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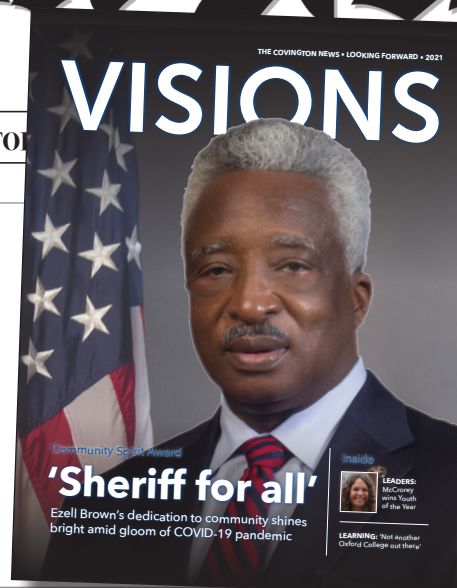
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His Word

Let nothing be done
through strife or vain-
glory; but in lowliness of
mind let each esteem
other better than them-
selves.

Philippians 2:3, KJV

City of Covington



File | The Covington News

Covington will host its annual Fourth of July celebration with a fireworks show downtown but without a festival.

FIREWORKS SHOW IS ON

City's Fourth of July event stays
downtown despite other options

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Fourth of July will appear closer to normal in Newton County this year.

After nearly 45 minutes of discussion Monday night, the Covington City Council opted to host its annual Independence Day event where it has always been — the Town Square.

Officials weighed the pros and cons of a Fourth of July fireworks show being held at the Covington Town Center site versus the Square. In the end, tradition won the day as the council voted to approve hosting the fireworks show “as we always have,” minus the usual festival and food vendors.

Five total motions were made, in which the council only voted on two to reach a consensus.

Councilwoman Fleeta Baggett first motioned to move the event to the Covington Town Center. When factoring in the potential crowd size and trying to reinforce the need to socially distance, the councilwoman said the new location was “our best option.”

If held at the Town Center, Community Development Coordinator Trey Sanders said the plan was to shoot fireworks from City Pond Park north of the Town Center, but there were two obstacles that would come with the location.

The first issue was parking and identifying the best location for spectators to watch from. Sanders said there could be construction taking place

See **FIREWORKS, A3**

Newton County Schools

District recognizes STAR students, staff



Newton County Schools

From left are Alcovy High STAR Student Logan Dobar and STAR Teacher Ryan Allred; Eastside and NCSS STAR Student Joyce Li and STAR Teacher Eric Adams; and Newton High STAR Student Russell Danilchuk and STAR Teacher Joshua Cook.

Winners have top SAT scores, among top 10% in their classes

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County School System has announced its district and school-level 2021 STAR Students and STAR Teachers.

Joyce Li, a senior at Eastside High School, earned the school system's Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Student award after winning Eastside's award.

High school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the SAT national college entrance exam in their school to earn a school-level STAR award. They must also be in the top 10% or top 10 students of

their class based on grade point average, a news release stated.

Winners then can choose a teacher they want to honor as their STAR Teacher.

With her score of 1460 on the SAT, Li earned the Newton County School System's 2021 STAR Student award because she earned the highest SAT score in the district. She chose Latin teacher Eric Adams as her STAR Teacher, the release stated.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation sponsors the program statewide.

District winners are eligible to move on to the program's regional and statewide competi-

tions.

Newton County School System's three high school STAR Students and STAR Teachers are:

- **ALCOVY HIGH SCHOOL** — Logan Dobar and Ryan Allred.

Logan Dobar is a senior at Alcovy High School and a Dual Enrollment student at Georgia State University's Perimeter College, the release stated.

He also attended the NCCA STEM Institute.

Dobar is Alcovy High School's 2021 STAR Student after scoring a very impressive

See **STAR, A5**

Board of Commissioners

Newton government begins search for staff attorney

New hire to replace law firm used since 2015 in effort to lower county's legal expenses

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton commissioners are seeking applicants for an in-house staff attorney position the county chairman proposed last year to lower the government's legal fees.

The Board of Commissioners has set a May 7 deadline for applications for the job now held by the Forsyth County-based Jarrard and Davis law firm that Newton County has used for its legal work since 2015.

It began advertising for the new staff attorney position earlier this month.

An ad for the position on the county's website does not specify a pay range. However, the county's preliminary 2022 budget proposes \$600,000 for “legal services” and a prior plan for the position included establishment of a new county law department.

The Board wants applicants to have “significant local government experience, with an emphasis on

economic development, real estate, land use matters, contracts, and employment law or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job,” an ad states.

It is seeking someone with a Juris Doctorate degree supplemented with 10 years “of experience in the field.” The person must be a licensed attorney and “possess and maintain Active Member in Good Standing licensure

status with the Georgia State Bar Association.”

The attorney will advise the Board of Commissioners, county manager, county department heads, constitutional officers, elected officials, local government agencies and commissions “regarding all legal matters”; give them information on local, state and federal laws and ordinances; advise them on case law; give legal opinions; and represent “the legal interest of the County in accordance with state laws and rules of

professional conduct.”

Numerous other duties to advise county officials and represent the county in legal proceedings also are listed.

Chairman Marcello Banes first proposed establishing an in-house law department that includes county employees last summer to save money on the government's legal bills he said were significantly higher than most other Metro Atlanta counties.

Newton County govern-

See **ATTORNEY, A3**



Board of Commissioners

Newton board approves transfer of \$50,000 to coroner's budget

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — County commissioners Tuesday voted to give \$50,000 to the coroner's office months after a controversial presentation some perceived as threatening to divulge incriminatory information if they did not approve the money. County Manager Lloyd Kerr said the Newton County Board of Commissioners had voted in January to give the money to Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts for equipment for a new office after she complained the existing space in the Historic Courthouse was inadequate. "We just had not done the transfer yet," Kerr said. "This is money in addition to her budget."

Finance Director Brittany White told commissioners Tuesday she was moving the money from the county's Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) ac-

count to the coroner's budget. She said she anticipated the county would collect enough future LOST proceeds to replace the transferred money.

"LOST collections have trended a little higher than what we budgeted so I feel confident that we will have enough money to increase our revenues slightly," White said.

The Board voted Jan. 19 to give the extra funds to the coroner after she complained about the condition of the county morgue and office equipment, which included outdated laptop computers and other hardware.

Bailey-Butts, who is a registered nurse, told the board past holders of the part-time office also had been mortu-



Dorothea Bailey-Butts

cians able to use the funeral homes where they worked to perform job functions and store records and equipment.

In a sometimes rant-filled presentation to the board, Bailey-Butts also had waved an envelope she claimed contained information that "would shut Covington down." She later said it was her personal property and not subject to public disclosure.

Kerr in February asked a state agency to consider removing Bailey-Butts from office because of accusations made about her work since taking office Jan. 1. The agency said it could not legally take action unless she had gone through required training.

White said previous coroner Tommy Davis' term ended at the end of the calendar year on Dec. 31 but halfway through the budget year — which runs July 1 to

See **BUDGET, A5**

Newton County

Chairman, Probate judge appeal court ruling denying back pay

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Two top government officials will appeal an Athens judge's recent order that the county correctly calculated their salaries and does not owe them hundreds of thousands in back pay since 2017.

Chairman Marcello Banes and Probate Judge Melanie Bell filed a notice of appeal the day after the April 18 order by Senior Judge David Sweat of Athens in Newton County Superior Court.

Sweat said in the order that the county government paid the correct salary amounts to Banes and Bell in the four years between 2017 and 2020.

The county correctly paid the salaries based on calculations set in local legislation — state law written specifically for Newton County — approved in 1981 and 1994, Sweat's order stated.

He also denied their claims for attorneys fees and litigation costs.

Banes, who is chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, and Bell claimed in September 2020 that miscalculation of their pay over four years meant the county government owed them each more than \$180,000 in back pay.

Their attorney, Stephanie Lindsey, said the chairman and judge should have received salary increases



Marcello Banes



Melanie Bell

based on the highest minimum annual salary of any "county officer," defined as the tax commissioner, sheriff, clerk of courts, Probate Court judge and county chairman.

Lindsey said the county used the sheriff's salary to determine the pay but should have used the salary of Clerk of Courts Linda Hays and included any longevity pay, cost of living adjustments, local supplements and tax appeal supplements she received since coming to office in 1982.

Banes' salary for 2020 should have been \$145,000 but the county's calculations meant he was receiving \$101,000. Bell is receiving \$103,000 but should be receiving \$148,000, the attorney said.

Sweat heard the case after all Newton County Superior Court judges recused themselves.

He said after a February hearing he understood the pay method in the legislation used the highest annual

See **APPEAL, A5**

OBITUARIES

Arthur Clifton Belcher Benton

J.C. Harwell & Son Funeral Home

Arthur Clifton Belcher Benton, age 82, of Carrollton, Texas passed away October 31, 2020. Clifton was the proud patriarch of one of Newton County's long-standing families (the Belchers of Starrsville, who arrived in the U.S. in the early 1600s). A graveside service will be held on April 24, 2021 at the Belcher-Anderson Cemetery at 11 a.m. He will be laid to rest next to his wife Evelyn, of 52 years.

Clifton was a 1956 graduate of Newton County High School. He attended the University of Georgia where he joined Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Clifton then enlisted into the United States Air Force. He was first stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base where he met his wife Evelyn Walker.

While at Wright Patterson, Clifton was



Arthur Benton

twice cited for outstanding work writing history for the Strategic Air Command 4043. He and Evelyn were both transferred to Washington D.C. where they were two of the seven original members of the Defense Supply Agency.

After two years in Washington, Clifton began working for District Photo Inc. Ten years later, his entrepreneurial spirit led him back to Georgia where he owned and operated three printing companies. After selling these businesses, his family moved to Dallas where

he opened The Dreamhouse Furniture and Interior Shop and operated it until he retired. During retirement, Clifton was an active Democratic Party Chair in Texas.

Those that knew Cliff, knew Georgia was always in his heart. He was proud that his ancestors were in the Americas before the American Revolution. He cheered his Georgia "Dawgs", and everyone most assuredly knew how much he loved his three girls and his grandchildren.

Cliff had a magnetic personality. He was

the personification of charisma. The man had innate "likeability". He was a sounding board for some and an advisor for others. His humor could at times be silly and other times cerebral. This world was better for having Arthur Clifton Belcher Benton in it. For those that were not lucky enough to have Cliff in their lives, put it on your list to meet him in Heaven.

Left to cherish his memory are three daughters, Deborah McCarthy (Ed) of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, Lisa Neel of Plano, Texas and Stephanie Wade (Guy) of Heath, Texas; five grandchildren, Jake Wade, Taylor Neel, Connor McCarthy, Trey Neel and Emmy Wade; two sisters, Mary Elizabeth Benton Whatley of Starrsville, Georgia and Lillian Benton Wilson of Panama City, Flor-

ida; as well as many nieces and nephew.

In lieu of flowers, Clifton has requested donations be made in his name to The Starrsville United Methodist Church at 2786 Dixie Road, Covington, GA 30014. J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, TE Davis Funeral Services, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.

As of April 8, Gov. Brian Kemp lifted the restrictions for large gatherings and other recommendations throughout Georgia. However, we ask that you still be respectful of the family and others during this time. If you are sick, not feeling well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend the service or services. If you feel the need to wear a mask, please do so.

Tony Edward Waldroup

Williams Funeral Home

Tony Waldroup from Newton County passed away on April 8, 2021 survived by his 2 children Lynette and Michael and 4 siblings, Loraine, Melissa, Connie and Calvin. He was Grandfather to 7 and an Uncle to 8 nieces and nephews. Tony served in the US Army and had a career in the trucking industry.



Tony Waldroup



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FIREWORKS:

Continued from A1

at the time of the event, which would make for an interesting situation not only from a visibility standpoint, but also a liability standpoint.

The second problem involved the tract of land that would potentially be used. According to Sanders, a portion of the property was for sale. If the city committed to the location, issues could arise in the event of a change in ownership between now and the time of the event, he said.

On the other side of town, the council and city staff also raised concerns with hosting the event at the Square. The chief concern was the ability, or inability, to manage crowds, even if there were limitations on how many people could attend.

Whether the Square is closed off or not, Sanders said the city couldn't really stop people from crowding elsewhere.

