

# The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19-20, 2020



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## SPORTS:

## NEXT LEVEL PLAYERS

County's student-athletes  
take advantage of early  
signing period

See A9



Darius  
Green

## His Word

Forbearing one another,  
and forgiving one  
another, if any man have  
a quarrel against any:  
even as Christ forgave  
you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:13, KJV

## COVID-19

# Shot full of hope



Dr. Gayla Dillard, general surgeon, and Dr. Sakina Peregrino-Brimah, hospitalist, are among the first five Piedmont employees to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Thursday, Dec. 17, outside Piedmont Rockdale Hospital.

## Local hospital employees among first to receive COVID vaccine

By TAYLOR BECK  
tbeck@covnews.com

Front line workers were among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer after it was distributed across Georgia and other parts of the U.S. earlier this week.

The first to be vaccinated in Newton County were em-

ployees of Piedmont Newton Hospital. Piedmont Healthcare held a training exercise Thursday at Piedmont Rockdale Hospital in Conyers in conjunction with Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale Health Departments to teach its employees how to conduct vaccinations. Approximately 100 Piedmont employees in the CDC's high-risk category, were on the receiving end of the vaccine.

As of Thursday

afternoon, the cumulative total of COVID-19 cases statewide was 488,388 with 9,302 confirmed deaths and 38,418 hospitalizations, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH). There have been approximately 59,791 new cases within the last two weeks.

In Newton County, there were a cumulative total of 4,005 cases with 110 deaths. Within the last two weeks, there have been

575 new cases across the county.

## Who gets the vaccine first?

The GPDH recently unveiled a distribution plan for administering the vaccine, which involves a three-phase plan.

In Phase One, while the vaccine's availability is limited, critical populations will take priority including health care workers

See SHOT, A3

## Newton County



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

From left, daughter McKinley Sanders assists Alana Sanders as she receives the oath of office to be District 3 county commissioner from Probate Judge Melanie Bell Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Historic Courthouse.

## Three new county officials sworn in

Bailey-Butts, Jordan, Sanders take office Jan. 1

By TOM SPIGOLON  
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Three who were elected to county offices for the first time in the Nov. 3 election joined officials who were reelected as they took their oaths of office Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Historic Courthouse.

Probate Judge Melanie Bell administered the oath to Alana Sanders, who was elected District 3 county commissioner; Dorothea Bailey-Butts, who was elected coroner; and Marcus Jordan, elected tax commissioner, all for their first terms in the Nov. 3 General Election.

Bell also administered the oath to returning Sheriff Ezell Brown, re-elected to a

fourth term; and County Chairman Marcello Banes and commissioners Stan Edwards of District 1 and Ronnie Cowan of District 5, all re-elected to second terms.

Sanders noted that she had thought about running for office after working in State Rep. Doreen Carter's 2014 campaign for Secretary of State — but had not envisioned seeking a seat on the county commission.

She said Carter had predicted Sanders would be a "politician." "I'm always doing something where I'm helping other people and that's what a politician is: a public servant," Sanders said. "That's what you're

See OFFICIALS, A8

## Covington

# Officials break ground on premier Town Center apartments

By TAYLOR BECK  
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — City and county officials gathered Thursday morning, Dec. 17, for a ceremonial ground breaking for The Cove at Covington Town Center — a 26-acre, \$57 million apartment complex that will provide 350 "Class A" apartments starting in 2022.

The Covington Town Center is a 131-acre mixed-use development located at the intersection of Alcovy and City Pond roads that has been in the works since

2016, according to previous reports by *The Covington News*.

The Cove, a three-story "garden/urban style" complex will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans ranging from 620 to 1,945 square feet. "Premium amenities" will include a luxury clubhouse, resort-style pool, state-of-the-art fitness center, linear park, dog park and pet spa. In addition, the community will be adjacent to a five-acre park complete with walking trails.

See GROUND, A8



Taylor Beck | The Covington News

City and county officials gathered with business leaders of Newton on Thursday, Dec. 17, to break ground on The Cove at Covington Town Center — a 26-acre, \$57 million apartment complex.



## Inside

**Newton breaks ground on \$23M water treatment plant upgrade**

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## Letters to Santa

Starting on B2



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## Obituary

**Donald G. Murphy**  
Covington  
See A2

Newton County

# County breaks ground on \$23M water treatment plant upgrade

**By TOM SPIGOLON**  
tspigolon@covnews.com  
COVINGTON, Ga. — County and water system officials broke ground Tuesday, Dec. 15, on millions of

dollars worth of upgrades to its main water treatment plant in north Newton County. Completion is expected in 2023 on \$23 million in improvements to allow the Cornish Creek facility at Lake Varner to produce up to 25 million gallons of treated water “on a continuous basis,” county Water Resources direc-

tor James Brown said. The plant currently treats an average of 13.5 million gallons. It will also be designed to allow expansion to produce 35 million gallons a day, according to engineering documents. County Manager Lloyd Kerr said during the Tuesday ceremony on the shores of Lake Varner the project is needed to accommodate the anticipated population growth in Newton County. Expansion also helps the county’s economic development efforts because it shows new and existing industrial employers — like Takeda Pharmaceuticals — that the county can meet their water needs, Kerr said. “One of the key questions that is being

asked is the availability of water,” he said. Brown said the plant’s wholesale water customers worked to develop a strategic plan that led to the plant expansion project and “benefit the citizens of Newton County for the next 50 years.” The project is set to include addition of a floating dock pump station for drawing up to 35 million gallons of raw water per day from Lake Varner. A new 36-inch raw water line and a parallel finished water line are part of the project. Three new high-service pumps for treated water; improvements to the bulk chemical storage area; a new backup power generator and improvements to the plant electrical system also are planned.

The county received a \$25 million loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for the project. The loan is being repaid with money generated by current water rates, according to documents. The Newton County Water System is a wholesale provider of water treated at its Cornish Creek and Williams Street plants. Its customers include the Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority; the cities of Covington, Mansfield, Newborn, Oxford and Porterdale; and the Alcovy Shores Water Authority, Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority, and Walton County Board of Commissioners, according to information from the water system.



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You and Your Family.**

**The Covington News will be closed  
December 24th & 25th  
to celebrate the Christmas Holiday  
with family and friends.**

**The Covington News**





Tom Spigolon | The Covington News  
County and water system officials broke ground Tuesday, Dec. 15, on millions of dollars worth of upgrades to its main water treatment plant in north Newton County.

## OBITUARY

**Donald G. Murphy**  
Donald G. Murphy passed into eternal peace on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Covington at

the age of 58. Donald was born in Halifax, Virginia. Left to cherish Donald’s memory is his wife, Judy L. Murphy of the home, his precious dog, baby, parents, Charles E. and Carolyn Murphy of Virgilina, Virginia; June and Joe Hartley of Apex, North Carolina; son Carl Hadley and fiancé Autumn Stovall; grandchildren Alihana Hadley and Jayden Seltzer; six brothers: Michael (Susan) Davis, Randy (Teressa) Davis of Virgilina, Virginia; Greg Davis of South Boston, Virginia; Kevin (Debra) Davis of Midlothian, Virginia; Jody Hartley of Raleigh, North Carolina;



and Dana Hartley of Apex, North Carolina; uncle Bill and aunt Kathleen Murphy of South Boston, Virginia; nephew Michael E. Murphy of Sharpsburg; special nieces Michelle, Melody, Nicole, and Brittney; his adopted mom, Donna Combs; and many friends. Donald enjoyed many sports, softball, football, baseball, and was an avid Golfer. He enjoyed spending time at the lake fishing with his Pop. Donald worked in the Movie Production Industry as a Teamster of Local #728 in Atlanta. Donald was proceeded in death by his brother, Mark Murphy of Covington. A celebration of Donald’s Life will be held at a later date.



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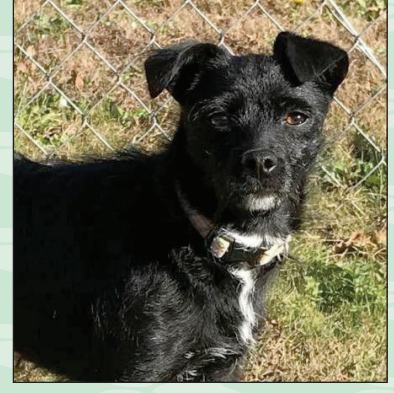
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Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

**Santa Claus greets a student at Newton County Theme School on Wednesday during the Covington Police Department's annual Operation Candy Cane. Read the full story at [CovNews.com](http://CovNews.com) or in Wednesday's edition of the newspaper.**

## Porterdale council OKs slightly smaller 2021 budget

By **TOM SPIGOLON**  
[tspigolon@covnews.com](mailto:tspigolon@covnews.com)

**PORTERDALE, Ga.** — Porterdale City Council has voted to give final approval to a 2021 budget that is a slight decrease from its 2020 spending plan.

The plan slashes administrative costs while increasing spending for public safety and the zoning and streets departments.

Its General Fund is proposed at \$1.454 million, down slightly from \$1.458 million in 2020.

The plan increases expenditures for the police department by \$36,000 and proposes no change in the department's staffing levels of six full-time positions.

It also plans for purchase of two new vehicles to replace its current Dodge Chargers after the city had higher than anticipated maintenance costs on them.

City Manager Frank Etheridge would like to replace them through a lease-purchase plan, he said.

The Highways and Streets part

of the General Fund increases from \$239,000 to \$257,000 as additional funding is proposed for payroll and health insurance costs. The increase is offset by a 66% cut in the budget for contract labor from \$25,000 to \$8,100.

Spending in areas of the Planning and Zoning Department will increase based on work needed if development of the proposed Cedar Shoals mixed-use community progresses, Etheridge said.

Cedar Shoals is planned for a 257-acre site on Covington Bypass Road. It is proposed to include a mix of single-family, townhomes and apartments with a commercial area, along with other features, according to a Development of Regional Impact application filed with the state.

In other funds in the budget, Water & Sewer is proposed to increase from \$618,300 in 2020 to \$797,450 in 2021.

The increase in expenditures reflects a \$15,000 per month

payment to Newton County Water and Sewer Authority to help pay off a back debt owed to the agency; and payment on the principal of a loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.

They are offset by higher revenues from water and sewer fees, according to the budget plan.

Council members earlier this year discovered the city was working to pay down about \$1 million owed to a variety of utility agencies after alleged poor accounting practices by a former city manager.

They also approved a property tax rate of 16.072 mills in August that the city is using for its local revenues in part of the 2021 budget year.

Porterdale's 2021 budget will go into effect Jan. 1 because the city operates on a fiscal year that conforms to the calendar year.

