

# The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 30-31, 2021



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### His Word

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Psalms 24:10, KJV

Walton County

# Graham honored

Covington News owner wins J.L. McGarity Citizenship Award

STAFF REPORTS  
The Walton Tribune

MONROE, Ga. — Patrick Graham, the proprietor of *The Walton Tribune* since 2014, has been named the 2020 J.L. McGarity Citizenship Award winner.

Graham, 52, received the award at the Walton County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Thursday night in Monroe. It's presented each year to an outstanding citizen of the community.

Graham came to Walton County in 2003 to serve as publisher of *The Tribune*. He served until 2009 and came back five years later when he purchased the paper from the Texas company that had owned it since 1983, returning the paper to local ownership for the first time since the Camp family sold it in the 1970s.

He expanded his newspaper holdings in subsequent years, purchasing *The Covington News* in 2017 and



Patrick Graham



Deborah Stewart | Special to The Walton Tribune

Winners of awards at the Walton County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting were, from left, Patrick Graham, the 2020 J.L. McGarity Citizenship Award; Piedmont Walton Hospital employees as Public Servant of the Year, received by Heather Boyce; Josh Wilson of Push Motion, Ambassador of the Year; and Cathi Houston of Houston Group CPA, Member of the Year.

three Alabama newspapers — *The Sand Mountain Reporter* in Albertville, *Times-Journal* in Fort Payne

and the *Jackson County Sentinel* in

See HONORED, A10

COVID-19: A Global Health Crisis

## Vaccination site relocates to Conyers

Move from Covington surprises residents

By TOM SPIGOLON  
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Some Newton County residents were caught by surprise after state health officials recently moved the Covington site for COVID-19 vaccinations to Conyers.

One resident said it was done without enough notice and could pose a risk to eligible patients who must now travel 13 miles west for the vaccine.

Gwinnett, Newton & Rockdale County Health Departments on Jan. 18 moved one of its two vaccination sites from Covington to a site 13 miles west at the Rockdale Career Academy in Conyers.

Georgia residents eligible for the vaccine now include health care workers, first-responders, nursing home residents and those ages 65

See SITE, A9

Covington mayor urges community to remain diligent

See A9

Newton County

# Planning Commission puts brakes on truck plaza plan

Recommendations county commissioners deny rezoning and permit for business at east Newton I-20 exit

This image, displayed during the planning commission meeting, shows what developers said would be similar to what was proposed in east Newton County.



Special to  
The Covington News

By TOM SPIGOLON  
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — One county planning commissioner said he believed “the people have spoken” about a planned travel plaza after hearing residents’ objections Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Alan Milhouse was part of the planning commission’s

unanimous vote to recommend county commissioners deny Jackson-based JPC Design Construction’s request for a rezoning and permit for a \$15 million travel center at I-20’s Exit 98 near Social Circle.

Milhouse said he agreed with some residents’ objections about the potential for crim-

inal activity because of his experience of 21 years as a truck driver.

“It does present a certain element,” Milhouse said.

The travel center was planned to cover 19 acres of an undeveloped 46-acre site on Georgia Hwy. 11 at the exit’s southeast corner.

See BRAKES, A10

Volume 156, No. 9



### Inside

Rotary Club of Covington hands out awards

See A3



### Weather



Saturday, Jan. 30  
High: 52° Low: 39°  
• Partly sunny



Sunday, Jan. 31  
High: 61° Low: 38°  
• 90% chance of rain

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# COVID-19 vaccine rollout creeps ahead statewide amid limited supplies

By **BEAU EVANS**  
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia has not yet reached the halfway point in giving first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the roughly 2 million people currently eligible more than a month after the state's distribution program began, Gov. Brian Kemp said Tuesday.

The number of shots administered to Georgia health-care workers, nursing home residents and staff, first responders and people ages 65 and older has gone up in recent weeks after a halting mid-December start, Kemp said at a news conference in the state Capitol.

But state officials still do not know when the Biden administration will increase Georgia's current weekly allocation of 120,000 doses, an amount that lags far behind the millions of doses needed to halt the virus' spread.

"We do not expect that to change certainly for the next few weeks," Kemp said of the state's vaccine allocation.

As of Monday, nearly 714,000 vaccines had been administered to the initial round of Georgians eligible to receive them, said state Public Health Director Dr. Kathleen Toomey. Health departments across the state have enough vaccines to schedule second doses for people who have received their first, she said.

More than 99% of the state's nursing homes have also been supplied vaccines through a federal partnership with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies, Kemp said. He has set a goal to vaccinate all of Georgia's nursing home residents and staff by the end of this month.

But limited shipments from the federal government have kept state officials so far from expanding which Georgians can be eligible for the vaccine to school teachers and other at-risk groups such as those with developmental disabilities, Toomey said.

"All this is dependent on the availability

See CREEPS, A9

## Emily Cook Kelly

*Jordan Funeral Home*

Emily Cook Kelly, age 82, of Covington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021, at Magnolia Hospice in Conyers.

Emily Kelly was a lifelong resident of Jasper County. She was born on June 28, 1938, to the late Aubie Cook and Nellie

## OBITUARIES

Mae Hickman Cook. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leon Colin Kelly; and seven brothers and sisters.

Emily Kelly was a member of the Monticello First United Methodist Church. She enjoyed sewing, shopping and spending time in the outdoors. She loved

all animals.

She is survived by her daughter, Paige (Chantz) Ammons of Covington; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, 2021, at Prospect United Methodist Church Cemetery. Rev. Dr. Bob Wooten will officiate.

## Judy P. Allen

*J.C. Harwell & Son Funeral Home*

Mrs. Judy P. Allen, age 77, of Covington passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021. She was born in Covington on July 2, 1943 to Emmett and Winnie Mae Parish who have preceded her in death. Mrs. Allen grew up in Covington, graduated from Newton County High School, and worked for the Department of Child Support Enforcement. She enjoyed working in her yard and cooking, but nothing made her happier than watching her grandsons play ball. Mrs. Allen was a longtime member of High Point Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Buddy Allen, her brothers; Bill Parish, Lanier Parish, Walk-

er Parish, and Tim Parish, her sisters; Annie Lois Loyd, Peggy Parish, Myrtle House, Mildred Walden, and Sarah Bohannon. Mrs. Allen was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her children, Sonya Rowe of Lithonia, Rhonda Leatherwood of Pensacola, Florida, Shane Allen and Jennifer, Emily Allen Mills and James, Doug Allen, and David Allen and Denise all of Covington, her grandchildren Heath, Ashley, Lacy, Andrew, Jackson, Walker, Allen, and Braxton, and six great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Junelle Ellis, her brother, Jerry Parish and Linda along with a host of nieces, nephews, other family, and close friends.

Graveside services for Mrs. Allen will be held at 11:30AM Friday, January 29, 2021 at Lawnwood Memorial Park with Dr. David Moody officiating. J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, TE Davis Funeral Services, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic all CDC requirements will be followed. There is a limit of 50 people at any large gathering, social distancing must be recognized, the use of a mask is encouraged, and most importantly if you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID 19 you will not be allowed to attend the service. Please be respectful of the family during this difficult time and follow the requirements of the CDC.

## Jim Parker

*J.C. Harwell & Son Funeral Home*

Mr. Jim Parker, age 78, a lifelong resident of Covington passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021. He was born February 17, 1942 to Willie and Totsy Parker who have preceded him in death. Mr. Parker attended Newton County High School and was a truck driver owning and operating his own truck for many years. He enjoyed doing yard work, wood work, helping his neighbors, and was an avid pool player. Along with his parents Mr. Parker was preceded in death by his wife Loretta Parker,

his daughter Kim Vereen, his sisters Nita Webb and Helen Parker, and his brothers Willie Parker and Wendell Parker.

Mr. Parker is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Kirk and Collette Parker, his grandchildren Maya Vereen, Charlotte Parker, and Meredith Parker his siblings Jeanne Szabo, Doug Parker and his wife Linda, and Peggy Underwood and her husband Wayne along with a host of nieces, nephews, other family and close friends.

Graveside services for Mr. Parker will be held at 2:30pm Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 at Lawnwood Memorial Park with Rev-

erend Roger Cato officiating. J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, TE Davis Funeral Services, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic all CDC requirements will be followed. There is a limit of 50 people at any large gathering, social distancing must be recognized, the use of mask is encouraged, and most importantly if you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19 you will not be allowed to attend the service. Please be respectful of the family during this difficult time and follow the requirements of the CDC.

## Roy Lee Townley

*Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home*

Roy Lee Townley, of Oxford, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, at the age of 87. Mr. Townley was a dedicated employee at General Motors for 31 years. He was a hard worker who provided enormously for his family. Mr. Townley never

met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand. In his spare time, he enjoyed working in his garden and was always picky about who he let help toil in it. Mr. Townley will be remembered as a wonderful husband, daddy, and Papa. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford Benjamin and An-

nie Robbie Townley, sister, Betty Townley; brothers, Bobby Gene Townley, and Benny Townley

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 62 years, Jo Townley; Daughters and son-in-law, Vickie and Benny Hardy, Tina Suggs; son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Kris Townley; grandchildren and their spouses, Brandon and Lesli Hardy, Kasey Hardy, Chad and Kaitlyn Suggs, Cameron and Rhiannon Townley, Kelli and Nathan McMillin, Colton Townley, Anna Suggs; great-grandchildren, Skylar English, Karli Hardy, Lylah Hardy, Nora Jo Hardy, Georgia Allgood, Raleigh Townley, Saylor-Elizabeth Suggs; sisters and brother-in-law, Linda and Douglas New, Shirley Wilson, Dot Stone; brother, Hubert L. Townley, Sr.; as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Service for

Mr. Townley will be held Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021, 1:00 P.M., at the Chapel of Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, 1215 Access Road, in Covington, with Rev. Hulon Knight officiating. Friends are invited to visit with the family at the funeral home, two hours prior to his service, from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

CDC guidelines recommend social distancing (6 feet apart) and wearing of masks while in public. Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home requests that you observe these recommendations while in our funeral home attending visitations and/or services. In addition, gatherings are limited to 50 persons or less in our facility at one time. Please honor these restrictions for the safety of the family, yourself, and our staff.