"How do you stop them from lining up Washington, Pace and Floyd streets?" Sanders said. "At that point you're moving the problem from the Square to Morgan Plaza, Newton Plaza and (other places)."

"I think both come with big challenges in trying to put something together like this, but it's doable," Assistant Police Chief Phillip Bradford said. "We can make it happen, but it's going to be a feat to pull it off."

During the in-depth discussion, Robert Foxworth, a Newton County resident who has helped raise money and put on the fireworks display for several years, said he thought hosting the event at the Town Center would be a mistake.

"We'll make it happen no matter what, but y'all are concerned about your citizens," Foxworth said. "You're cheating a lot of citizens by having it [at the Covington Town Center] because it's very limited.

When we met a couple weeks ago — this might be a bad scenario but it's like taking a NFL crowd and putting them in a high school stadium. It's very limited out there. There's buildings that's going to be erected out there, and who's going to be responsible? You're going to get so many cars out there ... the roads in and out of there are limited. People are going to stop along I-20 — they do anyway."

Foxworth noted that making people social distance was an impossible task, but believed they would likely do it on their own anyway.

"You can encourage it," he said. "You can encourage them to wear masks, but we're not two months into this virus. We've been doing this over a year. People are concerned ... People will social distance themselves. If y'all limit the Square to 2,000 people, y'all can't stop people from congregating."

Foxworth said regardless of the location, a big show was being planned. But in order to make it the best show possible, a decision needed to be made immediately.

"The year before last, the show was \$49,000. This year it tops over \$60,000. We've got a huge, huge show planned. We've got to know now of the location because the company we get our shells from, they choreograph it. Usually in January they start this — December to January. We're in April. We can't wait no longer."

Depending on the location, Foxworth said the type of firework shells could change. If the council chose the Town Center, "everything is going to be different," he said.

"This show that we've been putting on — we're one of the top shows in the Southeast," Foxworth said. "We're proud of this. We work very hard — we're planning next year's show now. We don't just throw this together a month or two before and that's it. We've put our heart and soul into this.

"Whatever the council wants to do, if you want to have it out there (at the Town Center) we'll put on the best show we can out there, but there's a lot of obstacles," he continued. "Personally, I think it would be a mistake. I would have it just like we've been having it. We're not having the festival. We're not having the food vendors. People can come and go; they can social distance.

"If somebody don't like it and they're worried about it, they can stay home," he added.

Mayor Steve Horton then reminded the council of Baggett's motion on the floor. Councilman Kenneth Morgan seconded the motion. Council members were split, voting 3-3.

Horton then broke the tie, causing the motion to fail 3-4. He believed the questions surrounding the Town Center site were too concerning.

Councilwoman Susie Keck immediately fired off a motion to keep the fireworks event at the Square. She said the "chance of unknowns happening" was greater at the Town Center than it would be at the Square. She also pointed out that the event may have never been held at the Town Center again.

"I think we should keep it at the Square," Keck said.

Horton interjected with his thoughts on the matter.

"We've only got one shot to get this right," the mayor said. "And I just think we've got to have all the discussion we need to [do that]. And I don't know what the answer is myself. If you ask me, I would say we're probably too far into doing this, but my comment would be not even do it this year.

"We've got to do what's safe for the community," he said.

City staff members then asked if any stipulations would be placed on Keck's motion.

Horton said an option he saw was to not close streets if holding the event downtown.

Baggett said her only opposition to the downtown plan was trying to limit the number of spectators and make it a ticketed event, as initially proposed by city staff members to combat large crowds.

Keck then changed her motion to have the event downtown and only close the designated fireworks fallout area.

Confusion about street closures and how they would affect crowd safety later prompted Keck to change her motion a third time. She moved to keep the event on the Square and wait for street closure recommendations from the police department and the community development department.

Councilman Don Floyd then raised a question concerning Keck's amended motion.

"If we're going to do it the same way we've always done it, then why would we have to come back for [the police department and community development department] to tell us how they've always done it?" he asked.

Councilwoman Hawnethia Williams agreed and said, "for time's sake," the council should just hold the event as the city always has.

Keck then made a final motion to host the fireworks event as the city always has, as it pertains to road closures, but without its usual festival and food vendors.

The motion passed 5-1. Morgan opposed.

"I realize we have dealt with the coronavirus," Morgan later told *The Covington News*. "I want our community to get back to where it was. But also, we need to be realistic.

"We have the vaccines and everything that's available now, and that's still fine," he continued. "But even with in that, everybody has the right to do what they want to do, but as a city I think that sometimes we are led more by people than what we feel is right for our city. You may not like the decisions that I make, but I have been empowered by my constituents to make those decisions. So when I make decisions, I don't make decisions from a personal standpoint. I make the decision based on what I feel as though [is in the best interest of my community.] And so, with so much going on — so much tension and stuff in the air — I just don't think this is something that we should allow to take place to that magnitude right now, because you never know what can unfold. You never know the outset of something until after something has taken place or something has happened.

"Everybody wants an outlet right now, and that's fine. I think we should have those outlets. But at the end of the day, I think we need to really be honest and open and optimistic and realize that ... I think when it comes to big gatherings, I would shun that right now based on everything that's going on.

"It would be that and then plus, I think that we should never let our guard down," Morgan added. "Don't get comfortable, because when we get comfortable that's when something major can really happen. I think we need to always — not live in fear. We never need to live in fear. But we should always live on the side of caution, and that's why I voted the way I did the other night. But I support my council members and the decision that was made... But I just think we really need to think things through, more than just making decisions."

ATTORNEY:

Continued from A1

ment had higher combined county government and sheriff's office legal costs than neighboring counties and some larger counties, such as Henry and Hall, in recent fiscal years, Banes said.

Newton County government paid legal fees totaling \$653,355 for the county and \$291,207 for the sheriff's office in fiscal year 2020, Banes said.

The sheriff's office uses the law firm of former county attorney Tommy Craig for its legal work.

In December, Board of Commissioners members voted unanimously to proceed with the plan to replace Jarrard and Davis, which the board hired a few months after firing Craig in 2015.

Craig had represented the county for 39 years but was let go amid questions about spending and other issues surrounding a proposed south Newton County reservoir that ultimately was abandoned after millions of dollars were spent.

The new government attorney's management of a new county law department requires someone who "supervises, directs, and evaluates assigned staff" and other supervisory tasks such as managing timesheets and work schedules.

It will assist with or complete "employee performance appraisals; directs work; acts as a liaison between employees and management; and trains staff in operations, policies, and procedures."

Also, the staff attorney will develop and implement "goals" for the law department; collect and analyze multiple sources of data; evaluate and determine trends; project the annual workload; complete and submit yearly plans and reports; prepare and implement a departmental budget; and recommend "staffing levels and outlays for client services."



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City of Porterdale

Rezoning & Future Land Use Map Amendment Request

Infinity Homes and Development, LLC of 1121 Floyd Street, Covington, Ga 30014 has submitted the following rezoning requests to the City of Porterdale:

- Map P044 Parcel 050, 11240 Brown Bridge Road, 5.26 acres from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to Commercial Neighborhood
- Map P044 Parcel 056, Crowell Road (Undeveloped), 263.24 acres from R-2 (Single Family Residential) and CN (Commercial Neighborhood) to R-2 (Single Family Residential), R-3 (Multi-Family Residential, and CG (Commercial General)
- Map P044 Parcel 061, 216 Crowell Road, 1.5 acres from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential)

Concurrently, Infinity Homes and Development, LLC of 1121 Floyd Street, Covington, Ga 30014 has submitted the following future land use map amendment requests to the City of Porterdale:

- Map P044 Parcel 050, 11240 Brown Bridge Road, 5.26 acres from Commercial Node to Commercial Node
- Map P044 Parcel 056, Crowell Road (Undeveloped), 263.24 acres from Commercial Corridor, Conservation, and Active Recreation to Active Recreation, Conservation, Mixed Use and Commercial Corridor
- Map P044 Parcel 061, 216 Crowell Road, 1.5 acres from Active Recreation to Mixed Use

The public hearings are scheduled as follows: The Zoning Commission will hear and consider this request at their May 10, 2021 meeting at 6:30 pm at the Old Porterdale Gymnasium at 2201 Main Street. The City Council will consider this request at their May 20, 2021 meeting at 6:30 pm at City Hall; located at 2800 Main Street.

Anyone needed accommodation please contact City Hall at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Letters to the Editor can be delivered by:

- Mail: Editor: The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015
- In person: Stop by 1166 Usher St. NW in downtown Covington
- Email: news@covnews.com

OPINIONS

The Covington News

Rev. Lyn Pace religious columnist

Whose voice calls to you?

One evening in late September last year, I settled into our couch and clicked on Amazon Prime searching for “RBG.” It is the documentary about the second woman named to the United States Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She had died the week prior, and I wanted to spend some time digging deeper into her life. I was also trying to get my head around yet one more loss in 2020. It was a beautiful film about the exceptional life and vocation of a woman and the first justice to become a pop-culture phenomenon. As I scrolled through my email recently, trying to clean out my inbox, I found a message to myself from that September night containing her words from the docu-



mentary: “When I am at an opera, I get totally carried away. I don’t think about the case that’s coming up next week or the brief I’m in the middle of. I am overwhelmed by the beauty of the music and the drama. The sound of the human voice, it’s like an electric current going through me.” Lately, I have found myself listening to music videos of concerts and other performances at night while I work or just rest. I miss live music, concerts, large gatherings of people who passionately sing together to the music that moves their collective souls. “The sound of the human voice, it’s like an electric current going through me.” Yes, it is. We feel this in live music, but we also can feel this in the familiar voices in our lives. Whose voice is most recognizable to you? Whose voice calls you back to your true self? Whose voice has the

ability to calm you? Stop for a moment and think about this. Maybe close your eyes and imagine that person standing in front of you. Give thanks for them and their voice. During the Easter season in my church tradition we read about Jesus as the good shepherd from the gospel of John. One of the characteristics of the good shepherd is that he knows his sheep, and they will listen to him. The good shepherd’s voice is one that his sheep yearn for, want to listen to. This provides comfort in my tradition to so many. It can also be disruptive to listen to Jesus. Yes, he comforts and protects; he is also love and hope. His words and life stir our souls and bodies into action. He constantly crossed conventional boundaries in his day to listen and learn from those different than himself. His actions made room for many voices to be heard at the table and

included in his ministry. His invitation was clear on several occasions: “Come and see.” “Follow me.” “Love your neighbor.” It occurs to me that taken together, these offer us a recipe for engaging the complicated world in which we live. A world where many voices compete for our attention but do not often make room for our voice. A world where we do not listen as deeply to each other as we could. In perhaps the most popular version of the Easter morning story, Mary Magdalene has a conversation with the risen Jesus outside the empty tomb. She thinks he is the gardener until he finally calls her by name, “Mary.” She turns to him and responds, “Rabbouni” or Teacher. A sign that she is both known by him and knows him. It is the intimate nature of calling her by name that wakes her

up to the fact that he is risen and continues to draw her in to the call on her life. Her response is to mobilize, to move into action and tell the other disciples what she has experienced. “The sound of the human voice, it’s like an electric current going through me,” said Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This can happen when music touches our soul, and it can also happen when we step beyond the conventional boundaries of our complex world and lives to listen to and make room for each other – friends and strangers. “Come and see.” “Follow me.” “Love your neighbor.”

The Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace is a United Methodist minister and college chaplain who lives in Oxford, Georgia with his spouse and eight-year-old.

Taylor Beck editor and publisher

Response to recent critic

I’m no stranger to criticism. In fact, none of us are. Everyone has been judged by others and/or has been the judge of others at some point in their life. Our staff was recently criticized in its reporting of Newton County’s embattled coroner. We were accused of doing so negatively and with racial bias an accusation I take seriously. After reviewing the article, I believe we’ve reported fairly and without racial bias. The coroner, as well as every other elected official, will be judged on her merits and the issues she brings to the county. If race is ever thrown into the equation, it is not by us. And it never will be.

Taylor Beck is editor and publisher of The News. Reach him at tbeck@covnews.com.



U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson guest columnist

SCOTUS needs to expand, become more diverse regardless of ideology

I hope you are well and your family and loved ones are safe and healthy, too. Last week was by no means a typical week in Washington, but I wanted to share a quick review so you know what I’m working on and what I do week in and week out as your representative. I started last week by traveling up Pennsylvania Avenue for a meeting with President Biden and Vice President Harris as the Whip of the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss vaccines and healthcare in our communities, voting rights, investment in transportation and infrastructure and closing the wealth gap.



