

The Covington News

SATURDAY—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2020



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local issues at
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INSIDE:

Sports Extra is BACK!

High school football
kicks off across Georgia;
read how Alcovy and
Social Circle fared in their
season openers

See B1



His Word

That there should be no schism
in the body; but that the members
should have the same care one
for another. And whether one
member suffer, all the members
suffer with it; or one member be
honoured, all the members rejoice
with it. Now ye are the body of
Christ, and members in particular.

— 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, KJV

Covington approves mask mandate

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

COVINGTON, Ga. —
Wearing masks are required
on city properties in Covington
as of Tuesday, Sept. 1.
According to Covington
Mayor Steve Horton, the city
council approved a resolution
mandating the use of

masks during a session of its
retreat Thursday, Aug. 27,
that went into effect Tuesday.
A similar ordinance was
voted down Aug. 17, shortly
after Gov. Brian Kemp eased
restrictions on local governments
and allowed them to enforce
such ordinances or resolutions.

The resolution adopted
Thursday with a 4-1 vote (Councilwoman
Fleeta Baggett opposed;
Councilman Anthony Henderson
was absent) requires

INSIDE:

Newton County
commissioners
amend mask
mandate
See A3

residents to wear a face
covering on city properties
but excludes private and
residential properties. However,
council members have encouraged
businesses to institute the
mandate.
“We have been proactive
since day one of the pandemic
to ensure the safety

of our community, and this
is another step,” City Manager
Scott Andrews said in a
statement. “Wearing a face
covering will be a tremendous
step in getting us back to the
way of life we enjoyed prior
to COVID-19.”

See MANDATE, A2

Former police chief dies

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

COVINGTON, Ga. —
Former Covington Police
Chief Bob Moody died Aug.
28 at age 73.
“It is with a heavy heart
that we report that
former Covington Police
Chief Bob Moody passed
away (Aug. 28),” the Cov-



**Bob
Moody**

ington Police Department
reported on its Facebook
page.
Moody, a Covington
resident, worked for more
than 20 years with Covington
Police. He was promoted to
chief and, in 1985, led
Covington to become only
the 10th department in the
U.S. and the first in Georgia
to become Internationally
Accredited by the Commission
on Accreditation for Law

See CHIEF, A2

SNAKE BIT

How to traverse slithery encounters gone wrong

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

In the summer heat, finding
copperheads and other pit
vipers slithering across the
area is a common sight, but
what happens when they bite?
One Newton County resident
recently found out.

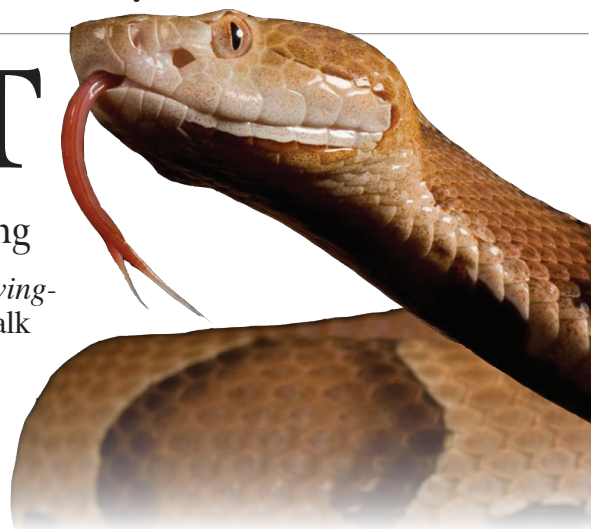
Carol Veliotis, of Covington,
said she was walking a
suitcase out to her car
Saturday morning, July 25,
when she thought she
stepped on a briar. Veliotis
was wearing pajamas and
flip-flops. What she thought
was a stick had cut her heel.

“I said, ‘Ouch! That hurt!’,”

she recalled to *The Covington
News*. “When I walk back
to the house, I’ll toss that
stick into the woods.”

But it was not a stick. As
she returned to the house,
Veliotis found the gray,
copperhead snake — about
14-inches long, she said —
coiled among the pebbles in
her driveway with its arrow-
shaped head staring directly
at her.

“At that moment, it all came
together in my mind,” she
said. “OMG! I was just bitten
by a copperhead — am I
going to die?”



Get sick? Lose my foot? Go
to the hospital?”

Veliotis was then rushed to
the emergency room. That
was when she “lost it.”

“I was 72, no thyroid, a
compromised immune system,
scared — one of the worst
moments of

See BIT, A8

Getting back to class



Special to The Covington News

Tony Vargas takes notes in Susan Keith's math class. Vargas is a biology student on Georgia State University's Newton Campus. Fall classes began Monday, Aug. 24 with a mix of in-person and online instruction. All-virtual classes for students K-12 in Newton County begin Tuesday, Sept. 8. Check out The Covington News' Back to School page on A10 to see how teachers and schools have prepared for the new year amid COVID-19.

Panel recommends two from Covington for Superior Court judge

Governor's selection
to replace the late
Horace Johnson Jr.

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

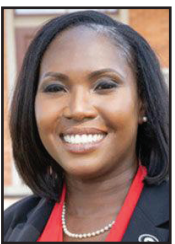
COVINGTON, Ga. —
Two Newton County residents
have been recommended for
a Superior Court judgeship
to replace the late Horace
Johnson Jr.

The state Judicial Nominating
Commission Wednesday, Sept.
2, recommended Covington
attorney Hillary W. Edgar and
Flint Judicial Circuit prosecutor
Cheveda McCamy of Covington
for appointment by Gov. Brian
Kemp.

See JUDGE, A3



**Hillary W.
Edgar**



**Cheveda
McCamy**

Volume 155, No. 36



Inside

Hotels headed to
Covington to anchor
Town Center project

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Obituaries

Bob Moody
Covington
Marvin Bowen
Covington

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MANDATE:

Continued from A1

Masks are not required to be medical grade, so long as they cover the nose and mouth, according to the resolution, and bandanas, scarves or other similar fabrics are sufficient.

Businesses within city limits can post a notice for mask requirements 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 will enforce the resolution on all public property and any private property that opts to require masks. Anyone who fails to comply is subject to a \$50 fine, but the goal isn't to catch people not wearing

masks and write tickets, Horton said.

"We'll provide masks if someone needs one," he said. "Our police officers — if they confront anyone not wearing a mask — they'll give them one too... It's about getting as many people as possible to wear a mask."

Several people had approached Horton and the council about issuing a mask mandate, he said, but it was never an option until recently.

"What many people don't understand was, prior to Aug. 16, the governor's order superseded what we could do," Horton said.

The mayor said he, as well as

the majority of the council, believed issuing a mask mandate was the right thing to do.

"We needed to make what efforts we could to slow down and stop the spread of this virus," he said. "We can't be there to see and make sure everyone washes their hands ... but we can mandate masks to be worn, make sure people are social distancing and do what we can to try and get our numbers down."

Horton said the resolution would remain in effect until the governor's executive order allowing local governments to institute such ordinances expires or the city decides to revoke the ordinance.

CHIEF:

Continued from A1

Enforcement Agencies.

He moved on to serve as chief of the Marietta Police Department from 1996 to 2006.

The Covington Police Department on its Facebook page noted Moody also served as president of The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"Thank you Chief Moody for your leadership and service to the citizens of our community. Please

keep Sue and the rest of Chief Moody's family in your prayers during this difficult time."

He also served at the state level as a member of the state Board of Public Safety, according to an obituary from Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, which was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Covington Police Capt. Ken Malcom said Moody "was very influential in my adult life and hired me 34 years ago."

"Chief Moody cared

about his staff and he pushed us all to be the best that we could be," Malcom said on his Facebook page. "Education was very important to Bob Moody. He worked hard to get many of us into The FBI National Academy and all of us in college."

Sheriff Ezell Brown said Moody "was an outstanding chief who served his community well."

"I thank Chief Moody for his service and dedication to the citizens of Newton County," Brown said.

Dunwoody Police Chief Billy Grogan served as deputy chief for Moody when he was Marietta's chief.

Grogan, who was Dunwoody's inaugural police chief upon the city's incorporation in 2008, said Moody "opened my eyes up to future opportunities I had never even dreamed about."

"I already had the 'work hard' mindset, and he encouraged me to dream big," Grogan wrote in his "Top Cop Leadership" blog in 2019.

Remember when ...



Archives | The Covington News

In September 2000, local educator Louise Adams was nominated as one of the nation's top volunteers. Pictured is Adams in her popular role at Ficquett Elementary School: "Mother Goose."

Community Calendar

ONGOING

The food pantry at the Covington First United Methodist Church is in dire need of more volunteers now that students and teachers are back in school and unavailable to help with this ongoing and much-needed project. If available to help, email Megan Hulgan at foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org to sign up and begin training for service.

Submit your event to The Covington News' community calendar via email to news@covnews.com. The calendar is open to nonprofits, community organizations, churches and community events. For more information on submissions, please contact news@covnews.com

OBITUARIES

Marvin Bowen

Mr. Marvin Bowen, age 91, of Covington, passed away Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020.

He was born Nov. 14, 1928, in Warwick, Georgia, to Oscar L. and Eula Wright Bowen. Mr. Bowen grew

up in Warwick and graduated from Warwick High School. Following graduation, he joined the United States Army and was decorated for his service in Korea during the Korean War. Mr. Bowen enjoyed flying and

owned two airplanes, he was an avid reader, he loved to learn, and while working for BellSouth he attended and graduated from Georgia Tech.