Visit [caldwelland-cowan.com](http://caldwelland-cowan.com) to place online condolences.

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# THE COVINGTON NEWS' PET OF THE WEEK

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## Rotary Club of Covington hands out awards



Special to The Covington News  
**Bradley Stewart (left), owner of Bradley's Bar-B-Que in Covington, was recently named the winner of Rotary Club of Covington's W. Lee Arrendale Vocational Excellence Award. Presenting the award is Rotary President Thomas Kephart (right).**



Special to The Covington News  
**Keith Adams (right), of Snapping Shoals EMC, was recently named the winner of Rotary Club of Covington's Robert S. Stubbs Guardian of Ethics Award. Presenting the award is Rotary President Thomas Kephart (left).**

## Two killed in head-on collision on Hwy. 212

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

**COVINGTON, Ga.** — Two people were killed recently when the vehicles they were driving struck each other head-on in southwest Newton County.

Coile Anderson, 82, of Conyers, and Tracy Champion, 51, of Sparta, Georgia, were killed in the two-vehicle crash on Georgia Hwy. 212 at Coldwater Drive Friday, Jan. 22, said Caitlin Jett, spokesperson for the Newton County Sheriff's Office.

Anderson was driving his vehicle southbound on Hwy. 212 when it crossed into the northbound lane and struck a vehicle driven by Champion between the hours of 10:55 and 11:03 a.m., Jett said.

Following impact, both vehicles came to an uncontrollable halt in a ditch off Hwy. 212, Jett said.

Champion was pronounced dead at the scene. Anderson was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead on Sunday, Jan. 24.

### Georgia General Assembly

## Mid-year budget gains quick passage in Georgia House

**By DAVE WILLIAMS**  
Capitol Beat News Service

**ATLANTA** — The Georgia House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a \$26.3 billion mid-year budget Thursday that uses a large influx of federal aid to help with the state's fight against COVID-19 and restores cuts to education.

The fiscal 2021 mid-year plan, which now moves to the state Senate, cleared the House 149-20. The House doesn't usually act on the mid-year budget before February, but lawmakers are in a rush

to get it in place in case the General Assembly has to call a temporary halt to the legislative session because of the virus.

The mid-year budget, which covers state spending through June 30, includes \$58.7 million in state and federal funds to support nursing homes, which have been hit hard by COVID-19. The House also added \$18 million in state funds for a new computer system to track COVID testing and immunization and \$285,997 to hire three Department of Public

Health managers to support the state's pandemic response.

The mid-year budget request Gov. Brian Kemp submitted early this month restores \$567 million of \$950 million in cuts to K-12 schools the legislature imposed last year as state tax revenues slowed due to the pandemic. Combined with \$411 million Georgia has received in federal COVID relief for education, the state actually is \$28 million ahead in school funding.

Local school systems also have done their

part to deal with last year's cuts by tightening their budgets, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Terry England told his legislative colleagues Thursday.

"It's a three-way funding partnership: state, local and federal," said England, R-Auburn. "When one of the three partners stumbles ... we always lean on the others."

The House also added just more than \$500,000 to the mid-year budget in start-up costs for the state's new hemp farming and medical

cannabis initiatives.

Another \$1 million is earmarked for tourism marketing in a bid to help the hospitality industry recover from huge pandemic-driven losses.

"Once everyone starts feeling comfortable with the vaccine and the pandemic goes away, folks will start traveling," England said. "We want them to have Georgia on their minds when they do."

The House also signed off on Kemp's request for \$20 million

**See BUDGET, A10**

### Newton County

## County manager disputes coroner's claims about budget

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

**COVINGTON, Ga.** — The county manager said he likely has found office space for the new coroner and is working with her to see how much in new funding she needs for operations and personnel in her office.

County Manager Lloyd Kerr said he has identified space suitable for Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts to use for an office after commissioners recently asked him to search through county-owned buildings.

Kerr said existing space in the former R.L. Cousins Middle School building likely

would work as an alternative to the comparatively small office assigned to the coroner in the Historic Courthouse.

He also said the county was "trying to get all of this stuff wrapped up" to deal with claims and problems Bailey-Butts discussed in a presentation to the Newton County Board of Commissioners Jan. 19.

The coroner told commissioners she needed \$3,500 for training and \$5,500 for supplies.

She also explained about problems she had in dealing with the county government staff, including finance officials telling her she would

have to personally cover any spending beyond her office's 2021 budget through June 30.

Bailey-Butts said she had hired an administrative assistant and used her personal funds to pay her salary; and hired a deputy coroner but had not paid her.

Her personal funds were used to buy the initial office supplies for her office and gas for the coroner's two vehicles, she said.

Commissioners on Jan. 19 gave preliminary approval to a one-time payment of up to \$50,000 to Bailey-Butts but required Kerr and Finance Director Brittany White to work with her on a final amount

she will need for her office to operate through June 30.

Kerr said he did not speak up at the Jan. 19 meeting because he needed to investigate some of her claims.

Wednesday she had about \$49,000 remaining in her 2021 budget, he said; part of it likely will be needed for salaries.

However, he said "there was sufficient money in there" for training and supplies.

The coroner did not properly notify county officials before hiring a deputy coroner she told commissioners she was unable to pay for the work she already did, Kerr said.

**See CLAIMS, A10**

## CITY OF PORTERDALE MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a) (1)(A), notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 2nd day of November 2021, a General Election will be held at Porterdale City Hall at 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia, for elections to fill City Council Posts 3,4, and 5 for 4 – year terms.

Qualifying fees were set on January 11, 2021 by the Mayor and City Council at their Work Session Meeting. Qualifying fees have been set at \$72.00 for each Council Post.

Qualifying will be held at Porterdale City Hall, 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia. Qualifying dates and times are Monday, August 16, 2021 through Friday, August 20, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. each day

Kathy Boutry  
Election Superintendent

## CITY OF PORTERDALE MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-540, a special election shall be held in the City of Porterdale to fill the vacancy in the office of Post 1, caused by the resignation of the Honorable Nicki Westcott. The special election will be held on March 16, 2021.

Qualifying will be held at Porterdale City Hall, 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia. Qualifying dates and times are Tuesday, February 16, 2021 through Thursday, February 18, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. each day.

The qualifying fee shall be \$72.00.

All persons who are not registered to vote and who desire to register to vote in the special election may register to vote through the close of business on February 15, 2021.

Early voting will be held February 22, 2021 through March 12, 2021 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30p.m. each day.

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

Should a runoff election be required, such runoff will be held on April 13, 2021.

This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Kathy Boutry  
Election Superintendent

Kasey Carty Jordan guest columnist

# Who do you love?

*“If we worry too much about ourselves, we won’t have time for others” — Mother Teresa*

I recently talked with a friend and we discussed some of the regulations that schools, businesses and places of worship were putting into place. She made a comment that at one of these locations, they did not have mandatory rules regarding certain safety measures, because if they did that, some people would not come back.



I reflected on the comment at the time, and then continued to reflect on it throughout the next week as I considered this paradox of Christianity that we believe. That Jesus himself said about his life, “No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from my father” (John 10:18). That we die in Baptism but then are raised in new life. These are not simple teachings and they often don’t make sense to the world around us.

As I continued to reflect, I thought about the call to lay down our lives. When we pray the rosary, we reflect on the mysteries of Jesus’ life. One of the Sorrowful Mysteries is when Jesus takes up his cross and we pray for the grace of perseverance. I pray a Scriptural rosary that includes a Bible verse for each of the 10 Hail Mary’s that you pray when you reflect on each mystery. When I reflect on Jesus taking up his cross, the first seven verses are the chronological verses explaining how Jesus takes up his cross and comforts the crying women, and how Simon the Cyrenian carries the cross. But it is always the last three verses that get to me.

Those verses include the following: “Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self” (Matt. 16:24); “He must take up his cross every day and follow me” (Luke 9:23); and “Whoever would save his life would lose it. Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it” (Matt. 16:25).

In just a few minutes of prayer, these powerful words of Jesus speak right to the heart.

What do these verses teach us about how we are to live our daily lives? It is pretty clear that we are to lay down our life like Jesus did. And I can’t tell you what that means exactly. Each of us in our own lives has our cross that we need to take up in order to share God’s love. For some, it may be loving a friend or family member who is hard to love or get along with. For another, it may be to serve in a ministry or service that challenges you to love outside your comfort zone. For another it may be to lay down a right that we may be guaranteed by the law, but that we need to lay down in order to love, serve and protect others.

Jesus could have fought back. Did he grab a weapon and protect himself? Obviously the answer to that question is no. Did the martyrs just have it all wrong, and they should have fought back to preserve their lives? No, in fact Tertullian, one of the early church fathers said “the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church.”

I look around and I feel like believers are really proud of not having fear, of not changing how they live their lives because of a pandemic, with a pride that they are being a witness of their faith to a world scared by the health crisis. But the responses of non-believers that I see is not in awe of this “great faith.” In truth, the reaction is one of confusion, “I thought Jesus taught to love and these people who call

themselves Christians seem to love themselves and their rights more than anyone around them.”

When we are baptized and decide to fully give our lives to God, we, like John the Baptist, are desperately seeking for Jesus to increase in our lives while we decrease (John 3:30). That is the kind of faith that will draw people to Jesus. We can trust in God and not live in fear, but if we don’t lay down our own lives for those around us, we are just a clanging gong without love. God is love. And true love, as shown by Jesus, is laying down our lives for others. And if that causes disruption or discomfort in my life, then so be it.