I voted bills out of the Judiciary Committee — where I am a senior member — including legislation to prevent future presidents from banning entire groups of people from entering the country based solely on their religious beliefs and another bill commissioning a study on slavery reparations. On Thursday, April 15, I introduced a bill to reform the U.S. Supreme Court. As chairman of the Courts Subcommittee, I’m going to make the case that SCOTUS needs to expand to create a more diverse Court, regardless of ideology. For instance, there hasn’t been a Supreme Court justice with criminal defense experience in 25 years. I think that says a lot. Instead, the Court has traditionally been filled with former prosecutors from

ivy league law schools whose backgrounds and life experiences have little in common with most Americans. It’s time that we start thinking about the Supreme Court like we think about the rest of the federal government and consider whether and how its current composition allows it to effectively do what we need it to do — efficiently and effectively administer justice and uphold the rule of law. I ended the week hosting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for my Instagram Live series to discuss the American Rescue Plan and the American Jobs Act. Again, perhaps not my usual or typical week but it gives you a good idea of the work I’m doing on behalf of the people of Georgia’s Fourth Congressional District. As always, I appreciate your time and feedback. Please remember you can reach me and get good information on my Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages by clicking the icons at the top of this e-letter. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent you in Congress. Please continue following CDC guidelines. If you have any questions about the Rescue Plan and what it means for you and your family, please don’t hesitate to call my district office at 770-987-2291. Thank you!

Rep. Hank Johnson represents Georgia’s Fourth Congressional District, including DeKalb, Rockdale and Newton counties, in the U.S. House.

U.S. Rep. Jody Hice guest columnist

Radical Left making aggressive power grab to start ‘woke’ agenda

The radical Left has hijacked the Democratic Party and is aggressively warping America’s institutions and government to implement their toxic “woke” agenda. You’ve likely heard that Democrats in the Senate are attempting to eliminate the “filibuster” — a tactic in the Senate to prolong debate to delay or prevent a vote on a bill. This procedure has existed for centuries, and it often forces parties to work across the partisan divide as it takes three-fifths of the Senate to end a filibuster. Eliminating it would enable Democrats to pass highly partisan legislation without any Republican support. You have also probably heard about the so-called “For the People Act,” which Speaker Nancy Pelosi rammed through the House of Representatives last month. This legislation is another crucial pillar in Democrats’ strategy. This terribly misnamed bill federalizes control of elections across the country so that Democrats have an advantage at the ballot box. I explained this in more detail in my March 4 newsletter. Think that’s bad? Those two items are just the tip of the iceberg. This week,



Democrats are pushing even more proposals to fundamentally change American democracy. Today, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and other leading Democrats introduced legislation to expand the U.S. Supreme Court from nine to 13 justices. “Packing” the Supreme Court allows President Biden to immediately nominate four new liberal justices — permanently tilting the Court in Democrats’ favor. Power grabs don’t get much more blatant than this. There’s more! In the House Oversight Committee, Democrats are moving forward with legislation, H.R. 51, to admit the District of Columbia into the United States as the state of “Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.” D.C. is overwhelmingly liberal and granting it statehood would all but guarantee two new safe Senate seats for the Democratic Party. There’s a host of problems with this legislation. For starters, H.R. 51 disregards the intention and wisdom of our Founding Fathers. The District of Columbia holds a unique status in our system of government as outlined in the Constitution. Our Founding Fathers believed that no state should inherently have more power or influence than

any other. As James Madison argued in Federalist Paper No. 43, if America’s capital were situated in a single state, that state would wield tremendous influence over the federal government, and the Constitution was explicitly crafted to avoid this situation by carving out a federal enclave in which to seat the capital on neutral ground. In short, there is a very smart and valid reason the District of Columbia exists. Furthermore, H.R. 51 is simply unconstitutional. Congress, by itself, cannot make D.C. a state because the Constitution specifically addresses the District several times and grants it special privileges — all of which would need to be addressed by a constitutional amendment. Yet, H.R. 51 does not address this fundamental problem in the slightest and completely ignores the importance of the District in the Constitution. I will continue to oppose D.C. statehood and all other reckless attempts by the Democratic Party to cement their power in Washington. As the fight continues, be sure to stay tuned for future updates!

Rep. Jody Hice represents Georgia’s 10th Congressional District, including Walton and portions of Henry and Newton counties, in the U.S. House.

The Covington News

Newton Newspapers Inc.

OWNER
Patrick Graham
pgraham@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR Taylor Beck tbeck@covnews.com	NEWS EDITOR Tom Spigolon tspigolon@covnews.com
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Cynthia Warren cbwarren@covnews.com	SPORTS EDITOR Mason Wittner mwwittner@covnews.com
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Amanda Ellington aellington@covnews.com	LEGALS CLERK Alicia Goolsby agoolsby@covnews.com

Phone 770.787.6397 (NEWS) | Fax 770.786.6451
Online at covnews.com | email news@covnews.com

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Board of Commissioners

Tax commissioner, coroner seek major upgrades in 2022 budgets

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County’s coroner and tax commissioner recently unveiled plans to realign their offices with new staffing and equipment.

Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts and Tax Commissioner Marcus Jordan told the Newton County Board of Commissioners recently they needed more staff and new equipment to do their jobs in the best ways possible.

Both came to office Jan. 1 after ousting their predecessors in the November 2020 election.

A budget document showed Jordan requested an increase in the 2022 budget of about \$112,000 from his office’s cur-

rent \$1.249 million budget. to do a number of changes.

Jordan said during a Board budget workshop April 14 he wanted to add five new positions to realign the tax commissioner’s office both for efficiency and to collect what he believed was about \$11 million in back taxes owed to the county.

“If we have to lay off two to three positions to get what I want, that’s what I want,” Jordan said during the workshop.

He said he wanted to hire a deputy tax commissioner whose sole focus is collecting unpaid taxes.

Someone now does that job along with other office functions, he said.

“We’ve outgrown the current structure,” he told commissioners.

He said adding additional managers in the department “will create a second level of checks and balancing disbursements accounts.”

Jordan also said he wanted to upgrade its computer system, and redesign its website to make it more “customer-friendly.”

“The new website will migrate with both property and motor vehicle programs which will meet the needs of the public by providing ad valorem tax information and updates,” Jordan wrote in information given to

See UPGRADES, A8

APPEAL:

Continued from A2

minimum salary among the county’s four constitutional officers and the chairman but it did not include longevity pay and cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) in the calculation of the two officials’ salaries.

The judge said it “seems to me nonsensical” that a law would be written that would effectively lower the pay of a county official replacing a long-serving official who had been given regular longevity pay and COLAs.

Lindsey told Sweat the 1994 local law was written that way because it did not contemplate officials like Clerk of Courts Linda Hays remaining in office for 38 years.

STAR:

Continued from A1

1370 out of 1600 on the SAT.

In addition to his dual enrollment classes, Dobar participated in the NCCA Electrathon car team, the VEX Robotics Team, and the Technology Student Association throughout high school. Through his membership in those clubs, he competed in numerous events.

According to Dobar, he will attend Georgia Southern University in the fall with plans to major in electrical engineering.

He selected Ryan Allred from NCCA STEM Institute as his STAR Teacher. Dobar was a student in Allred’s engineering class.

This is Allred’s first time being selected as a STAR teacher, the release stated.

“Mr. Allred went above and beyond in teaching engineering, organizing the chapter of the Technology Student Association, the Vex Robotics team, and more,” Dobar said. “Additionally, he taught his courses well with large amounts of hands-on learning experience.”

• EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL AND NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM — Joyce Li and Eric Adams.

Li has taken numerous Advanced Placement courses throughout high school, including Latin, chemistry, calculus, world history, U.S. history, macroeconomics, microeconomics, computer science principles, literature, and language and composition.

She also plays French horn in the Eastside Wind Ensemble and has participated in numerous extracurricular activities, including the Academic Team, Junior Classical League, Student Council, and the Governor’s Honors

Program.

She plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall to major in computer science with a possible minor in Chinese, the release stated.

Li chose her Latin teacher, Eric Adams, as her STAR Teacher. This is Adams’ 10th time being selected as a STAR teacher.

“I’ve been in Mr. Adams’ class for over one-seventh of my high school career. If you include Academic Team practices and JCL (Junior Classical League) meetings, it might be bumped up to one-fifth.

“Even though I wasn’t the biggest Latin nerd, Mr. Adams and his way of teaching turned me into one. His classes were always interesting and the tangents that would inevitably ensue during class were always the highlight of my day.

“It’s impossible to accurately describe how much Mr. Adams changed my life. Academic team and JCL made up my identity in high school. Both were run by him and I can’t imagine not being in either. The countless tournaments that I went to and the conventions that I attended were only possible because I had met Mr. Adams. Heck, I even applied for GHP (Governor’s Honors Program) just because he asked me one day if I was interested.”

She said her “proudest accomplishment” in her high school career was an email she received from Adams in November 2019, the release stated.

“During that time, I was really stressed about school and we had just had a Quiz Bowl tournament the week before that I did exceptionally well in,” she said.

“Mr. Adams sent me an email saying that he recognized, admired,

and appreciated all the work that I put in for school and Quiz Bowl. I read it and started crying.

“Up until that point, I had never really been applauded for my efforts in school, especially by a teacher. Having someone say, ‘I see you. Your efforts are recognized’ meant so much to me, especially from someone that I really respect and hold in high regard.

“It was better than any prize or admission acceptance because this act of kindness came completely out of nowhere. I printed out that email and got it signed by Mr. Adams the next morning. It’s currently taped to my wall right in front of my desk. I think I’ll bring it to college with me.”

• NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL — Russell Danilchuk and Joshua Cook.

Russell Danilchuk is a senior at Newton High School and the NCCA STEM Institute. He is also Newton High School’s 2021 STAR Student, as he scored 1400 out of 1600 on the SAT.

Danilchuk has taken numerous Advanced Placement courses throughout his high school career, including world history, U.S. history, macroeconomics, English language, literature, physics, and calculus. He has also participated in several extracurricular activities, including the Technology Student Association, FBLS, Robotics, and the Electrathon Car team, the release stated.

Danilchuk plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall to major in aerospace engineering.

He chose his AP Calculus teacher at the Career Academy, Joshua Cook, from NCCA STEM Institute, as his STAR Teacher. This is the second time Cook has been selected as a

STAR Teacher.

“Mr. Cook always motivated me to do better in math and teaches in a way that I think every teacher should teach,” Danilchuk said. “He has always been very supportive of me not only in calculus but in all my other accomplishments as well.”

Samantha Fuhrey, superintendent of the Newton County School System, said the winners “are indicative of the high-quality, high-caliber students we have in Newton County.”

“We commend Logan, Russell and Joyce for staying the course and demonstrating what one can accomplish through hard work and discipline.

“In addition, we thank the parents, teachers, and leaders who have supported these students through the years,” Fuhrey said.

Some colleges and universities utilize the SAT to measure critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. It assesses how well students analyze and solve problems and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors, according to the release.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200 to 800, with the current version of the exam worth a total of 1600 points.

The PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program is sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation. Since its inception, the STAR program has honored nearly 28,000 students and the teachers they have selected as having had the most influence on their academic success.

BUDGET:

Continued from A2

June 30.

The additional money will give Bailey-Butts the equivalent of a full year’s budget of about \$107,000 with half of the year remaining, she said.

Bailey-Butts has said she had been using personal funds to pay deputy coroners and other office expenses since taking office.

In answer to questions from commissioners, Kerr said enough funds were in a separate capital budget to upgrade the county morgue facility in downtown Covington.

He said the county would need to coordinate the work with the sheriff’s office, which oversees the annex building in which the morgue is located on Stallings Street.

“We don’t have access,” he said.

Workers have completed renovation of space in the former Cousins Middle School building to provide the coroner the office she requested, Kerr said.

The work included new paint and installation of new carpeting.

It is near offices of the county Emergency Management Agency and Keep Newton Beautiful, he said.

“It’s ready and available for her to move in whenever,” Kerr said.

In a separate action Tuesday, commissioners voted to add Bailey-Butts to the list of county officials with purchasing cards, also known as P-cards.

The cards are designed to allow the user to electronically access funds in a department’s budget. It allows the holder to make purchases of needed items without having to wait on the finance department to physically give them money from their budgets, White said.