Many other governments and the county school district operate on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year that conforms to the state government's budget year.

## SHOT:

Continued from A1

who have the potential to be

directly or indirectly exposed to COVID-19; and residents and staff in long-term care facilities.

Then essential workers that play critical roles in keeping society up and running, police and fire personnel, other critical workforce employees (pharmacy staff, teachers and school employees, food processors, grocery store employees, transportation staff, power plant employees, air traffic controllers, etc.) and people over the age of 65 who have comorbidities and their caregivers will be vaccinated. Once those rounds of vaccinations are completed, Phase

One ends with people at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness who weren't vaccinated in previous rounds, adults age 65 and older and caregivers and adults below age 65 with comorbidities being vaccinated.

As the vaccine's availability increases, Phase Two of the distribution will begin. This will include nonclinical public health, hospital and long-term care facility workers and their family members; individuals in homeless shelters; individuals in congregate settings (dorms, group homes); staff and individuals in jails, prisons, detention centers; and adults aged 31-64.

The final phase will begin once the vaccine is widely available. This includes vaccinating the general population and children, once the vaccine is approved for pediatric use.

State leaders decide where and when the vaccine is distributed among Georgia's 18 public health districts based on population density, level of disease and numbers of priority populations.

Pfizer is the only FDA-ap-



Special Photo | Piedmont Health Care  
**Ashley Sullivan, an infection preventionist, administers the first COVID vaccine to Shannan Browning, a labor and delivery nurse at Piedmont Newton, on Thursday, Dec. 17, outside Piedmont Rockdale Hospital.**

proved vaccination available as of Friday before *The Covington News*' deadline, but the organization is expected to approved a Moderna-produced vaccine soon.

### How does the vaccine work?

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are designed to help a person's body develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness.

"Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of 'memory' T-lymphocytes as well as B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus in the future," the CDC states.

It typically takes a few weeks

for the body to produce T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes after vaccination, according to the CDC, so it is possible that a person could contract the novel coronavirus just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

"Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever," the CDC states. "These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity."

The CDC reports that all but one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the U.S. use two shots. The first shot starts building protection and a second shot a few weeks later is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer.

One vaccine in Phase 3 clinical trials only needs one shot.

More information on COVID-19 and the vaccine can be found at [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov).

### What's the cost?

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone at no cost through 2021, regardless of a person's insurance coverage or lack thereof. After all, U.S. taxpayer dollars have paid for vaccine research and doses. However, the CDC states, "Vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund."

## Community Calendar

### SATURDAY, DEC. 19

• Santa on the Square, from 5-8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 20

• Covington First United Methodist Church, located at 1113 Conyers Street in Covington, will be hosting a drive-thru live nativity from 6-8 p.m.

### MONDAY, DEC. 21

• Walton County GOP Chairman Roy Roberts Sr. is hosting a "Rally for the Senate" event at his farm on Nunnally Farm Road in Monroe at 4 p.m. The public is invited.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 25

• Christmas Day! *The Covington News*, like other area businesses and government offices, will close Dec. 24-25 to allow its staff to observe the holiday.

### ONGOING

• Food pantry at Covington First United Methodist Church is in need of volunteers now that students and teachers are back in school and unavailable to help with this project. If available to help, email Megan Hulgan at [foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org](mailto:foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org) to sign up.

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Taylor Beck editor and publisher

# Do what’s best for you

Over the last several months, health experts and political leaders have been telling us what to do in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. We’ve been ordered to shut down, attend school and work from home, keep our distance and — how could we ever forget — wear a mask. While much of their advice has been helpful and necessary, I’d argue some did nothing but hurt our economy. For example, masks work. That was proven by our friends at Piedmont Newton Hospital. The health care facility instituted a universal mask policy, which led to zero cases started within the hospital. Sure, there were employees to get the virus, but it was from an outside source — like a trip to the grocery store where not everyone was wearing a mask. Businesses being forced to shut their doors did not truly help slow the spread of COVID-19 like they thought it would. In fact, look to New York for proof. Data shows that although thousands of people were forced to quarantine and stay at home, those people were still getting the virus.



Now we’re all being encouraged to take the vaccine that was recently created and approved — one by Pfizer and the other by Moderna. When someone asked if I would be vaccinated, I said, “No.” This isn’t because I don’t trust the world’s leading experts who produced the vaccine. This isn’t because I don’t know what exactly is in the vaccine. This isn’t because I’m scared of needles, and this isn’t because I think the government is using the vaccine to put trackers in us or any other wild conspiracies floating around out there. I choose not to take it because I believe it’s the best option for me. I’ve taken an influenza vaccine one time, and that year when I contracted the flu I felt worse than ever before, so I never took it again. Since that time, I’ve handled my rare cases of the flu quite well. Before going further, let me be clear. I don’t share this to intimidate anyone. My goal is not to misinform or cause a stir. I will never tell someone they should or should not get the vaccine, because 1) I’m not your doctor and don’t know your health history, and 2) I’m not a science or health expert who is well-versed on the subject. I’m simply the publisher of your local newspaper, and all I’m

sharing is a piece of advice: do what’s best for you. I’m 26 years old with no underlying illnesses or health problems. So the chances of me contracting the novel virus and it taking a major affect on me is slim. That’s another reason I’m comfortable with not getting the vaccine, or at least waiting until I feel it’s necessary. Now, if your doctor says it’s imperative that you get the vaccine, then listen to your doctor. Block out all the other noise around you and, please, don’t believe everything you see on social media. And by all means, if you’re confident and have no doubt about getting the vaccine, I applaud you and wish you well. As I write, we’ve already seen the vice president and other top officials publicly take the vaccine to show it will cause no harm. But if you have reservations about the vaccine and feel like you need to wait, then wait. Talk with your doctor about it. Pray about it. Do your own research if you want. There’s no need to rush into something that you’re unsure of, regardless of the situation, and it isn’t mandatory — for now, that is. Should the vaccine be mandatory? That’s a good question that I’m sure will be a major talking point across the nation in

the coming days. My answer is no. Personally, I think it should be handled like the flu vaccine and any others out there, which are available to all but never forced on any. I look at it like a driver’s license. Everyone has the opportunity to get their driver’s license when they turn 16 years old. Everyone could probably use a driver’s license. For some, like me, it’s absolutely a necessity. But it’s still optional. No one forces you to go take the test. If you want, you can wait til your age 17, 18, 50 or older. And if we’re being honest, some people just do not need to drive. If we start forcing a vaccine onto people, you could make a case that it would be an infringement on Americans’ rights. I believe mandating the vaccine would send the wrong message and deter many folks who need to strongly consider taking the vaccine from doing so. Let’s put it another way: if you think getting people to wear a mask is difficult, just imagine what forcing a vaccine on them would be like.

Taylor Beck is editor and publisher of The Covington News. His email address is tbeck@covnews.com.

Chris Bridges columnist

# Republican Civil War erupts in Georgia

As intriguing as the 2020 election was (and still is), things have the potential to be just as entertaining in our state for 2022. The reason is simple: a Civil War has erupted among Republicans in Georgia and the rift could end up being as nasty anything we have witnessed for decades. As anyone who follows politics knows, President Trump is still battling to have the outcome of the 2020 election overturned. His team of supporters, both legal and otherwise, have thrown up every Hail Mary possible but to date none have reached the endzone. The latest news in this saga comes as Texas has declared war on Georgia and other states in which Joe Biden defeated President Trump. Not satisfied with the results of numerous recounts in Georgia (and other states), President Trump has openly criticized some state leaders in the GOP including Gov. Brian Kemp. The president has now said he regrets endorsing Kemp in the 2018 election and is encouraging Congressman Doug Collins to run against the governor in the 2022 primary. Collins, as you may recall, was the person President Trump wanted Kemp to appoint to the vacant US Senate seat when Johnny Isakson retired. The governor instead went with Kelly Loeffler. In addition, President Trump and an increasing number of Georgians are furious with Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. It seems the Secretary of State, along with Governor Kemp, refuses to overturn the outcome of the presidential vote in the general election for Georgia. The reason is actually simple: neither has the legal authority to do so. Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, also a Republican, has fired back in the war of words with the Republican attorney general in Texas (who has numerous legal battles personally he should be concentrating on) saying that his lawsuit is “constitutionally, legally and factually wrong.” That potential case was rejected by the US Supreme Court late last week. The 2022 governor’s race was already expected to be closely contested with Stacey Abrams all but certain to run again. Abrams



nearly won in 2018 and a GOP primary battle, as ugly as this one could get, would only benefit her campaign. In recent years, primary challengers against a GOP incumbent have not done well. In the 2014 primary John Barge challenged incumbent Nathan Deal in the governor’s race. Barge, despite being elected statewide as school superintendent, managed just 11% of the vote against Deal. A third candidate in that primary actually polled more than Barge despite never holding statewide office. Barge then attempted to regain his seat as state school superintendent in 2018 but lost to incumbent Richard Woods 60-40%. Even when trying to get his old position back, Barge found it was much easier to be the office holder rather than the challenger. Kemp will likely not be the only GOP incumbent to face primary challenges in 2022. Raffensperger is almost sure to have a pro-Trump opponent. One potential candidate, who ran in this year’s U.S. Senate jungle primary, told me recently she is considering a run against the current Secretary of State. With Carr’s comments about the lawsuit from the Lone Star State, look for Georgia’s attorney general to also face primary election opposition. Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan has also been a vocal critic of those criticizing Georgia and its election integrity. That certainly opens the door for someone to challenge him as well. Trump very well may run again in 2024. If so, he will probably campaign for the next four years. If he does run it’s doubtful any high-profile Republicans will challenge him. When we get to 2022 look for Trump to ramp up his support for candidates running against Kemp, Duncan, Carr and Raffensperger. The state Republican Party typically does not have anyone challenging incumbents and often ignores anyone who dares to do so. However, Trump would make it a completely different ballgame. It will likely get as nasty as anything we have seen in our state and that is saying something. Get ready. As crazy as the 2020 election, Georgia just may be set to top it in 2022.

Chris Bridges is a former sports editor for The Covington News. Reach him at pchrisbridges@gmail.com.

