SPORTS:

Stokes earns SEC honors

Former Eastside standout earns Co-Defensive Player of Week See A7 Follow us for breaking updates

and stay informed on local issues at CovNews.com FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Latkes to love

Group plane with the block of th

INSIDE:

Potato cakes great for holiday celebrations, see **FOOD B1**Discover best handwashing method, see **HEALTH B2**

His Word

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalm 8:3-4, KJV

COVID-19

Pfizer vaccine rolls out across Georgia

By DAVE WILLIAMSCapitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - Georgia health-care workers and nursing home residents will start receiving immunizations against COVID-19 this week as the state Department of Public Health (DPH) gets its first shipments of a vaccine produced by

The first shipment of 5,850 doses arrived Monday, Dec. 14 at two locations in Coastal Georgia equipped with ultracold freezers required for storage and temperature control of the vaccine. Additional shipments are expected later this week at facilities in other parts of the state.

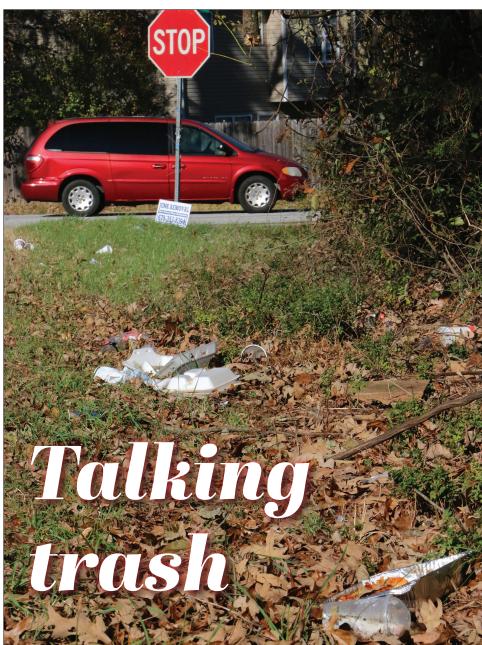
"Hopefully, this is

the beginning of the end of this pandemic," Christy Norman, vice president of pharmacy services at Emory Healthcare, said Monday during a news briefing.

The Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control during the weekend issued an

See VACCINE, A6

Newton County



Taylor Beck | The Covington News

Pictured is the intersection of Salem and Cowan roads riddled with garbage. The photo was taken less than one week ago.

Local resident calls for action against littering

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.co

COVINGTON, Ga.

— "Embarrassing"
was one of the words a local resident recently used to describe some of Newton County's roadways.

roadways.

Judy Skillern, of the Oak Hill Community, said she travels to and from Rockdale County quite often. She's involved with several civic groups within the neighboring counties. While Rockdale's streets are kept clean, Skillern said Newton's are not.

"Rockdale County's roads look good," she said in a phone interview with The Covington News. "But then I cross the line, and I'm

embarrassed."
Skillern believes
neglecting roads and
letting garbage pile up
sends a bad message
to neighboring communities and potential
newcomers. She said
Magnet, Oak Hill and
Salem roads were
among some of the
county's worst.

"When we don't do anything about it, it's like we're telling people we don't care or it's OK to dump your trash here," she said. "It's been bugging me to no end."

Skillern has called on several local organizations to take action, but to no avail. Skillern said she wasn't mad or upset with any of the county's departments because she knows "they're doing the best they can," but she would like to see something be done sooner rather than later — whether its action from the county or its residents.

"We need to focus on keeping the county clean, even in the time of COVID-19," she said, "because I believe once its starts, then it will start snowballing and it gets worse and worse."

The Covington News

See TRASH, A3

General Election Runoffs

Elections board adds days, hours to advance voting schedule



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

The Newton County Board of Elections met Monday afternoon to discuss changes to advance voting and absentee ballot processing.

By TOM SPIGOLON tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga.

— County elections officials have added more days and hours to its early voting schedule as interest surges in casting ballots in the Jan. 5 U.S. Senate

The Newton County Board of Elections also discussed how it planned to count absentee ballots for the runoff election beginning Monday, Dec. 21.

runoff elections.

SINCE 1865

Board members voted Monday, Dec. 14, to:

• Add Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. as a voting day at the Newton County Administration Building at 1113 Usher St.;

• Extend the hours of voting on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the Administration Building until 5 p.m.;

• Add Monday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Administration Building as a

voting day;

• Extend the hours of voting on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, until 5 p.m. at the Administration Building.

