FINAZZO
55 COHUTTA DR
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200592
7/18,25-8/1,8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **RONALD STEVEN COGGIN**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of JULY, 2021.

KAY COGGIN
1500 RIVER COVE RD

PUBLIC NOTICE #200640
8/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **VIRGINIA W. WIGGINS**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 29TH day of December, 2020.

JACQUELYN BROOKS
190 QUEENSLAND Lane
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117781
7/18,25-8/1,8

Divorces

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF
GEORGIA**

JOYCELYN SAUL,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
ALEXANDER C. JACK
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION NO.:
SUCV2021000-971-4

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IT APPEARING by Affidavit, that the above named defendant on whom service is to be made in this case resides out of State, or has departed from the State, or cannot after due diligence, be found within the state, or conceals himself or herself to avoid service of the Summons, and it further appearing, either by Affidavit or by verified Complaint on file, that a claim exists against the Respondent in respect to whom service is made, and that he or she is a necessary or proper party to the action.
IT IS hereby considered, ordered, and decreed that service be made by **PUBLICATION AS** provided by law.

SO ORDERED, this 14th day of July

PUBLIC NOTICE #200611
7/25-8/1,8,15

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GERORGIA**

CLEOPATRA MCKENZIE
PLAINTIFF
V.
DELROY WILSON
DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2021-CV-1486-1

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

See LEGALS, B3

LEGALS:

Continued from B2

TO:
DELROY WILSON
GEORGE REID MANDEVILLE
MANCHERSTER, JAMACIA

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated JULY 14 2021 you are hereby notified that on 6-25-21 (date of filing) CLEOPATRA MCKENZIE (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

YOU ARE required to file an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for publication with the clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if prose) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented).

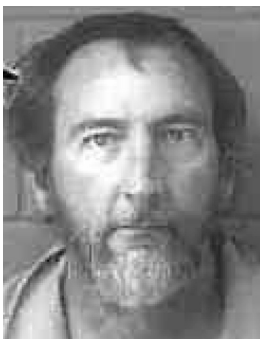
WITNESS THE Honorable JEFFREY L. FOSTER Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 14th day of JULY 2021.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior

PUBLIC NOTICE #200610
7/25-8/1,8,15

DUI - Second

SECOND/SUBSEQUENT DUI CONVICTION



NAME: JIMMY DOUGLAS LITTLE
ADDRESS 52 MOSS RD,
COVINGTON GA 30014

DATE OF ARREST: FEBRUARY 3,
2021

DATE OF OFFENSE: FEBRUARY 3,
2021

TIME OF OFFENSE 9:58PM PLACE
OF OFFENSE: HAMPTON COURT
DISPOSITION: PLEA OF GUILTY-
DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED TO
A TOTAL OF24 MONTHS W/ THE
FIRST 5 DAYS TO BE SERVED
IN THE NEWTON COUNTY JAIL
AND THE REMAINDER TO BE
SERVED ON PROBATION -
\$1,250.00 IN FINES PLUS ALL
APPLICABLE STATUTORY FEES
AND SURCHARGES- DEFENDANT
SHALL PERFORM 40 HOURS OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE & STAY
AWAY FROM 265 HAMPTON
COURT & SHALL ATTEND
AND COMPLETE A DUI RISK
REDUCTION COURSE
SENTENCE DATE: JULY 8, 2021
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON
COUNTY, GEORGIA

PUBLIC NOTICE #200629
8/1

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
IN
DEED TO SECURE DEBT

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of that
Power of Sale contained in a certain
Deed to Secure Debt from **CAROL**
DENISE HOUSE in favor of W.D.
BALLARD and NANCY MOCK dated
May 2, 2011 and recorded at Deed
Book 2905, pages 449-450, Public
Records, Newton County, Georgia,
the undersigned, W.D. BALLARD and
NANCY MOCK, as Attorney in Fact
for CAROL DENISE HOUSE, will sell
at public outcry to the highest bidder
for cash before the Courthouse door
in Newton County, Georgia, during
the legal hours of sale, on the first
(1st) Tuesday in August, 2021,
namely August 3, 2021, the following
described property to-wit:

ALL THAT TRACT or parcel of
land lying and being in the County
of Newton, State of Georgia, City
of Covington, and being more
particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING AT a point on the West
right of way line of Cook Street
136.06 feet North of the intersection
of the West right of way line of Cook
Street and the North right of way
line of Newton Drive; thence running
South 84 degrees 45 minutes 21
seconds West 151.82 feet to a point;
thence North 3 degrees 18 minutes
28 seconds West 129.50 feet to a
point; thence North 84 degrees 52
minutes 38 seconds East 157.70
feet to a fence post corner on the
West side of Cook Street; thence
South 00 degrees 42 minutes 02
seconds 129.50 feet Est to the Point
of Beginning, as per survey prepared
by Tru-Line Surveying, Inc. for Brian
A. Kinsey and Tara Kinsey, dated
September 2, 2006 and being the
Seal of W.E. Clonts, GRLS No. 2166.
SAID PROPERTY being known
as **5123 Cook Street, Covington,**
Georgia in accordance with the
present system of numbering
properties in Newton County,
Georgia.

TAX MAP and Parcel No.:
C008000010006000
THE DEED to Secure Debt herein
foreclosed securing a Purchase
Money Promissory Note dated May
2, 2011, in the original, principal
amount of \$90,000.00. The debt
secured by said Deed to Secure
Debt being in default by, among other
possible events of default, failure to
pay said indebtedness as the same
fell due, and the debt secured by said
Deed to Secure Debt and evidenced

by said Note has been and is hereby
declared due and payable in full
because of said default. This sale will
be made for the purpose of paying
the remaining principal indebtedness
and accrued interest as accelerated.
The proceeds thereof will be applied
to the payment of said indebtedness
and all charges and expenses in
connection with said foreclosure
in accordance with the terms of
said Deed to Secure Debt and the
balance, if any, will be applied as
provided by law.

SAID PROPERTY
will be sold as the property of
CAROL DENISE HOUSE, subject
to any outstanding and unpaid real
estate taxes (ad valorem taxes) or
assessments, street improvements,
easements, restrictive covenants,
and any and all other assessments
appearing of record, if any.

NOTICE HAS been given in
accordance with O.C.G.A. Section
44-14-162.2.

NOTICE WAS also given in
accordance with O.C.G.A. Section
13-1-11 of intention to collect
attorney's fees.

THE UNDERSIGNED will execute
a Deed Under Power of Sale to the
Purchaser at sale as attorney-in-
fact for CAROL DENISE HOUSE,
as provided in the Deed to Secure
Debt herein foreclosed, and Georgia
Law.

THE PROPERTY is or may be in
the possession of CAROL DENISE
HOUSE, successors or tenants.

THE DEED to Secure Debt herein
foreclosed is a purchase money deed
to secure debt securing a purchase
money promissory note.

RICKY MOCK is the person who has
full authority to negotiate, amend,
and modify all terms of the mortgage
with the debtor. His address is 1175
Cook Road, Covington, Georgia
30014 and his telephone number is
770-597-4525. In addition, he can
provide a current payoff amount for a
day certain at any time.

NANCY MOCK as Attorney-in-Fact
for CAROL DENISE HOUSE
BY:DAVID A. Henderson*

ATTORNEY AT Law

6169 ADAMS Street, NE

Covington, Georgia 30014
(770) 787-2946

***THE LAW FIRM** IS ACTING
AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY
INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE
USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
FILE NO.: 21-274(N)

PUBLIC NOTICE #200556
7/11,18,21-8/1

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of
CAMRON MAURICE MCCOLLUM
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File
2021-CV-1538-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

CAMRON MAURICE MCCOLLUM
filed a petition in the Newton County
Superior Court on JULY 1, 2021 to
change the name from **CAMRON**
MAURICE MCCOLLUM to **Asé**
KAM'RON KNIGHT Any interested
party has the right to appear in this
case and file objections within 30
days after the Petition was filed
DATE: 7/1/21