Bailey-Butts’ card will have a limit of \$5,000. She will now be one of about 50 P-card holders throughout the county government, water and sewerage department, and constitutional offices, White said.

“\$5,000 is pretty standard for your department heads,” she said.

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CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Alcoholic Beverage

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for: **SEAN NEWTON Spirits LLC DBA NEWTON Package Shop 9197 HWY 278**

APPLICANT: ASHOK S. Patel
THE APPLICATION will be heard on May 3rd, 2021 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #200224
4/25

Citations

CITATION

BRENDA BAFFORD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES KAY WELLHAM**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MAY 3, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne, Clerk
PROBATE COURT
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET- RM 148 COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200154
4/4,11,18,25

CITATION

BRENDA WOOTEN has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **ORA LEE KING**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MAY 3, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE
MARCIA WYNNE, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET-RM 148 COVINGTON, GA.30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200059
4/4,11,18,25

CITATION

BRIAN BYARS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES ALAN MORRIS**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MAY 3, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE
MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200060
4/4,11,18,25

CITATION

JAMES M. COLEMAN has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **SHARON ELAINE COLEMAN**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MAY 3, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne, Clerk
PROBATE COURT
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET- RM 148 COVINGTON, GA.30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200058
4/4,11,18,25

THE PETITION of Addie Jo White widow of **Curtis White**

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COURT
1132 USHER STREET- RM 148 COVINGTON, GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE#200156
4/4,11,18,25

THE PETITION of Brenda C. Maughan widow of **Tomm v Maughan**, deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are **HEREBY NOTIFIED** to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in **WRITING AND** filed with this Court on or before May 3, 2021, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk
PROBATE COURT
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET- RM 148 COVINGTON, GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #200155
4/4,11,18,25

Debtors Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **DONALD LEACH** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

THIS DAY of April, 2021

LINDA C. Leach Executor of the Estate of Donald Leach
C/O ROBERT Stansfield, Esq. Greer, Stansfield & Turner, LLP
P.O. BOX 1617
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015-1617 (770) 786-4390

PUBLIC NOTICE #200194
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **JAMES LINTON SHIPP, III** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

THIS 13TH day of April, 2021

JAMES GARRETT Shipp
EXECUTOR OF the Estate **OF JAMES Linton Shipp, III**
C/O ROBERT Stansfield, Esq. GREER, STANSFIELD & Turner, LLP
P.O. BOX 1617
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015-1617 (770) 786-4390

PUBLIC NOTICE #200195
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of **Gregory David Rowe, late of Newton County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified** to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 25TH day of March, 2021
MEGAN MASSEY Kittrell,
Administrator

DEBRA ROBINSON Law Group, P.C
11030 JONES Bridge Rd, Ste 208
JOHNS CREEK, Ga

PUBLIC NOTICE #200144
4/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **JOHN WILLIAM HANEY III**, deceased, a resident of Newton County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. **THIS 29th** day of March, 2021.

JOHN KEVIN Haney
EXECUTOR OF the **ESTATE OF** John William Haney, III
C/O MICHELLE Chaudhuri, Esq. Talley & Associates, P.C.
1892 GA. Hwy 138, SE Conyers, GA 30013 (770) 483-1431

PUBLIC NOTICE #200142
4/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **BETTY JANE CORDELL** 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 31st** day of March, 2021.

KELLIE S. HYERS
7106 GOLFSIDE CT. SE
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200181
4/11,18,25-5/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **BETTY JEAN BELL MANUEL** 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 12th** day of APRIL 2021.

EDDIE G. MANUEL
3107 WEST STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200208
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND

CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CAROLYN JEAN HARDEMAN** 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 13th** day of APRIL, 2021.

ADONIS HARDEMAN
217 COUNTRY CLUB PARK, UNIT 542
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35213

PUBLIC NOTICE #200204
4/18,25/5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CATHERINE ROSEMARY GOMES** 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 31st** day of March, 2021.

ROBERT GOMES
125 FIVE OAKS DR
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200183
4/11,18,25-5/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **JOHNATHAN MURRAY, SR** 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 12th** day of APRIL , 2021.

SHANETHA MURRAY
255 WILLOW SHOALS DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200205
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **LOUIS D. ALSTON** 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 APRIL , 2021.

FANNIE ALSTON
420 TRELAWNEY CIRCLE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200207
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **NORMAN LEACH** 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 APRIL , 2021.

DAISY LEACH
180 SUMMERWALK DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200206
4/18,25-5/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **ROGER LEE CANNON** 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 24th** day of March, 2021.

NED CANNON
P.O. BOX 3421
CLEVELAND, GA 30528

PUBLIC NOTICE #200159
4/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **SANDRA HELEN HICKS** 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 6th** day of April, 2021.

WALDROP & BOOTCHECK
P.O. BOX 1017
CONYERS, GA 30012

PUBLIC NOTICE #200182
4/11,18,25-5/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **THOMAS PACE KENERLY** 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 25th** day of March, 2021.

DEWEY KENERLY
4317 W. SPARROW SPRINGS LOOP, APT 101
BARTLETT, TN 38135

PUBLIC NOTICE #200158
4/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

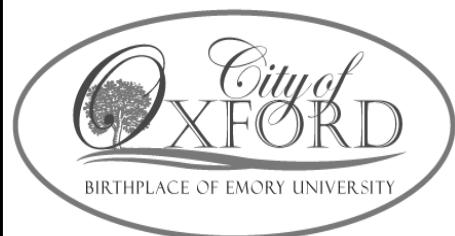
NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **THURMAN EUGENE HANE** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate

See LEGALS, A7



CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for a **Gas Crew Leader** in the **Gas Department** with a starting hourly rate of \$21.51 to a maximum hourly rate of \$31.59 depending upon qualifications. This position leads and participates in the work of a crew of personnel engaged in the installation, maintenance, and repair of the natural gas distribution system. Minimal education and experience qualifications include graduation from high school or GED equivalent, experience sufficient to thoroughly understand the work of subordinate positions usually associated with one to three years of experience or service, possession of a Class A Commercial Driver's License, and possession of a DOT welding certification. Qualified applicants may apply on our website by downloading 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 Wednesday, May 5, 2021. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



CITY OF OXFORD POSITION AVAILABLE: Public Works and Utilities Maintenance Worker I

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Public Works and Utilities Maintenance Worker I.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Lineman certification preferred. If no Lineman certification upon employment, employee may be expected to earn the certification within a reasonable period of time.
- Possession of a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia, with a 3-year clean record. CDL preferred; if no CDL upon employment, employee may be expected to qualify for CDL within a reasonable period of time.
- Must have a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia, with a 3-year clean record.
- Knowledge of the methods and practices involved in the design, operation, construction, maintenance, and repair of electrical utilities and water distribution systems.
- Knowledge of water distribution operations.
- Knowledge of municipal electrical distribution system operations and practices.
- Knowledge of safety regulations related to utilities systems.
- Skill in using a variety of hand and power tools and heavy equipment.

The

LEGALS:

Continued from A6

REPRESENTATIVE ACCORDING
to law.
THIS THE 1st day of April, 2021.

PENNY HANE
1753 HIGHWAY 213
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200184
4/11,18,25-5/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILLIAM B. WATSON, JR.** 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 24th day of March, 2021.

SHIRLEY D. WATSON
641 MAGNET RD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200160
4/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILLIAM OSCAR TAYLOR** 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 24th day of March, 2021.

BEVERLY R. TAYLOR
1346 HENDERSON MILL RD
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200157
4/4,11,18,25

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

COURTNEY WILLIS PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
REGINA GLANTON DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2021-CV-605-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: REGINA GLANTON
85 FIELDVIEW LANE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated MARCH 31, 2021 you are hereby notified that on MARCH 18, 2021 (date of filing) **COURTNEY WILLIS** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

WITNESS THE Honorable JOHN M. OTT, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 31ST day of MARCH, 2020.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #200189
4/18,25-5/2,9

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

MARIA L. RIVERA PLAINTIFF,
VS.
LOIS RIVERA-ROSCRIO DEFENDANT,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2021-CV-4559-2

NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated MARCH 24, 2021 you are hereby notified that on 03/15/2021 (date of filing) **MARIA L. RIVERA** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce . You are required to file an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for publication with the clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented).

WITNESS THE Honorable JOHN M. OTT, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 24th day of MARCH 2021
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior

PUBLIC NOTICE #200146
4/4,11,18,25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GERORGIA

VICTOR LAWRENCE PLAINTIFF,
V.
JENNIFER JOSEPH BECKLES DEFENDANT,

TO: JENNIFER JOSEPH BECKLES
80 CINNAMON FERN CIR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2021-CV-660-3

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated MARCH 29, 2021 you are hereby notified that on 03/24/2021 (date of filing) **VICTOR LAWRENCE** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Complaint For Divorce . You are required to file an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for publication with the clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented).

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

Newton County.

THIS, THE 30th day of MARCH 2021
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior

PUBLIC NOTICE #200165
4/11,18,25-5/2

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, NEWTON County **UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by **Courtney Burrell** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., dated April 27, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 2176, Page 577, Newton County, Georgia records, and re-recorded at Deed Book 2942, Page 162, Newton County, Georgia records; and as last transferred to The Bank of New York Mellon as Trustee for the Certificate holders of CWABS, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-8, by Assignment recorded in Deed Book 2918, Page 289, Newton County, Georgia records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$171,750.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2021, to wit: May 4, 2021, the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 40 of the 10th District of Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 59 of Glen Echo Subdivision, Phase One, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 42, Pages 195-198 (more particularly described in Page 197), Newton County, Georgia records, which plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

THE DEBT secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

SAID PROPERTY is commonly known as **40 Glen Echo Drive, Covington, GA 30016**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Courtney Burrell or tenant or tenants.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1; and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is:

SELECT PORTFOLIO Servicing, Inc.

ATTENTION: LOSS Mitigation Department
3217 S. Decker Lake Drive
SALT LAKE City, Utah 84119
1-888-818-6032

THE FOREGOING notwithstanding, nothing in OC.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt described herein.

THIS SALE is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being

THE BANK of New York Mellon as Trustee for CWABS, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-8

AS ATTORNEY in fact for **COURTNEY BURRELL**
RICHARD B. Maner, P.C.
180 INTERSTATE N Parkway, Suite 200
ATLANTA, GA 30339
404.252.6385

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
FC21-023

PUBLIC NOTICE #200141
4/4,11,18,25-5/2

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Frank R. Foster and Carmen M. Foster** to Newton Federal Bank, dated November 29, 2006, recorded in Deed Book 2333, Page 561, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to HVRML Trust 2019-1 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 3927, Page 390, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$109,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein,

CLUES ACROSS

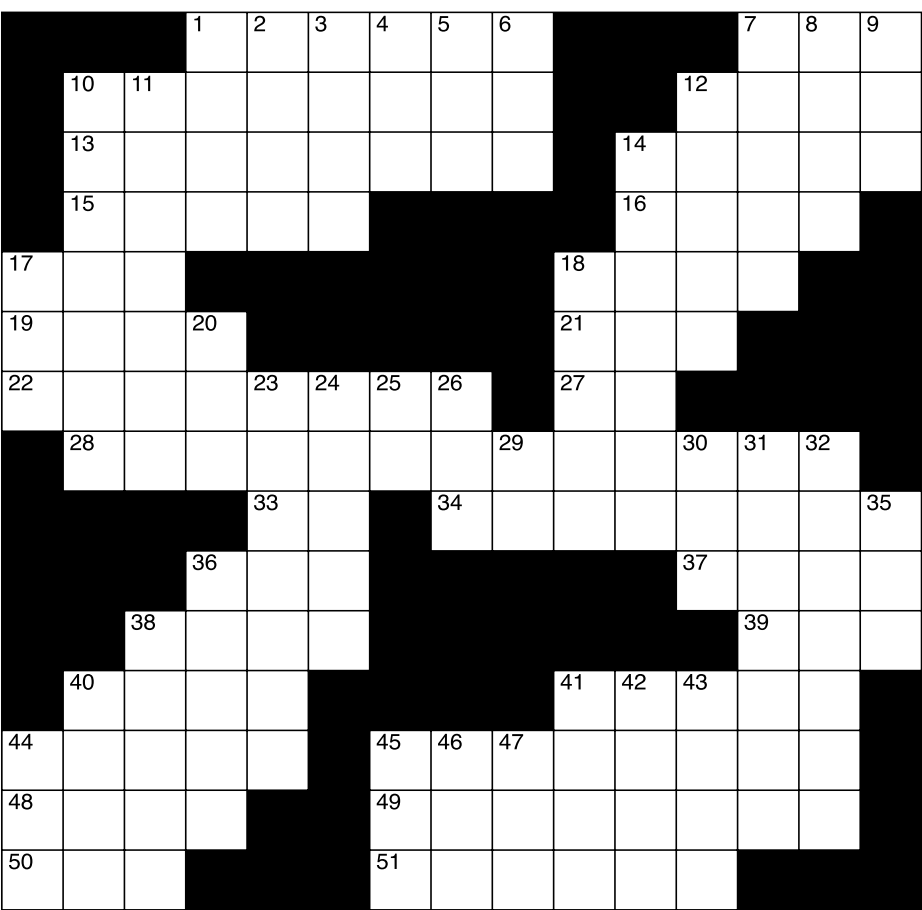
- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal

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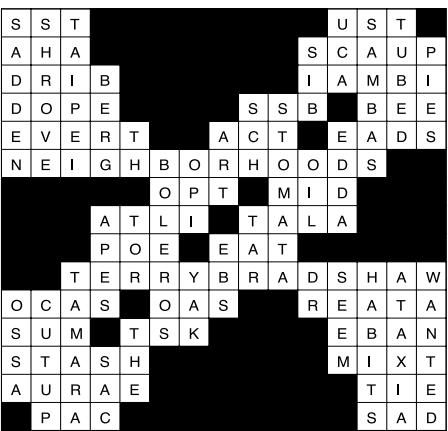
CLUES DOWN

- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
- The __ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Brain parts
- Islamic calendar month
- Avenue where ad men work
- Possesses
- Accept
- Stake
- Former British PM May
- US battleships circa 1939
- Greek alphabet letter
- When you hope to get there



- Top lawyer
- Fiddler crabs
- Intolerant
- Persons that cause extreme fear
- Car mechanics group
- Capital of Ghana
- Famed ballplayer Hank
- Emphasizes insignificance
- Light-colored
- Distinctive smell
- Muckraking journalist Jacob
- Sunscreen rating
- Short-term memory
- Japanese delicacy
- One point north of due east

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2021, the following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

THE DEBT secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

HVRML TRUST 2019-1 is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

THE ENTITY that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: BSI Financial Services, 11350 McCormick Road, EP II, Ste 903, Hunt Valley, MD 21031, 866-581-4495.

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Frank R. Foster and Carmen M. Foster or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **1275 Mote Road, Covington, Georgia 30016**.

THE SALE will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

HVRML TRUST 2019-1

AS ATTORNEY in Fact for **FRANK R. Foster** and Carmen M. Foster

MCCALLA RAYMER Leibert Pierce, LLC

1544 OLD Alabama Road
ROSWELL, GA 30076
WWW.FORECLOSUREHOTLINE.NET

EXHIBIT "A"

ALL THAT tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 10th Land District of Newton County, Georgia, and being all of Lots 14 and 15 and part of Lots 16, 17 and 18, Block A, of Spring Hill Acres, as shown on plat of survey of same prepared by George W. O'Sneil, R.S., dated May 22, 1964, and recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 224, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, which plat is incorporated herein by reference thereto, and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE AT the intersection of the northeastern right-of-way line of Mote Road with the southeastern right-of-way line of Mote Circle; thence in a northeasterly direction along the southeastern right-of-way line of Mote Circle 480 feet; thence South 0 degrees 21 minutes East 120.3 feet; thence South 67 degrees 56 minutes East 137.89 feet; thence North 75 degrees 59 minutes East 309.07 feet; thence South 05 degrees 07 minutes West 396 feet; thence in a northwesterly direction along the northeastern line of property now or formerly of Cooksey and Eubanks 400 feet, more or less, to the southeastern boundary line of Lot 15, said subdivision; thence in a southwesterly direction a distance of 200 feet along the southeastern property line of Lot 15 to its intersection with the northeastern right-of-way line of Mote Road;

thence in a northwesterly direction along the northeastern right-of-way line of Mote Road a distance of 476 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXCEPT, HOWEVER, the following described property to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 35 of the 10th Land District, Newton County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 14 and part of Lot 18 of Block A of Spring Hill Acres Subdivision, and being shown on plat of survey for Carla Foster dated 9/17/94 prepared by John Elwin Knight, Georgia R.L.S. #1945, which plat is incorporated herein by reference thereto for a more complete description, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING AT the intersection of the southeasterly right-of-way of Mote Circle (40-foot right-of-way) with the northeasterly right-of-way of Mote Road (40-foot right-of-way) at an iron pin set; thence run North 56 degrees 04 minutes 5 seconds East a distance of 342.00 feet to an iron pin found on the southeasterly right-of-way of Mote Circle; thence run North 56 degrees 28 minutes 41 seconds East a distance of 135.09 feet along the southeasterly right-of-way of Mote Circle to an iron pin found; thence run South 00 degrees 21 minutes 00 seconds East 119.98 feet to an iron pin found; thence run South 35 degrees 47 minutes 04 seconds West a distance of 329.00 feet to an iron pin set on the northeasterly right-of-way Mote Road; thence run North 59 degrees 20 minutes 31 seconds West along the northeasterly right-of-way of Mote Road a distance of 238.00 feet to its intersection with the southeasterly right-of-way of Mote Circle and the POINT OF BEGINNING.

MR/CA 5/4/21
OUR FILE no. 5410119 - FT17

PUBLIC NOTICE #200143
4/4,11,18,25

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

PURSUANT TO the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by **MICHELLE FENCH** to UNION PLANTERS BANK, N.A. in the original principal amount of \$106,074.00 dated May 22, 2003 and recorded in Deed Book 1445, Page 378, Newton County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING in Deed Book 4146, Page 657, Newton County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on May 04, 2021, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 66, 8TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING SHOWN AS LOT 67, CYPRESS POINT, UNIT THREE, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 36, PAGE 162, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.

SAID PROPERTY being known as: **165 BRIGHTON DR, COVINGTON, GA 30016**

TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are **MICHELLE FENCH** or tenant(s).

THE DEBT secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice

of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

SAID SALE will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

THE NAME, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE Servicing 75 Beattie Place, Suite 300 Greenville, SC 29601 866-825-2174

NOTE that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, as Attorney-in-Fact for **MICHELLE FENCH**

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 10700 Abbott's Bridge Road Suite 170 Duluth, GA 30097 Phone: 470.321.7112

FIRM FILE No. 20-038565 - AmE

PUBLIC NOTICE #200147
4/4,11,18,25

Juvenile Court

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
L.T. SEX: FEMALE
DOB: 07/13/2006 Case #107-21J-0120
A CHILD Under 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS AND PROCESS

TO: **SHAMIKA E. Terrell,**
Mother

YOU ARE hereby notified that an Order for Temporary Alternatives to Foster Care in Accordance to O.C.G.A. §15-11-133.1 was entered in the Juvenile Court of Newton County on March 25, 2021, requesting that custody of the minor child shall be granted to Erica Hunter, as a temporary alternative to foster care.

YOU ARE hereby commanded, personally or by attorney, to be and appear at the Newton County Juvenile Court, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Covington, Georgia 30014, for a Preliminary Protective hearing to be held on the 3rd day of June, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., then and there to answer why the prayers for relief as set forth in the Order for Temporary Alternatives to Foster Care in Accordance to O.C.G.A. §15-11-133.1, should not be granted.

A COPY of said Order for Temporary Alternatives to Foster Care in Accordance to O.C.G.A. §15-11.133.1 can be obtained from the Clerk of the Newton County Juvenile Court, at the aforementioned address.

READ CAREFULLY

THIS IS a very serious matter. This Summons requires you to be present at a formal hearing in the Juvenile Court.

THE CHILD or children and other parties involved may be represented by a lawyer at all stages of these proceedings.

IF YOU want a lawyer, you may

choose to hire your own lawyer. If you want to hire a lawyer, please contact your lawyer immediately.

IF YOU want a lawyer but are not able to hire a lawyer without undue financial hardship, you may ask for a lawyer to be appointed to represent you. The Court would inquire into your financial circumstances and if the Court finds you to be financially unable to hire a lawyer, then a lawyer will be appointed to represent you. Please contact immediately the Newton County Juvenile Court at 770-784-2060 if you wish to request a lawyer to be appointed to represent you. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF COURT TO REQUEST AN ATTORNEY.**

WHETHER OR not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

WITNESS THE Hon. Hillary Edgar, Associate Judge of said Court, this 31st day of March, 2021.

/S/ JANELL Gaines

Clerk, Newton County Juvenile Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #200166
4/11,18,24-5/2

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name change of **Child(ren):**
JAYDYN MIKAYLA GAY

TERESA S. TURNER PETITIONER
V.
AMANDA DEANNE WARREN SHAWN MICHAEL GAY RESPONDENT.

CIVIL ACTION Number
2021-CV-663-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME(S) OF CHILD(REN)

TERESA S. TURNER filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on March 24th, 2021 to change the name(s) of the following minor child(ren) **FROM: JAYDYN MIKAYLA GAY to: JAYDYN MIKAYLA GAY TURNER** ANY INTERESTED party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A 19-12-1(F)(2) and (3)

TERESA S. Turner
470 BETHANY ROAD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200145
4/4,11,18,25

Public Notice

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

JERMAINE HINTON, as Trustee of the **SONNIE M. HINTON LIVING TRUST,**
PETITIONER,
V.

PARCELS OF LAND, BEING DESCRIBED AS TAX PARCEL NO. 004800000005600, TAX PARCEL NO. 00489000000013A00, AND TAX PARCEL NO. 0048000000012A00, EACH BEING LOCATED ON STEWART ROAD, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA,

AND THE following adjacent property owners:

FOREVER FLOWING, JEANNINE W. MARCHESEAU, NAYIA ANDERSON, FREDERICK L. JOHNSON, BARBARA JACKSON, RUTH S. MITCHELL, DAVID P. MITCHELL, RUTH ANN ATKINS, ADEL M. BOYNTON, ARTHUR

See LEGALS, A8

City of Covington

Fire near Square leaves four displaced

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — An early morning fire at a home near the Covington Square left four people homeless Tuesday. Covington Fire Department was investigating the cause of the 2:30 a.m. fire that left severe smoke and water damage at the home at 3135 West St., said Fire Marshal

UPGRADES:

Continued from A5

county officials.

He said his top priority in the 2022 budget year is improving the office’s efficiency by upgrading the current property tax software to a Windows-based system.

“These technology upgrades will enhance the online payment options and allow for future expansion of various county services,” Jordan wrote.

County Manager Lloyd Kerr said he was only recommending one of the five positions be filled.

Commissioner Demond Mason said he believed Jordan had a “great plan.”

“But we only have a certain amount of money,” he told Jordan.

Budget documents

Joe Doss.

“We don’t suspect foul play,” Doss said.

He said the four occupants in the home located off Clark Street were able to get out safely.

Doss said he did not know if the fire caused irreparable harm to the structure, which is between 70 and 80 years old.

showed Bailey-Butts wanted to increase the coroner’s office budget from its current \$88,000 to \$237,000 for such items as training, travel, contract labor (deputy coroners), uniforms, fuel and small equipment.

She told commissioners she wanted to increase her office’s staffing levels and training; seek accreditation for the office; and increase the office’s supplies and upgrade its infrastructure.

She introduced consultant Blaine Ross who presented Bailey-Butts’ plans for the office.

He said she had two deputy coroners now but wanted to create positions for a chief deputy coroner, four deputy coroners, a clerk and a coroner’s technician.

Ross said the chief deputy coroner would perform such tasks as procurement and work on complex cases. A clerk position would provide support for the other staff members as well as serve as a public information officer.

He said the coroner’s office also would like to upgrade the current morgue facility in downtown Covington.

Bailey-Butts also was requesting a \$50,000 salary based, in part, on her declining the county’s health insurance, he said.

The finance office’s recommendation, though, was for the office to have a \$110,000 budget and for Bailey-Butts to continue with a \$35,000 salary.

Community Calendar of Events

• **A big yard sale** will be held Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at 215 East Soule Street in Oxford, across from Palmer Stone Gym. There will be clothers, shoes, toys, furniture, electronics and much more for sale.