Rev. Lyn Pace columnist

# ‘A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices’

I love Christmas music and movies. As soon as December arrives, I tune in to my playlists or Pandora, Netflix and Prime to the new and classics. This year, they feel even more important than



ever before. My son is now old enough to enjoy these holiday favorites with me, so we just finished watching “Home Alone.” Not having paid much attention to it before, on this viewing I noticed that the theme of redemption runs throughout the film. The particular moment I locked into was in the character of Old Man

Marley, who always seems to be shoveling. Early on, Marley is the subject of a misleading story and throughout the movie is a mysterious and ominous character. Until the main character, 8-year-old Kevin McCallister, encounters him in a church, and they exchange stories about their lives. We learn that Old Man Marley and his son are estranged, and he has come to the church to see his granddaughter as she rehearses with a choir because he is not welcome at the performance. The song the choir sings as that scene opens is “O Holy Night.” Ever since my father sang it as a solo in church, I have loved it. In 1855, Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight wrote the English version of it, which is based on the French poem “Minuit chrétiens” (Midnight, Christians) by poet Placide Cappeau. The song tells the story of Jesus’ birth, but it also communicates a redemption message. Most of us probably know the opening lyrics, with stars brightly

shining on the night of the dear Savior’s birth. In that first verse as I reflect on 2020, I cannot help but embrace this song. “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.” It has been a weary year. We have had weary years before, of course. The lesser-known third verse written by Dwight has become poignant to me in recent years ever since I heard the Atlanta-based Indigo Girls sing it a few years ago at the Tabernacle in Atlanta. Early abolitionists in the North especially resonated with this verse too: Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother; and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name. These words continue to call us to the necessary and important work of justice and peace, love and hope as we look ahead to 2021.

See PACE, A8

The Covington News

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CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Help Wanted

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING Service seeking hardworking dependable person to clean commercial buildings 20 to 25 hours per week. \$10.00/hr to start. **MONTICELLO AREA. BACKGROUND/DRUG TEST required. 706-476-0233**

LEGALS

Public Notices

Alcoholic Beverage

**NOTICE IS** hereby given that an application has been made to the Newton County Board of Commissioners to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages (beer & wine) for off premises consumption by:

**JP COVINGTON**  
**KENNETH R. JOHNSON**  
**387 HIGHWAY 11**  
**SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025**

**OCCUPATION TAX/BUSINESS License Contact:**  
**TINA WATERS**  
**BUSINESS LICENSE Clerk**  
**TWATERS@CO.NEWTON. GA.US**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117698**  
**12/13,20**

Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

**THE CITY** of Covington is accepting sealed proposals for professional services to conduct a traffic and parking study and comprehensive plan consisting of 2 project areas for the City of Covington.

**ALL PROPOSALS** must be submitted to the Attention of: Brian Yoder, at 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014 or to (USPS) P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015 and marked Downtown District Traffic and Parking Study RFP #2020-26. Proposals are due no later than 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE # 117707**  
**12/20,1/10**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

**THE CITY** of Covington is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for the retrofitting an existing railroad trestle bridge with a concrete deck for the Covington Crickethrog Trail in Covington, GA. All Bids shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents and AASHTO LRFD Guide Specifications for the Design of Pedestrian Bridges – December 2009 and the ACI318-11 for Design of Concrete Elements and Georgia DOT Standard Specifications for Construction of Transportation Systems, 2013 Edition, 2016 Supplemental Agreement. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting held at 10:00am on January 7, 2020 in the City of Covington Council Room located at 2116 Stallings Street NW Covington, GA 30014.

**ALL PROPOSALS** must be submitted, to Attn: Scott Cromer, City of Covington Purchasing Department, at 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014. Proposals are due no later than 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117706**  
**12/20,1/3**

DOCUMENT 00021 INVITATION TO BID LEGAL NOTICE

**1. SEALED** proposals for ALCOVY ROAD/ TOWN CENTER BOULEVARD SIGNAL PLAN owned by The City of Covington, Georgia will be received by Tres Thomas at the City of Covington City Hall, located at 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014 until 2:00 PM on January 21th, 2021 at which time they will be publicly opened.

**2. THE** project consists of the following generally described work:

**THE PROJECT** consists of installation of a stop and go traffic signal at the intersection of Alcovy Road and Town Center Boulevard in the City of Covington, Georgia. The traffic signal will be installed following current GDOT standard specifications and details. Crosswalks will be installed as shown on the plans to accommodate pedestrian movements at the signal and the intersection will be restriped to accommodate the new signal. The installation shall be coordinated with the City and GDOT District 2

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/20/20

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Medical Billing and Coding Training. New Students Only. Call and Press 1. 100% Online courses. Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. Call 833-628-2698.

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

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Portable Oxygen Concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-670-0481.

A Place For Mom. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. 1-855-508-8043.

ATTENTION: Oxygen users! Gain Freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 844-923-2359.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTELY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 864071 Restrictions apply. 877-820-7565

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

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

SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Threatened with FORECLOSURE? CALL the homeowners Relief Line Now for Help! 855-696-0109.

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

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

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CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** in the Fire Department with an annual entry level rate of \$38,187.60 to a maximum annual rate of \$56,076.24 depending upon qualifications. This is skilled work in combating, extinguishing and preventing fires, in answering emergency calls, providing emergency medical services and in the operation and routine custodial maintenance of department equipment, apparatus and quarters. Education and experience include being at least 18 years of age, graduation from high school or GED equivalent, and possession of State of Georgia Firefighter I certification or ability to obtain certification within one year. Qualified applicants may apply via our website by downloading a public safety application packet at [www.cityofcovington.org](http://www.cityofcovington.org) or may apply in person (**Drive-thru only**) at the City of Covington, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. The position will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020. *The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Traffic Operations Office.

**3. PLANS** and Specifications are open to inspection at the City of Covington City Hall, located at 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014, or Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., 5553 Peachtree Road; Suite 175, Atlanta, GA 30341.

**4. IN** order to assure that Bidders receive all addenda and or clarifications to the bid documents in a timely manner, it is highly recommended that all bidders obtain at least one complete set of Bid Documents directly from the Engineer. Entities that do not purchase Bid Documents from the Engineer will not be on the Engineer's plans holder list and will not receive addenda and/or clarifications to the bid documents directly from the Engineer. Bidders relying on plans rooms or other services to obtain the Bid Documents, rather than purchasing them directly from the Engineer, are doing so at their own risk. Sets of the Bid Documents may be obtained at the office of Thomas & Hutton, the Engineer, or via email upon receipt of payment of a nonrefundable fee of \$25 for a digital copy of the Bid Documents in PDF format.

**5. BIDS** shall be accompanied by a bid bond or certified cashier's check in an amount not less than 10% of the base bid. All bonds shall be by a surety company licensed in Georgia with an "A" minimum rating of performance and a financial strength of at least five times the contract price as listed in the most current publication of "Best's Key Rating Guide Property Liability." Performance and Payment Bonds, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price shall be required of the successful bidder if contract is awarded. Each Bond shall be accompanied by a "Power of Attorney" authorizing the attorney-in-fact to bind the surety and certified to include the date of the bond.

**6. OWNER** reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, the rights to reject any or all nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced or conditional Bids and to reject the Bid of any Bidder if Owner believes it would not be in the best interest of the Project to make an award to Bidder, whether because the Bid is not responsive or the Bidder is unqualified or of doubtful financial ability or fails to meet any other pertinent standard or criteria established by the Owner.

**7. ALL** questions shall be submitted in writing to Engineer by Friday, January 8th, 2021 at 2:00 PM. An addendum addressing all questions and comments received by the question deadline will be issued via electronic mail and facsimile by end of business on Thursday, January 14th, 2021.

**ENGINEER** **OWNER**  
**THOMAS & Hutton** City of Covington  
**ATTN: JEFF** Halliburton, P.E.  
Attn: Tres Thomas  
**2127 USHER** Street NW,

2194 Emory Street  
**COVINGTON, GA 30014**  
**PHONE: 912-429-2135**  
Phone: 770-385-2000  
**EMAIL: HALLIBURTON.J@TANDH.COM** Email: [thomas@cityofcovington.org](mailto:thomas@cityofcovington.org)

**END OF INVITATION TO BID**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117702**  
**12/20,1/3**

**THE CITY** of Covington invites proposals to craft a master plan for Central Park, a 250+ acre park located in the heart of Covington, GA. The park will serve as a leisure destination for the entire city and directly connect to eleven or more neighborhoods. This master plan aims to provide expert landscape design, graphic renderings, and budgeted phases to achieve to overall scope. The master plans should be done in consultation with consultants for the Urban Redevelopment Plan, thereby achieving the secondary objective of illustrating public investments that may spur economic development.

**SEALED PROPOSALS** must be submitted via mail by no later than 5:00 p.m., January 22nd, 2021. Responses should include all identified components. Responses received after this time and date will not be considered. Please address responses to:

**WILLIAM SMITH**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Manager  
**P.O. BOX 1527**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30015**  
**678-212-6459**  
**COMM.DEV@CITYOFCOVINGTON.ORG**

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117692**  
**12/13,20**

Citations

CITATION

**ADONIS M. HARDEMAN** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of CAROLYN JEAN HARDEMAN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at

ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117620**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**BRIDGET LATONIA MITCHELL** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of JEFFERY KEITH MITCHELL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at

ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117619**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**CATINA M. PARKER** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of LEONARD CHARLES PARKER, JR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at

ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117621**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**CHERYL B. HILL** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BRANDACE LESLIE**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at

ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117678**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**CRISTI ROBINSON** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of TIM LAWSON ROBINSON**, deceased. (The applicant has also

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info@shopsneakerasylum.com

www.shopsneakerasylum.com

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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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117616**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**EDDIE GEORGE MANUEL** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BETTY JEAN BELL MANUEL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at

ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117675**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**EDDIE GEORGE MANUEL** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of EDRICA MANUEL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge**  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117677**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

CITATION

**GREGORY THOMAS** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of

**See LEGALS, A6**

# LEGALS:

Continued from A5

**THE ESTATE of ELOISE MARTIN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117617**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**HARRY WILLIAM HODGES** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of RALPH HODGES**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117616**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**JOEY L. JOHNSON** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of HELEN KELLY JOHNSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117676**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**KATIE MELOVITZ** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of STACEY LYNNE ANDERSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117623**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**KEYWANDER A. FLOYD** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of HENRY THOMAS JOHNSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117680**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**MARVIN WILSON CLABORN, JR.** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of LISA MARIE HERMAN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117622**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**MELVA L. MONTGOMERY** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of WILLIE MONTGOMERY, JR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117679**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**MERLENE ST. LUCE** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of AMAYAH PARRIS**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117625**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**RE: ESTATE of DOTTIE ANN MCKENZY, Deceased.**

**DEBBIE LAMB**, Denise Spitter, and Charles McKenzie, Co-Executors have petitioned to be discharged from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before January 4, 2021, at ten o'clock am.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117710**  
**12/20**

**CITATION**

**ROBIN A. BUTZ** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of DONALD BRIAN ADAMS, SR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

**MELANIE M.** Bell, Judge  
**BY: MARCIA Wynne**  
**CLERK, PROBATE Court**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117624**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**THE PETITION of ALAN D. CANNON**, widow/widower of **TERI DIANE CANNON**, 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 JANUARY 4, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117639**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**CITATION**

**THE PETITION of OBY NWANDU, ON BEHALF of CHIMABI NWANDU**, for Twelve Month's Support, Estate of Augustine Ifenayi Nwandu, deceased, 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 JANUARY 4, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117683**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**Corporations**

**NOTICE IS** given that Articles of Incorporation which will incorporate "CommuniK, Inc." will be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. (O.C.G.A. Section 14-2-201.)