He was an avid runner participating in 42 Peachtree Road Races. Fitness was a huge part of his life; Marvin worked out daily until he was 89 years old.

Mr. Bowen was a faithful member of the First United Methodist



Church of Covington for 18 years serving with the sound committee and as an usher at the 8:30 a.m. service. He was also an active member of the Agape Sunday School Class.

Mr. Bowen was preceded in death by his mother Eula Wright Bowen, his father Oscar L. Bowen, his step mother Annie Maud Bowen, his daughter Leisa Lynn Girouard, his brothers Loren Bowen, Edward Bowen, and his sister Elouise Powell. He is survived by his sisters Maggielene Bowen Davis of Louisville,

Kentucky, and Sheila Bowen Barbee (Roy) of Leesburg, Georgia; his sister-in-law Helen Bowen of South Field, Michigan; his brother-in-law Robert Powell of Sylvester, Georgia; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other family and close friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Bowen will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, at the Chapel of J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home with Rev. Douglas Gilreath officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from noon until

1 p.m. on Wednesday prior to the service. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, at New Union Baptist Church Cemetery in Warwick, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers those desiring may make donations to First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Church Street SW, Covington, GA 30014. J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, TE Davis Funeral Services, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.

Smiles of the Month

We are smiling under our masks thanks to awesome check-ups from these kids.

Elan Allen

Abigail Mantle

Cam Anglin

Annistyn Patterson

Keegan Black

Cooper Smith

Natalie Cooper

Isaac Tupper

Noah Cooper

Chloe Wilson

Jack Hays

Cole Wilson

Gibson Knapp



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Bobby Daniel Moody

Bobby Daniel Moody, of Covington, passed away Friday, Aug. 28, 2020, at the age of 73. Husband, father, "Poppy", father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, Chief, friend, and more. Bobby lived these roles with a servant's heart. He loved being in the law enforcement community and served for over 30 years — mostly as Chief of Police, with 20-plus years at the Covington Police Department and 10 years at the Marietta Police Department. During his time of service, Bobby was honored to be recognized by his peers and elected to positions such as President of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and President of the International Association of

Chiefs of Police. He was also honored to serve at the State level as a member of the Board of Public Safety. Bobby loved the men and women that he worked with and always pushed them to be the best they could be. Bobby was more than Chief — he was a husband and a father. His life was an example of what was right. He taught his family the meaning of hard work, sacrifice, commitment, kindness, and most of all ... love. Bobby loved his children with all his heart, and he loved his wife, Sue Meadows Moody, with all his being. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles L. and Mary (Morris) Moody.

A lifetime of memories will remain in the hearts of Bobby's friends and family, especially his wife of 54 years, Sue M. Moody; daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Donnie Mitchell; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Tami Moody, all of Covington; grandchildren, Brittany Moody, Cody Moody; brothers and sister-in-law, Johnny and Eva Moody of Suwanee, Dwight L. Moody of Covington; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A Gathering of Friends for Bobby will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020, from 2:00-4:00 P.M., at Klondike Farm, 2588 Klondike Road SW, in Conyers. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 P.M., with Pastor Tony Howeth officiating. The family invites all who attend to wear casual attire. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation. www.tunnel2towers.org.

CDC guidelines recommend social distancing (6 feet apart) and wearing of masks while in public. The family requests that you observe these recommendations during the gathering and service for the safety and well-being of all.

Visit caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.



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Covington man faces charges in Oxford resident's death

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

A Covington man is facing negligent manslaughter charges in the recent death of a 54-year-old man in the Oxford area.

Terry Hall died in the Saturday night, Aug. 22, incident at his residence in Oxford.

William Russell White, 30, was

being held in the Newton County jail without bond on charges related to the incident which occurred between 6:30 and 7:05 p.m. at the victim's residence at 99 Edwards Road in Oxford, according to a report from the Newton County Sheriff's Office.

Spokeswoman Caitlin Jett of the Newton County Sheriff's Office said, "There was an altercation between

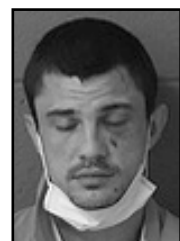
a 54-year-old and a 30-year-old at a residence off Edwards Road in Oxford.

"The 54-year-old passed away as a result of the altercation; the 30-year-old is in custody," Jett said.

It was neither gang-related nor drug-related, the report stated. White, who is unemployed, was charged with one count each of involuntary

manslaughter and battery and two counts of cruelty to children, a report stated.

No other information was made available as the investigation is ongoing.



William Russell White

Middle school teacher resigns after arrest on child molestation, porn charges

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — A Newton County middle school teacher resigned Thursday, Sept. 3, after he was recently arrested on child molestation and pornography charges related to a juvenile for which he was described as a "mentor."

Winfred Lewis Akins, 47, of Covington, was being held without bond in the Newton County jail after the Newton County Sheriff's Office charged him with one count each of Child Molestation and Computer Or Electronic Pornography, both felonies.

Akins was a seventh-grade math teacher at Liberty Middle School, where he worked since 2018. He

resigned effective Sept. 3, said Newton County School System spokeswoman Sherri Davis.

"We are aware that Mr. Akins has been arrested by law enforcement and is now in custody. The Newton County School System is cooperating fully with the Newton County Sheriff's Office as they conduct their investigation," Davis said.

A sheriff's deputy reported being dispatched Aug. 11 to a call about a possible child molestation at a residence in Covington.

"Upon arriving on scene, I met



Winfred Lewis Akins

with the complainant and she stated her child received inappropriate messages from her child's mentor," the deputy reported.

Sheriff's detectives and the state Department of Family and Children's Services were notified, the deputy reported.

An initial report stated the complainant told investigators the incident occurred between Dec. 15 and Dec. 20, 2019.

Detectives seized a Macbook computer and an iPhone as evidence, the report stated. He was arrested at his home Aug. 28, according to sheriff's office records.

The incident is still under investigation, a report stated. No other details were immediately available.

California police charge Covington man with attempted murder

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

SONORA, Calif. — A Covington man has been charged with trying to suffocate a woman twice during a "disagreement" in a hotel in northern California this week.

Jeffrey K. Howard, 50, was charged with attempted murder of the woman after police said he was responsible for "several violent acts against the victim with whom he is associated" in a hotel on Stockton Road in Sonora, Calif., according to a news release from the Sonora Police Department.

The release stated the victim called 911 Tuesday, Aug. 25, just before 1 a.m. and said she had just been assaulted.

Officers arrived and learned that Howard allegedly tried to suffocate the victim, first by wrapping a plastic bag over her head and then holding her down while pushing a pillow into her face, .

He also reportedly punched the victim in the mouth during the violent assault, the release stated.

Officers took Howard into custody and booked him into the Tuolumne County Jail in Sonora on a charge of attempted murder.



Jeffrey K. Howard

Masks must be worn in all Newton County government facilities

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County will require anyone using county facilities to wear masks to protect against COVID-19 even if in a city that does not mandate it.

The county Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 Tuesday, Sept. 1, to approve a resolution approving a mandatory mask policy for facilities it owns or rents within the six cities in Newton County.

It would affect such facilities as

the county government administration buildings and the Turner Lake complex in Covington, the Mansfield Community Building and Mary Louise Fowler Park in Porterdale.

Read more at CovNews.com

JUDGE:

Continued from A1

Kemp will have the final selection for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit Superior Court judgeship left vacant by Johnson's July 1 death.

The Governor's Office will contact candidates to schedule interviews, the commission announced. Alcovy Judicial Circuit includes Newton and Walton counties.

Edgar is a managing member of the Edgar Law Firm LLC in Covington, while McCamy serves as chief assistant district attorney in the Henry County District Attorney's office.

Edgar serves as general counsel for the Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority, Covington Housing Authority and the Lawrenceville Housing Authority. She also serves as a Judge Pro Tem for the Newton County Juvenile Court, according to information on her law firm's website.

A Statesboro native, Edgar earned her

undergraduate degree in history from Agnes Scott College in Decatur and her Juris Doctorate degree from Georgia State University.

McCamy is a Covington native and has worked as a prosecutor in Henry, Fulton and DeKalb counties. She supervises more than 40 employees as chief assistant DA. She also practiced criminal defense, personal injury, real estate, estate planning and family law.

The Social Circle High School graduate earned degrees from the University of Georgia and Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law.

Kemp now can interview the committee's finalists and choose a new judge, or he is free to choose someone who is not a finalist. He also can reject the nominations and restart the process.

After 11 attorneys and judicial officials from Newton and

Walton counties were nominated for the judgeship, six told the Judicial Nominating Commission in August they wanted to proceed with the process.

The list included Edgar and McCamy and Anthony S. Carter, the chief public defender in the Alcovy Circuit; Covington attorney Teri L. Doecke; Lori Duff, a Loganville attorney and Municipal Court judge; and W. Cliff Howard, the deputy chief assistant district attorney of Walton County.

McCamy narrowly missed out on a spot in an Aug. 11 runoff election for another Alcovy Superior Court judgeship now held by Eugene Benton.

Benton is retiring at the end of the year and will be succeeded by Monroe attorney Jeff Foster, who defeated Bob Stansfield in the Aug. 11 runoff.