Right now the world is hurting. People are losing loved ones and losing jobs and are lonely. But they don’t want to hear about our God when we care more for our own rights than we do their souls. We must all ask ourselves an important question—Who do we love? Are we making every decision with a desire to share God’s love, even if it makes us uncomfortable?

I love reading about the lives of the saints. They gave up riches and positions of power and comfort and many gave up their very lives. We can all be saints. But I will be the first to admit that I need to decrease and let Jesus increase in my life. And the best way I can do that is to lay down my life for those around me.

Kasey Carty Jordan is a former missionary to China and currently serves in youth ministry with her husband Kurt at their Catholic parish. She is also the executive director of Camp to Belong-Georgia, a non-profit that serves siblings separated in foster care. The Jordans reside in Monticello with their seven children.

Taylor Beck editor and publisher

# Executive orders coming in excess

Within his first seven days as Commander in Chief, President Joe Biden signed more than 30 executive orders.

I know what you might be thinking — yes, that’s a lot. Frankly, it’s almost too much.



Four years ago, former President Donald Trump only signed four executive orders within his first week of taking over the Oval Office, according to the American Presidency Project. Over his four-year tenure, Trump signed a total of 220 executive orders. Former President Barack Obama signed five executive orders within the same time frame. He signed 276 executive orders over eight years in office.

Sure, there wasn’t an ongoing pandemic when Obama and Trump respectively entered the White House, which is what many of Biden’s actions relate to, but more than 30 executive orders and counting is quite excessive — especially when you consider the non-coronavirus measures he’s pushed through.

To name a few, Biden raised federal workers’ minimum wage to \$15, required non-citizens be included in the Census count, practically opened up our Southern border by halting the construction of a wall and undoing Trump’s expansion of immigration enforcement, and arguably the most impactful of orders — he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline that now leaves thousands of American and Canadian workers unemployed.

And it was all done with the stroke of a pen.

No debates on the Senate or House floors. No contemplation or questioning.

Just a president’s sleepy pen.

Now, it isn’t abnormal for a president to sign executive orders, as we just reviewed. With the lone exception of William Henry Harrison, every president since George Washington has issued orders that can be considered executive orders. But until recent history, executive orders were more commonly used during wartime.

It’s also important to note, according to the Constitution, all executive orders are subject to judicial review and could be overturned if deemed unconstitutional. In fact, one order has been temporarily denied — a federal judge in Texas blocked Biden’s 100-day deportation moratorium Tuesday after the state sued his administration.

According to a news report, an attorney

there declared Biden’s order “unconstitutional,” saying it “violates an agreement between the Department of Homeland Security and Texas.” The judge’s order to block Biden’s order was effective for 14 days so the case can be reviewed.

At what point is too much? At what point is the president overstepping his power in issuing order after order, constantly bypassing Congress? After all, our country is supposed to be a democratic republic, where the power is held by the people and demonstrated though the representatives elected by said people. There are supposed to be checks and balances to ensure no single branch of government — executive, judicial or legislative — can be too powerful.

At the rate Biden is going, people will start to ask questions soon — if they haven’t already. But here’s a question nobody seems to be asking aloud: Couldn’t this be considered an abuse of power and obstruction of Congress?

I guess not if the majority of Congress actually favors the president.

Remember, Trump was impeached (the first time) on — well, wouldn’t you know — articles of “abuse of power” and “obstruction of Congress,” to which no evidence could be found to bring conviction.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not encouraging Biden’s impeachment. As I’ve written before, the impeachment process has become laughable, and with both chambers of Congress controlled by the Democrats, there likely wouldn’t be enough votes to even make the 78-year-old sweat.

I’m only asking a simple question: Where do we draw the line?

I know it was a crazy four-year ride with Trump in office. It seemed every day there was something new and crazy he had said or done on social media. He would often toss his script, and you really didn’t know what he’d say or do next — you still don’t.

Biden has almost been the complete opposite. He’s reserved, sticks to the script and acts about as presidential as it gets.

But as much as the national media may try to convince us, we can’t look at Biden’s behavior as normal, because there’s nothing normal about the executive power he’s showcased thus far.

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

Your Letters to the Editor

## Reader calls for oversight committee for Newton BOC

**Dear Editor:**

As I read in *The Covington News* dated Jan. 23-24, 2021, about the controversy for funding a new fire station for eastern Newton County and the funding of three districts putting their recreational needs ahead of a district’s

need for fire protection, it reminds me that sometimes politics takes precedence over common sense. Is it politics as usual? The three districts claiming precedence are Democrat while the district needing fire protection is Republican.

How politics out-

weighs common sense has been on my mind since I was a member and one of the founders of Central Newton Volunteer Fire Department in the mid-1980s. We even had a Georgia High School Rodeo Association rodeo at Bar C Ranch in 1981 as a fundraiser. We may have been the last one of the VFDs to organize because there were already seven VFDs established in Newton County.

I think the first to organize was Salem VFD on Salem Road near the Old Salem Campground. Later to follow was Rocky Plains VFD which covered the south side of the Salem Road area. There was North Newton VFD on Highway 81 near Oxford and there was East Newton VFD on Highway 142 at Dixie Road which is now sitting there empty.

The cities of Mansfield and Newborn on the

east of the county shared one fire station. The city of Porterdale had its own VFD. The south side was covered by Stewart VFD which was later moved south of the FFA Camp and renamed FFA VFD. It may be the only one in use today.

All the volunteers had to go through the same rigorous training as regular firefighters. We trained in the classroom at the then-fire station on Piper Road and personal firefighting was practiced on abandoned properties throughout the county. We all received accreditation from the Georgia Fire Academy.

Our first elected president was not aggressive about holding meetings so as vice president I nominated Rebie Johnson as president and he was elected. I served as vice president, Ed Mobley was secretary-treasurer, Mark Cochran, who was a fulltime firefighter with the city of Atlanta, was fire chief and

See LETTERS, A9

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# LEGALS:

Continued from A5

**O'CLOCK A.M.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118865**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**DAVID BROADNAX** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **EDD JUNIOR BROADNAX**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118867**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**DEBRA ANN PETTY** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES MICHAEL PETTY, 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 objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118862**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**DEMARCUS D. SALAUGHTER** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **HORACE SLAUGHTER, 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 objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118863**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**DENISE BOSTIC** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Patrick Wayne Bostic**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117769**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**DONALD COGAR, JR.** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **VICKY FOUCHE COGAR**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118868**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**ELMER HOKE Blankenship and Gregory Trent Blankenship** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Timothy Lee Blankenship**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118814**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**JOHN KEVIN HANEY** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **JOHN WILLIAM HANEY III**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show

cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118836**  
**01/31-02/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**KIMBERLY BENTON Corbett** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Shirley Benton Lee**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117782**  
**01/31,02/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**MARCIA ELAINE Gayle** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Ian Anthony Gayle**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118809**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**PENNY THRASHER Franklin** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Willie Gene Thrasher**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before March 1, 2021, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118816**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**THE PETITION of JERRY EUGENE DENNEY** widow of **CONNIE CHARLENE DENNEY**, 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 MARCH 1, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118866**  
**1/31,2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**THE PETITION of REBECCA J. TAYLOR** widow of **ROBERT FRED TAYLOR**, 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 MARCH 1, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118866**  
**1/31,2/7,14,21**

**CITATION**

**THE PETITION of VALDIE G. LURCH** widow of **JAQUELINE GLORIA LURCH a/k/a JACKIE LURCH**, 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 MARCH 1, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118866**  
**1/31,2/7,14,21**

**RE: ESTATE of Elizabeth McClendon Ozburn, Former Ward**

**KELVIN GRANT Ozburn, Conservator** has petitioned for Final Settlement of Accounts and Discharge 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 March 1, 2021, at ten o'

clock am.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117783**  
**01/31**

**Corporations**

**NOTICE IS** given that articles of amendment which will change name of **Blackwell & Bruce, Inc. to Mansfield Marketplace, Inc.** have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The registered office of the corporation is located at 4420 County Road 213, Mansfield, GA 30055.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117751**  
**01/10,17,24,31**

**Debtors Creditors**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

**ALL CREDITORS of the estate of ELIZABETH BODEN MCGEHEE** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
**THIS 7TH day of January, 2021**

**ELIZABETH HATHORN McGehee EXECUTOR OF the Estate of ELIZABETH Boden McGehee C/O ROBERT Stansfield, Esq. GREER, STANSFIELD & Turner, LLP P.O. BOX 1617 COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015 (770) 786-4390**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117787**  
**01/13,20,27-2/3**

**NOTICE TO Debtors and Creditors**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of **Lisa Marie Herman** 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 21ST day of January, 2021**  
**NAME: WILLIAM D. Carter, Jr. TITLE: ATTORNEY for Estate ADDRESS: 45 Technology Pkwy S, Suite 240, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118843**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of AMAYAH PARRIS**., 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 20TH day of January, 2021.**

**MERLENE ST. Luce**  
**6307 ENIGHED**  
**ST. JOHN, VI 00830**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118834**  
**01/24,31-2/7,14**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of CATHERINE WOODS**., 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 20TH day of January, 2021.**

**SEAN WOODS**  
**2804 LIND Rd**  
**CONYERS, GA 30013**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118832**  
**01/24,31-2/7,14**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of GARY EDWARD MILLIGAN**., 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 5TH day of January, 2021.**

**WILLIE L. Milligan**  
**P.O. BOX 417**  
**PORTERDALE, GA 30070**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117784**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of GEORGE WILLIAMS**., 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 December, 2020.**  
**LOURIE WILLIAMS**  
**80 SADDLEBROOK DR**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