**THE INITIAL** registered office of the corporation is located at 653 Dixie Rd.,Covington, GA 30014, and its initial registered agent at such address is Arely Meyerholtz.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117695**  
**12/13,20**

**NOTICE IS** given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Bush & Mesa Assets & Procurement Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code (or Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code). The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 60 Silvertown Dr., Covington, Ga. and its initial registered agent at such address is Abel and Tamara.

**NOTICE IS** given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Bush & Mesa Tax Services & Financial Consulting Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code (or Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code). The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 60 Silvertown Dr., Covington, Ga. and its initial registered agent at such address is Abel and Tamara Mesa.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117690**  
**12/13,20**

**Debtors Creditors**

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

**IN THE INTEREST OF: HELEN SANDRA HICKS, DECEASED.**

**ESTATE NO. 2020-P-296**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of HELEN SANDRA HICKS of Newton County, 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.

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.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 10th day of DECEMBER, 2020.

**DERWIN BRYAN** Davis  
**973 GREEN** Street, SE  
**CONYERS, GA 30012**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #11709**  
**12/20,27,1/3,10**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the Estate of Susan J. Samuel, late of Newton County, 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 24TH** day of November, 2020.

**BRUCE R. HAWKINS, JR. ATTORNEY FOR CHARLES WILLIAM SAMUEL AND TYLER J. BOROWSKI, EXECUTORS ESTATE OF SUSAN J. SAMUEL**  
**538 SCENIC** Highway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (770) 822-5635

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117658**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of RAYMON ELLIS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE** 30th day of November, 2020.

**KEITH ELLIS**  
**257 RAVEN ROAD**  
**MONTICELLO, GA 31064**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117681**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ROBERT SHEPARD, 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** 1st day of December, 2020.

**ROBERT SHEPARD, Jr.**  
**1428 MAIN** St, Apt 231  
**FITCHBURG, MA 01420**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117682**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**Foreclosures**

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

**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 **Scott White Jr.** to Sun America Mortgage Corporation, dated January 23, 2003, and recorded in Deed Book 1358, Page 521, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Yurt Series IV Trust by assignment to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of one hundred sixty-eight thousand and 00/100 (\$168,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, the following described property: **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 230 OF THE 9TH LAND DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 143 OF UNIT FIVE, WOODS OF DEARING SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 38, PAGES 11-14, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IN INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE 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 Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

**YOUR MORTGAGE** servicer can be contacted at 800-603-0836 - Loss Mitigation Dept., or by writing to SN Servicing Corporation (Servicer), 323 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure. **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.

**TO THE** best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Scott White Jr. or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **270 Dearing Woods Way, Covington, GA 30014.**

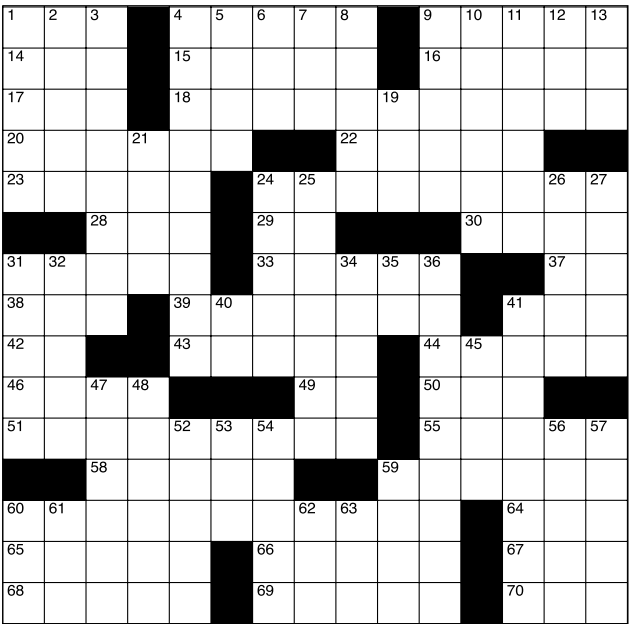
**THE SALE** will be conducted

## CLUES ACROSS

- Popular pickup truck
- Profoundly wise men
- Camera company
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Passerine birds
- Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- Popular kids channel
- Dodgers' skipper
- Removes
- The Atlantic is one
- Badgerlike mammal
- Foulness
- Luke's mentor \_\_-Wan
- Commercial
- A type of gin
- Tempress
- Shuts in an enclosed space
- Milligram
- Actress Adams
- Strive to equal or match
- Health insurance
- A detective's source
- Small American rails
- Alfred \_\_, Brit. poet
- Crest of a hill
- Atomic #52
- \_\_ Caesar, comedian
- Breaks apart
- Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- Worker
- Chemical compound
- Disgraced newsman
- Born of
- Chemical substance
- Supernatural powers
- Clothes
- Indy footballers
- Moves forward
- Midway between south and southeast

## CLUES DOWN

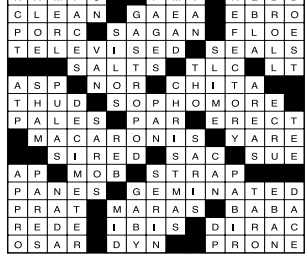
- Driver
- Bone cavities
- Menacing
- Where coaches patrol
- Greek mythological figure



- War-based board game
- Midway between northeast and east
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- Large bodies of water
- Eurasian ryegrass
- Perform on stage
- Greek island
- 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- One point east of southeast
- Belgian city
- Praise excessively
- River in France
- Edible lily bulbs
- Quarterbacks take them
- Organic compound
- Tears down (Brit.)
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Unconscious
- Missouri
- Firemen use them
- Pig noise

- Greatly dismay
- Imitator
- Moves by turning over
- Boxing's GOAT
- Swarms with
- Margarines
- Feudal superior
- As fast as can be done
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Chinese city
- Tell on
- United

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Attorney for WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 as Attorney in Fact for Paul Holfeld and Barbara A. Holfeld 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 960 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 By: Cory Sims For the Firm THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 20-011054 A-4727858 12/06/2020, 12/13/2020, 12/20/2020, 12/27/2020

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117641**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

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

**BY VIRTUE** of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from **JOAN LEJEUNE AKA JOAN N. LEJEUNE** to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC AS NOMINEE FOR HOMECOMINGS FINANCIAL NETWORK INC, dated June 28, 2006, recorded July 10, 2006, in Deed Book 2228, Page 236-251 , Newton County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$135,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Newton County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2021, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 128 OF THE 19TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 3, CONTAINING 5.0 ACRES, ACCORDING TO SURVEY FOR CURTIS LEASURE AND JOAN LEASURE AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 26, PAGE 9, REVISED IN PLAT BOOK 27, PAGE 188, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH RECORDED PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.**

**SAID LEGAL** description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **25 SHOALS CREEK CHURCH ROAD, MANSFIELD, GA 30055.**

**THE INDEBTEDNESS** secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants; and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

**TO THE** best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is JOAN LEJEUNE AKA JOAN N. LEJEUNE, ESTATE AND/OR HEIRS-AT-LAW OF JOAN N. LEJEUNE , or tenants(s).

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE** that,

pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, you are not entitled by law to an amendment or modification of the terms of your loan. The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, Loss Mitigation Dept., 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, Telephone Number: 888-480-2432.

**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER AS ATTORNEY** in Fact for **JOAN LEJEUNE AKA JOAN N. LEJEUNE**

**THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

**ATTORNEY CONTACT:** Ruben Lublin, LLC, 3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (877) 813-0992 Case No. NAT-20-01272-1  
**AD RUN** Dates 12/06/2020, 12/13/2020, 12/20/2020, 12/27/2020  
**RLSELAW.COM/PROPERTY-LISTING**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117529**  
**12/6,13,20,27**

**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 **Lorraine Richardson** to First Franklin a Division of Nat. City of Bank of IN, dated October 31, 2005, recorded in Deed Book 2055, Page 91, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to US Bank National Association, as trustee for the holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF2 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 4049, Page 222, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$162,320.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, 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 January, 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.

**US BANK** National Association, as trustee for the holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF2 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: Select Portfolio Servicing, 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 888-818-

**See LEGALS, A7**

## Continued from A6

12/6,13,20,27,1/3

**ANTONIO T. HARRIS** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on NOVEMBER 20, 2020, to change

**PURSUANT TO** O.C.G.A. 21-2-386(a)(1)(G)(4) and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-0.9-15, the Newton County Board of Elections and Registration, hereby gives notice that it is the intent of the Board to begin processing absentee ballots cast for the January 5, 2021

**GENERAL/SPECIAL RUNOFF**  
Election beginning on Monday,

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF**

**CYNTHIA SIMMONS K-33**

**PLEASE RUN** this notice on these dates: December 22nd, 2020 and

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117694**  
**12/13,20**



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# The Covington News

**1166 Usher St. NW | Covington, GA 30014 | 770-787-6397 | covnews.com**

GROUND:

Continued from A1

Lanier Sims, chairman of the Newton County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), opened the event with remarks on the city’s partnership with development group Haven Communities and other involved parties.

“Today is an awesome day for me,” Sims said. “Many people may not know, but 10 years ago I was just elected to the Newton County Board of Commissioners. And coming from construction and development background, one of the visions I had as a commissioner was how could I be part of bringing quality development and jobs to the Covington, Newton County area. So to actually see new companies, new developments breaking ground is just awesome for me.

“As Steve Jobs once said, ‘Great things in business are never done by one person, they’re done by a team of people,’” he continued. “So today, the word groundbreaking stands for far more than just the breaking of ground. It stands for the vision our board has to have a ‘live, work, play’ community. It stands for all the naysayers that say Covington, Newton County cannot have a high-end luxury



From left, Newton IDA Chairman Lanier Sims, Haven Communities CEO Jay Williams and Mayor Steve Horton share remarks at The Cove at Covington Town Center’s groundbreaking held Thursday.

community. It stands for the wisdom and vision of previous boards of commissioners and city councils. It stands for the vision of the Foxfield Company to invest into the future of Covington with the development of Town Center. It stands for the ‘yes, we can’ when everyone else said ‘no, we can’t’ — when Haven Communities had the vision to change the landscape of what luxury communities can be in Newton County.”