The Judicial Nominating Commission is helping Kemp choose an Alcovy judge for

the second time this year. Judge Samuel D. Ozburn retired in the spring and Kemp selected then-District Attorney Layla Zon, who was sworn in June 2 at the state Capitol.

If Kemp chooses one of the two finalists named Wednesday, it will continue the trend of Newton County residents holding three of the Superior Court judgeships and Walton County residents holding two judgeships in the Alcovy circuit.

Zon and Ken Wynne are from Newton. Benton and Chief Judge John Ott are from Wal-

ton. Foster will follow Benton in his seat in January.

Ott said he would help either of the finalists get acclimated to their new job.

"They're both ... competent attorneys and fine people and I'm certainly going to work

as hard as I can with the transition, as all the judges I'm sure are going to do," he said.

Editor and Publisher David Clemons of The Walton Tribune contributed to this report.

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Our View on the Issue

We're bringing back Wednesdays



Taylor Beck | The Covington News

Readers can expect to see a new Wednesday edition of *The Covington News* in the rack or at their door Sept. 16.

Yes, you read the headline correctly.

For more than 150 years, *The Covington News* has been committed to providing reliable news coverage and operate as the legal organ for Newton County.

In an effort to continue honoring this commitment for generations to come, *The News* is thrilled to announce it is bringing back a mid-week edition of its award-winning newspaper.

Expanding our coverage and adding another print edition of the newspaper is unprecedented considering the world we live in today — and we're not talking about COVID-19.

Long before the pandemic, newspapers of all sizes around the world have been forced to cut back its print production and/or lay off staff members left and right. Even *The News* made a decision in the last decade to stop printing multiple days per week.

Since owner Patrick Graham purchased *The News* in 2017, readers and advertisers have proposed bringing back a mid-week edition of the newspaper. After much deliberation, Graham, Editor and Publisher Taylor Beck and *The News* staff believe this mid-week edition is what our community needs now more than

ever before.

We will launch a new Wednesday edition of the newspaper Sept. 16 thanks to the support of our community. But don't worry, there's still an opportunity for you to support us, too.

In bringing the Wednesday edition back, *The News* is offering a special variety of advertising options that will benefit our local businesses by increasing their visibility at an unbeatable rate.

Anyone interested in placing an ad in the new Wednesday edition is encouraged to give us a call at 770-787-6397 during our business hours of Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., to learn more.

Readers can subscribe to the newspaper for as little as \$5 per month at CovNews.com.

We look forward to the numerous possibilities that will come with a Wednesday edition. It not only means more timely news coverage, it also means more features and signature pages you don't want to miss.

We're excited about bringing Wednesdays back. You should be too.

Our View on the Issue is an opinion of The Covington News editorial board, which includes Owner Patrick Graham and Editor and Publisher Taylor Beck.

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The Covington News (USPS 136140) is published weekly on Sunday for \$52 a year for home delivery or \$72 a year for mail delivery by Newton Newspapers Inc., 1166 Usher St. NW, Covington, GA 30014. This newspaper is printed at the Jackson County Sentinel in Scottsboro, Alabama. Periodicals postage paid at Covington, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015. Contents Copyright © 2020 Newton Newspapers Inc.

Dave Belton State House of Representatives, District 112

Ramsey's love for Covington made him 'giant of a man'

Mayor Samuel David Ramsey went on to his eternal reward late last week. While our Savior will welcome his faithful servant warmly into His loving arms, we the living will be sorry for our loss.



A fifth generation descendant of the original settlers of Newton County, Mayor Ramsey has too many accomplishments to print without publishing a book. When I first started going down the list of his many achievements, I thought there must have been a mistake. Someone must have pasted three or four different people's lifetimes into that legacy of good and noble deeds. But it was just one man with just one goal, to love and care for the people of Covington.

I know one of his most important successes is his 50 years of marriage to Mrs. Rebecca Ramsey, who is a nationally certified Colleague of the American Guild of Organists, an elite fraternity enjoyed by less than 1% of all the organists in America. The warmth

and affection these lovers displayed through their 50 years of joyous marriage is a testament to the love we can hope to expect when we too are received into heaven.

Mayor Samuel David Ramsey served the people of Covington for 37 years. It is because of his leadership that you know that city as "The Hollywood of the South." The billions of dollars of movie-making that Georgia now enjoys was pioneered by Mayor Ramsey.

Mayor Samuel David Ramsey was nothing short of a visionary. For example, his lengthening of the runway at the Covington airport was — at the time — deemed politically impossible. Now, a decade later, that very long runway brings in corporate jets — and jobs for our children — from very far destinations from all around the world.

When Robert Kennedy was running for president, he came to Covington to spend an afternoon with Mayor Ramsey. President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Sam Nunn, Gov. Zell Miller ... the list goes on and on. But with all that success, with all of his stature, I know that Mayor Ramsey is most proud of his family's historic role

in the Salem Camp Ground. An outside pavilion with a saw dust floor, the Salem Camp Ground — which was founded by Mayor Ramsey's ancestor — has been hosting shade tree revivals bringing people to Jesus for 200 years.

Mayor Samuel Ramsey attracted hundreds of new businesses to Covington with an economic impact of billions of dollars, created dozens of initiatives to create efficiencies and save tax payer money, built scores of new government facilities, created THE CENTER, funded the Lake Varner Reservoir, created a homeless shelter and dozens of other facilities for the poor, lengthened the Covington Municipal Airport runway, and refurbished downtown Covington. Just a few of his honors include the Distinguished Alumnus of Emory University Award, Emory Magazine Award for Distinguished Community Service, Outstanding Christian Service Award by the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, and the R. O. Arnold Award for Community Service from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce. He also served the Boy Scouts for 47 years and Kiwanis International for 25 years.

His service in the Air Force during the Cuban Missile Crisis, his service to Newton County as CEO of Ramsey Furniture Company, his service as Covington Planning and Zoning Commission for 17 years, his service on the Covington City Council for nine years, his service as Mayor of Covington for 11 years, his service as a Member of Gideons International, his service as a member of the First United Methodist Church of Covington for 79 years, where he has served as a certified Lay Speaker and Chairman of dozens of Boards, his service to our Savior as Chairman of Salem Camp Ground Program Committee for 53 years and Chairman of Salem Camp Ground Board of Trustees for three years ... but mostly his love — both to the people of Covington and to his grateful family — made Mayor Samuel David Ramsey a giant of a man.

Christianity is at its best when Christians demonstrate their love for one another through actual, practical, deeds of compassion.

Dave Belton is a Republican from Morgan County, serving in the Georgia House of Representatives, District 112.

Rev. Lyn Pace columnist

Power and beauty can be found in ritual

I recently led four daily contemplative practices for our new student orientation.

Mind you, each one was virtual since we continue to live with the reality of COVID-19 in our lives. That did not stop people from coming and, in fact, may have aided in what I felt to be a fruitful program.

Gathering with the students who opted in on each of the days became a ritual for me. You see, rituals do not just belong in religious spaces. Rituals take place every day. Many of us are already moving through rituals in our day-to-day lives, and it would be wise to acknowledge them and their potential for our own human flourishing.

Co-founder of the award-winning podcast, "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text," Casper Ter Kuile, reminds us that many things can become a spiritual practice or ritual practice. In his book, "The Power of

Ritual: Turning Everyday Activities into Soulful Practices," he offers the following guidance for how rituals make the invisible connections that make life meaningful, visible. He says we need to be clear about what we are inviting into this moment (our intention). We need to come back to the present moment (give it our attention). Finally, we should then come back to the practice again and again (making space for repetition).

With that in mind, we can think about those things we do repeatedly in our lives. For some of us, they will be religious in nature — attending to our regular prayer or worshipping practice in a particular place we think of as sacred. For many of us, though, they are everyday practices like exercise, washing dishes, snuggling our child, reading stories, readying the coffee pot, preparing someone's lunch. How might we take Casper Ter Kuile's guidance named above and apply it to these everyday practices? Better yet, how does it already show up in the ways

in which these ritual practices enliven our very being?

The longer I work in college chaplaincy and the more years I accumulate in my life, I realize that there is very little, if any, difference in the sacred and profane. I learned early in my life that only religious places and practices were truly sacred. I have been unlearning this now for quite some time, almost as long as I spent learning it. Some of the students I work with have been some of my best teachers. They have opened my eyes to the fact that just because they are "nones" (students who tick the "none" box on an admission application), does not mean they have abandoned participating in the sacredness of life. In fact, they are often deeply spiritual and attentive to the things that seem to matter most in life.

The four days of contemplative practices during orientation allowed those of us who gathered to participate in something meaningful together. We listened to music, sat in stillness, let the words of a loving kindness

meditation wash over us, and participated in a gratitude video. On two of the days, I asked the students to list one word in the Zoom chat that described how they felt as they engaged in the practice. Most of them participated and shared words like calm, peaceful, balanced, relaxed, etc. A few courageous souls said things like scattered, uncomfortable, and lost.

Taking the time to think about ritual practices and how they call us to live with intention, attention, and repetition is not necessarily easy. It starts with us stepping out of our busyness for a few moments at the beginning or ending of our day to think about what we already do that holds the potential for our flourishing. What are we already doing that holds the potential for not only our own flourishing but also the ways in which we may flourish together?

Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace is the college chaplain at Oxford College of Emory University and lives in Oxford, Georgia.