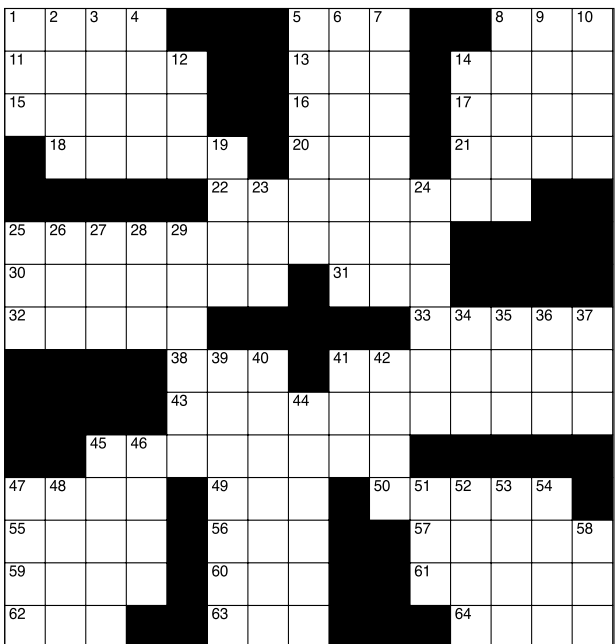
**PUBLIC NOTICE #117766**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JOHN THOMAS WALDEN, JR.**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.  
**THIS THE 20TH day of January,**

**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Gather a harvest  
5. Federal Republic of Germany  
8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!  
11. "The Little Mermaid"  
13. The common gibbon  
14. Volcanic island in Fiji  
15. Mother of Perseus  
16. Egg cells  
17. Teams' best pitchers  
18. Credit associations  
20. Advance  
21. Hair styling products  
22. Benign tumors  
25. Arriving early  
30. Called it a career  
31. \_\_ Paulo, city  
32. Avoid with trickery  
33. Easter egg  
38. Veterans battleground  
41. Lack of success  
43. Thing that causes disgust  
45. Deep, continuing sound  
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea  
49. You might put it in a fire  
50. Partner to "oohed"  
55. Actor Idris  
56. Slippery  
57. Plant of the bean family  
59. One point north of northeast  
60. Patti Hearst's captors  
61. Places to hang clothes  
62. Midwife  
63. Of she  
64. S. Korean statesman

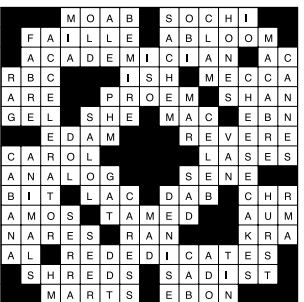
**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Cool!  
2. Amounts of time  
3. Aboriginal people of Japan  
4. Popular veggies  
5. Wedding accessory  
6. Deep, narrow gorges  
7. Dry cereal  
8. Competitions that require speed  
9. Cain and \_\_  
10. Snake sound



12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)  
14. Pattern of notes in Indian music  
19. Satisfy  
23. Misfire  
24. Nearsightedness  
25. Indicates before  
26. Increase motor speed  
27. When you hope to get there  
28. Indicates position  
29. Where rockers perform  
34. Substitute  
35. \_\_ juris: of one's own right  
36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: \_\_-magnon  
37. Adult female bird  
39. Do away with  
40. Lens  
41. Flattened appendage  
42. Post or pillar in Greek temple  
44. A medieval citizen of Hungary  
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician  
47. Sew  
48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits  
51. Swiss river  
52. Grayish-white  
53. A way to illustrate  
54. College basketball super-power  
58. Midway between south and southeast

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



2021.

**JOHN R. Walden**  
**1070 JONES Bluff Ct**  
**GREENSBORO GA 30642**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118833**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JOSEPH BRADFORD WRIGHT III**., 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 5TH day of January 2021.**

**KERRY WRIGHT**  
**270 TAMERA Trail**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117774**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of Kathryn S. Bailey**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.  
**THIS THE 6th day of January, 2021.**

**DEBORAH JEAN Crum**  
**1251 HODGES Circle**  
**MANSFIELD, GA 30055**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118815**  
**01/24,31-2/7,14**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of LORRAINE M. RICHARDSON**., 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 15TH day of January, 2021.**

**CATRICE JONES-MYERS**  
**7566 PETAL PLACE**  
**FAIRBURN GA, 30213**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118840**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARCELLA JOHNSON AUGURSON**., 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 20TH day of January, 2021.**

**KARLA AUGURSON**  
**80 FIELDSTONE LANE**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118835**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARILYN A. FINKBEINER**., 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 5th day of January 2021**

**DOUGLAS P. Finkbiner**  
**334C BEACON St**  
**SOMERVILLE, MA 02143**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117773**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of OLGA NIKITOVNA BOBIK**., 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 5th day of January 2021.**

**TATYANA YALOVEGA**  
**55 SALEM Branch Rd**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117775**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of REBA RUNEA MILLIGAN**., 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 5TH day of January, 2021.**

**WILLIE L. Milligan**  
**P.O. BOX 417**  
**PORTERDALE, GA 30070**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117785**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ROBERT ARNOLD SILL**., 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 15TH day of January, 2021.**

**LETA MCWATERS SILL**  
**1580 RIVER COVE RD**  
**SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118841**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ROBERT EUGENE SKINNER**., deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.  
**THIS THE 13TH day of January, 2021.**

**SHERRY S. Hitchcock**  
**1798 HWY 229**  
**MANSFIELD GA 30055**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118831**  
**01/24,31-02/7,14**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of RUTH KIMBLE CURTIS**., 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 19TH day of January, 2021.**

**LOUISE ELAINE CURTIS GILBERT**  
**476 W MACEDONIA CHURCH RD**  
**OXFORD, GA 30054**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118838**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of TERRY CLYDE KING**., 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 5TH day of January, 2021.**

**ROBERT CASE**  
**3080 HORSESHOE Spring Dr**  
**CONYERS, GA 30013**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117771**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WALTER LEE KINES, 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 5th day of January, 2021.**

**WALTER L. Kines, Jr**  
**1212 DIXIE Rd**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117772**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**



# LEGALS:

Continued from A6

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JAMES LLOYD HIGGINS.,** 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** 4th day of January 2021.

**STEPHEN HIGGINS**  
**1718 PADDLEWHEEL Dr. NE**  
**MARIETTA, GA 30062**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117778**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JOHNNIE JANELL DENNEY.,** 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 December, 2020.

**JERRY E. Denney**  
**410 ELLINGTON Rd**  
**OXFORD, GA 30054**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117780**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of KATHLEEN K. WHITE.,** 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 December, 2020.

**OTIS WHITE, JR**  
**134 THOMAS OVERBY DR.**  
**SHARPSBURG, GA 30277**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117761**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

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

**THIS THE** 11th day of January 2021.

**MELVA MONTGOMERY**  
**175 KESTREL Circle**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118808**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

Divorces

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

**TONY R WALLS**  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
**-VS-**  
**CHIKEEDA J JACKSON**  
**DEFENDANT.**

**CIVIL ACTION No.: 2021-CV-13-2**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: CHIKEEDA J. JACKSON**  
**60 BELMONT CIRCLE**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated **JANUARY 15, 2021** you are hereby notified that on **JANUARY 15, 2021**(date of filing) **TONY WALLS** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

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

**THIS, THE** 15th day of **JANUARY 2021.**

**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF Superior Court**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118828**  
**01/24,31-2/7,14**

Foreclosures

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

**PURSUANT TO** the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by James Frederick Jackson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns dated 6/26/2006 and recorded in Deed Book 2239 Page 596 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSRPM Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-1 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$136,600.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 12, 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING SHOWN AS LOT 23, UNIT ONE, COLDWATER CREEK, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 38, PAGE 162, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND**

**COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.**

**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** is commonly known as **160 Coldwater Drive, Covington, GA 30016** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): James Frederick Jackson or tenant or tenants.

**PHH MORTGAGE** Corporation is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

**PHH MORTGAGE** Corporation  
**ONE MORTGAGE Way**  
**MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054**  
**(800) 750-2518**

**NOTE, HOWEVER,** that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

**THE SALE** will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

**DEUTSCHE BANK** National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSRPM Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-1 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1 as agent and Attorney in Fact for James Frederick Jackson **ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, 15** Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

**1017-4807A**  
**THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-4807A**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118853**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, NEWTON COUNTY

**PURSUANT TO** the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by John K. Kinder to Beneficial Mortgage Co. of Georgia dated 10/21/2005 and recorded in Deed Book 2044 Page 482 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$113,397.05, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 170 OF THE 10TH LAND DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA , AND BEING LOT 14, BLOCK B, SALEM VILLAGE SUBDIVISION, SECTION 1, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 62, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.**

**TAX MAP OR PARCEL ID NO.:** MAP 0012A PARCEL 055

**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** is commonly known as **2185 Chester Circle, Conyers, GA 30013** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): John K. Kinder or tenant or tenants.

**SELECT PORTFOLIO** Servicing,

Inc. is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

**SELECT PORTFOLIO** Servicing, Inc.  
**LOAN RESOLUTION** Department  
**3217 SOUTH Decker Lake Drive**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84119**  
**(888) 818-6032**

**NOTE, HOWEVER,** that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

**THE SALE** will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

**U.S. BANK** National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2 as agent and Attorney in Fact for John K. KinderAldridge Pite, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

**1012-13779A**  
**THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1012-13779A**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118860**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, NEWTON COUNTY

**PURSUANT TO** the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Michael O. Jegede to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Solutions Lending, LLC, an Indiana Limited Liability Company, its successors and assigns dated 1/5/2009 and recorded in Deed Book 2677 Page 509 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2018-2, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee

**, CONVEYING** the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$146,927.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 14 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING SHOWN AS LOT 54D, THE FALLS, PHASE FOUR, ON A PLAT SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 33, PAGE 61, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH RECORDED PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.**

**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** is commonly known as **410 Freeman Drive, Covington, GA 30016** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Michael O. Jegede or tenant or tenants.