Jay Williams, founder and CEO of Haven Communities, said his company was excited to play a part in the growing community of Covington, despite a “number of obstacles” to arise along the way.

“We were, quite frankly, astonished with the amazing things going on out here. So for us to be able to be a part

of it is special,” Williams said.

“This project in particular has had a number of obstacles thrown in its way, not to mention a global pandemic ... but we have persevered and we’ve done that with the help of so many people ... along the way.”

Williams set high expectations for The Cove, saying he hoped it would become “the standard for quality” in Newton County.

“We are so so excited to be building this project, The Cove,” he said. “It is going to be great. It is going to set the standard for quality in this area hopefully for a long time. We’re hopeful all the various employers that are here and that are coming here will send folks over to live here. I think it will be a great spot. And obviously this particular development,

Covington Town Center, I think is special and will be great for a long long time, and we’re just excited to be a part of it.”

Mayor Steve Horton voiced his excitement for the project’s ground-breaking.

“It’s a great day in Covington, Georgia, and it’s a day that’s been anxiously awaited for a long time,” Horton said.

“On its own merits alone, (construction of The Cove is) very exciting to us. But even more so, as Jay mentioned, it’s viewed as the first real critical step to completion and full bill out of the Covington Town Center project.”

Horton went on to recognize and thank various leaders across the city for their efforts in making The Cove at Covington Town Center possible.

The Cove at Covington

Town Center joins a growing list of projects at the center, including the Marriott Residence Inn, Marriott Courtyard and Staybridge Suites, which are in the final stages of engineering/city approval, said David Bernd, executive director of the Newton County IDA, prior to the ground-breaking event.

Breaking ground for The Cove at Covington Town Center marks the first new market-rate apartment development in the area since 2000.

“With the vast majority of our incoming (highly compensated) workforce under 32 years of age, there is an extreme demand for upscale corporate housing options, providing our industries additional recruitment tools,” Bernd said. “With COVID-19 causing shock waves through the restaurant and retail industry, several of those projects have had to pause. However, with our region’s economy rebounding, with our unemployment rate back in the lower single digits and with literally (hundreds) of high end jobs available, we are seeing these projects starting to wake back up. 2021 is going to be a very good year for Covington Town Center.”

OFFICIALS:

Continued from A1

here for, to help people.”

She thanked those who encouraged her to run for the District 3 seat, which represents

northwest Newton County, and asked for prayers as she worked in her new role.

Bailey-Butts, a registered nurse and busi-

nesswoman, said she appreciated the support she had been given since her election.

She asked for the public’s help for a

smooth transition to the office from her predecessor, Tommy Davis.

The coroner is a state constitutional office that investigates most types of deaths that occur in a county.

Jordan said he was honored voters chose him for the tax commissioner position.

“I’m looking forward to jumping in,” Jordan said.

Tax commissioner is responsible for collecting and accounting for all ad valorem taxes in a county; and serves as an agent of the state



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

From left, Dorothea Bailey-Butts places her hand on a Bible held by husband Stanley Butts as she receives the oath of office to be Newton County’s coroner from Probate Judge Melanie Bell on Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Historic Courthouse.

revenue commissioner in registering vehicles. Despite being sworn

in, incoming officials do not take office until Jan. 1.

PACE:

Continued from A4

2021. In that scene with Kevin and Old Man Marley, the wisdom of an eight-year-old reigns. Kevin plants the seed for redemption as he encourages Marley to reconcile with his son. At the end of the movie as Kevin peers outside to the snowy scene, we see Marley and his son’s family together for Christmas. “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”


As the pandemics of a virus and racial injustice continue to rage and the world groans from our abuse of it, I feel weary. Until I catch a glimpse of my 8-year-old deeply engaged in this scene in the church. The responsibility I have to help him know why we wear masks and keep our distance right now floods my mind. The

chains of the oppression of centuries of racism make my heart race, and I remember how much he has to learn about humanity and its redemption. I am still learning too.

All of a sudden, I felt a thrill of hope, and my weary soul rejoiced. The work of redemption is not only the work of the babe in a manger, but it is my work, your work, and the work of all humanity.

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. This is the message of Christmas that requires our attention the entire year. Let it be so in 2021.

*The Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace is a United Methodist minister and college chaplain who lives in Oxford.*



# CITY OF OXFORD

# MEETING NOTICE

The Mayor and Council of the City of Oxford will hold its annual Organizational Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be held virtually via teleconference. Teleconference information will be available for this meeting on or before December 31, 2020 at [www.oxfordgeorgia.org](http://www.oxfordgeorgia.org).

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020						
	ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST (1)	CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS (2) (2a)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN CURRENT YEAR (3)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN PRIOR YEAR (3)	TOTAL COMPLETION COST	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<b>SPLOST IV</b>						
(1) acquire, construct, and equip one replacement high school	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Completed
(2) acquire school buses and related transportation equipment, and instructional and administrative technology improvements	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	1,984,890.68	11,684,632.76	13,669,523.44	Completed
(3) add to, renovate, replace, repair, improve, and equip existing school buildings and other buildings and facilities useful or desirable in connection therewith, and acquire any necessary property therefor, both real and personal	25,000,000.00	30,000,000.00	841,648.08	12,531,768.33	13,373,416.41	Completed
(4) To retire a portion of the Newton County School District's Series 2010B (Direct Pay Qualified School Construction Bonds), Series 2012A, Series 2012B, or bonds issued by the Newton District to refund such bonds, by paying or making provision for the payment of principal and interest on such bonds coming due on February 1, 2015 through August 1, 2020, in the maximum amount of \$30,000,000.00	30,000,000.00	30,000,000.00	3,120,000.00	15,782,490.00	18,902,490.00	Completed
<b>TOTAL SPLOST IV</b>	<b>\$ 75,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,946,538.76</b>	<b>\$ 39,998,891.09</b>	<b>\$ 45,945,429.85</b>	
<b>SPLOST V</b>						
(1) acquire, construct, and equip one new high school, and acquire land for future schools	\$ 30,185,017.00	\$ 30,185,017.00	\$ 10,027,335.56	\$ 1,010,517.50	\$ 0.00	12/31/2024
(2) acquire school buses and related transportation equipment, and instructional and administrative technology improvements	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12/31/2024
(3) add to, renovate, replace, repair, improve, and equip existing school buildings and other buildings and facilities useful or desirable in connection therewith, and acquire any necessary property therefor, both real and personal	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12/31/2024
(4) To retire a portion of the Newton County School District's Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010B (Direct Pay Qualified School Construction Bonds) and General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012A, or bonds issued by the Newton District to refund such bonds, by paying or making provision for the payment of principal and interest on such bonds coming due on April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2025, in the maximum amount of \$35,414,983.00	35,414,983.00	35,414,983.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12/31/2024
<b>TOTAL SPLOST V</b>	<b>\$ 85,600,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,600,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,027,335.56</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,517.50</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL ALL SPLOST</b>	<b>\$ 160,600,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 160,600,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,973,874.32</b>	<b>\$ 41,009,408.59</b>	<b>\$ 45,945,429.85</b>	
(1) The School District's original cost estimate as specified in the resolution calling for the imposition of the Local Option Sales Tax.						
(2) The School District's current estimate of total cost for the projects. Includes all cost from project inception to completion.						
(2a) The School District's current estimated cost to acquire, construct, and equip one replacement high school is \$0.00 due to the fact that enrollment of the school system has not grown at the numbers which were projected when the SPLOST referendum was passed. Funds allocated for a replacement high school will be used to renovate, repair, improve, and equip existing school buildings and other facilities.						
(3) The voters of Newton County approved the imposition of a 1% sales tax to fund the above projects and retire associated debt. Amounts expended for these projects may include sales tax proceeds, state funds, local property taxes and/or other funds over the life of the projects.						
(4) In addition to the expenditures shown above, the School District has incurred interest and dues and fees to provide advance funding for the above project(s) as follows:						
	Interest	Dues and Fees				
Prior Years	\$ 711,632.10	\$ 726,419.32				
Current Year	2,099,898.00	0.00				
Total	\$ 2,811,530.10	\$ 726,419.32				



## AUGUSTA SCULPTURE TRAIL

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# SPORTS

## The Covington News

**Mason Wittner** sports editor

# Resiliency key to historic season

As the final seconds ticked off the clock at the end of Eastside's loss to Jones County in the state quarterfinals last Friday night, one word continuously echoed in the chambers of my mind — resilience.



I don't have to tell you, dear reader, about the innumerable complications that have come about in 2020. We've all heard about it, read about it and watched it unfold with our own eyes. Day after day, week after week, month after month.

This has, in many aspects, been the year of adversity. And yet we as a collective whole continue to push through daily and do our best to adapt to the world around us.

It's often said that sports mirror life, but I can think of no time in my 24 years when that adage has rung more true than it has in 2020. We're all finding ways to be resilient in order to survive the seemingly endless gauntlet this year has thrown at us.

With Eastside's defeat officially marking the end of the prep football season for our local teams, I found myself thinking about the resilience it took for all four programs to not only go forward with their respective campaigns in the midst of a pandemic, but to do so with resounding success.

covy, Eastside, Newton and Social Circle all qualified for the opening round of the state playoffs.

First-year Social Circle head coach Rob Patton led the Redskins back to the postseason for the first time since 2009.

Second-year Alco-  
vy head coach Jason  
Dukes helped the  
Tigers earn their first  
home playoff game  
since 2011.

Second-year Newton head coach Camiel Grant Jr. extended Newton's postseason streak to nine straight years.

Eastside head coach Troy Hoff closed out his sixth season at the helm with his fifth straight playoff appearance, as well as the Eagles' second trip to the state quarterfinals in three years.

Each program could fill the space of this column with the chronicling of their respective historic 2020 seasons. In many ways, each of their roads to success was paved uniquely — they faced different adversities, found different ways to win, wrote different narratives. But there's one thing each of the four teams had in common this fall.

They were all forced to be resilient in order to obtain success.

Look, I'll admit it. I was among those who doubted a high school football season could be played to completion this fall. When Newton County suspending all fall sports and extracurricular activities indefinitely on Aug. 17, I thought it spelled the end. Even when the suspension was lifted, my personal scale tipped more toward skepticism than caution optimism.