The Covington News

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (TOWING OR STORAGE COMPANY)

DATE: 8/28/2020
VEHICLE MAKE: Tesla
YEAR: 2015
MODEL: MODEL S
VEHICLE ID #: 5YJSA4H1XFF085918
Vehicle License#: N/A
STATE _____

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that the above-referenced vehicle is subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.

THE VEHICLE is currently located at 4199 OLD ATLANTA HWY, COVINGTON, GA 30012

ANYONE WITH an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the following business immediately:
Business Name: Chanceys Wrecker Service
Impound Date: 8/13/2020
ADDRESS: 539 McDaniel Mill Road

539 MCDANIEL Mill Road, CONYERS GA 30012
TELEPHONE#: 770-483-0698

PUBLIC NOTICE #117232
9/6,13

Bids

THE CITY of Covington invites sealed proposals for the sale and development of real property currently identified as Conyers Street Gym at 1146 Conyers Street SE, Covington, GA 30014. The site is located in the Covington Historic District. This RFP seeks market-viable, office, residential, and retail proposals that contribute to the City's tax base and contribute significantly to its quality of life. Projects consistent with the City's future land use plan and all other applicable codes, regulations, and guidelines contribute to the continued redevelopment and community desires of a vibrant, well-established, historic neighborhood. By inviting this disposition, the City seeks to continue revitalizing and strengthening the community by eliminating blight, developing vacant land, reactivating property, and creating sustainable opportunities.

RESPONDENTS ARE strongly encouraged to attend the pre-proposal meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 21, 2020, at 1143 Oak St SE, Covington, GA 30014. The purpose of this meeting is to review this RFP and respond to questions. To register for this meeting, please email comm. dev@cityofcovington.org ATTN: Conyers Street Gym. **SEALED PROPOSALS** must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014 if using FedEx or UPS and if being mailed (USPS), to P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015, Attn: William Smith, Economic Development Manager, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117244
9/6,13

THE CITY of Covington is seeking the services of a State of Georgia licensed professional engineering firm with qualified experience involving design, installation, and operation of certain wastewater treatment facility components . The objective is to evaluate specific components of the City's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) and establish a clearly defined approach to addressing any noted deficiencies.

SEALED PROPOSALS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014 if using FedEx or UPS and if being mailed (USPS), to P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117245
9/6,13

Citations

CITATION

CAROLYN ELAINE SMITH has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of WILMA JEAN JOHNSON**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/ or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten

o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117256
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

EDWIN C MORITZ has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of ERIK M. MORITZ**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117247
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

FRANCES W. BENTON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of JEROME BENTON**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117248
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

GERALDINE THOMAS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of MARY LILLIAN THOMAS**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117251
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

JACQUELINE L. DUPENT has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of JEROME SMITH**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117254
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

JOHN L. STRAUSS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of HELEN SANDRA HICKS**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117253
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

MARK BOWEN AND JORDAN BOWEN have petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BETTY CAROL JORDAN**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117246
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

MARY KATHERINE HOOD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of MARY KATHRYN HONAKER COX**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections

must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117252
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

RICHARD WELCH has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of DENA MARIE MOOTZ WELCH**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117250
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

ROBBIN M. PASCHALL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of JAMES E. PASCHALL, SR.**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117257
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

SARAH L. QUINTON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BOBBY GENE QUINTON, JR.**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117255
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

TED WRIGHT CHANCEY, JR. has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of FELICIA YVONNE CHANCEY**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/ or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before OCTOBER 5, 2020, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117249
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of ALONZO BAILEY, JR., widow/widower of JANICE EILEEN BAILEY, 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 October 5, 2020, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117263
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of DONNA F. GREGG widow/widower of JAMES P. GREGG, 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 October 5, 2020, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117262
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of LAURA J. APPLEWHITE, widow/widower of EDWARD R. APPLEWHITE, 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 October 5, 2020, next at ten

o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117264
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of LINDA CHERYL ELUMBAUGH, widow/widower of CHAD W. ELUMBAUGH, 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 October 5, 2020, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117265
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of TIMOTHY L. MAYO, widow/widower of TAMMIE R. MAYO, 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 October 5, 2020, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117266
9/6,13,20,27

CITATION

TO: LAKENDRA CARR

LAKETHA HARRIS has filed Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) **KNOWLEDGE RIVERS & NOAH CARR** minor(s). All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before September 14, 2020 at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: DANYELL Thomas
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117211
8/30,9/6

Corporations

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Cobb Construction of Covington, Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 605 Dixie Road, Covington, GA 30014 and its initial registered agent at such address is Potlier Cobb.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117233
9/6,13

Debtors Creditors

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ALEJANDRO EMILIO TORO**, 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 28th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

JUSTIN E. TORO
101 LEONELLE CIRCLE
SLIDELL, LA 70458

PUBLIC NOTICE #117258
9/6,13,20,27

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ALICE MARIE GADILHE**, 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 17th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

NANETTE WATSON
405 PINE ROAD
DAVIDSON, NC 28036

PUBLIC NOTICE #117187
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of AMELIA B DAMERON**, 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 **AUGUST, 2020.**

VANESSA DAMERON
138 WOMACK ROAD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117220
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ANNIE J. WATTS**, 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 21st** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

MARION DIXON
155 SADDLEBROOK DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117214
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of BARBARA NELL SHANNON HENRY**, 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 **AUGUST, 2020.**

TINA MELVILLE
P.O. BOX 249
GOOD HOPE, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117184
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of BRIAN E. BARNETT**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 12th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

PATSY L. BARNETT
35 CROSSFIRE DR
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117174
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of DEWEY LAWSON HENRY**, 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 **AUGUST, 2020.**

TINA MELVILLE
P.O. BOX 249
GOOD HOPE, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117183
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **DOROTHY A. CHILDS**, 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 18th** day of **August, 2020.**

MARIO S. Ninfo, Attorney for
CRYSTAL HOLLIS, Executor
1198 CLARK Street, NW
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117204
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of DOROTHY CAMPBELL**, 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 17th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

PAMELA R. WOODS
1325 CRIMSON LANE
MCDONOUGH, GA 30252

PUBLIC NOTICE #117172
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of EVELYN SUSIE VEAL PACE**, 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 17th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

RICHARD H. PACE
3109 FLOYD STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117177
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of GENE SOCKWELL**, 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 18th** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

LARRY SOCKWELL
58 SIOUX RIVER DR
FRANKLIN, GA 30217

PUBLIC NOTICE #117170
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of GEORGE LEE VAUGHN**, 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

AUGUST, 2020.

NICOLE B BURTON
60 BRANDON DRIVE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117218
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of HERCHEL HOOVER SHEETS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 31ST** day of **AUGUST, 2020.**

RODNEY SHEETS
695 SKYLINE DR
COVINGTON, GA 3001

REPRESENTATIVE
according to law.
THIS THE 20th day of AUGUST, 2020.

PATRICIA BROCK
9175 WESTVIEW DRIVE
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117213
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JOHN B. KASPER**, 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 18th day of AUGUST, 2020.

SHIRLEY A. KASPER
105 WYNFIELD TRACE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117169
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JOSEPH CLANTON, 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 11th day of AUGUST, 2020.

CATHERINE RENEE CLANTON
440 COUNTRY CREEK RD
NEWBORN, GA 30056

PUBLIC NOTICE #117176
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of JUDY P AIKEN**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

WADE S AIKEN
10 LARK RD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117182
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **MARGUERITE PATRICE ANTOINE**, 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 August 2020.

GENEVIEVE AIRYANNE ANTOINE,
831 GLASTONBURY ROAD, APT 2169,
NASHVILLE, TN 37217

PUBLIC NOTICE #117191
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARVIN EUGENE JOHNSON**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

BRANDY J WEAVER
741 BARNESVILLE ROAD
GRIFFIN, GA 30224

PUBLIC NOTICE #117216
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARY HUTCHINSON**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

TAWANA ROWAN
1444A PINE LOG RD
CONYERS, GA 30012

PUBLIC NOTICE #117212
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of PATRICIA IVIE**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

HILLARY EDGAR, ESQ.
1132 FLOYD ST
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117219
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of PRISCILLA G. FAULKNER**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 25th day of AUGUST, 2020.

ROBERT L. FAULKNER, JR.
1187 FLOYD STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117221
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of RICHARD JEFFERSON, 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 18th day of AUGUST, 2020.

GERARD JEFFERSON
90 BROWN THRASHER RD
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #117171
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ROBERT CHARLES WARD**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 25th day of AUGUST, 2020.

ROBERT D. WARD
2100 WATERS FERRY DR
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043

PUBLIC NOTICE #117261
9/6,13,20,27

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of SAMUEL F. ROCKER**, 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 17th day of AUGUST, 2020.

SU KUM ROCKER
383 LACKEY RD LOT 15
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117186
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of SHARRON YADEN PAGE**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.
THIS THE 7th day of AUGUST, 2020.

ROBBI PAGE MORGAN
11109 HIGHWAY 278 E
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117180
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of SUSAN C PRICE**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

ROBIN F. BERRY
1749 HIDDEN ACRES DR
CONYERS, GA 0045

PUBLIC NOTICE #117185
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of TIMOTHY LAMONTTE GUYNN**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

JAMES GUYNN
319 BOYD BRANCH DR
UPATOI, GA 31829

PUBLIC NOTICE #117178
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILLIAM T. 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 6th day of AUGUST, 2020.