The schedule already included advance voting through Dec. 18 at the Administration Building and the Newton County Library at 7116 Floyd St. NE in Covington.

The schedule adds two more voting

See ELECTIONS, A6

Volume 155, No. 64

Inside

Newton County home to aerie of Eagle Scouts

See A2



Online Exclusive

Local police talk how to avoid being victim of porch pirates this holiday season — only at CovNews.com.



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Special to The Covington News

The Covington News

From left are Eagle Scouts Ethan and Noah Green; Russell Sloss; Levi Green; Quin Pitts; and Parker and Deacon Green.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Five brothers have earned Boy Scouts' top award in Covington troop

By TOM SPIGOLON tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. Only about 8% of all Boy Scouts advance to earn its highest rank annually.

In a Newton County Boy Scout troop, that percentage is a little higher thanks in part to one family.

Five Eagle Scouts in Troop 222 have come from the Green family, while two girls from the same family are married to Eagle Scouts,

All are the children of Paul and Dana Green of Oxford.

Mrs. Green said her sons entered Boy Scouts knowing they wanted to work toward the highest rank attainable.

"They saw it as a

priority," she said.

Those who earned Eagle Scout ranks within the Green family included brothers Noah, a firefighter with the Newton County Fire Service; Parker, who graduated from Truett McConnell University; and Ethan, Levi and Deacon, who are all students.

The Eagle Scouts in the family also include sons-in-law Quin Pitts, who is a Covington Police Department officer and married to sister Hannah; and Russell Sloss, a civil engineer who is married to sister

All but Sloss earned their Eagle ranks while in Troop 222 with the

latest being Levi, the Greens' youngest son, in September. **HOMETOWN REALTY**

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their future husbands through scouting with both Taylor and Hannah involved in Venture Scouts. The Slosses met at Bert Adams Scout Camp in south Newton County, Mrs. Green Members of the Boy

The daughters met

Scouts of America must earn merit badges that prove their mastery of a number of skills and activities to advance through the ranks in the youth organization.

The highest rank is Eagle and the Scout must have earned at least 21 merit badges to be considered for it, according to information from the Boy Scouts of America.

He also must serve as a youth leader in the troop; be interviewed by a board of review; and "plan, develop, and give leadership to others' in doing a service project that benefits any religious institution, school or "your community."

Mrs. Green said one area of scouting that drew her sons' interest was its emphasis on outdoor life.

The five Eagle Scouts in the Green family were able to participate in activities ranging from camping to whitewater rafting and caving while in Troop

222, she said.

Troop members typically traveled to take in such camp experiences as Camp Daniel Boone in North Carolina, which allows Scouts to learn skills used in everyday life in the 1700s, Mrs. Green said.

She said all the boys and her husband also traveled numerous times to Camp Philmont — traditionally considered the ultimate Boy Scout outdoor experience — in New Mexico.

An estimated 22,000 Scouts and adult leaders backpack, camp and take in outdoor activities annually at the 219-square-mile Scout ranch in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains in northeastern New Mexico.

Deacon Green, who recently finished a third semester at University of North Georgia, admitted he felt he needed to earn the Eagle Scout rank just as his brothers did before him.

"They just wouldn't let me live that down," he said.

He said the family always has been the "outdoorsy" type and Boy Scouts gave him multiple opportunities to do a wide range of activities while learning some skills that could

prove valuable in life. The 19-year-old

admitted he could have spent the time he devoted to Boy Scouts to other activities his age group favored but chose to gain the experiences the organization gave him. For example, he was

able to travel to Camp Philmont in New Mexico twice at ages 13 and 18, he said.

"It was a worthwhile trade-off," Deacon Green said.

Mrs. Green said after her sons participated in Boy Scouts, they found they wanted to go as far as possible in the program.

"The longer we were in, our boys just kind of wanted to do that," she said.

She said her husband, Paul, had been a Scout and she knew he would be involved in the program with their sons.

Boy Scouts is "a great way to teach leadership (and) citizenship," Mrs. Green said.

She also homeschooled all of her eight children over a 20-year period.

"The Scouting program was a great way to augment my homeschooling efforts," she said.