Clearly, I was wrong. One round remains in the GHSA state playoffs, but all four local football teams

See WITTNER, A10

## Prep Football

# SIGN OF THE TIMES

## Trio of Newton County student-athletes pen NLIs

**By MASON WITTNER**  
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON,  
Ga. — Three Newton  
County student-athletes  
put their pens to paper  
Wednesday as the Early  
Signing Period official-  
ly opened for the Class  
of 2021.

Fresh off a trip to the Class AAAAAA state quarterfinals, the Eastside football team had one representative Wednesday morning. At 9:30 a.m., senior Devin Brown signed his National Letter of Intent to play college football at Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

During his time with the Eagles, Brown plugged holes at positions across the field in all three phases of the game. Eastside head coach Troy Hoff commended his senior for his willingness to adapt to change and his selfless attitude — both on and off the field.

A black and white photograph of a man with short dark hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored turtleneck and a necklace with a large cross pendant. He is surrounded by people: a woman with glasses is on the left, a man in a face mask is behind him, and a woman is on the right. The background is dark with some balloons visible.

Mason Wittner | The Covington News

"I couldn't be more proud of him, his opportunity and how he's represented our school and his family," Hoff said of Brown. "Today's a big day and I'm excited for him. I can't wait to see what he's got going for him in the

future. I know Murray State's getting a good one."

Brown addressed those in attendance prior to his signing, thanking God and his family for getting him to this point.

times, my family believed in me,” Brown said. “I just want to thank God blessing me with the ability and opportunity to play football. I pray He will continue to lead me into

See SIGNING, A10

## Piedmont players receive postseason honors

**By CHRIS BRIDGES**  
Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — The success on the football field in 2020 has led to postseason recognition for several Piedmont Academy players.

Seniors Chris Pittman and Jackson Welch were selected for the GISA All-Star football game. The game itself will not be played due to COVID-19, officials with the GISA decided.

“We were glad to see them selected but I hate they won’t get to play in the actual game,” Cougars head coach Will Johnson said. “It would have been a great opportunity for them to concentrate on nothing but football for several days. College scouts are always at the All-Star game as well.”

The duo was also named to the All-State team released earlier this week.

Pittman and Welch

played key roles in Piedmont's 2020 GISA Class A state runner-up season at quarterback and tight end respectively. Both players also were defensive stand-outs.

In addition, Pittman and Welch were named All-Region along with teammates Mark Hicks and Tanner Locklear.

In other GISA football news, John Milledge Academy won the Class AAA state title with a 49-0 victory against Fred-erica Academy. The Trojans compiled what may have been the most dominant season in GISA history going undefeated and winning each of its games by at least 30 points.

John Milledge defeated Class AA state champion Gatewood 40-0 and AA runner-up Brentwood 43-7. It was the third consecutive AA title for the Gatewood Gators.



**Piedmont Academy senior football players Chris Pittman (left) and Jackson Welch (right) were named GISA All-Stars.**

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**City of Oxford, Georgia  
Special Purpose Sales Tax Report  
As of June 30, 2020**

	<b>Estimated Project Cost *</b>	<b>Prior Year Expenses **</b>	<b>Current Year Expenses ***</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Remaining Project Expenses</b>	<b>Project Complete</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
<b>2011 Special Purpose Sales Tax Projects:</b>							
Water and Sewer Improvements	\$ 1,233,050	\$ 1,233,050	\$ -	\$ 1,233,050	\$ -	YES	Complete
Transportation	\$ -	\$ 191,130	\$ 15,684	\$ 206,814	\$ -	YES	Complete
<b>2017 Special Purpose Sales Tax Projects:</b>							
Water and Sewer Improvements	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	YES	Complete
Transportation	\$ 500,000	\$ 147,522	\$ 114,997	\$ 262,519	\$ 237,481	NO	6/30/2022
Parks and Recreation	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ -	YES	Complete
Public Safety	\$ 100,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,965	NO	6/30/2024

\* Estimated cost per the special purpose sales tax referendum

\*\* For all years preceding July 1, 2019

\*\*\* For the year ending June 30, 2020



Mason Wittner | The Covington News  
Newton's Darius Green (left) signed with Minnesota and Eastside's Devin Brown (right) signed with Murray State for football Wednesday morning.

## SIGNING:

Continued from A9

His hands.”

A few minutes past 10 a.m., Newton senior Nyland Green officially became a Bulldog when he signed his NLI to play for the University of Georgia.

Nyland was another football player who seemed to succeed at any position he was placed at on the field.

During his senior season, he reeled in 25 receptions for 457 yards and four touchdowns as a receiver. He also locked down opposing targets as a defensive back, recording 47 tackles, five tackles for loss and five interceptions — one of which was returned for a touchdown. To top it all off, he was a dangerous threat in the return game, housing a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown early in the year.

“Nyland is blessed, man,” Newton head coach Camiel Grant Jr. said. “He’s a tremendous athlete.”

Nyland Green’s athleticism jumps out on tape, but those who know him best believe his greatest asset could be his personality.

“That smile you see on his face, that’s on his face all the time,” Grant said. “He knows it’s a game. He’s enjoying being out there, enjoying making plays, enjoying the whole atmosphere of being around his teammates. His ability to go out and have fun, I think, is what’s going to separate him from a lot of guys at the next level.”

Nyland shared Wednesday’s spotlight with teammate Darius Green, who signed his NLI to play for the University of Minnesota.

Darius is a hard-hitting defensive back who’s closing speed and raw strength made him a lethal weapon in the Rams’ loaded defense. While his coaches recognize and praise his physical abilities, the cerebral

aspect of his play that has proven to be most impressive.

“I think what gets overlooked most is his IQ,” Grant said of Darius. “You see him out there and he’s flying around, striking people. But he’s rarely out of position. A lot of those big hits come because he studied the tape and he knows what to expect.”

Before heading off to Big 10 country, Darius Green spoke about how the culture at Minnesota attracted him to come play.

“They’re different,” he said. “Coach [P.J.] Fleck’s doing great things up there, and they’re going to keep on doing them, so I felt like I should be a part of that program.”

The Early Signing Period for Division I football scholarships is Dec. 16-18. The Regular Signing Period will open with National Signing Day on Feb. 3, 2021.

## Prep Basketball

# Alcovy aces road test

By MASON WITTNER  
mwittner@covnews.com

MONROE, Ga. — Pushed to the brink in an early season road test, the Alcovy boys’ basketball team banded together against Monroe Area on Tuesday night.

The Tigers led for the entirety of the second half en route to pulling out a 62-60 victory over the Hurricanes.

Senior guard Trevon Howze and sophomore forward Steven Moore led the way offensively with 14 points apiece. They were joined in double figured by junior guard Byron Howard, who finished with 13 points, and sophomore Ben Hodges, who poured in 11 points from the guard and forward position.

“It was basically team basketball,” Alcovy head coach Mack Hardwick said. “They’re not being selfish. They’re not doing anything out of control. They’re not doing things that are outside our set. So, they’re playing composed and they’re playing because they’re coachable.”

A back-and-forth opening quarter saw the Tigers inch out an 18-17 lead when the final buzzer rang. In the second quarter, however, they began putting a little bit of space between themselves and the Hurricanes.

Clinging to a one-point lead with three minutes to go, Alcovy closed out the first half with a 10-3 run to head into the locker room leading 38-30.

They pushed that advantage out to double figures in the third quarter, making it a 49-37 ballgame.

Monroe Area reapplied pressure.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News  
Trevon Howze (1) poured in 14 points to help lead Alcovy past Monroe Area on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

With an up-tempo approach and success under the basket, the Hurricanes trimmed their deficit down to 56-53 at the 1:18 mark.

But inside the final minute, clutch free throws from Howze and Howard, as well as a lockdown performance defensively, sealed the narrow victory.

“I just appreciate the growth, the basketball IQ that they have grown into and matured,” Hardwick said of his club. “We’ve still got some things to work on, but there’s been a lot of growth.”

Sitting at 4-3 on the year, Alcovy has three games remaining before taking a hiatus for the holidays. The Tigers will travel to M.L. King on Saturday, then turn around to host Ola on Monday, Dec. 21, and Woodland on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

## WITTNER:

Continued from A9

traversed their way through their respective seasons.

Alcovy, Eastside, Newton and Social Circle each deserve recognition for the way they handled themselves. Finding a way to play

a season while keeping the health and safety of your program at the forefront is commendable in its own right. But when you’re able to do that and produced seasons of historic significance?

That’s true resilience.

Mason Wittner is the sports editor of The Covington News. He can be reached at mwittner@covnews.com.

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# EDUCATION

The Covington News



Special to The Covington News

**Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey recently chose 31 pictures created by Newton County Schools students to be featured on 16 different cards to be mailed to local elected and community officials, superintendents from surrounding school districts, and the many other supporters of district.**

## NCSS students design superintendent's 2020 holiday cards

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS**  
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — With so many outstanding submissions to choose from it was impossible for Newton County School System (NCSS) Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey to pick just one piece of artwork to feature on her official 2018 holiday card. In fact, she couldn't even pick just two or three. Instead, 31 pictures created by Newton County School System students will be

featured on 16 different cards to be mailed to local elected and community officials, superintendents from surrounding school districts, and the many other supporters of Newton County Schools on Fuhrey's holiday card list. Students at the Newton College & Career Academy provided layout and printing services for the cards.

"This is a tradition that I am so proud to continue," said Fuhrey. "I've received so many compliments

since I started featuring student artwork on the holiday cards. In fact, before the holidays get here, people start asking me if they're going to receive one of the cards again this year. They are quite popular!"

As in previous years, dozens of holiday designs were submitted by NCSS students of all ages and after spending over an hour reviewing the various submissions, Fuhrey selected the more than 30 students' designs to be featured on her 2020 holiday

cards.

"I am so proud to have our students' artwork on my cards," said Fuhrey. "We have some very talented artists in our school system and featuring their creations on my cards is one way I can showcase that talent with others in our community. The pictures are absolutely beautiful and I want to thank each and every one of these students for taking the time to create artwork for my cards."

## Newton Board of Education approves 2021-2022 school calendar

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County students will start the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, Aug. 2, 2021.

Members of the Newton County Schools Board of Education met briefly Tuesday night to approve the calendar among other business items. The calendar adopted was tabbed as Option 1 of three possible calendars. It was preferred based on results of an online survey that included input from all employees, parents and community members.

Option 2 had a start date of Aug. 9 and end date of May 27. Option 3 had a start date of Sept. 7 and end date of June 16. All three calendar options had 190 teacher days and 180 student days.

Under the approved Option 1, there will be a full week allotted for fall break Oct. 11-15, a full week allotted for Thanksgiving break Nov. 22-26, two weeks for the winter holiday break Dec. 20-Dec.