SHIRLEY SKINNER
40 BEAR CREEK CT
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117179
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILLIAM WATTS**, 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 21st day of AUGUST, 2020.

MARION DIXON
155 SADDLEBROOK DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117215
8/30,9/6,13,20

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILMA JEAN M CLARK**, 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 AUGUST, 2020.

SONYA SHEA
1830 HARVEST WAY
LOGANVILLE, GA 30052

PUBLIC NOTICE #117189
8/23,30,9/6,13

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF NEWTON

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

THIS 20TH day of August, 2020.

BRANDY JOHNSON Weaver,
ADMINISTRATOR FOR the Estate of Marvin Eugene Johnson, Deceased.
741 BARNESVILLE Rd
GRIFFIN, GA 30224
678-326-3334

PUBLIC NOTICE #117203
8/30,9/6,13,20

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF

GEORGIA

ALLISON NOELLE JOHNSON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
ANTHONY JOHNSON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-2375-4

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: ANTHONY JOHNSON
11 KELLOGG ST
MANSFIELD, GA 30055

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 18, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **MARCH 6, 2020** (date of filing) **ALLISON JOHNSON** (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 **LAYLA H. ZON**, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 19TH day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117206
8/30,9/6,13,20

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

CHRISTY STEPHANIE ROBINSON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
KEVIN NMN ROBINSON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2019-CV-2692-3

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: KEVIN ROBINSON
20 BARCELONA DR
COVINGTON, GA 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 20, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **30, DEC 2019** (date of filing) **CHRISTY S. ROBINSON** (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 **LAYLA H. ZON**, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 21st day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117209
8/30,9/6,13,20

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

CLARENCE W. WILLIAMS
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
TERESA PINKNEY WILLIAMS
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-1429-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: TERESA P. WILLIAMS
TEXAS

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 18, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **JULY 27, 2020** (date of filing) **CLARENCE W. WILLIAMS** (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 18TH day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117207
8/30,9/6,13,20

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

SANTANA HOLT
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
TAVARUS LEWIS
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-1274-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: TAVARUS LEWIS
190 SHENANDOAH DRIVE
COVINGTON, GA. 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 4,, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **JUNE 26, 2020** (date of filing) **SANTAMA HOLT** (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 5TH day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117148
8/16,23,30,9/6

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF

GEORGIA

SHAROCCA MELTON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
SAMPSON MELTON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-1486-3

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: SAMPSON MELTON
280 HIGHGROVE DRIVE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 12, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **AUGUST 3, 2020** (date of filing) **SHAROCCA MELTON** (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 **LAYLA H. ZON**, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 12TH day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117166
8/23,30,9/6,13

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

TANEKA SHERRELL
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
KEVIN SHERRILL
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-1179.2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: KEVIN Sherrill
40 BLAKE Avenue
PORTERDALE, GA. 30014

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **AUGUST 4, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **JUNE 17, 2020** (date of filing) **TANEKA SHERRILL** (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 5th day of **AUGUST, 2020.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117147
8/16,23,30,9/6

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION
STATE OF GEORGIA/COUNTY OF NEWTON

TO: 1) Estate David Parker, 4) Unknown Administrators, Heirs, and Assigns of Estate David Parker, 5) Mathew Parker 6) Town of Newborn, 7) Newton County Tax Commissioner, 8) Tenant/Resident/ Occupant, and 9) all persons known or unknown who may claim an interest in property known as 4272 Hwy 142 E., Newborn, Georgia 30056

TAKE NOTICE THAT:
THE RIGHT to redeem the described property as **4272 Hwy 142 E., Newborn, Georgia 30056**, (Tax Parcel N00200000020000), as follows, to wit:

ALL AND only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel N0020-00000-020-000, in the Town of Newborn, in Land Lot 187 of the 19th District, Newton County, Georgia, being 0.459 acre, more or less, a portion of the parcel shown in Plat Book 24, Page 271, public records of Newton County, Georgia, as further described in Deed Book 2573, Page 184, known as 4272 Highway 142.

WILL EXPIRE and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 2nd day of October, 2020, or 30 days from service of notice.

THE TAX deed to which this notice relates is dated the 2nd day of July 2019 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, in Deed Book 3879, Page 400.

THE PROPERTY may be redeemed at any time before the 2nd day of October, 2020, or 30 days from service of notice, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: David A. Basil, LLC, 301 Bradley Street, Suite B-7, Carrollton, Georgia, 30117.

PLEASE BE governed accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117087
8/16,23,30,9/6

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
UNDER POWER
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Brad T. Williams and Sedera E. Williams** to Main Street Bank D/B/A Main Street Mortgage, dated May 9, 2002, and recorded in Deed Book 1219, Page 512, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the PRP II PALS Investments Trust by assignment to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of one hundred eighteen thousand nine hundred and 00/100 (\$118,900.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on October 6, 2020, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 35 OF THE 10TH LAND DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA BEING LOT 4 OF MOTE CROSSING SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK

35, PAGES 256-257, RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

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

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

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

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Brad T. Williams and Sedera E. Williams or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **45 Mote Crossing, Covington, GA 30016.**

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

U.S. BANK Trust National Association, as Trustee of the PRP II PALS Investments Trust as Attorney in Fact for Brad T. Williams and Sedera E. Williams.

BOWEN QUINN, P.A.
25400 US Hwy 19 N, Suite 150
CLEARWATER, FL 33763
PHONE: (727) 474-9603
ESERVICE@BOWENQUINN.COM
BY: /S/ Erin M. Rose Quinn
ERIN M. Rose Quinn, Esq.
GEORGIA BAR NUMBER 547833

Residence Inn, Staybridge Suites among 3 hotels to occupy Covington Town Center development

By **TAYLOR BECK** and
TOM SPIGOLON
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Three upscale hotels will anchor the Covington Town Center development on Alcovy Road.

According to documents provided by the city, a Residence Inn by Marriott will soon be located at the project site on a 7.19 acre lot. The hotel will house 123 rooms and stand six floors high. Some of the amenities include an outdoor sports surface (putting green), an outdoor patio and a swimming pool.

The lot will be divided to make room for a second hotel — a 99-room Courtyard by Marriott.

According to David Bernd of the Industrial Development Authority, the two Marriott hotels will create more than 150 new jobs.

Bernd said the Topaz Hotel Group intended to build the hotels, which were announced in June.

Topaz, a division of Starlight Hotel Group LLC, planned to invest more than \$32 million to construct the hotels.

Architect Robert W. Ponder, of Ponder and Ponder, applied for a variance from the city of Covington that will be heard by the Covington Board of Adjustments and Appeals on Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. The property is owned by Cumming Investments

Inc., based in Duluth.

The variances requested include relief from the required security fencing and the parking lot areas of the hotel, which will have 159 spaces. Because the new development is being built in an area without a significant history of crimes against automobiles, the applicant suggested it would be an “unnecessary hardship” for the owner to provide the required fencing.

The applicant also said Marriott does not allow security fencing around their hotels unless there is a “demonstrated need.” In order to obtain a national franchise for the property, the owner must follow those design standards, the applicant said.

Other variances request to “allow 36 parking stalls to be built for the future second hotel; delineate the third floor with anything more than windows; orient the primary facade towards ingress/egress of building and not toward Town Center Boulevard; relief from the required 10-foot step back in the face of the hotel above the 50-foot point in the height of the building; relief from required 65% fenestration on the facade of the building; allow a stairwell to extend three feet above the parapet; relief from the required 10% minimum parking stalls for compact cars; relief from required



Pictured is an architectural rendering of the Staybridge Suites hotel planned to come to Covington's Town Center development on Alcovy Road.

Special to The Covington News

designated loading space; permit curb cut on Town Center Boulevard to remain wider than allowed; and relief from required wheel bumpers at parking stalls abutting landscape strips.”

Ponder said the design team was working as quickly as possible to get construction started “before the end of the year.” The goal is to begin construction and get ahead of the winter months with the “dirt work,” he said.

A 113-room Staybridge Suites Hotel will join the two Marriott hotels, the Newton County Industrial Development Authority and The Foxfield Co.

announced recently.

Covington Partners LLC is planning the \$19 million investment, which will employ 40. It is targeting the first quarter of 2022 for opening.

HKB Hotel Group owner HariKrushna Bhagat and RK Hotel Group owner Raj Rajyaguru are investors working as Covington Partners LLC to own and operate Staybridge Suites. The hotel will be developed and managed by HKB Hotel Group.

“We welcome and thank Raj and HariKrushna for their investment in Covington Town Center,” the Authority stated in a

release.

“With Cinelease Studios - Three Ring beginning productions in the next 60 days, the additional hospitality assets in the region are critical for the recruitment of major productions,” the release stated.

Covington Town Center is proposed as a 160-acre master planned development on Alcovy Road at City Pond Road, just off I-20.

In addition to the hotels, the project is planned to include apartments and townhomes, office space, retail and restaurants. Groundbreaking took place in early 2018.

Cinelease-Three Ring covers 160 acres on a separate site on Ga. Hwy. 142 and will have 130,000 square feet of sound stage space. Additional support spaces will include 21,000 square feet of stage support space, 30,000 square feet of office space and 60,000 square feet of mill space.