**SELECT PORTFOLIO** Servicing, Inc. is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

**SELECT PORTFOLIO** Servicing, Inc.  
**LOAN RESOLUTION** Department  
**3217 SOUTH Decker Lake Drive**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84119**  
**(888) 818-6032**

**NOTE, HOWEVER,** that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances,

restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

**THE SALE** will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

**TOWD POINT** Mortgage Trust 2018-2, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee

**AS AGENT** and Attorney in Fact for **Michael O. Jegede**

**ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, 15** Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

**1012-13880A**  
**THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1012-13880A**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118818**  
**01/31-,2/7,14,21**

NOTICE OF Sale Under Power. State of Georgia, County of NEWTON

**UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by NIKI MCKENZIE to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC ("MERS") AS NOMINEE FOR CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS , dated 07/19/2016, and Recorded on 08/04/2016 as Book No. 3464 and Page No. 284 301, NEWTON County, Georgia records, as last assigned to CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$134,518.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned 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 March, 2021, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 119 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING LOT 663, THE SILOS OF ELLINGTON, PHASE II, AS PER PLAT OF SAME FILED FOR RECORD AT PLAT BOOK 39, PAGES 125 129, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS. THE DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE, SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATED HEREIN. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. may be contacted at: CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., 13801 WIRELESS WAY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73134, 800 401 6587. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/ parties in possession of the subject property known as **110 KEYTON DRIVE, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30016** is/are: NIKI MCKENZIE or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 13 172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

**CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC** holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property.

**ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A. §§ 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117790**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **ANTHONY ALTON Titus**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2021-CV-26-5**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**ANTHONY ALTON Titus** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 7, 2021** to change the name from **Anthony Alton Titus to Abdullah Shaheed .** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

**DATED 01/01/2021**

**ANTHONY TITUS**  
**15 NORTHWOOD SPRING DR**  
**OXFORD, GA 30054**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118807**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **DEREK WOLFE**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2020-CV-97-5**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**DEREK WOLFE** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 15, 2021** to change the name from **DEREK WOLFE** to **ELRAD JUSTUS ISRAEL.** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

**DATED JANUARY 15, 2021**

**DEREK WOLFE**  
**225 THE falls Blvd**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118846**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2021-CV-35-4**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118854**  
**01/31-02/7,14,21**

Name Changes

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**ANNMARIE BLACKCE** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court

on **JANUARY 1, 2021** to change the name from **ANNMARIE KIMONA BLAKE-BARTHLEY** to **ANNMARIE KIMONA BLAKE.** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

**DATED JANUARY 5, 2021**

**ANNMARIE K. Blake**  
**395 BARSHAY Dr**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of Child(ren):  
**ARETHA FAFA MILLER**

**EUNICE ADU**  
**PETITIONER,**  
**VS.**

**RESPONDENT.**  
**CIVIL ACTION** NUMBER 2021-CV-78-5

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF CHILD(**

**EUNICE A. ADU** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 14, 2021**, to change the name of the following minor child **FROM: ARETHA FAFA MILLER** to **ARETHA FAFA ADU.** **ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A. §§ 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

**ENICE A. ADU**  
**425 ST. ANNE'S PL**  
**COVINGTON GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118829**  
**01/24,31-,2/7,14**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of Child(ren):  
**LEILANI LOVE DUCASSE**

**MICHELLE HILL**  
**PETITIONER,**  
**VS**  
**FRANCIS DUCASSE**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**CIVIL ACTION** NUMBER 2021-CV-002-3

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF CHILD(**

**MICHELLE LATOYA Hill** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on January 4, 2021, to change the name of the following minor child  
**FROM: LEILANI Love Daucasse** to **Leilani Love Hill.** **ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A. §§ 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

**PUBLIC NOTICE #117790**  
**01/17,24,31-2/7**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **ANTHONY ALTON Titus**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2021-CV-26-5**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**ANTHONY ALTON Titus** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 7, 2021** to change the name from **Anthony Alton Titus to Abdullah Shaheed .** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

**DATED 01/01/2021**

**ANTHONY TITUS**  
**15 NORTHWOOD SPRING DR**  
**OXFORD, GA 30054**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118807**  
**01/17,24,31-02/7**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **DEREK WOLFE**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2020-CV-97-5**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**DEREK WOLFE** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 15, 2021** to change the name from **DEREK WOLFE** to **ELRAD JUSTUS ISRAEL.** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

**DATED JANUARY 15, 2021**

**DEREK WOLFE**  
**225 THE falls Blvd**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118846**  
**01/31-2/7,14,21**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN RE** the Name Change of: **JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS**  
**PETITIONER**  
**CIVIL ACTION** File Number: **2021-CV-35-4**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 8, 2021** to change the name from **JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS** to **JENNIFER NACOLE MOTON.** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30

days after Petition was filed.



# LEGALS:

Continued from A7

**COM OR** 724-350-4380. For more information, please visit the School System's e-procurement website at the following link:  
**H T T P S : / / N C S S E B I D . I O N W A V E . N E T / C U R R E N T S O U R C I N G E V E N T S . A S P X**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118844**  
**01/27,31**

## NEWTON COUNTY School System Current Solicitations

**GROUND CARE** and Maintenance at Select Schools – Zone 1 (RFP C-988-08)

**THE NEWTON** County School System is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to provide complete care and maintenance of its grounds at select schools. Services will include, but are not limited to, all labor, supervision, materials and equipment necessary to maintain grounds. Grounds Care and Athletic Field Maintenance at Select Schools – Zone 2&3 (RFP C-988-09) The Newton County School System is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to provide complete care and maintenance of its grounds and athletic fields at select schools. Services will include, but are not limited to, all labor, supervision, materials and equipment necessary to maintain grounds and athletic fields.

**ALL SOLICITATION** documents are located on the School System's e-procurement website at the following link:  
**H T T P S : / / N C S S E B I D . I O N W A V E . N E T**

**NOTE: YOU** must be a registered supplier to obtain solicitation documents and participate in the solicitation. New suppliers must first complete the online registration process by selecting "Supplier Registration" at the link above to register your company, and obtain a username and password. All responses must be submitted electronically utilizing the Newton County School System's e-procurement system.

**IF YOU** have any questions, please contact the Newton County School System's procurement department at 770-385-6874.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118845**  
**01/27,31**

## NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL P. I. 0013859 NEWTON COUNTY

**NOTICE IS** hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project.

**THE DATE** of location and design approval is: \_\_December 9, 2020

**THIS PROJECT** is located in Georgia Militia District (GMD) 420 and is in Land Lot 175 of the 1st Land District of Newton County, Georgia

**THE PROPOSED** project is located at the intersection of SR 11 and SR 12/US 278 in Newton County near Covington, Georgia. The intersection is approximately 0.9 miles south of the intersection of SR 11 and I-20 and 3.4 miles north of the intersection of SR 11 and SR 142. The proposed project would replace the existing all way stop controlled intersection with a roundabout configuration for a project length of 0.33 miles. The two-lane bypass roadway with one lane in each direction in the northwest quadrant of the SR 11 and SR 12/US 278 intersection would be removed. The truck apron is widened to accommodate oversized overweight vehicles. Curb and gutter will be installed along the outside of the roundabout with a mountable curb along the inside for the truck apron. The roadway approaches on SR 11 would consist of 12-ft travel lanes and 10-ft wide outside shoulders, of which 6.5-ft is paved to accommodate shared bike path, with open ditch drainage. The roadway approaches on SR 12 would consist of 12-ft travel lanes and 10-ft wide outside shoulders, of which 4-ft is paved, with open ditch drainage.

**DRAWINGS OR** maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation:

**MARK GILES**, Area Manager  
**DISTRICT 2** Area 5  
**MGILES@DOT.GA.GOV**  
**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT** of Transportation  
**1570 BETHANY** Road  
**MADISON, GA** 30650  
**(706) 343-5837**

**ANY INTERESTED** party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to:

**KIMBERLY W. Nesbitt**  
**STATE PROGRAM** Delivery Administrator  
**ATTN: DANIEL** Chastain  
**DCHASTAIN@DOT.GA.GOV**  
**600 WEST** Peachtree Street, NW  
**ATLANTA, GA** 30308  
**(404) 865-3496**

**ANY WRITTEN** request or communication in reference to this project or notice **SHOULD** include the Project and P. I. Numbers as noted at the top of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE#117749**  
**01/10,17,24,31**

## Public Sales Auctions

### PUBLIC SALE/AUCTION

**NOTICE IS** hereby given that **Dixie Self Storage** located at **1447 Access Road**, Covington, Ga. 30014. The Undersigned Intent to sell household goods and personal property ,to enforce Imposed lien on said Property pursuant of the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215. The undersigned will sell at Public Sale to the highest Bidder on:

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021** at **11A.M.**  
**CASH ONLY**, will be accepted at the time of purchase.  
**UNIT 1033**, Heather Love,

**Household Goods**  
**UNIT 1038**, Sharita Parada,  
**Household Goods, Boxes**  
**UNIT 1046**, Ivan Richard Smith,  
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys**  
**UNIT 2024**, Demetrius A. Enoch,  
**Household Goods**  
**UNIT 2041**, Yulandra M. Mitchell,  
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys**  
**UNIT 3004**, Illysia Walker,  
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes**  
**UNIT 3014**, Arthur Dawson, Jr.  
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes Unit 3016**, Ashley M. Thomas, \_  
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes Unit 4004**, Vonetta McLemore,   
**Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes**