31, a mid-winter break of two days that will equate to a four-day weekend to recognize Presidents' Day on Feb. 18 and 21, and a full week for spring break April 4-8. The last day of school for students will be Friday, May 20, 2022.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a FY 2021 budget amendment to include a 1% one-time pay adjustment in January for all employees in the approximate amount of \$1.2 million. Additionally, the superintendent recommended the budget for FY 2021 be amended to include \$500,000 for educational programming.

- Approved the annual renewable contract for fleet inspection services for the pupil transportation department be awarded to Morgan Fleet Services Inc. of Monroe, by a 3-2 vote (Board Members Anderson Bailey and Eddie Johnson opposed). The effective date will be Dec. 16 through Dec. 15, 2021. The total estimated cost

is \$114,400. Bailey and Johnson opposed because, as they stated during last week's work session, they preferred services to be done in-house.

- Approved the USDA commodity storage and hauling needed for the school system be purchased from ACC Distributors Inc., of Leesburg. The estimated contract value is \$35,000.

- Approved the purchase of virtual tutoring services from Focus Care, Inc. (DBA FEV Tutor, Inc.). The total cost is \$35,000.

Approved the purchase of instructional resources from Renaissance, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The total cost is \$49,032.50.

- Approved the annual renewable contract be awarded to Manning Enterprises, Inc. (doing business as K-12 Consultants) of Fort Meyers Beach, Florida, for Erate consulting services be renewed for an additional contract period. The effective date of the renewal will be Dec. 19 through Dec. 18, 2021.

- Approved 1,399 Chromebooks, laptop computers and accessories needed for the school system be purchased from Dell

Marketing L.P. of Round Rock, Texas. The total cost will be \$622,319.20.

- Approved the mobile device carts needed

for the school system be purchased from CDW.G of Vernon Hills, Illinois. The total cost is \$48,430.

## ed·u·ca·tion (ějē-kā'shən) *n.*

1. The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.

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## Newton BOE named 2020 Quality School Board

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS**  
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County School System is proud to announce that the Newton County Board of Education has been named a 2020 Quality School Board by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA).

The recognition program is designed to showcase best practices in school governance and leadership. GSBA recognizes good school board governance to foster educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement.

The Newton County Board of Education met and/or exceeded the criteria set forth by GSBA to earn the honor of a 2020 Quality Board. The criteria may be reviewed by clicking here for more information.

The GSBA Governance Team Recognition Program was developed by Georgia superintendents and board members based on the state board of education's standards for effective governance to recognize distinguished leadership.

In 1998, the Georgia School Boards Association was one of the

See BOARD, B4

# Letters to Santa

Demetrius Dec-8-2020

Dear santa, I wish for a puppy and ps5 and xbox5 and a dirtbike and RC car and Jordans and fourwheeler and nike Jordans and air Jordans and chains.



Several students from Livingston Elementary School in Newton County had no trouble making a list for Santa!

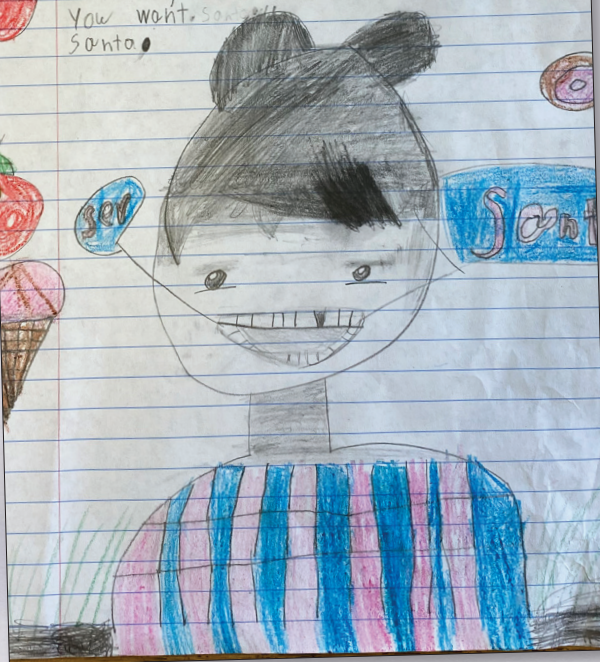
by Jaquan

Dear santa,  
I want a hover board  
and 3 Nerf gun and  
a fourwheeler a dirt bike  
and a ps5  
and a ipoh 12  
love santa



Aubrey Parrish

Dear Santa, I want last years dance 2021 and some newer monopoly games and some more board games and a new game of your choice you can give me money for you want Santa.



I'nyah Santa Thompson  
Dear Santa Can I get a play watch.  
Dear Santa Can I get some slime.  
Dear Santa Can I get some make up  
Dear Santa Can I get my own phone  
Dear Santa Can I get a bike.  
Dear Santa Can I get a dress.  
Dear Santa Can I get a mermaid tail to swim with.  
Dear Santa Can I mermaid to swim with.  
from I'nyah



More letters can be seen on pages B3 and B4 >>

## Start your Family Tradition at the area's original Christmas Candy Store.

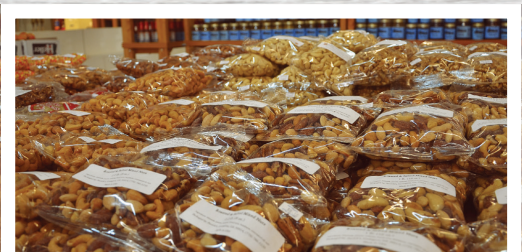
Come to Patrick's for an old-fashioned candy Christmas. Over 175 varieties of candy with all the traditional favorites. Orange slices, chocolate drops, coconut bon bons, soft stick peppermint, chocolate covered peanuts, pecan divinity, glazed, bourbon, praline and cinnamon pecans. Fresh fruit and gift baskets are also available.