There are currently 10 hotels operating in the city of Covington, according to Ashlan Troutman, Covington assistant finance director. Over the last five years, she said, hotels have generated an average of approximately \$800,000 per year in tax revenue.

Gov. Kemp touts economic growth, magazine award for Georgia amid COVID-19 recovery

By **BEAU EVANS**
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia saw strong enough economic growth over the past year despite the devastating COVID-19 pandemic to land recognition as the top state in the country to do business per an industry magazine, Gov. Brian Kemp announced Tuesday.

It's the seventh consecutive year Georgia nabbed “Top State for Doing Business” status from the magazine Area Development, which focuses on economic development projects. Kemp has also previously touted a similar distinction of top-business state several years running by Site Selection Magazine.

The governor is poised to trumpet the accolade as proof of Georgia's continued economic recovery after being battered by coronavirus and as evidence of business success under his leadership ahead of an upcoming reelection campaign in 2022.

“After all of these years, it's abundantly clear that Georgia remains the epicenter for job growth, economic development and investment because of strong conservative leadership,” Kemp said at a news conference Tuesday, Sept. 1.



Governor's Office

Gov. Brian Kemp speaks at an intern luncheon held in August.

While coronavirus-prompted closures hammered local service industries, Georgia still managed to drum up more than \$7.4 billion in new investments stemming from around 350 development projects since July of 2019, Kemp noted.

With more than 24,000 jobs created during that stretch, Georgia also saw a 30% bump in jobs created outside metro Atlanta since last July,

highlighting the governor's emphasis on stimulating economic growth in more rural parts of the state.

But Georgia still carries a high unemployment rate at 7.4% with roughly 378,000 out-of-work Georgians due to the impacts of COVID-19, though that figure does fall below the national unemployment rate of 10.2% as of July.

Georgia also continues to see a concerning number of people testing positive for coronavirus, though the state's positivity rate, seven-day rolling average and hospitalizations have all fallen over the past month following a spike from the Memorial Day and July Fourth holiday weekends.

As of Tuesday afternoon, more than 272,000 people had tested positive in Georgia for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel strain of coronavirus that sparked a global pandemic. It had killed 5,733 Georgians.

Georgia Democratic leaders were quick to pan Kemp's announcement Tuesday, calling it a diversion tactic as thousands of Georgians remain out of work and people continue falling sick to COVID-19.

“Working families don't need Kemp's self-congratulations,” said Maggie Chambers, spokeswoman for the Democratic Party of Georgia. “They need real leadership to get this virus under control so that Georgians can get back to work safely.”

Ahead of the upcoming Labor Day holiday, Kemp urged Georgians to wear masks, wash hands and limit gathering sizes to promote virus-fighting social distancing.

“Let's don't have a Memorial Day bump after Labor Day weekend,” Kemp said. “Let's don't have a July Fourth bump. ... Let's try to avoid that spike.”

Kemp joined local leaders and state Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson outside a newly built Amazon warehouse in Stone Mountain to make the announcement Tuesday.

The new 640,000-square-foot facility will feature the company's first robotics center in Georgia and is set to open before the end of the year.

“We look forward to being part of the fabric of Gwinnett County and the local community,” said Robert Packett, Amazon's southeastern regional operations director.

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BACK TO SCHOOL!

Local educator talks virtual return

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — For many, it may resemble their kitchen; for some, it may be likened to their bedroom or play area. Regardless, there's no arguing classrooms will look a lot different for Newton County students this fall.

With an exception made for self-contained, special-education students, Newton County Schools will have its students start the new year Tuesday, Sept. 8, with virtual instruction, meaning all classes will be taken online until more students are allowed to return for in-person instruction. The decision was made due to the spread of COVID-19 across the county.

As many parents and others have voiced their concerns over how the decision could affect students, they aren't alone. The 2020-2021 school year will be a year unlike any other for teachers, too. Lewis Kelly, an epidemiology and physical science teacher at Newton High School, said "different"

could mean lots of difficulties for he and his colleagues.

Preparing to teach students through an online-only platform has been far from what the Newton County School System's 2019 Teacher of the Year is familiar with, and it's been challenging to adjust.

"I've had to become a lot more tech savvy than I was," Kelly said. "The county has provided ample training to help, but it took a minute to wrap my head around what to do and how to do it. My biggest adjustment will be teaching to a screen. I never realized how attached I was to in-person teaching."

"I became accustomed to interacting verbally and non-verbally with my students. To be able to physically approach my students and help them as a group or one-on-one. Virtually, I can place students in breakout

sessions, but I miss the personal interaction."

Like others across the county, Kelly shares concerns about the school year as it pertains to the health and safety of students, teachers and administrators, among other things.

"I am concerned about safety and spreading of COVID-19," he said. "I'm concerned about how we balance quality education with safety. I'm concerned and interested in the long-term effects of virtual learning, if any."

Kelly was also curious to see how virtual instruction is utilized within schools in the future.

"I would be interested to see if K-12 education will change and incorporate virtual teaching into regular practices," he said. "Virtual teaching could be used to help suspended or sick students keep up with content. It could help students move at their own pace. A teacher could teach their class from home if they need to stay home due to their own or a family

member's illness. I think this is a great time for K-12 education to evolve and adapt its practices."

In a virtual setting, it can become easy for students to get distracted and disengaged — a tremendous challenge Kelly and other teachers are working to combat — but there are ways to help students stay engaged, he said.

"It's challenging enough to hold the attention of a teen-ager physically present in the classroom," Kelly said. "Now the students are at home with twice the distractions and the ability to literally turn you off. I am going to have to be more creative. Normally, I had to compete with a phone. Now I must compete with the phone, the Xbox or PlayStation, whatever is in the fridge, other siblings in the house, bad connections, the bed, etc."

For parents, Kelly suggested checking in periodically, especially if the parent is required to leave their home for work and the student must stay home.

"Parents will need to become more tech-savvy to communicate with teachers and make certain their child is keeping up with assignments," he said.

For students, Kelly said they should take this time seriously to prepare for their individual futures.

"Use this time as training for college or a potential career," Kelly said. "Many jobs allow employees to telecommute, as well colleges and universities. Use this time to acclimate yourself to this environment and prepare for the future. The student has to be more accountable for their education, especially at the secondary level. The student must resist all the distractions ... and focus on succeeding."

Area private schools detail reopening amid COVID-19

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — While public school students are beginning the school year online, some Newton County private school students are taking classes both in-person and at home.

Safety concerns around the pandemic prompted Newton County public schools to begin the academic year with most students learning online from teachers based in remote locations. However, three local private schools are taking different approaches to conducting classes.

The schools in July and August either opened their doors to students or asked them to learn at home, officials said.

Providence Classical Christian School in Oxford allowed its 107 students in grades pre-K through 10 to return to its school building Aug. 3. Headmaster David Bryant said parents showed "a real spirit to get back open" this year.

School officials assembled a team that included parents with medical expertise to figure out how students could attend class safely, he said.

"We changed how the school day was done," he said. "We're trying to limit student groups."

He said relatively smaller groups of students meet for classes, with older students separated from younger students.

Grace Christian Academy has its 80 students in grades kindergarten through 12 coming to its Covington location on a split schedule — half in the morning and half in the afternoon, said Principal Tim Allen.

The school is foregoing serving lunch to eliminate the possibility students could spread or contract the disease from fellow students during the meal time, Allen said.

The split schedule lowers the number of students in the building to the point the school can seat students according to Centers for Disease Control social distancing guidelines, he said.

The school was forced to halt its in-person teaching after the pandemic hit in late March. It taught students using the Zoom platform — which was a "major adjustment" for school officials forced to upgrade equipment to meet the demand, Allen said.

Alpha Omega Preparatory Academy responded to the safety concerns this school year by requiring most students to pick up needed class materials weekly from its physical location on Salem Road and learn from home. Owner Jon Davenport said the school in western Newton County issued students textbooks at the beginning of the year in late July.

Peachtree Academy in Covington began the school year Aug. 12 and 13. It allowed its 400 students the choice between virtual or in-person learning, said CEO JaNice Van Ness. About 80% of students are learning in-person and the rest virtually, she said. Students in the pre-K through grade 12 who are learning virtually receive instruction through live-streaming, Van Ness said. Younger students also receive packets of activities, she said.

"We don't want them sitting in front of the computer all day," she said.

She said the school's leadership team worked out a plan for the school year before having to "refine it day to day" based on changing conditions concerning the disease.

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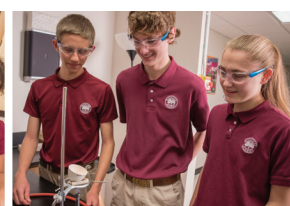
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2020 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Alcovy Tigers

0-1 (0-0)

North Forsyth – 3-35, L

9/11 – @ Newton (at Sharp)

9/25 – Eastside (at Sharp)

10/16 @ Lowndes

10/23 – @ Colquitt

10/30 – @ Grovetown

11/6 – Lakeside, Evans

11/20 – @ Evans

Eastside Eagles

0-0 (0-0)

9/11 – @ Winder Barrow

9/18 – Newton (at Sharp)

9/25 – @ Alcovy (at Sharp)

10/2 – @ Johnson, Gainesville

10/8 – Apalachee (at Sharp)

10/16 – @ Clarke Central

10/23 – @ Loganville

11/5 – Jackson County (at Sharp)

11/13 – Walnut Grove (at Sharp)

11/20 – @ Greenbrier

Newton Rams

0-0 (0-0)

TBD – Woodward Academy

9/11 – Alcovy (at Sharp)

9/18 – @ Eastside (at Sharp)

10/2 – @ McEachern

10/9 – @ Houston County

10/16 – @ Parkview

10/30 – Brookwood (at Sharp)

11/6 – @ Mill Creek

11/13 – @ Grayson

11/20 – South Gwinnett (at Sharp)

Social Circle Redskins

0-1 (0-0)

G.W. Academy – 7-35, L

9/11 – @ Providence Christian

9/18 – Walnut Grove

9/25 – Putnam County

10/2 – @ Oglethorpe County

10/16 – Washington-Wilkes

10/23 – @ Lincoln County

11/6 – Commerce

11/13 – @ Townes County

11/20 – Greene County

Note: Schedules are subject to change.