CAMRON MAURICE MCCOLLUM
25 PINEVALLEY LANE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200575
7/11,18,25-8/1

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of
CRISTIAN GODIREZ
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File
2021-CV-1610-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

CRISTIAN GODIREZ filed a petition
in the Newton County Superior Court
on JULY 13, 2021 to change the
name from **CRISTIAN GODIREZ** to
KYLIE YOUNG Any interested party
has the right to appear in this case
and file objections within 30 days
after the Petition was filed
DATE: 7/13/21

CRISTIAN GODINEZ
130 SPRING LAKE TERRACE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200609
7/25-8/1,8,15

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of
MAYRA MONICA BANDA
MARTINEZ
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File
2021-CV-11530-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO

CLUES ACROSS

1. Language group with Iranian influence
5. No seats available
8. Health insurance organization
11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
13. Defunct European economic organization
14. Dutch word for "language"
15. Hard to penetrate
16. When you'll get there
17. Iranian city
18. Small fishes
20. Dry white wine drink
21. Turkish city
22. U.S.-born people
25. Synthetic resin
30. Major nerve in human body
31. Type of recording
32. Small drum
33. Alters
38. General's assistant (abbr.)
41. Venezuelan capital
43. Free of deceit
45. Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
48. Competition
49. Launch an attack on
50. Cavalry sword
55. Spiritual leader
56. One point east of due south
57. Afflicted
59. Database management system
60. Snake-like fish
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Small drink
63. Not wet
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Father
2. Performed perfectly
3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
4. Thin, compact object
5. One attempting to find something
6. No longer working
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Book of Genesis character
9. Volcanic craters

CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

MAYRA MONICA BANDA
MARTINEZ filed a petition in the
Newton County Superior Court on
JUNE 30, 2021 to change the name
from **MAYRA MONICA BANDA**
MARTINEZ to **PALOMA ITZEL**
BANDA Any interested party has the
right to appear in this case and file
objections within 30 days after the
Petition was filed
DATE: 6/30/21

MAYRA MONICA BANDA
MARTINEZ
35 AUSTIN TERRACES
PORTERDALE, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200574
7/11,18,25-8/1