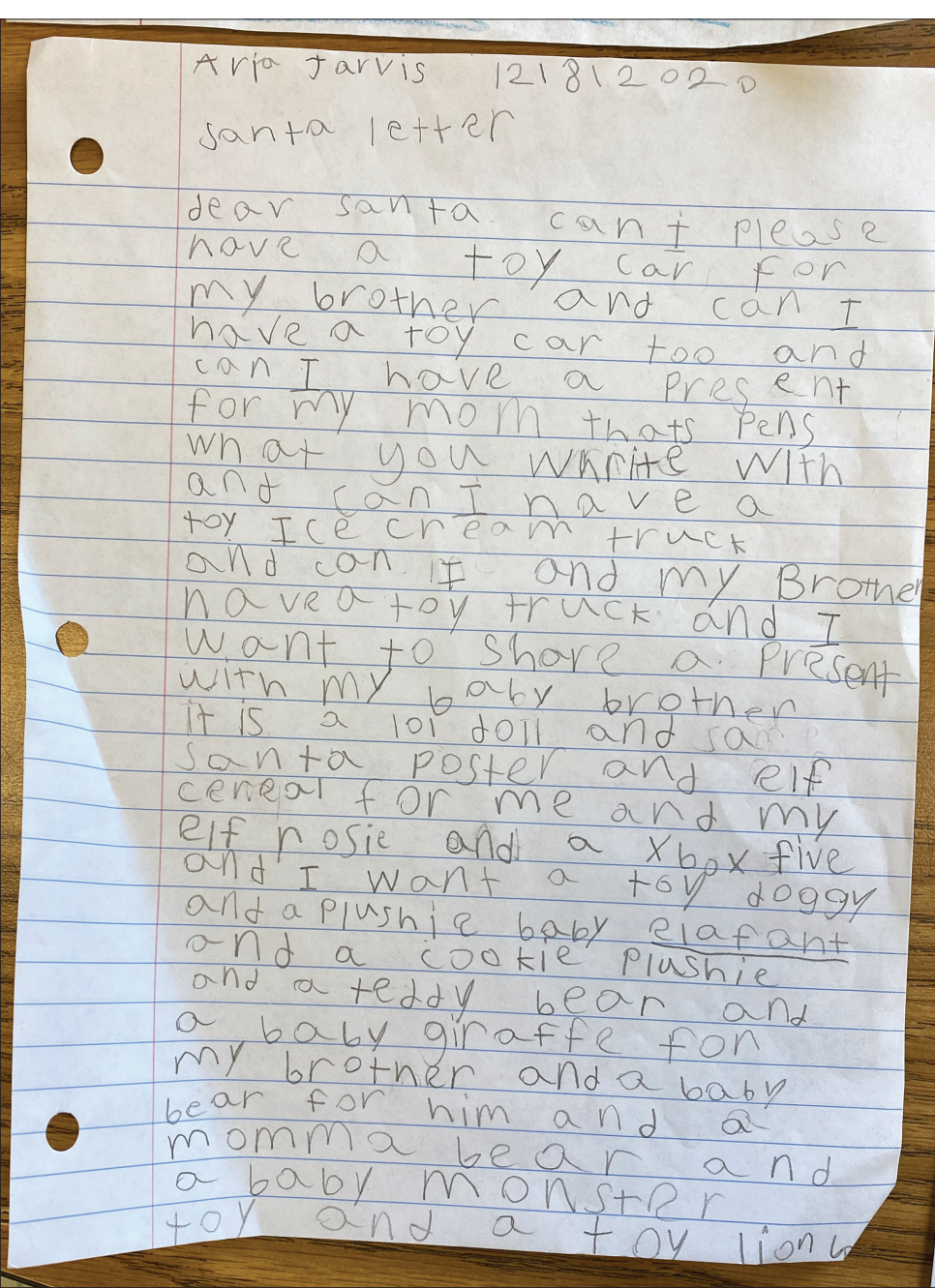
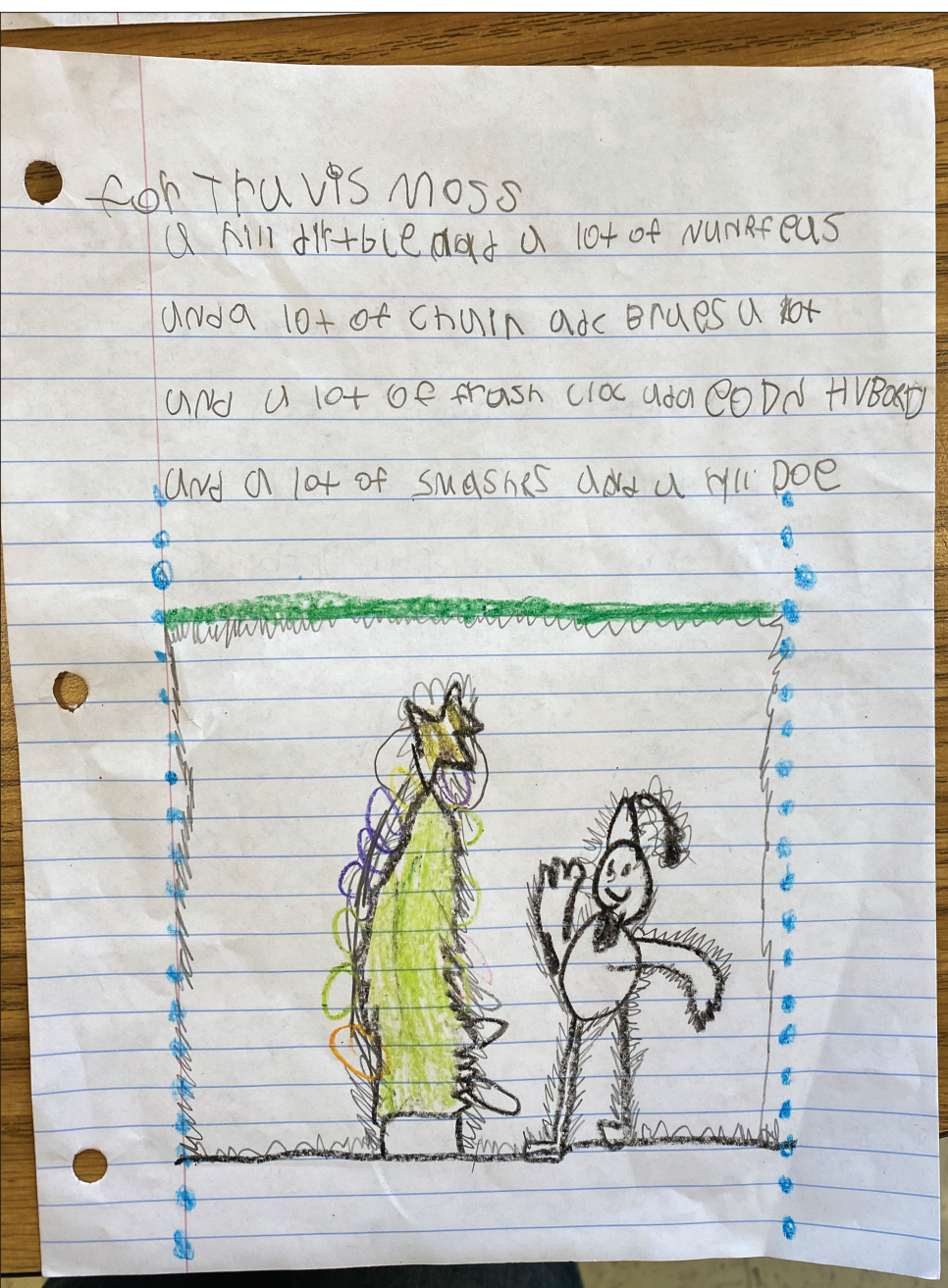
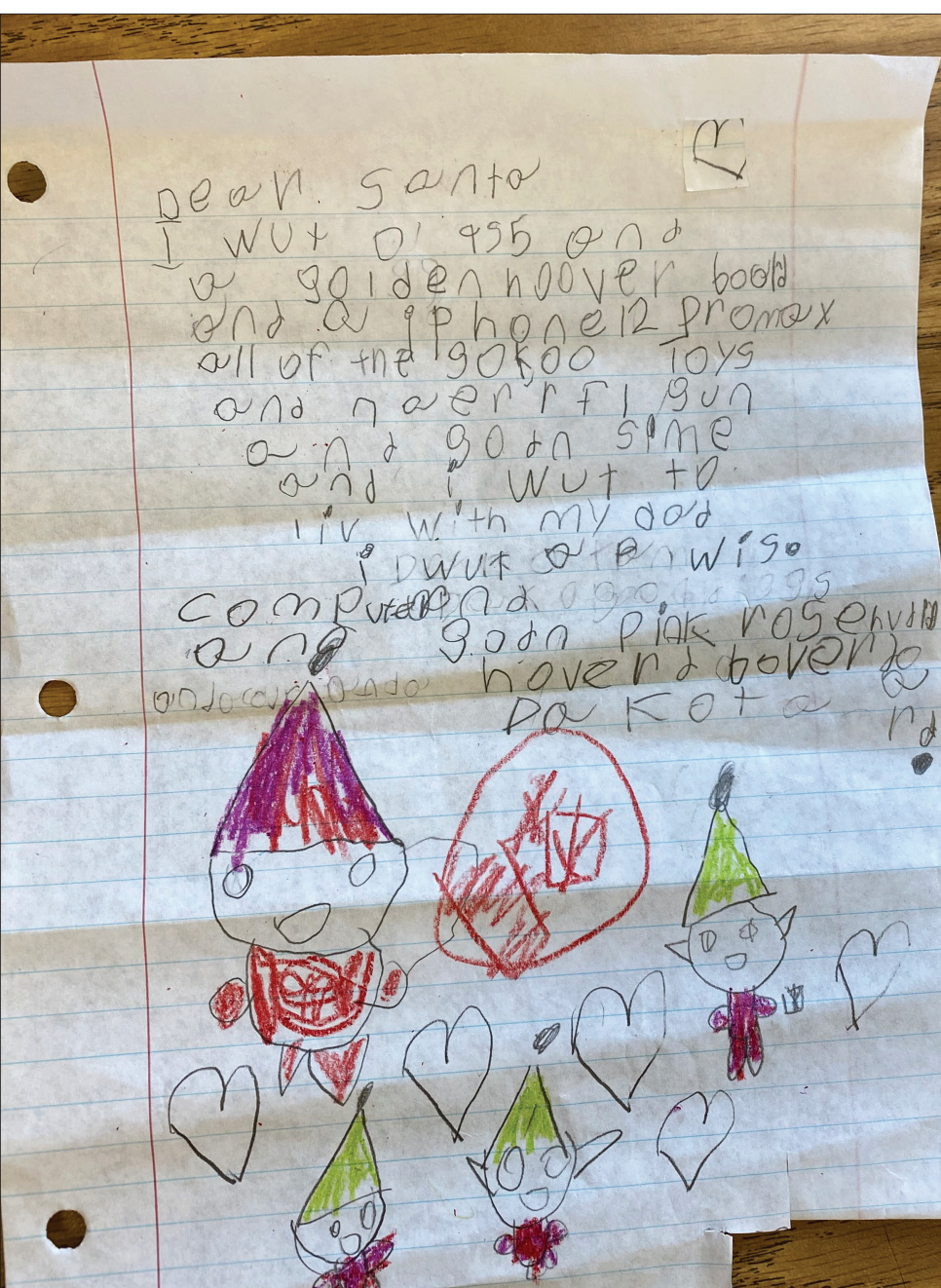
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's hoping your holiday season is a whole lot of merry and bright!! May your Christmas and the New Year deliver an abundance of health, happiness and good fortune to you and the ones you love. Remember "JESUS" is the reason we celebrate the season.



**THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT**  
 Newton County, Georgia

**Linda Hays**



**NEWTON COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT**  
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May the joyous spirit and blessings of Christmastime resound in your heart and home all year. We greatly appreciate your friendship and support at the holidays and year round, and we thank you for being a continued part of our success and good fortune here. We feel truly blessed to be a part of this fine community.  
 – Sheriff Ezell Brown



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I want for Christmas is a PS5 and a dirt bike and a pc fta and a gta 5 and a keybrad and a ghine chain

## Continued from B1

first school board associations in the nation to develop a program of standards for local boards of education. "Being named a Quality School Board demonstrates the dedication and commitment of our Board to act on behalf of our

students and community," said Samantha Fuhrey, Superintendent of Newton County School System. "I commend our Board for a job well done."

Members of the  
Newton County Board  
of Education are:

- Trev Bailey, Dis-

strict 1

- Eddie Johnson, District 2

• Shakila Henderson,  
District 3 and Board  
Chair

- Anderson Bailey, District 4 and

- Abigail Coggin, District 5 and Board Vice Chair

# Piedmont Academy

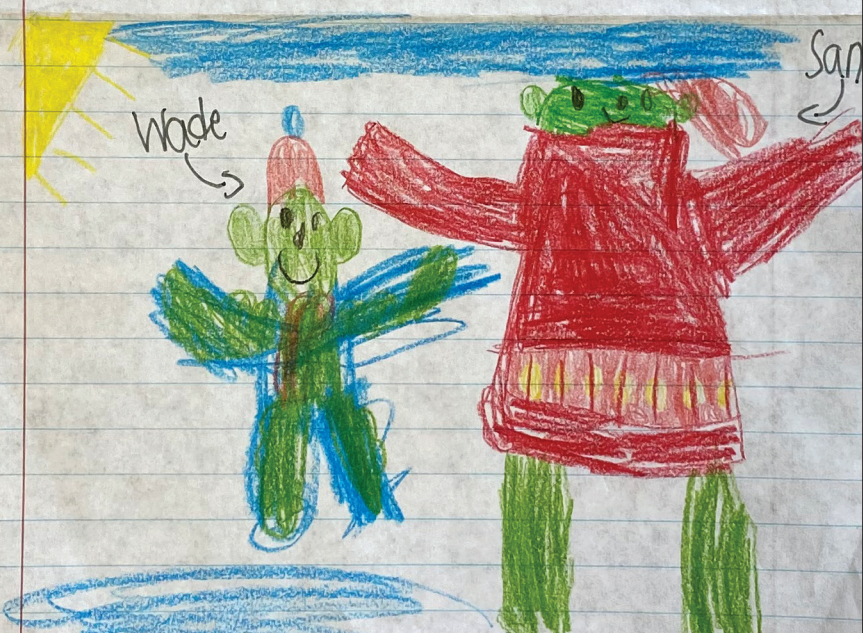



Special to The Covington News

**Mrs. Swann's second grade class at Piedmont Academy planned and created traps to catch an elf. The students brainstormed ideas and built traps using classroom supplies. One group finally caught the sneaky Santa scout named Snicker D. Frostchester. Pictured are students Maggie Phillips, Wyatt Nordstrom and Brock Downing. Also included in the group, but not pictured, was Callie Harrison.**

Dear Santa, you are the best.  
Santa I love the toys that you give  
me. I always put cookies for you to  
eat. And I want a hover board and  
a mountain bike. Santa I love you  
because you give me the best  
presents in the world.

from Wade Brewer



Dear mom, I love you mom  
your the best. and Dawson your  
my best brother  and dad your  
the best dad ever <sup>heart</sup> you buy robux  
for me and sorry you got  
scamed.

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