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

**bid.**  
**CALL 770..787-3039**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118824**  
**01/24,31**

## Trade Names

**THE UNDERSIGNED** hereby certifies that they are conduction a business at **14500 A-C Lochridge Blvd. In The City of Covington, County of Newton, State of Georgia.** Under the name **Piston Technology Center.** And the type of business to be conducted is Compressor sales and services. Business is composed of the following person Quinicy Compressor LLC, 701 N. Dobson Ave, Bay Minette, AL 36507

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118827**  
**01/24,31**

## TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:  
**PLEASE BE** advised that **BC UNLIMITED** ., whose address

is1154 MABRY ROAD COVINGTON, GA 30014the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BC HOMES CO. that the nature of said business is: .CUSTOM HOME BUILDING  
**THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.  
**THIS THE** 6th day of January 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118851**  
**01/31,02/7,14,21**

## TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:  
**PLEASE BE** advised that **BC UNLIMITED**., whose address is3154 MABRY ROAD COVINGTON, GA 30014  
**THE OWNER(S)** of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BC LANDSCAPING CO. that the nature of said business is: .LANDSCAPING AND LAWN CARE MAINTENACE SERVICE.  
**THIS STATEMENT** is made in

conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.  
**THIS THE** 6thh day of January 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118850**  
**01/31-02/7,14,21**

## TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:  
**PLEASE BE** advised that **BREANNA EWARD**., whose address is45 HUNTER XING COVINGTON, GA 30016 the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BREE'S CREATIVE DESIGNS that the nature of said business is: . HOMEMADE CRAFTS  
**THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.  
**THIS THE** 21st day of January 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118852**  
**01/31-02/7,14,21**

## TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:  
**PLEASE BE** advised that **HARYWARD DEROUEN**., whose address is220 Homestead Way Covington, GA 30014  
**THE OWNER(S)** of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: V & H Logistics that the nature of said business is: . Transportation.  
**THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.  
**THIS THE** 31st day of December 2020

**PUBLIC NOTICE #118825**

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# The Covington News

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COVID-19: A Global Health Crisis

# Horton urges community to remain diligent

‘Bottom line is life you save ... could be your own or someone you love’

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — As the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to mount in Newton County and across Georgia, Covington Mayor Steve Horton issued a public plea for residents to be diligent in the fight against the novel virus.

During the Covington City Council’s Jan. 19 meeting, Horton encouraged community members to continue following the proper protocols to slow down the virus’ spread. “We’ve got to do everything that we can as individuals to help keep ourselves and others safe, because this virus is spreading like — I guess the old saying is like wildfire,” Horton said.

“We’ve been told repeatedly by those people who certainly know what’s going on that wearing masks and following CDC guidelines can help protect yourselves and others. So I guess what I’m saying is please do the right thing. Wear your mask. Follow the CDC

guidelines including staying six or more feet apart.”

The city of Covington currently has a mask mandate in effect. It was first issued in October, then lifted briefly in November before it was ultimately reinstated Dec. 7. The mandate requires a mask or face covering be worn on city property if unable to social distance.

Masks are not required to be medical grade, so long as they cover the nose and mouth. Bandanas, scarves and other similar fabrics are allowed.

Businesses within city limits may indicate that they require masks on their property by posting a notice at each entrance accessible to the public. Masks are not required while eating or drinking, or if socially distanced at least six feet apart.

The Covington Police Department has been enforcing



Steve Horton

the ordinance on all public property and any private property that chooses to require masks. Any individual who fails to be in compliance with this order is subject to a \$50 fine.

The order will not be lifted again until the council votes to do so or data from the Georgia Department of Public Health shows the cases per 100,000 in a two week period falls below 100.

Currently, as of Thursday Jan. 28, Newton County’s rate is 611 per 100,000 residents. There have been 687 new cases confirmed within the last two weeks. The county’s cumulative case count is 6,090. There have been 150 deaths.

Horton echoed public health officials by encouraging residents to avoid all types of gatherings and to stay home is sick — whether it’s COVID-19 or not.

“The bottom line is the life that you save — and this is somebody else’s quote, not mine — could be your own, but it could be someone you

really love and care about, too,” Horton said. “I’ve known three people over the last 4-6 weeks that aren’t with us today because they had COVID. They may have had underlying conditions, but they’re not here today. And that’s just the people I know. People are dying daily. I heard, maybe in California, that it was like one every 10 minutes or so. That’s frightening. And no one knows when they get it who’s going to survive and who’s not.

“Please, please, if you hear me, do everything you can to keep yourself and others [safe]. I plead with everyone.”

As of Thursday, Jan. 28, there have been 731,826 total COVID-19 cases confirmed statewide since the pandemic began more than one year ago. Nearly 78,000 of those cases have come within the last two weeks. The statewide confirmed death toll stands at 12,135. An additional 1,500-plus deaths list COVID-19 as the “probable” cause.

## CREEPS:

Continued from A2

of vaccine,” Toomey said at Tuesday’s news conference.

Vaccine providers have also met resistance from some nursing homes and hospitals where people have refused to take the vaccine. Kemp said some nursing homes saw up to 70% of staff refuse the vaccine early on during the rollout, while as many as 50% of

employees in some hospitals refused it.

“I think they should get it,” Kemp said. “That was one of the reasons that we expanded the criteria ... to people 65 and older.”

The governor added officials are creating a statewide vaccine scheduling and tracking tool as local health

departments field a flood of calls for the few available appointments, but more work is needed before that tool can go online

“Doing that prematurely could be disastrous,” Kemp said.

Meanwhile, the number of hospitalizations and positive case rates from COVID-19 has

fallen in recent days amid a rough winter spike that began in November, Kemp said. He urged Georgians to continue wearing masks, washing hands and keeping their distance from others despite the downward trend.

“We cannot take the improving numbers we’re seeing for granted,” Kemp said.

## SITE:

Continued from A1

and up, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

The department formerly was vaccinating eligible residents at the Newton County Health Department on Hazelbrand Road in Covington and at a Gwinnett Health Department site in Lawrenceville.

However, officials found that the available space in Covington limited the number of people who could be served daily, said Chad Wasdin, spokesman for the Gwinnett, Newton & Rockdale County Health Departments.

“At this larger location, we can accommodate more people to be vaccinated as opposed to two separate locations,” Wasdin said.

“We used this same strategy for COVID testing last year, which worked well.”

Health workers can vaccinate 400 more

people daily at the new site than at its Covington facility, Wasdin said.

The Conyers location at 1064 Culpepper Drive SW also is larger and more centralized for both counties, he said.

The move angered some in Newton County who said it was done without enough notice and could pose a risk to eligible patients — most of whom are elderly and saw their short drive to Covington extended by 13 miles over sometimes congested roads.

Kathy Bouchillon said her parents, who are in their 80s, received their initial doses at the health department which is a few blocks from their home in Covington.

They have not yet been told about the change in location for their second doses in

February, she said Tuesday, Jan. 26.

“They vaccinated people for the flu here,” she said. “Why can’t they do the same thing (for COVID-19)?”

Wasdin, however, said the Newton County Health Center staff called each patient directly to inform them of the change.

“It is possible they weren’t able to connect with all patients if the individual didn’t answer the phone or have a voicemail option,” he said. “However, as long as we had a phone number for the patient, we reached out to them.”

The department also organizes a weekly call to update community partners, like EMAs, hospitals and others, about upcoming changes to its response in the counties it serves, Wasdin said.

Bouchillon said she wanted the health de-

partment to offer those who already have received first doses to receive their second doses at the same location.

She said she fears for her parents driving to the new vaccination site.

“They have to get on I-20 where, before, they could do it independently,” Bouchillon said.

She said she anticipates her parents — once they get to the Conyers site — waiting in a line of hundreds of people for hours at a larger site.

Some in Newton County may have to take time off work to transport their parents if they are aged, she said.

“We do have a large, older population,” Bouchillon said, in reference to Newton

County.

The number of shots administered to eligible Georgians has gone up in recent weeks after a halting mid-December start, Gov. Brian Kemp said at a news conference in the state Capitol Tuesday, the Capitol Beat News Service reported.

Kemp’s office announced Tuesday night that President Joe Biden’s administration will start allocating Georgia an additional 25,000 vaccine doses per week to increase Georgia’s current weekly allotment to 145,900 doses.

That amount lags far behind the millions of doses needed to halt the virus’ spread, the news service reported.

## LETTERS:

Continued from A4

capable volunteers such as Ed Nolan, Jody Nolan, Charles Sewell and many other volunteers helped to organize our unit. Rebekah Johnson later joined the Newton County Fire Services and retired as fire marshal. Jody Nolan, after spending time with the Newton County Emergency Services, is now head of the Newton (County Emergency Management Agency).

I never did understand why the county did not look in the feasibility of leasing these VFD facilities and using volunteer forces as backup. Or did they? The vehicles were there along with the equipment and gear. Also were available trained volunteers. Were many recruited to be fulltime firefighters? When the VFDs shut down, what happened to the vehicles, equipment and gear? Does anyone know?

Since response time to a scene is a critical criteria for locating a station house, I question the location of the new fire station on Big Woods Road. Big Woods Road happens to be a mile or less from the existing Central Newton VFD building at highways 36 and 213. How far is it to the Mansfield and Newborn area? These are some of the questions that I would like answered among others made by this body over the years.

In my opinion we need a bipartisan oversight committee to oversee how commissioners determine where the taxpayers’ money is to be spent, whether or not necessary items are being overridden by political obsessions and not done in the wisest of manner in order to benefit the county as a whole.