Public Hearings

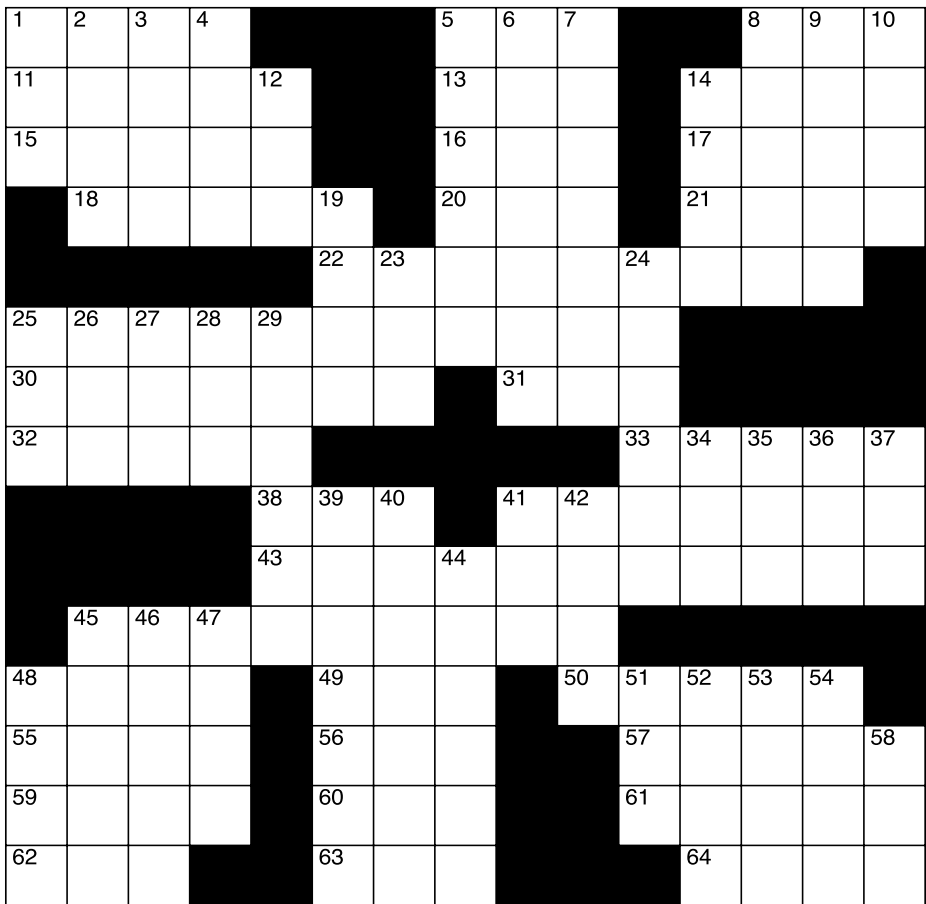
APPEAL TO DECISION OF BOARD
OF ZONING APPEALS
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A PETITION (APP21-000002)
HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE
NEWTON COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS FOR AN
APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF
ZONING APPEALS DECISION
PERTAINING TO THE DENIAL OF
PETITION (VAR21-000009) FOR
THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO:
WALT O FREEMAN
WHOSE SUBJECT PROPERTY
ADDRESS/LOCATION IS 325
MOUNTAINVIEW DR CONTAINING
APPROXIMATELY 0.6 ACRES
BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCEL
47C 044.
APPLICANT IS REQUESTING
A VARIANCE TO: ALLOW AN
ACCESSORY STRUCTURE TO
BE LOCATED IN THE FRONT
YARD IN THE R2 (SINGLE FAMILY
RESIDENTIAL) ZONING DISTRICT.
SEC 510-020 (A)(2) THE BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE:
17TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2021 AT
7:30 P.M.
THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD
IN THE NEWTON COUNTY
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 3RD
FLOOR BOARDROOM, THOSE
HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS
PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THIS
MEETING.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200630
8/1

CITY OF COVINGTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS hereby given, per
the City of Covington's Code of
Ordinances Chapter 16.12 that the
below application was submitted
for consideration by the Covington
Board of Adjustments and Appeals
on the following application/property:
A. VARIANCE: PAV21-
0005:
REQUEST: VARIANCE to design
standards/roof pitch
PROPOSED PARCEL to be affected:
HWY 278
TAX MAP Parcel Number: C081 072
OWNER/APPLICANT: MARTINS
Surround, LLC/Phil Carson
THE BOARD of Adjustments and
Appeals will conduct a public hearing

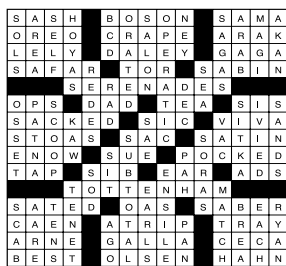


10. Brand of American automobile (slang)
12. Hip hop icon Kool Moe _
14. Bangladeshi monetary unit
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of genes
24. Et _; indicates further
25. Pacific Standard Time
26. S. American wood sorrel
27. Women's _ movement
28. Chinese hoopster Ming
29. Layers of rock
34. Patriotic women's group
35. Solid water
36. Shade of brown
37. Very fast airplane
39. Put clothes on
40. Quality of one's character

41. Time zone
42. Primates
44. Pleasantly
45. Metrical feet
46. Rogue
47. German river

48. Relieves from
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Those who resist authority
58. Criticize

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



ATTORNEY,
ALCOVY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.

ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED
ONE DOLLARS AND 00/100 CENTS
(\$1,201.00) IN U.S. CURRENCY
DEFENDANT IN REM.

RE: RICHARD DARNELL BELL
PURPORTED OWNER

ORDER OF DISTRIBUTION

UNDER THE application of the
Honorable Layla H. Zon, District
Attorney for the Alcovy Judicial
Circuit for an Order of Distribution
of the forfeited property pursuant to
the provisions of O.C.G.A. §16-13-49(u)
(4)(C), the Court orders as follows:
L.THE ONE Thousand Two Hundred
Dollars and 00/100 cents (\$1,201.00)
in U.S.CW Tency
(HEREAFTER "THE defendant
property") has been forfeited herein
to the State of Georgia.