INSIDE:

Providence Christian falls in season opener

See B2

SOFTBALL:

Costly errors give Eastside first loss

See B4

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Tigers striped

Alcovy shuts on road against North Forsyth

By GARRETT PITTS
news@covnews.com

CUMMING, Ga. — A stout North Forsyth defense halted sophomore quarterback Ashton Evans and the rest of the Alcovy offense Friday night as the Tigers dropped their season opener to the Raiders by a score of 35-3.

Following a 2-8 record in his first season coaching the Tigers, head coach Jason Dukes would have to open up his second season against a tough North Forsyth team that finished 7-5 last season, including a trip to the state playoffs.

The Tigers and Raiders both struggled on offense to start their first quarter of the campaign, as both groups were stopped time and time again.

After recovering a North Forsyth fumble inside the 10-yard line, Evans fumbled the snap inside the end zone, and the ball was recovered by Raiders' linebacker Carson Smith for North Forsyth's first touchdown of the year. They



Alcovy's season got off to a shaky start Friday night as the Tigers fell to North Forsyth 35-3. The team will look to bounce back against county rival Newton High School next week at Homer Sharp Stadium.

took a 7-0 lead over the Tigers with 2:30 left in the first quarter.

The turnover bug would bite Alcovy once again early in

the second quarter as running back Melvin Mapp fumbled the ball around mid-field, giving the ball back to the Raiders at their own 42-yard line.

Anthony Banks | The Covington News

North Forsyth capitalized quickly on the Tigers' second turnover. The Raiders

See TIGERS, B2

George Walton Academy thumps Redskins



George Walton Academy spoiled Social Circle's home opener Friday night in convincing fashion, 35-7. The Redskins will look to bounce back against Providence Christian.

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

MONROE, Ga. — George Walton Academy spoiled the kickoff to the Rob Patton era by handing Social Circle High School a 35-7 loss in the 2020 season opener Friday night.

The Bulldogs opened the scoring early in the first quarter when freshman quarterback Gavin Hall tucked the ball and ran it in from 4 yards out. Following a successful extra-point attempt, GWA held a 7-0 advantage.

GWA doubled its lead later in the opening

See REDSKINS, B2

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TIGERS:

Continued from B1

marched down the field and capped off the short drive with an eight-yard touchdown run by senior running back Jared Lucero, extending the lead to 14-0.

Despite losing three fumbles of their own in the first half, the North Forsyth offense continued to march down the field. They eventually broke through on a 57-yard touchdown pass from Brady Meitz to Austin Colon. The big play from the two seniors extended the lead to 21-0 going into halftime.

REDSKINS:

Continued from B1

quarter when senior running back Jackson Ellerbee took a swing pass and went 65 yards for a touchdown. With 2:56 remaining in the first quarter, the Bulldogs led it 14-0.

Senior Jake Whitten later dove into the end zone from one yard out to send GWA into the locker room up 21-0.

Hall found the end zone once again for the Bulldogs in the second half on a 51-yard scamper that extended his club's advantage to 35-0.

Social Circle will remain on the road next week as the club will try to get first-year head coach Rob Patton his first win when they take on Providence Christian Academy. The game is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Heading into the locker room, Alcovy only accrued 35 yards of total offense. The Tigers were struggling to get into any rhythm, whether it was in the air or on the ground.

After receiving the opening kickoff of the second half, Meitz and Lucero slowly marched down the field, taking the majority of the third quarter with them. After driving down to inside the five-yard line, Meitz would hand the ball off to junior Patrick Corrigan for the two-yard touchdown run to

extend the Raiders' lead to 28-0.

As the final two quarters tracked on, the North Forsyth offense continued to run the ball downhill against the Alcovy defense. With 3:46 left in the third quarter, Meitz took the quarterback keeper for a 17-yard touchdown, making it a 35-0 lead over the Tigers.

Down by 35, Evans took it to the air immediately on the next drive, catching the Raider defense in a bad spot. A big 58-yard

reception to former quarterback MJ Stroud set the Tigers up in outstanding field position.

After a 17-yard pass to junior Mathias Height that put the Tigers on the 1-yard line, back-to-back false start penalties pushed the offense back and they would eventually have to settle for a field goal.

A successful field goal trimmed the Tigers' deficit to 35-3 entering the fourth quarter.

After stopping the Alcovy offense one more time, North Forsyth of-

fense ran out the clock the rest of the way.

Despite a loss to a tough opponent such as North Forsyth, Evans showed late signs of how good he can be through the air, as most of the total offensive yards from the Tigers came from his passes late in the game.

The schedule will not get easier for Dukes and the Tigers as they go back home to play their county rival Newton High School next Friday, Sept. 11, at Sharp Stadium.



Patrick Graham | The Walton Tribune

Social Circle senior Eric Taylor (2) battles George Walton senior Jake Whitten for a ball in Friday night's contest.

Loganville Christian Academy edges Providence Christian School



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

Loganville Christian Academy senior Brent Taylor and the Lions flexed their muscles in a 20-16 win over Providence Christian School.

Prep Football — Looking Ahead

Rivalry Renewed: Alcovy, Newton prep for county clash

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Fans from in and around Newton County will flock to Sharp Stadium on Friday, Sept. 11, for the 11th meeting between cross-county rivals Alcovy High School and Newton High School on the gridiron.

The Rams enter the game with history on their side. Last August's 45-0 rout marked their sixth consecutive win over the Tigers, and seventh in 10 tries. But a new era could produce new results as both programs will be bringing second-year

head coaches into the contest.

At Alcovy, head Jason Dukes has spent the offseason harping on the importance of bolstering his offensive and defensive lines. The former NFL lineman understands the pivotal role the trenches play in constructing a successful team, and he's looking to see growth in that area this fall.

The Tigers will also have a fresh face under center in 2020.

Last year sophomore MJ Stroud was converted from wide receiver to take the reins of the offense at quarterback.

GET MORE:

Eastside ready to get the ball rolling against Winder Barrow
[CovNews.com](#)

Stroud adapted to the position, but by season's end, it became apparent his athleticism could best be utilized in other areas on the field.

In stepped freshman Ashton Evans.

After getting the nod to start the final game of the season, Evans solidified his spot as QB1 this offseason. He took snaps with the first-

team offense when the Tigers kicked off their season at North Forsyth on Friday night, and is expected to do so again against the Rams.

Camiel Grant Jr. will have his hands full in his second season at Newton.

Grant graduated an abundance of talent on both sides of the ball last year. He's now tasked with breaking in a new quarterback of his own — he tabbed junior lefty Jevarra Martin for that job — as well as filling holes throughout his defense.

But the Rams continue to be loaded with talent.

There's an adage that says good teams rebuild while elite teams reload, and Newton can certainly make a case for the latter.

With sophomore stud Justin Benton and senior sensation Nyland Green in tow, the Rams might not see too much of a drop-off from the tenacious defense that haunted opposing offenses last fall.

Friday night's game is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 p.m. Stay tuned to CovNews.com this week for more in-depth coverage of the game, as well as quotes from Dukes and Grant.

Prep Football

NCSS releases protocols for attendance at Sharp Stadium

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — One week out from Alcovy and Newton's scheduled showdown on the gridiron, the Newton County School System announced the protocols for attending football games at Homer Sharp Stadium this fall.

According to the NCSS, Homer Sharp Stadium's attendance will be capped at 25% capacity in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means the venue, which holds 4,260 seats, will be limited to 1,065 fans for each game.

Marching bands from visiting high schools will be unable to travel to Homer Sharp Stadium for events.

All varsity football tickets for games at Homer Sharp Stadium will be priced at \$10. In an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, Newton County schools will be going cashless and instead using GoFan digital ticketing for all transactions.

Additionally, admission to events inside the stadium will be limited to patrons with paid tickets and those in possession of a GHSA pass. County employee IDs and Newton County Gold passes will no longer be accepted for entrance.

Football game tickets will initially go on sale for parents and guardians of football players and cheerleaders, as well as members of the band and drill/dance teams. All remaining tickets will then be released to the public and sold on a first come, first served basis through the schools' GoFan websites.

Those in attendance will be required to wear masks and observe social distancing, in accordance with the NCSS Event Safety Status. The NCSS is expected to plaster signage throughout the stadium stating the school system's event safety protocols. These will be communicated via public address announcements throughout games as well.

Spectators will be restricted from entering the area of play before, during or after all events. The NCSS announced that exceptions may be may for parents for homecoming games and Senior Night.

Lastly, the school system stated that concession sales have not yet been cleared, and will be notably limited if permitted.