• **Community Cleanup for District 2** is set for May 15 at 9 a.m. at Denny Dobbs Park.

County Commissioner Demond Mason, the Newton County Bicentennial Committee and Keep Newton Beautiful will host the event.

To participate, register by May 7 at keepnewtonbeautiful.org.

For more information, call 770-784-2015 or email newtonclean@co.newton.ga.us.

• **Snapping Shoals EMC’s SSEMC Leadership Experience** for high school sophomores or juniors has an April 30 deadline for applications.

Each applicant must be a high school sophomore or junior and be at least 16 years old by June 16.

Three students chosen will receive a \$2,000 scholarship when they begin college.

Snapping Shoals has chosen to host its own leadership program in 2021 in place of the annual Washington Youth Tour, which was canceled due to COVID-19.

The winners will tour SSEMC and learn more about the co-op in a one-day program held at its headquarters at 14750 Brown Bridge Road in Covington.

Participants also will hear presentations from SSEMC employees about the history of the co-op and its day-to-day operations.

Visit the Our Community page at <https://www.ssemc.com/Community.aspx> for more details and to download an application.

• **Covington Family YMCA regis-**

tration for all sessions of summer day camp is open to the public.

The YMCA at 2140 Newton Drive, Covington, will offer camps. Sign-up space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration can be completed online or in-person at a Y location.

The Y offers traditional day camps, which include challenging and fun activities featuring weekly themes, arts and crafts, group games, outdoor exploration and indoor learning experiences.

Additionally, the Y provides specialty camps focused on sports, art, gymnastics, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), teen leadership and swim.

Individuals may register for traditional camps on a daily or weekly basis, while specialty camps require weekly sign-ups.

For registration, visit spiritonline.ymcaatlanta.org. For more information, call 770-787-3908 or visit <https://www.ymcaatlanta.org/160>.

• **Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center** at 543 Elliott Trail in Mansfield is offering a variety of programs for all ages and audiences this spring and summer.

Now open for registration are the Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) program; multiple summer day camps from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day; and family-oriented public programs.

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

For more information and deadlines, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center>.

• **An American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held at Oxford City Hall, located at 110 West Clark Street, on May 6 and on August 6, from 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day.

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

LEGALS:

Continued from A7

LEE JOHNSON, JR., OTIS JONES, LEON ROME, FAZIA MOHAMED, MARIO TREJO VALLE, DAVID D. LITTLEJOHN, TIFFANY V. LITTLEJOHN, EF JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK, BEVERLY ROME EVANS, JOHNNY ROGERS, SHANE ROGERS, THERESA ROGERS, DORIS LUCAS, AND THE ESTATE OF THELMA ROME, RESPONDENTS.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV2019000480

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO RESPONDENTS: (1) Forever Flowing; (2) Fazia Mohamed; (3) EF Johnson Memorial Park; (4) Leon Rome; and (5) All Other Possible and/or Unknown Parties Who Have or Claim Any Possessory or Adverse Right, Title or Interest in the Respondent Property: Please take notice that Petitioner Jermaine Hinton, as Trustee of the Sonnie M. Hinton Living Trust, has filed a Summons and Petition to Quiet Title in the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia in the above-captioned case.

RESPONDENTS ARE hereby commanded to file their Answer to the Petition within 60 days of the date of the Order for Publication, or by June 15, 2021, with the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Suite 338, Covington, Georgia 30014, and serve a copy of their Answer on Petitioner's counsel D. Andrew Folkner, at WEISSMAN PC, One Alliance Center, 4th Floor, 3500 Lenox Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30326.

WITNESS, THE Judge of Newton County Superior Court.

THIS 19TH day of April 2021.

BY: CLERK of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #200214
4/25-5/2/19/16

NOTICE IS hereby given that at 6:30 p.m. on April 19, 2021 at 2116 Stallings Street, Covington, Georgia the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington, Georgia, shall provide for a hearing on the passage of an ordinance entitled: "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE COVINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ENACTED AND ADOPTED ON THE 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 12 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 12.20.010 (DEFINITIONS) OF CHAPTER 12.20 (PARKS) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

A COPY of said proposed ordinance is posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia.

THIS 20TH day of April 2021.

THE CITY OF COVINGTON
AUDRA M. Gutierrez
CITY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE #200221
4/25

Public Sales Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE AUCTION will be held at: CHANCEY’S WRECKER Service, Inc
539 MCDANIEL Mill Rd SW
CONYERS, GA 30012
TELEPHONE: 770-483-0698
FAX: 770-922-5223

THE FOLLOWING vehicles will

be sold at Public Auction on the following **Saturday, May 8, 2021**

ALL AUCTIONS start promptly @ 1:00pm.
REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 12 noon

YEAR MAKE Model Vin#:

2002 DODGE INTREPID
2B3HD46R22H277365

2002 ACURA TL
19UUA56642A052673

2002 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
1J4GX58N72C124544

2007 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
3A4FY58B67T605895

2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
2G2WP582181139924

1995 CHEVROLET C1500
SUBURBAN 3GNEC16K1SG118883

2004 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
KMHDN46D24U709933

PUBLIC NOTICE #200198
4/18,25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A PUBLIC Auction for the non-PAYMENT OF storage fees at Speedy Storage will take place on **Saturday, May 1, 2021** AT 10am located at 2222 HWY 212, Covington, GA. 30016

THE PERSONAL effects and household

GOODS BELONGING to the following

TENANT, HAVING been properly notified, Will be sold for CASH to the highest Bidder to satisfy the owner's lien for Rent due, in accordance with the

GEORGIA SELF Storage Act-, Section

10-1-210 TO 10-4-215

THE PERSONAL effects and household goods belonging to

THE FOLLOWING tenant.

LARRY CLARK.....UNITS 146, 147

PUBLIC NOTICE #200192
4/18,25

NOTICE OF SALE

A DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN G & J MINI STORAGE, INC. AND THE BELOW LISTED TENANTS, AND NOTICE HAVING BEEN SENT TO THE TENANTS AS REQUIRED BY LAW, THERE WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE BELOW LISTED TENANTS FOR CASH TO SATISFY OWNERS LIEN FOR RENT DUE.

IAW GEORGIA LAW ANN. 10-4-213

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: TUESDAY MAY 18, 2021 ENDING AT 10:00A.M.

PLACE: ONLINE AT: www.StorageAuctions.com

TENANTS NAME UNIT# CONTENTS

CHERRY PARK 230 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

CRYSTA HARDEMAN 268 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

MARCUS BROW 323 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

CATHERINE BRINSON 374 & 413 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

ALPHONZA FLETCHER, II 410 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

JONATHAN D. JENKINS 426 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

RODERICK SHY 470 HSEHOLD

GOODS/FURN/BOXES

DESHAUNA WALKER-LEE 527 & 818 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

KIMBERLY LOTT 543 HSEHOLD GOODS/BOXES

REGINALD L. PRICE 560 BOXES/TOOLS/TV

DUSTIN DECESARE 719 BOXES/SPORTING GOODS/TOOLS

JANIE MICHELE B-7 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

DONTAVIUS JOHNSON C-22 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

CRYSTAL CUFF D-38C HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

JANELL MCLEOD D-4 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

HEIDI CLARK D-58 HSEHOLD GOODS

EDWIN ONEAL I-16 HSEHOLD GOODS

MICHAEL THOMAS J-47 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN

JACQUELINE MITCHELL J-56 HSEHOLD GOODS/FURN/BOXES

THE PROCEEDS OF SAID SALE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF SAID AGREEMENT. OWNER HAS RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT BID OR WITHDRAW ANY UNIT FROM SALE. PAYMENT MUST BE IN CASH AND ITEMS REMOVED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200223
4/25-5/2

PUBLIC SALE/AUCTION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Dixie Self Storage located at **1447 Access Road Covington, Ga. 30014.**

THE UNDERSIGNED intent to sell household goods and personal property, to enforce imposed lien on said Property pursuant of the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act,Georgia Code Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215. The undersigned will sell at Public Sale to the highest Bidder on:

MAY 17,2021 at 11 A.M.

CASH ONLY, will be accepted at the time of purchase.

UNIT 6013, Bobby Farmer, Household Goods, Furniture

UNIT 6013,KAMERYN Kirkpatrick, Household Goods, Furniture

UNIT 6016,ROBERT L. Huffman, Jr. Household Goods

UNIT 6021, Robert I. Huffman, Jr. HOUSEHOLD GOODS, Furniture, Boxes

UNIT 6024, Anthony S. Dudley, Household Goods, Boxes

SALE IS subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between Owners and the obligated party. We reserve the right to refuse any bid.

CALL 770-787-3039

PUBLIC NOTICE #200220
4/25-5/2

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABANDONED AND HAVE BEEN FORECLOSED THROUGH THE NEWTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT.

THESE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON SATURDAY MAY 1, @ 1PM.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT K-2 TOWING LLC, 9179 AARON

DR. COVINGTON, GA 30014.

2003 JAGUAR XJ8
SAJDA14C13LF59427

2006 TOYOTA COROLLA
JTDDBR32EX60092557

2010 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
2CNALBEW5A6336106

2006 CHRYSLER 300
2C3LA53GX6H197039

1993 CHEVROLET 1500
1GCDC14ZXPZ194453

2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER
1GNDS13S342348570

2008 VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG
WVGBE77L68D001530

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL2AP1CC180813

2018 CHEVROLET IMPALA
2G1125S36J9158555

2007 KIA RIO
KNADE123076235289

2010 CHEVROLET COBALT
1G1AD5F55A7120774

2004 KIA AMANTI
KNALD124645043061

1999 KAWASAKI NINJA
JKAZX4G14XA024292

2005 HONDA VT750C5
JH2RC50045M103795

1991 FORD F150
1FTEX15Y7MKA86438

2006 KIA SEDONA
KNDMB233066030618

1999 TOYOTA SIENNA
4T3ZF13C8XU162935

1999 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
JT3GN87R2X0129617

2004 CADILLAC CTS
1G6DM577440191632

1996 FORD F150
1FTEF15N5TNA14773

2008 CHEVROLET 3500
1GCHC33648F120744

2002 HONDA ODYSSEY
5FNRL18922B051379

2007 VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT
WVWBR71K37S130305

1993 FORD ECONOLINE
1FMHE31H5PHA82079

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL2APXCC145963

2004 VOLVO V40
YV1VW27544F103243

2006 HONDA MOTORCYCLE
ZDPCP36026F100680

2007 SUZUKI GSXR750
JS1GN7DA272119107

2002 SUZUKI GSXR750
JS1GT74A822100544

2008 MERCEDES GL450
4JGBF71E18A352595

2005 SUZUKI GSXR600
JS1GN7CA552114658

2012 BUICK REGAL
2G4GR5EK2C9139855

2004 BMWX3
WBXPA734X4WB25132

2014 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP1EC326605

2011 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL2AP9BC124648

2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE

1GNEC13Z72J286057

2004 CHEVROLET TAHOE
1GNEC13Z14R190767

PUBLIC NOTICE #200209
4/18,25

Trade Names

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate **Arlington Personal Care Home Inc.** have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 55 Oak Terrace Drive, Covington, Georgia 30016 and its initial registered agent at such address is **Joan Mooyin Edwards**

PUBLIC NOTICE #200222
4/25-5/2

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that **ALGE BROWN**, whose address is 6280 GREEN ACRES DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30014 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 6280 GREEN ACRES DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30014in the following trade name, to-wit: ALGE’S REMODELING; and that the nature of said business is: HOME IMPROVEMENT. 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 16th day of APRIL, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200215
4/25-5/2

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that **DARLENE STERLING**, whose address is 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 in the following trade name, to-wit: D&G JEWELRLY & ACCESSORIES; and that the nature of said business is: JEWELRLY & ACCESSORIES. 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 19th day of APRIL, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200218
4/25-5/2

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that **DARLENE STERLING**, whose address is 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 in the following trade name, to-wit: D&G WORLDWIDE TRAVEL; and that the nature of said business is: TRAVELING AGENCY. 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 19th day of APRIL, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200217
4/25-5/2

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that **DARLENE STERLING**, whose address is 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 215 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE COVINGTON, GA 30016 in the following trade name, to-wit: UNIQUELY SLAYED DESIGNS; and that the nature of said business is: T-SHIRTS, SUNGLASSES, HATS. 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 19th day of APRIL, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200219
4/25-5/2

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that **FAST CASH LOANS OF GA, INC**, whose address is 11274 TARA BLVD STE 110 HAMPTON, GA is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 3818 SALEM RD COVINGTON, GA 30016 the following trade name, to-wit: LEGACY FINANCE CO. ; and that the nature of said business is: CONSUMER LENDIG. 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 16th day of APRIL, 2021.