2.THE DEFENDANT property shall
pooled together (hereinafter "the
pool") for distribution and the pool be
distributed in the manner hereinafter
appearing:

A. THAT Eighty Dollars
(\$80.00) for court costs due to the
Clerk of Superior Court of Newton
County, shall be paid from the
proceeds;
B. THAT ninety Dollars
(\$90.00) for publication costs shall
be paid to the Covington News;
C. FROM the
balance remaining, ten percent (1
0%) thereof shall be paid to the
Office of the District Attorney for the
Alcovy Judicial Circuit to provide for
payment of any and all necessary
expenses for the operation of that
office, in addition to any other
expenses paid by the County to the
District Attorney's Office;

D. THE balance
shall be distributed to the governing
authority of the city of Covington to
then be immediately passed through
to the Covington Police Department
to be used for official law enforcement
purposes pursuant to the provisions
of O.C.G.A. §16-13-49(u)(4)(D).

SO ORDERED this 1st day of
October, 2012.
MARIE E. GREENE Assistant
District Attorney Georgia Bar No.
538751

ALCOVY JUDICIAL Circuit
WALTON COUNTY Judicial Center
303 SOUTH Hammond Drive- Suite
334
MONROE, GA 30655
(770) 267-1548

PUBLIC NOTICE #200614
7/25-8/1

Public Sales Auctions

PUBLIC SALE AUCTION

KING'S 24 Hour Towing and Repair
LLC
3195 HWY 81 South
COVINGTON, GA 30016
PH.770-787-6243
8/14/2021 @ 10:00 AM

1978 FORD BRONCO
H0062HGD22263
2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS

3G5DA03L56S602454
2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER
1G1JF52F647163842
2018 VOLKSWAGON TIGUAN
3VV1B7AX6JM009952
2006 C H E V R O L E T
TRAILBLAZER
1GNDS13S662172360
1998 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BF22K8WU050403
2010 BMW 3SERIES
WBAWR3C54AP463225
2000 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
1GCEG15W8Y1102219
1998 FORD EXPEDITION
1FMFU18L2WLB84304
2013 DODGE AVENGER
1C3CDZABXDN702894
2003 KIA SEDONA
KNDUP131736373433
1997 LINCOLN TOWN CAR
1NLML81W7VY653769
2006 HYUNDAI SONATA
5NPEU46F2DH014412
1999 FORD RANGER
1FTYR14XXPB050006
2008 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCP368X8A054534

PUBLIC NOTICE #200613
7/25-8/1

Trade Names

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF NEWTON

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby
certifies that they are conducting a
business in the City of Covington
County of Newton, State of Georgia
under the name of: Chipotle Mexican
Grill #3913 and that the nature of
the business is Fast Casual Mexican
Restaurant and that said business is
composed of the following:
(LIMITED LIABILITY) Business
address: Chipotle Mexican Grill of
Colorado, LLC
610 NEWPORT Center Drive
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660

THIS AFFIDAVIT is made in
compliance with Georgia Code
Annotated Title 10 Chapter 1 Section
490.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200608
8/1,8

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that
JODASAPH LLC, whose address
is 2131 STALLING STREET SUITE
2358 COVINGTON GA 30014 and the
owner(s) of the certain business now
being carried on at 2131 STALLING
STREET SUITE 2358 COVINGTON
GA 30014 in the following trade name,
to-wit: ON POINTE CONSULTANTS
that the nature of said business
is: BUSINESS COACHING This
statement is made in conformity with
O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring
the filing of such statement with the
Clerk of Superior Court of this county.
THIS THE 14TH day of JULY , 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200606
7/25-8/1

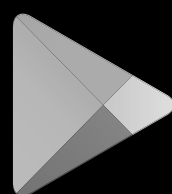
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