The first varsity football game at Homer Sharp Stadium is scheduled to take place between Alcovy and Newton on Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

The Covington News

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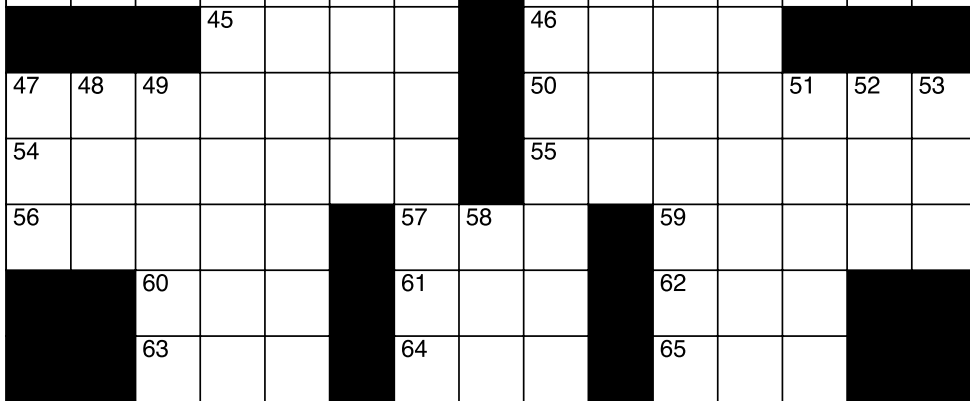
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop with an ax
4. Where a bachelor lives
7. Indicates near
10. Doctors' group
11. It's just a number
12. Type of bread
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
16. A way to use up
19. Singular event
21. Home of Disney World
23. Minerals
24. Most insightful
25. Consult
26. In addition
27. Agents of downfall
30. Organizations
34. Supervises flying
35. Bar bill
36. Alfalfa
41. Dish soap
45. Witnesses
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Newspaper bigwigs
50. Discuss again
54. Small group with shared interests

55. Support
56. Popular sportcoat fabric
57. Take hold of
59. Pre-Mayan civilization
60. Woman (French)
61. Wheeled vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Cold War player (abbr.)
64. Pitching stat
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
2. Arousing intense feeling
3. Elks
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Before the present
6. Figures out
7. Infinite
8. A low wall
9. Silly
13. Political organization
14. Used of a number or amount not specified
17. Divisions of the psyche
18. Denial

20. Ancient Iranian person
22. Count on
27. Popular sports league
28. Water (French)
29. Partner to cheese
31. When you hope to get there
32. Angry
33. One point east of due south
37. Respects
38. Organize anew
39. French wine grape
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships take on cargo
44. Holiday season singer
47. Shock treatment
48. Popular average
49. Products
51. A type of bear
52. Utilize
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river



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Prep Softball

Errors costly in Lady Eagles' second loss

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

JEFFERSON, Ga. — A back-and-forth, lightning-delayed affair between Eastside and Jackson County didn't go the Lady Eagles' way Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Having surrendered a pair of runs in the opening frame, Eastside eventually worked its way back into contention in the later innings of the Region 8-AAAAA contest. But the Lady Panthers continued to attack with timely hits and aggressive base running to pull out a 4-3 victory on their home diamond.

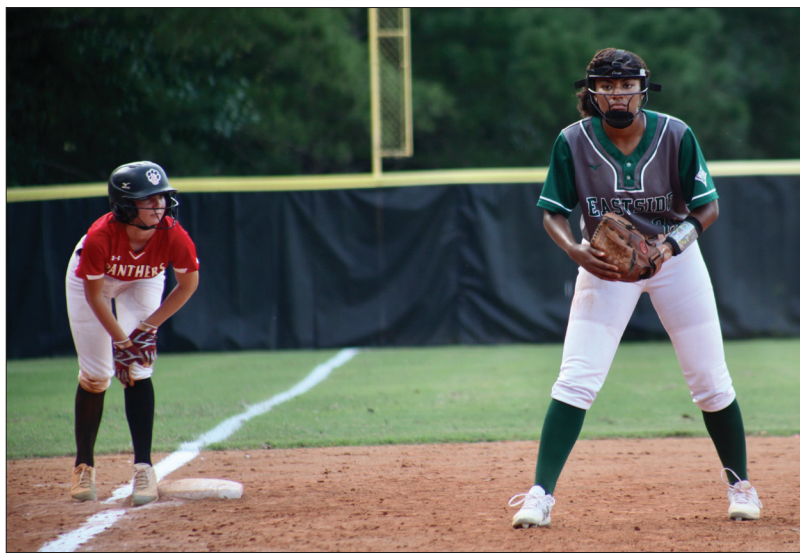
The Lady Eagles (4-2, 1-1) looked lethargic throughout the first half of the game.

They gave up two quick runs, committed an abundance of errors and took an uncharacteristically reserved approach the plate.

The lack of execution early on didn't go unnoticed by head coach Heather Wood.

"I feel like the past three games we've really been going through the motions the first four innings," Wood said. "What I've been trying to stress to the girls is that we are in a completely different region this year. This is one of the toughest regions in the state, and this year we don't have a region tournament, so all of these games are crucial."

Knotted up at two runs apiece in the fifth inning, Jackson County junior Whitney Hulsey ripped a two-out single up the middle to keep the frame alive. In the ensuing at-bat, sophomore Hailey Harpis punched a ball in play and induced a fielding error, resulting in a pair of runners in scoring position instead of an inning-ending groundout.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside suffered its second loss of the season on the road against region adversary Jackson County on Tuesday night.

The blunder proved costly as junior Peri Foster turned on the second pitch she saw and lined a two-run triple to right field to give Jackson County (3-4, 1-2) a lead it would never relinquish.

Eastside finished the night with three errors, translating directly to three out of Jackson County's four runs.

"Those little details of the game count, and they can come back to bite you. They did this game," Wood said. "We had some mental errors and things that shouldn't have happened, so I feel like we really gave them the game."

Despite the loss, freshman Dezaria Johnson continued to execute in the circle for the Lady Eagles. She finished the night having allowed four runs — only one of which was earned — on seven hits while issuing three walks and striking out six batters.

Eastside collected six hits as a club, just one fewer than its host, but the mental gaffes resulted in the team's downfall.

Jackson County retired Eastside's batters in order in the first inning before going

to work at the plate. With two outs recorded, the Lady Panthers used small ball — as well as taking advantage of an errant throw — to take a 2-0 lead.

A lightning cell entered the area in the fifth inning, resulting in a 30-minute delay. When play resumed, the Lady Eagles immediately stormed into action.

Junior Christina Grant connected on an 0-1 pitch with one out and singled to center field. Two at-bats later, senior Kelsey Ellis bounced a dribbler back up the middle to force the Lady Panthers' lone error of the night, allowing Grant and Ellis to set up in scoring position.

As would prove to be the theme of the night, the mistake came back to haunt Jackson County as junior Natalie Ray knocked a two-run single to center field to tie the game.

Eastside will continue its region gauntlet with a pair of games this coming week. The Lady Eagles will travel to Loganville on Tuesday before retuning home to host Walnut Grove on Thursday.

Prep Volleyball

Eastside rolls to sweep of Lady Rams

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Eastside High School volleyball team collected its third win of the season Thursday afternoon when it traveled to county rival Newton High School and swept the Lady Rams in three sets.

The Lady Eagles (3-1) took control early on in the first set and held tight for a 25-18 decision. In the second set, however, the Lady Rams (0-1) began to shake off some of their early season nerves.

Newton remained competitive and stayed within striking distance throughout the set, but Eastside ultimately proved to be too much as the Lady Eagles eked out a 25-22 win.

One set away from capping the sweep, the Lady Eagles came out firing quickly in the match-deciding contest. They scored the game's first points and never look back en route to a 25-13 decision that sealed the shutout.

Coming off a 2-0 loss to Morgan County on Tuesday, Eastside head coach Maggie Johnston was pleased with the way her club responded to its first taste of adversity in the 2020 season.

"I was very proud of the girls for making a lot of improvement from Tuesday," Johnston said. "Coming out of COVID-19 has been very difficult because of all the changes, and we were

very discombobulated earlier this week. We've also lost a couple girls due to injuries and transfers, so I was happy to seem them out here and work together as a team."

Johnston's Lady Eagles are scheduled to return to the hardwood Thursday, Aug. 10, when they travel back to Morgan County High School to square off against Morgan County and Lanier.

Thursday marked the varsity debut for head coach Ayauna Ellis. After spending last fall as head coach of Newton's junior varsity team, Ellis is eager to mark her mark with her new squad.

"My goal this year is to possibly get the girls some scholarships," Ellis said, "all while staying safe, social distancing and enjoying their season."

Despite dropping the season opener, Ellis was encouraged by what she saw from her team Thursday.

"I think we have a lot to improve on. However, this is just our first game of the season," she said. "With COVID-19, everything prior to this had been canceled. We came out and played hard, and now we'll see what we have to work on to prepare for the next game. Overall, we did well."

Newton is slated to begin Region 4-AAAAAAA play Thursday, Aug. 10, when it welcomes Brookwood to town.



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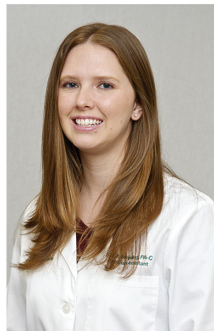
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