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The Covington News

AGRICULTURE

The Covington News

Georgia Wildlife

Keep Watch: More zebra mussels found in state

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — With zebra mussels found on a boat in the Lake Lanier area, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is urging boat owners to clean, drain and dry their boats, and be aware of the potential for transferring these invasive mussels from waters in other states. Owners of a boat taken to Lanier after being used on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, Tennessee, recently spotted zebra mussels on the boat and called DNR. Staff from the agen-

cy’s Wildlife Resources Division removed about 1 gallon of dead mussels from the boat and worked with the owners to ensure the vessel was drained, properly cleaned and thoroughly dried. DNR commended the owners for recognizing the issue and taking the necessary steps to report it. Zebra mussels, a species native to eastern Europe that has spread to many U.S. waters, including the Tennessee River, pose a significant risk to Georgia. If established here they could spur major ecological and

economic damage. Zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species can cause millions of dollars in damage to boats and water intake pipes, while undermining native mussels and other aquatic species. There is no known established population in Georgia. However, in March zebra mussels were found in Georgia pet stores attached to moss ball plants being sold for aquariums. For more information on these aquatic invaders, including how to properly clean, drain and dry vessels, visit georgiawildlife.com/ans.



Zebra mussels have been recently been found in Georgia waterways and pose a significant risk to the state.

Wikipedia

USDA invests \$21.7 million in research innovations to improve soil health, climate smart agriculture and forestry



Metro Creative Services

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture is committed to working alongside American producers, rural businesses and landowners to help them lead the way on addressing climate change, officials said.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Wednesday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will invest at least \$21.7 million in several key programs to help agricultural producers manage the impacts of climate change on their lands and production. NIFA awarded \$6.3 million for 14 Soil Health grants and \$5.4 million for seven Signals in the Soil grants through its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). NIFA also is investing at least \$10 million this year in a new AFRI program area priority called, “Extension, Education, and USDA Climate Hub Partnerships,” to train the next generation of agriculturalists and foresters to incorporate climate change research into their management practices.

This is the first in a series of announcements by USDA this week to underscore the department’s renewed commitment to addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation with climate-smart tools for farmers, ranchers, producers and foresters. “USDA is committed to working alongside American producers, rural businesses and landowners to help them lead the way on addressing climate change, using the best USDA data and science to help improve their practices and spur new market opportunities,” said Vilsack. Some projects funded from the Soil Health AFRI priority area include: Northern Arizona University’s project, “Pelletized Fire Mosses to Enhance Soil Health After High Severity Forest Fire,” for a new and effective way to boost soil health and promote the recovery

of burned ecosystems. South Dakota State University’s project, “Flower Fields and Soils: The Impacts of Native Perennial Monoculture Plots on Soil Health,” aimed at improving the sustainability of agricultural production and evaluating new agricultural practices to improve soil health. Some projects funded from the AFRI Signals in the Soil interagency program with the National Science Foundation include: University of New Hampshire’s project, “Novel Soil Frost Sensing Systems for Tracking Freeze-Thaw Cycles,” to develop, test and deploy wireless sensors and a ground-penetrating radar system for continuous measurements of soil frost. This is important because seasonal soil freeze and thaw impacts half the southern region and can affect permafrost, agroecosystems, urban ecosystems, and the interface between humans and the environment. Georgia State University’s project, “A Novel Large-Scale Radon Measurement Wireless Testbed for Spatio-Temporal Study of Radon in Surficial Soil,” will develop a real-time radon measurement test with a wireless sensor network to be deployed around the northeastern suburbs of Atlanta — a metro area of 6 million residents with known high-potential for radon exposure. This is important because exposure to radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer, according to the World Health Organization. “By combining NIFA and National Science Foundation resources, the Signals in the Soil program fosters collaboration among a broad set of researchers to fund the most innovative and high-impact projects where multiple disciplines converge

to produce novel soil sensing systems,” said NIFA director Dr. Carrie Castille. **More on USDA Climate Hubs** The projects funded in this priority area within the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA will strengthen and broaden the impacts of USDA’s Climate Hubs through the Cooperative Extension Service. The partnerships between Cooperative Extension and the Climate Hubs Program that are built through this investment will help to ensure producers have information needed to plan for changing climate conditions and to consider climate-friendly farming practices. USDA’s Climate Hubs are a unique collaboration across the Department’s agencies. They are led by Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service directors located at 10 regional locations, with contributions from other USDA agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Risk Management Agency. The Climate Hubs link USDA research and program agencies in their region with the delivery of timely and authoritative tools and information to agricultural producers and professionals. “USDA seeks to improve our understanding of the physical connections, biogeochemical interactions, and processes between the soil, the environment and climate change,” Dr. Castille said. “These efforts will lead to new tools, practices, techniques and innovations for improving soil health and demonstrate USDA’s commitment to address climate change.”



Agriculture in Georgia

Firsts

- Georgia was the first state to charter a state university – The University of Georgia – founded in 1785. It is also the state’s land grant university.
- Georgia was the first state to create a state department of agriculture.
- The first agricultural experiment farm and state were established in Savannah in 1735.

To learn more about Georgia agriculture and how to become a Farm Bureau member, go to www.gfb.org

Newton County Farm Bureau

PO BOX 390
Covington GA 30015
770.786.7201

GEORGIA AGRICULTURE: TOUCHING OUR LIVES EVERY DAY.



SPORTS

The Covington News

Newton County Prep Baseball Standings

Region 4-AAAAAAA			
Team Region Overall			
Parkview	9-2	19-10	
Grayson	9-3	23-5	
Brookwood	8-4	19-11	
Newton	3-9	9-18	
South Gwinnett	0-11	4-21	

Newton's Remaining Schedule
Class AAAAAAA State Playoffs
4/29-4/30 - @ No. 1 Lowdnes

Region 3-AAAAAA			
Team Region Overall			
Lakeside-Evans	13-1	16-9	
Evans	10-3	14-13	
Grovetown	9-5	13-12	
Heritage	5-8	7-16	
Alcovy	3-10	8-20	
Rockdale County	0-13	6-18	

Alcovy's Remaining Schedule
4/23 - vs. Evans (DH)*
*Denotes region contest

Region 8-AAAAA			
Team Region Overall			
Greenbrier	12-2	22-5	
Loganville	11-3	21-7	
Eastside	10-4	21-7	
Walnut Grove	9-5	18-10	
Jackson County	5-9	16-12	
Clarke Central	5-9	12-16	
Apalachee	3-10	11-14	
Johnson	0-13	1-20	

Eastside's Remaining Schedule
4/23 - @ Union Grove
Class AAAAAAA State Playoffs
4/28-4/29 - @ No. 2 St. Pius X

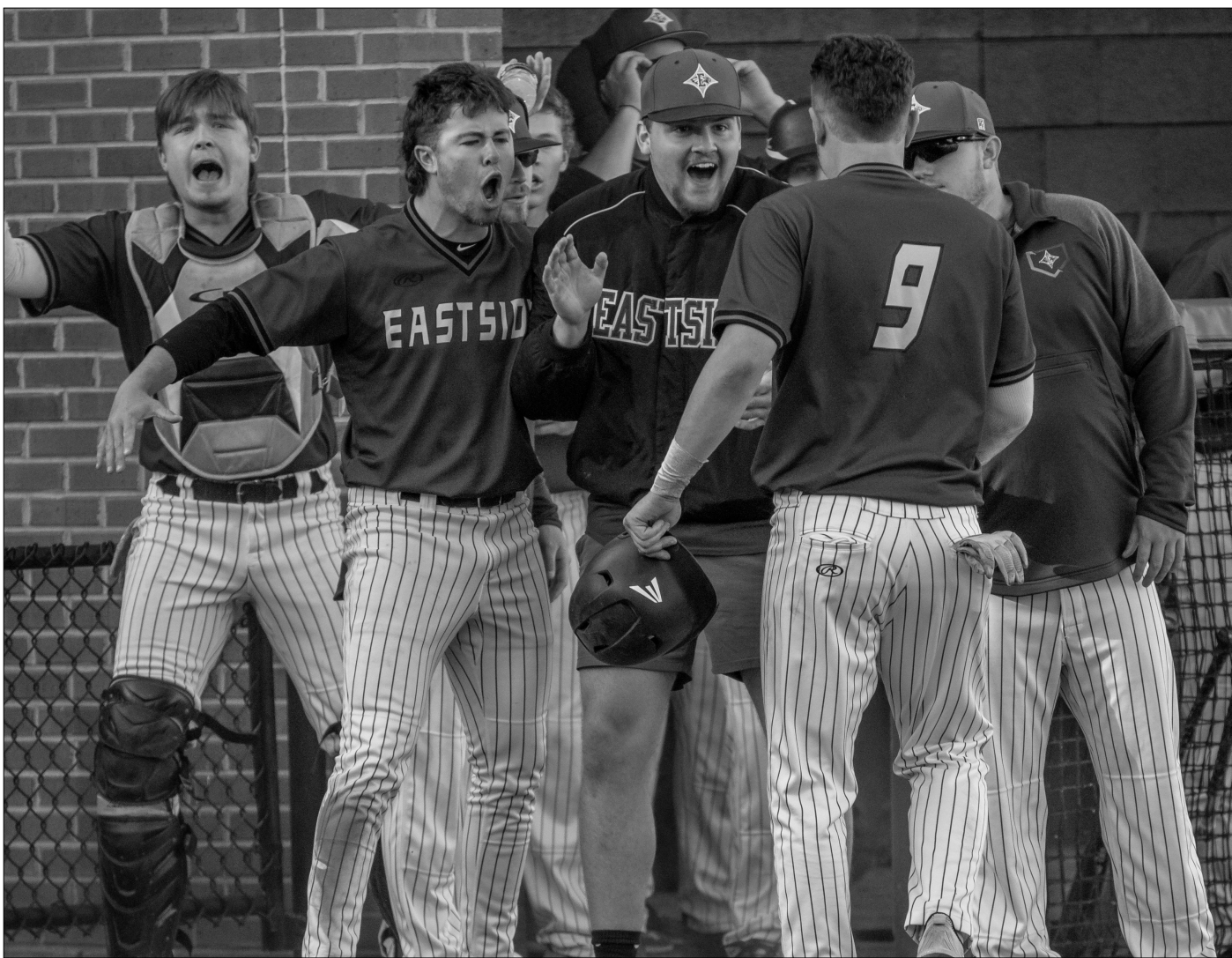
Region 8-A Public			
Team Region Overall			
Commerce	15-3	20-9	
Washington-Wilkes	15-3	22-7	
Social Circle	12-6	15-14	
Lake Oconee Academy	11-7	13-10	
Towns County	4-12	7-16	
Lincoln County	1-12	1-17	
Greene County	0-15	0-15	

Social Circle's Remaining Schedule
Class A-Public State Playoffs
4/29-4/30 - @ No. 2 Taylor County

Note: Standings updated as of April 23, 2021.
Schedules are subject to change.

Prep Baseball

BREAK OUT THE BROOMS



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

Eastside capped off the series sweep of No. 1 Loganville with a 6-5 road victory Wednesday. With the win, the Eagles secured a No. 3 seed for the Class AAAAA state playoffs.

Eagles sweep No. 1 Loganville

By BRETT FOWLER
The Walton Tribune

LOGANVILLE, Ga. — It wasn't a win that locked up the region title, but you wouldn't have known that judging from the reaction Eastside had after winning Wednesday night's Region 8-AAAAA matchup with Loganville by a final of 6-5.

What the win did do was secure the No. 3 playoff seed out of Region 8 for the Eagles and snap Loganville's streak of three straight region titles. Greenbrier defeated Clarke Central, which broke the tie for the top spot in the region and prevented a region playoff game between the Wolf-pack and the Red Devils.

"We didn't play the best, but we found a way to win," Eastside head coach Brandon Crumbley said. "They made some mistakes and we capitalized on them. Take nothing away from (Loganville). They're still a really good ball club, historically and this year. But

we did what we needed to do tonight"

Eastside came out hyped up for the contest after upsetting the Red Devils 4-0 on Monday thanks to a gem of a pitching performance by Cade Mitchell. That, combined with Loganville pitcher Dawson Coe struggling to find the strike zone early in Wednesday's contest, led to a 3-0 Eastside lead midway through the first inning.