*Richard Garner  
Covington*

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Oxford is considering reapplying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$750,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held via a video conference on February 1st, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. A link will be posted on the city’s website for those interested in joining the public hearing via the internet. To join via telephone, please call 1-646-558-8656. The Meeting ID is 927 9337 6349 and the passcode is 819119.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input for the development of the application and to answer any questions attendees may have about the CDBG grant. The City of Oxford is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Marcia Brooks, City Clerk at (770) 786-7004 prior to February 1st, 2021. This person can be located at City Hall 110 West Clark Street, Oxford, GA 30054 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the Georgia Relay Service at (TDD) (800) 255-0056 or (voice) (800) 255-0135.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF QUALIFYING FEES

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a) (1), the following qualifying fees were set by the City of Porterdales City Council in their January 11, 2021 meeting:

Council Seat Post 3	\$72.00
Council Seat Post 4	\$72.00
Council Seat Post 5	\$72.00

Qualifying for the offices listed above will begin at 9am on August 16 and will end at 4:30 pm on August 20, 2021. The General Election will be held on November 2, 2021.

Kathy Boutry  
Election Superintendent



# Judicial Center to be formally renamed for Johnson Feb. 5

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Alcovy Judicial Circuit will close the Newton County Judicial Center for a couple hours Friday, Feb. 5, to formally rename it for the late Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton and Alcovy Judicial Circuit Chief Judge John M. Ott will give brief remarks during the 11 a.m. ceremony in

the Jury Empanelling Room in the building at 1132 Usher St. in downtown Covington.

The room has limited seating and the ceremony will be livestreamed into other courtrooms and online in a manner similar to the memorial service for Johnson in July, Ott said.

After the indoor ceremony, the event will move outdoors for the unveiling of the new name. Ott said.

Ott also ordered the building, including all offices and the Superior Court Clerk’s office, to be closed to foot traffic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The order will not affect any electronic filings in the clerk’s office, it stated.

Johnson, a Newton County native, died on July 1, 2020, after serving as a Superior Court judge in his home county for 18 years.

... Read more at [CovNews.com](#)

## BUDGET:

Continued from A3

to expand broadband connectivity in rural Georgia.

Several House Democrats questioned why the state continues to use private prisons when President Joe Biden signed an executive order this week ordering the Justice Department to stop using them at the federal level.

Opponents argue companies that operate private prisons are motivated to put as many convicted criminals in them as possible to maximize profits.

“[Private prisons] are a school-to-prison pipeline, and we have to stop it,” said Rep. Donna McLeod, D-Lawrenceville.

England said private prisons save the state money by removing the need to build more state prisons and hire more staff with full

state benefits.

While stronger-than expected state tax collections allowed Kemp and the legislature to avoid the 10% across-the-board budget cuts they imposed last year, England warned of “some headwinds” facing the state this year.

He said state revenues likely will take a hit at tax-filing time.

## CLAIMS:

Continued from A3

Kerr said she should have hired the deputy coroner as a contract worker rather than an employee because the county considers them to be individual contractors. They are paid on a per-case basis.

He said she never

submitted necessary information to the county to verify they met, for example, federal requirements that prohibit the hiring of someone not authorized to work in the U.S.

“We’ve got to verify them,” he said. “We do

have a vetting process.”

County finance officials also never told Bailey-Butts she had to pay from her personal funds if she exceeded her department’s 2021 budget, Kerr said.

“Nobody ever said that,” he said. “That’s a complete fabrication.”

Kerr said finance officials had worked with her to explain her budget and how the budget process worked before she went to commissioners for the extra money.

Department heads typically request a budget amendment if needed for funding that exceeded their budgets. If available, money can be shifted from other areas to meet the amounts they requested, Kerr said.

County finance officials then would undertake “very close monitoring” of the department head’s budget to “see that it doesn’t happen again,” he said.

Kerr said Bailey-Butts could have used the county government’s accounts with Amazon and Office Depot to buy office supplies. She also had received a key to use at the county’s gas pumps to fill up vehicles 24 hours a day, Kerr said.

She had not submitted any requests for reimbursement, Kerr said Wednesday.

“She’s complained about a lot but done nothing to facilitate it,” he said.

Bailey-Butts did not respond to emails or a phone call for comment.


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## HONORED:

Continued from A1

Scottsboro — in 2019.

Despite the growth in his business holdings, Graham has remained in Walton County. He and his wife, Allison, live just outside Monroe. They are members of St. Anna’s Catholic Church.

Graham is a native of Huntsville, Alabama, and graduate of the University of Alabama. He began his career in newspaper management in 1996 as the managing editor of the *Times-Journal* and became the associate publisher of *The Sand Mountain Reporter* in 2000.

His first publisher position was with *The Walton Tribune*, and in 2009 he became the publisher of a daily paper for the first time at *The Paris News* in north Texas.

Graham served as the publisher of *The Daily News* in Galveston, Texas — the state’s oldest newspaper — from 2011-13.

The Grahams returned to Walton County along with their three daughters, Madison, Tabitha and AnnaBelle, in 2014.

Madison Graham is the advertising director of *The Tribune*, and Tabitha Graham is the paper’s composing manager.

Patrick Graham is a member of the United Way of Walton County board of directors and has served as the board’s chairman and the campaign chairman. He is the 2020-21 president of the Rotary Club of Monroe and is a past president-elect of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce. He is a board member of the Georgia Press Association, which has recognized *The Tribune* as a General Excellence winner — the highest honor in GPA — for four years running.

The J.L. McGarity Award for Graham was particularly fitting given the newspaper’s service to the community in the past year. *The Tribune* experienced readership at unprecedented levels in the spring of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Georgia. The newspaper made its reporting on the pandemic free for all readers online in the early months of the crisis, despite sustaining blows to advertising as the local businesses that advertise in newspapers faced their own financial hardships.

However, *The Tribune* and Graham’s other newspapers persevered and ended the year without making permanent staffing cuts. In fact, *The Covington News* added a midweek edition in 2020.

Other award winners Thursday night included Piedmont Walton Hospital employees as Public Servant of the Year, received by Heather Boyce; Josh Wilson of Push Motion, Ambassador of the Year; and Cathi Houston of Houston Group CPA, Member of the Year.

## BRAKES:

Continued from A1

JPC asked the planning commission to rezone the entire 46 acres to a commercial zoning designation that allowed the development. About 14 acres is zoned for a rural residential use.

Developer William B. “Bill” Jones of Jones Petroleum said the business would create about 150 jobs and generate millions in annual tax revenue for Newton County.

32 fueling positions for passenger vehicles; eight diesel fueling lanes for tractor-trailers; and 3,000 square feet of bathrooms.

A second phase was planned to include a chain supermarket, Jones said Tuesday night.

He asked commissioners to check out his company’s JP Travel Center location off I-75 in Butts County before deciding how to vote.

However, Chairman Landis Stephens said “to me it appears as a truck stop” and asked if Jones had spoken to anyone in the surrounding area about it.

Residents’ concerns ranged from potential criminal activity and increased traffic, to the facility not being conducive to what was envisioned for the Brick Store Overlay District.

An overlay district places additional requirements new developments must satisfy in a specific area and governs such items as lighting, building materials, setbacks, buffering from neighboring properties and more.

Commissioners met by computer or smartphone and allowed the public to listen and participate through the Zoom web platform.

Plans submitted included a 24,900-square-foot commercial travel center with a convenience store, 2,500-square-foot gift shop and plans for Burger King, Subway and Dunkin’ Donuts.

It also included a total of 16 pumps with

Area residents lined up to speak against the plan.

Wayne Pugh, a trucking company owner and River Cove Meadows resident, said area residents had sent commissioners a letter that contained 866 signatures in opposition to Jones’ project.

Other residents said it would lead to development that would bring businesses not conducive to the area, and create unwanted traffic congestion at the intersection of I-20 and

Hwy. 11.

Marvin Maner said he believed the area was not served by enough Newton County sheriff’s deputies to properly patrol the type of business that has been a magnet for crime in other areas.

He said it would simply be a “cash cow” for Jones and not benefit the surrounding area, which includes the Georgia State University Perimeter College’s Newton campus.

“Please protect us from this,” he said.

But Jones said the project would benefit the county by creating an estimated \$3 million in tax revenue and new construction and service jobs.

He pushed back against claims the business would attract prostitution and other crime. Jones had noted in the past it would feature 24-hour security.

“We certainly don’t run any kind of red light district as far as this location is concerned,” he said.

Deerfield subdivision resident Ashley McIntosh said a travel center would lower area home values and not help existing businesses.

“Who wants their child to go to a school across from a ‘gi-normous’ truck stop?” she asked.

River Chase resident

LeAnne Long, a real estate agent and former county commissioner, said a truck stop would set an unwanted precedent for future business development in the area.

“We’re not against having growth,” she said. “A truck stop is not the direction we want to go.”

Pugh said three other truck stops were within 15 miles. Idling tractor-trailers at a travel plaza would increase air pollution in the area, he said.

“You might destroy the vision of what this side of the county might be,” Pugh said.

Planning commissioners’ recommendation to the Newton County Board of Commissioners was to deny Jones’ request for rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Highway Commercial on part of the site to place it entirely under Highway Commercial zoning.

They also recommended the Board of Commissioners deny a request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a truck stop, parking and dispatch within the Highway Commercial zoning district.

County commissioners are scheduled to take final action on the requests at their Feb. 16 meeting.



# SPORTS

The Covington News

## Prep Basketball

# Eastside splits with Walnut Grove

Eagles exact revenge in road battle against Warriors | Lady Warriors outlast Lady Eagles

By GARRETT PITTS  
Correspondent

WALNUT GROVE, Ga. — The Eastside boys' and girls' basketball teams suited up Tuesday evening as they took on the Walnut Grove Warriors with both clubs looking to climb up the Region 8-A AAAA standings. Though the Lady Eagles fell short against a tough Lady Warriors team that had all the answers, the boys' team avenged its loss from earlier in the year against the Warriors.