All of the Eagles' runs in the first game came off passed balls that allowed runners to score from third. The Eagles added three more runs in the top of the second thanks to two Loganville errors and a sacrifice fly by Hunter Denney that drove in Kyle Shivers before Coe was replaced on the mound by Matthew Heard.

However, Loganville quickly answered with five runs in the bottom half of the inning. Will Cawthon got the scoring started with a double to center field that drove in Chan Haulk and Jackson

Chizek. That was followed up by Cawthon scoring on a passed ball.

But the exclamation point of Loganville's offensive rally was a two-run homer from Jackson Daniel that made it 6-5 in favor of Eastside.

While the big inning for Loganville was impressive, it would be the only real offensive output the Red Devils wound up producing all night.

Eastside starting pitcher Holden Hall was pulled in favor of Caleb Williams in the second and Williams went on to control the Red Devils' offense the rest of the contest. Williams finished the night by pitching 5 2/3 innings, giving up just three hits and two walks while striking out two batters.

"Hat's off to Caleb Williams for coming in there in a big situation, a one-run ball game, and keeping it where it was," Crumbley said.

Conversely, Heard kept the Eagles' offense in check once he took over on the mound for the Red Devils. Heard finished the night with eight strikeouts

and just two hits in his 5 2/3 innings of work.

Loganville had a chance to win the game in the bottom of the seventh when the Red Devils were able to get two runners on base with two outs in the inning. However, a routine ground ball to short ended the Loganville scoring threat.

"We just didn't get it done," Loganville head coach Jeff Segars said. "We had opportunities to get it done and we didn't. It's a mentality thing. Give Eastside credit, they made pitches where they needed."

The playoff seeding out of Region 8-AAAAA is now set with Greenbrier as the region champion and No. 1 seed, Loganville the No. 2 seed, Eastside the No. 3 seed and Walnut Grove the No. 4 seed. Region 8 will be matched up with Region 5 for the first round of the Class AAAAA state playoffs beginning next week.

The Eagles will take on No. 2 seed St. Pius X in the opening round next week.

Prep Softball

Lady Panthers eliminated in opening round of GAPPS playoffs

Peachtree Academy fell in the first round of the state playoffs.
Mason Wittner
| The Covington News



By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Peachtree Academy's 2021 softball season drew to a close Thursday as the Lady Panthers suffered a 13-5 defeat to Calvary Christian in decisive Game 3 of the first round of the GAPPS state playoffs.

The Lady Panthers

struck first, pushing three runs across in the second inning. Calvary chipped away at its deficit, but the Lady Panthers responded the next inning to make it 4-1.

In the fourth inning, however, things began to slip away as the visiting Lady Knights plated six runs to take a 7-4 lead, then followed

with another offensive explosion in the sixth

inning to collect the eight-run victory.

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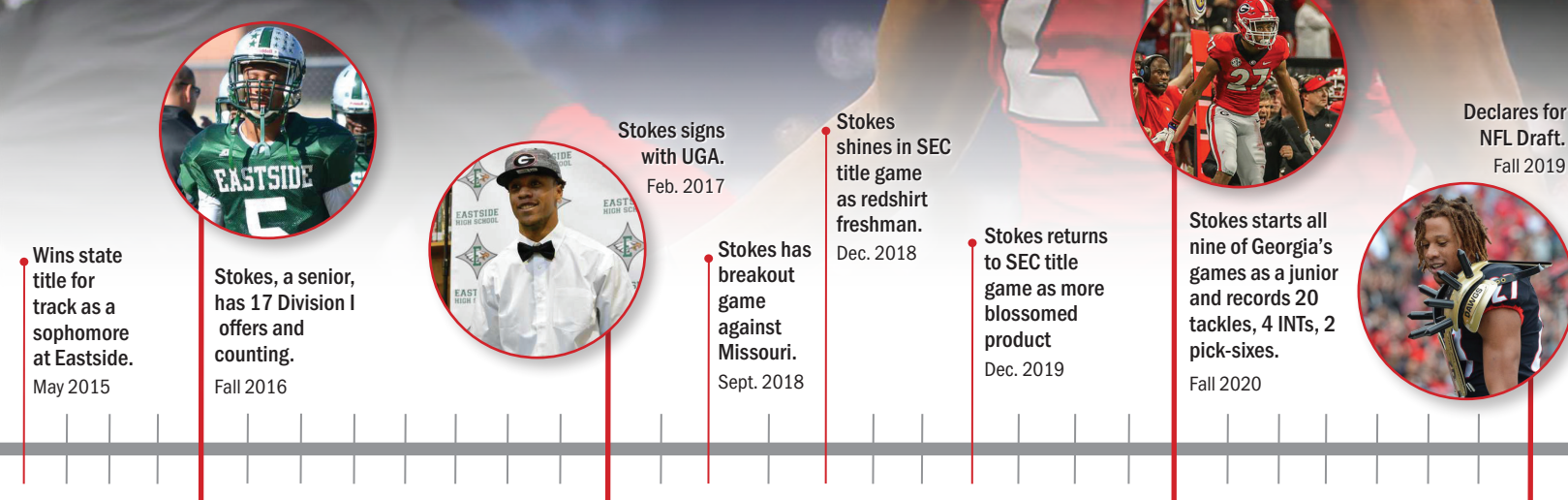
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NFL Draft Coverage

'Stoked' for the future

Q&A with Eastside legend,
Georgia defensive back
Eric Stokes Jr.



By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

Following a breakout junior season that saw him solidify his spot in the national spotlight, Georgia cornerback Eric Stokes Jr. declared for the 2021 NFL Draft this past winter.

The former Eastside Eagle announced the decision on his personal social media account Dec. 28, 2020.

"First, I want to give thanks to God because without him none of this would even be possible," Stokes stated in a Twitter post. "I want to thank my family for continuing to believe in me at my lowest and pushing me to be better. I want to give my eternal thanks to the University of Georgia for giving me the opportunity to grow and develop into the man I am today."

Stokes elevated himself into one of the most revered defensive backs in the country last fall. He started all nine of Georgia's games, recording 20 tackles and four interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns. In the months since he officially declared, he's been projected to be drafted within the first three rounds.

The 2021 NFL Draft will take place Thursday, April 29, through Saturday, May 1. As Stokes continues his preparation and waits to be selected by one of 32 NFL teams, he spoke with *The Covington News* to reflect on his time at Georgia and look ahead to what's coming next:

MW: You've declared for the 2021 NFL Draft. Now that your time in Athens has ended, how would you evaluate your collegiate career?

ES: "My time at Georgia had its ups and downs I would say, of course. But then again, I always kept myself level-headed. I really enjoyed my time being there, though. Being there was some of my best four years of my life so far. I met some great people, I met some great coaches. I'm going to cherish every little moment."

MW: You've blossomed from a 3-star athlete at Eastside High School to a coveted NFL prospect now projected to be selected within the first three rounds of the NFL Draft. Have you felt that the national exposure has changed anything about your mindset?

ES: "Oh, no. Oh, no. It's never [like] that. I still have the same type of mindset that I've always had because it doesn't matter. I'm still so far underneath the radar that it's crazy. I'm always just out here doing me, and I'm always going to keep that same mindset. I know how it feels to not have the opportunities, so I'm going to continue to do everything I can to make sure that I don't have to do that again."

MW: As Draft day approaches, your name is continuously being mentioned in

mock drafts while your tape is being analyzed by media pundits and NFL general managers alike. I would imagine this process makes it increasingly more difficult to block out any outside noise. How do you go about doing so?

ES: "It's crazy. I try not to [pay attention to it,] but then again, you know, with social media today there is no way. Like, there is no way you can't see that. Pretty much you see people have their experts saying he's going here, he's going there. You have no choice but to see it. It is really difficult, but I try to pay it no mind. People tweet at me and tag me, but I try to pay it no mind because pretty much at the end of the day, all of that doesn't matter. You can go in the first round, you can go second round, you can go undrafted. But once you get an opportunity, it really doesn't matter."

MW: When an NFL team does decide to give you an opportunity, what type of player and person will they be getting?

ES: "They'll get the same person that, I know for a fact, they've done their research on. He's coming in and he's hungry. He's going to be there on time. You don't have to worry about any negative things coming with him because that's never going to be me. And they'll be getting

a guy that's smiling and loving. It doesn't matter what type of day I'm having, I'm always going to try to be in a good mood. So you're going to get a guy that you're rarely going to hear [negative] things from, and you're going to get a guy that's competitive, hungry and pretty much like that."

MW: During your time at UGA, you still came back to Eastside to attend football games, workout on campus and support your alma mater. How nice is it to be able to come back to where you planted your roots?

ES: "Oh, man, it's great. I'm going to wear Eastside out. It doesn't matter; anytime, anywhere, I'm always going to come back and work out at Eastside. It's just home. It's home. I can do my own workout, I can do this, I can do that. And I know the coaching staff, so if I want to jump in while their working out, I can do that as well. There's so many options it makes it easy for me."

MW: You came from Eastside and thrived in the Southeastern Conference. Recent Newton High School graduate Nyland Green is now enrolled at UGA. Countless other student-athletes from Newton County across all sports have gone on to make a significant impact at the next level. Would you say it's safe to assess the secret is getting

out that this area is a hotbed for athletic talent?

ES: "Of course, of course. I've literally always believe that. Once I got to college, I used to tell people, 'OK, then. Y'all are lucky that you didn't play in Covington. We've got boys out there.' I always say, 'Y'all boys are lucky that you've never played anybody like this.'

MW: Do you have any more workouts or combines scheduled between now and the NFL Draft?

ES: "No. Right now I'm down here in Miami, Florida, working out and slowly getting ready for the Draft. I'm just staying in shape, lifting weights and all that good stuff."

MW: What are your plans for the weekend of the Draft?

ES: "I'll be hanging out with family and my friends who have been around me and helped me throughout this process. I'm just going to be chilling."

The first round of the 2021 NFL Draft will start at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, and go on until approximately 11:30 p.m. The second and third rounds will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 30, with Saturday's coverage of the final four rounds beginning at noon. All seven rounds will be broadcasted live on ESPN, ABC and NFL Network.

Prep Soccer

No. 2 Eastside eliminated by No. 3 Decatur

By MIKE HARRISON
Correspondent

COVINGTON, Ga. — Tuesday night at Homer Sharp Stadium, the No. 5 Eastside Lady Eagles (11-4-2) hosted the Decatur Lady Bulldogs (7-7-3) in the first round of the Class AAAAA State Playoffs.

Eastside's season ultimately came to an end as the club suffered a 2-0 defeat.

Looking at the teams' season records, one might think this could be an easy match for the home-standing Lady Eagles. A little research would quickly change that perspective.

The Lady Bulldogs had lost to the top three ranked teams in Class AAAAA: No. 1 Blessed Trinity, No. 2 St. Pius and No. 3 McIntosh, as well as to No. 7 Chamblee and No. 8 Grady. Decatur also lost to Class AAA No. 1 Westminster and to Class AAAAAA perennial powerhouse Parkview.

Decatur's Lindsey Fossett scored a quick goal off an assist from Caroline Jordan less than three minutes into the match, giving the Lady Bulldogs a 1-0 lead with 37:37 on the clock. That goal would prove to be the game-winner.

Decatur would force only one save by Eastside goalkeeper Anna Shelton in the first half and that came with 23:52 until halftime on a long shot attempted from in front of the Eastside goal.

Decatur had an excellent game plan that managed to disrupt the usual smooth ebb and flow that the Lady Eagles create when passing and driving upfield. Decatur had at least 11 substitutions during the first half alone. The frequent substitutions seemed to control the game clock and to slow down the usual quick pace of the Eastside attack.

Still, the Lady Eagles forced six saves by Decatur's vocal net-minder Zoe Deluca. Three of those saves were on long free kicks by the Lady Eagles.

Seven minutes into the game, Bailey Love sent a long free kick that hit directly off the foot of Lizzie Teasley at the Lady Bulldogs' 6-yard box, but the shot went up and over the Decatur goal.

For a complete recap of Tuesday's match and a reflection on the Lady Eagles' 2021 season, please visit CovNews.com.

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