**Walnut Grove Girls 46, Eastside Girls 38**  
The Lady Warriors (10-8, 7-2) would not go away against the Lady Eagles (3-11, 3-7) as a rough first quarter would bury Eastside.

Early on, the Warriors were getting unlimited opportunities in transition as nearly all of the first-quarter points allowed by Walnut Grove happened on the fast break.

The second quarter would show the Lady Warriors slip up, as they would open the quarter with four straight turnovers, however it would not come back to bite as they would continue to slow down the Eastside offensive attack time and time again, forcing



Garrett Pitts | The Covington News

**Eastside avenged its early-season loss to Walnut Grove with a hard-fought road victory over the Warriors on Tuesday.**

a score of 23-14 going into halftime.

The Lady Eagles opened up the third quarter with multiple turnovers which allowed the Lady Warriors to extend their lead even more as the quarter progressed.

The fourth quarter would be the Lady Eagles' best quarter of the game. They pulled within six points, but the Lady Warriors just kept finding answers and increasing the lead just enough to close out

the game at 46-38.

Freshman Kailiel Kracht led the Eagles offensively as the guard would finish the game with 13 points after a big fourth quarter.

Following the loss to Walnut Grove, the Lady Eagles will look to finish off their season strong as they will go on the road to play the Johnson Knights (4-11, 0-7) this Friday, Jan. 29.

**Eastside Boys 53, Walnut Grove Boys 44**  
The Eastside (10-6,

8-3) boys' basketball team avenged their loss from earlier in the year with a hard-fought road win over Walnut Grove (8-10, 7-4).

The first quarter was close between the tough region foes, but early on the Eagles were able to move the ball and create good shooting opportunities. After starting out the quarter leading 6-0, the Eagles slowed down as the quarter went on as they closed out the opening period with a 10-7 lead.

A few bad turnovers for the Warriors allowed the Eagles to increase their lead with the help of senior Jaylen Woods, who was able to knock down shots on the perimeter to begin a big run. "[Woods] is in a zone, him being able to shoot outside and come inside

for layups is a deadly combination," Eastside head coach Dorrian Randolph said.

A last-second shot by senior Jayce Douglas landed as the Eagles capped off an excellent second quarter. They went into the break

See EAGLES, A12

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### HEALTH CARE



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# Redskins keep rolling

By DAVID JOHNSON  
Correspondent

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Sometimes a loss can be a good thing. Such appears to be the case for the Social Circle boys basketball team.

Two weeks ago, they lost a heartbreaker to Washington-Wilkes in a key Region 8-A public showdown. Leading by a point with just nine seconds left in the game and possession of the ball, the Redskins committed a critical turnover. Washington took advantage and won 54-53.

"I'm not gonna lie," said Social Circle head coach Taylor Jackson. "We were definitely discouraged after that one. But for us, it put things in perspective about our approach to the game and how we prepare and practice."

It also lit a fire under the Redskins (9-8, 4-2 Region 8-A public). Since the loss, they've won four of five by an average of 30 points.

The only setback was a 56-48 defeat by Providence Christian, the No. 2-ranked team among Class A private schools.

The dominant run provided a some much-needed momentum as Social Circle enters the most pivotal week of the season.



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

**Junior Tyrhell Branch (1) and the Social Circle boys' basketball team is in the midst of a four-game winning streak as it heads into the most crucial part of the season.**

Currently in fourth place in the region, the Redskins will face all three teams ahead of them over an eight-day span. They rematched first-place Towns county Tuesday night and

prevailed with a 74-64 victory to extend their winning streak to four games.

They'll follow that up with a make-up game against second-place Lincoln County next

Monday and third-place Washington-Wilkes on Tuesday, both of which will be played at home.

Towns, ranked No. 7 among Class A public

See REDSKINS, A12

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Prep Softball

# Piedmont’s Anglin signs with Georgia Military College

**By CHRIS BRIDGES**  
Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — Piedmont Academy senior Ava Anglin was a key part of the Lady Cougars fast-pitch softball program during her high school career. Anglin, a Covington resident, helped Piedmont won state softball titles in 2017 and 2020. She now has her path set following graduation this spring as she will attend Georgia Military College in Milledgeville.

“Ava is a joy to coach,” said Piedmont softball coach Joe Johnson. “She is very much a team-oriented player and works ex-

tremely hard at practice and on game day.” Anglin helped the Lady Cougars go 18-3-1 this past fall on their way to a state championship. She led the team with three home runs while battling .302 with a .483 on-base percentage.

The senior also scored 19 runs and had 23 RBI during the 2020 season.

“She really helped us solidify our outfield



Ava Anglin

and added some power to our lineup,” Johnson said. “Her leadership at practice and games was a huge part of her impact on our team this season. Piedmont and GMC are both lucky to have a player of this caliber.”

Anglin said she likes beginning her collegiate career close to home.

“I’m still undecided on what I want to do academically so getting my two-year degree is the most logical option for me,” she said. “I also love that it’s close to home.”

The high school senior will take plenty of memories with her

to college.

“I will easily remember all the unbreakable bonds between me and my teammates the most, but I could never forget the awesome memories of winning two state titles at Piedmont as a freshman and senior,” Anglin said.

GMC coaches plan to use Anglin as an outfielder but she said she willing to play anywhere she is needed.

“I’m excited to get an opportunity to play as a freshman,” she said. “That’s another reason I chose GMC.”

Anglin is the daughter of John and Robin Anglin of Covington.

## EAGLES:

Continued from A11

with a 27-14 lead.

In the third quarter the Eagles would continue to hold the lead, but the Warriors began to climb back into the game, setting up what would be a big final quarter for Walnut Grove.

The Eastside defense began to falter in the final quarter as the Warriors continued to get inside the paint, eventually shortening the lead to 41-38 for the Eagles.

“[Defense] is where we really need to still improve on,” Randolph said. “[Tuesday] we gave up a lot of offensive rebounds where we just did not get a body on somebody.”

With just under a minute left and winning by three, Woods knocked down a key 3-pointer and followed it up with a steal to shift all the momentum back to the Eagles.



Garrett Pitts | The Covington News

**Sophomore Leila Powell (23) and the Lady Eagles came up short against Walnut Grove in a Region 8-AAAAA contest Tuesday, Jan. 26.**

Two free-throws from senior Jaylen Lelie-Johnson put the dagger in the Eagles’ 53-44 win.

Woods was the key for the Eagles in the

win as he finished with 20 points on the night, while junior Raje Benton finished the game with 13 points.

After extending their win streak to six

games, the Eagles will look to continue the hot streak leading to the end of the season as they go to play the Jackson Knights (3-12, 1-8) on Friday, Jan. 29.

## Piedmont Academy Equestrian



Special Photos | Piedmont Academy

The Piedmont Academy Equestrian team recently competed in a horse show held at Wisteria Farm located in Monroe. For the Middle School Hunt Seat Team, Isabel White (left) received a first-place and third-place finish in her Beginner Walk/trot/canter classes. Madison Swann (center) received a first-place and second-place finish in her Beginner Walk/trot classes. Madalynn Bryant (right) received two third-place finishes in her Beginner Walk/trot classes.

## Prep Volleyball



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

**Twin sisters Kinsley and Keelie Jordan, members of the Peachtree Academy volleyball team, signed their National Letters of Intent to play together at Brewton-Parker College on Thursday afternoon.**

# TWINNING

## Twin sisters sign volleyball NLIs

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Kinsley and Keelie Jordan became part of biggest signing class in the history of the Peachtree Academy volleyball program Thursday afternoon.

The twin sisters penned their respective National Letters of Intent to extend their academic and athletic careers together at Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga.

The Jordan twins were the second and third members of Peachtree Academy’s senior class to sign volleyball scholarships. Their signings come on the heels of fellow classmate Emily Earwood, who signed with Mercer University in

early December.

It’s only fitting for the Class of 2021 to feature the program’s first Division I signee and its most collegiate signees in a single year. After all, they capped off a dominant prep career by going 30-0, trailing for just one set all season en route to capturing their third consecutive GAPPS Division I-AA state title.

“Kinsley and Keelie are Peachtree volleyball. This was a very mediocre program before they got into high school, and they were the catalysts to what we’ve become now,” Peachtree head coach Bobby Mitchell said. “They were the first to go out and start playing year-round volleyball. Four years later, we’ve won three straight titles.”

## REDSKINS:

Continued from A11

teams, entered the year as the favorite to take the league crown. In an earlier meeting, the Redskins led by two in the fourth quarter before falling by six.

On Tuesday night, a 26-point performance from K.J. Reid — which included five 3-pointers — fueled a 10-point victory. He was far from the only contributor, however, as Tyrhell Branch poured in 24 points with five rebounds and three assists, while Cam Gaither added 19 points, three boards and three assists.

Against Lincoln County, the Redskins will be faced with trying to slow down 6-foot-6 forward Franquon Sherman, who was the league’s top freshman last winter.

But the most anticipated game will be the rematch with Washington-Wilkes.

“I know we’re looking forward to that one after the way the last game turned out,” Jackson said.

A sweep would vault the Redskins into second place in the league, setting them up nicely for the league tournament.

The recent offensive surge has been led by the backcourt trio of Reid, Branch, and Gaither. All three are averaging double figures in scoring, led by Branch with 20 a game.

In the frontcourt, A.J. Vinson continues to dominate on the boards, averaging double digits in rebounds including 10 in the recent victory over Commerce.

In girls play, the Lady Redskins returned to action after losing a couple of games to COVID-19, falling 66-33 to Commerce on Saturday.

It was the third straight loss for the Social Circle girls, who fell to 3-8 overall and 1-3 in region play. The are currently in fifth place in the league, just a half game behind Greene County, who’ll they’ll face on Saturday.



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