Lea Aldridge is the wife of longtime Scoutmaster Jerry Aldridge

and assists the troop's Eagle Scout candidates. The retired educator and longtime civic leader said she admires the Green brothers for their leadership skills and work ethic.

"When they tackle a task, they do it," she

Troop 222 was chartered in 1937 and has continuously operated for 83 years, according to information from its website.

Troop records online list 118 Eagle Scouts in 71 years between 1938 and 2009 — with names like Bledsoe, Lassiter, Trammell and Miley among them.

The troop, which is sponsored by the Covington Kiwanis Club, now has 46 members. It has seen more than 60 members earn the Eagle Scout rank in the past 30 years.

Mrs. Aldridge said the troop's Eagle Scout candidates work hard to keep up the tradition of the historic troop.

"That is amazing to have that many in a small troop," she said.

It also has boasted such leaders as former Covington mayor Sam Ramsey and longtime Newton County Schools administrator Jerry Aldridge.

Kiwanis Korner

The Kiwanis Club of Covington was thrilled to be able to once again "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army's Kettle Bell Project this year. Volunteers from the club shared Christmas cheer as they collected donations for the Salvation Army at Walmart on Dec. 11 and 12.

If you are looking for ways to connect and serve in our community, find out more about the Kiwanis Club of Covington by joining us any Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Covington First United Methodist Church.

Pictured are members Tami Moody (right) and Melanie Bell (below, right) with her niece Meredith.





Covington picks up Adopt a Mile program

By TAYLOR BECK

COVINGTON, Ga. — Local

businesses and civic groups can now get more involved in helping keep the city of Covington's streets clean.

The Covington City Council approved a request made by the Planning and Engineering Department during its Monday, Dec. 7, meeting to start an Adopt-a-Mile program within the city.

Through the program, the city will encourage businesses and other groups to hold quarterly clean-ups along the mile of road chooses to adopt.

Businesses must commit to adopt a mile for 12 months anywhere within the city and agree to clean up their mile at least four times per year. The city will provide necessary equipment including bags, gloves, vests even training — to conduct the

The name of participating businesses and groups will be on the sign on the mile that's adopted. They will also be publicly recognized during a future city council meeting.

Covington Mayor Steve Horton said the program was a great idea, and the council concurred with a unanimous vote to approve.

The city's program will be identical to the Adopt a Mile program in place for Newton County and the Adopt a Highway program in place for the state of Georgia and others across the nation.

There is no cost to run the program, other than the purchase of clean-up equipment, said Covington Planning and Development Director Tres Thomas.

To get involved with the Adopt a Mile program, contact city hall at 770-385-2000.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

• Santa on the Square, from 5-8 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21

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

Friday, Dec. 25

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

UNGOING

 Paint Party at Southern Heartland Visual Art Center has resumed! Hosted by professional gallery artists, this weekly get-together for those in our community interested in painting with others is free and open to the public each Friday from 10-2. Both classrooms will be utilized to insure participants have enough space to social distance from other participants.

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

City allocates \$600,000 to finish trail paving

STAFF REPORTS

COVINGTON, Ga. — Visions of paving the last of the Cricket Frog Trail will soon come to fruition for the city of Covington.

At its latest meeting, the Covington City Council voted unanimously to allocate an additional \$600,000 towards the paving of the Cricket Frog Trail inside city limits. Covington City Manager Scott Andrews said this additional funding would complete the paving, crossings, train trestle and landscaping on the trail and is in addition to the \$1 million allocated earlier this year, which brings the city's total investment to \$1.6 million. The remaining portion will be funded with 2017 SPLOST revenue.

"Finishing the Cricket Frog

Trail has been at the top of my wish list," Andrews said. "It is such an incredible asset for Covington; as a quality of life enhancer, a transit corridor, and an economic development driver. I can't thank all of the individuals and entities enough that came together to ensure the success of this project. Thanks are in order for city council for their trust in staff to execute their vision."

Weather permitting, the eastern leg of the trail is scheduled to be completed before yearend. Engineering work is complete for the renovation of the train trestle located near Emory Street. City officials estimate the work will be completed prior to the summer of 2021.

Covington Mayor Steve Horton said he is happy to see the trail nearing a finishing point.

"Completion of the Cricket Frog Trail within the city of Covington represents a great community development and quality of life achievement that has been a long time in the making," Horton said. "I appreciate the tireless efforts of Newton Trails. The PATH Foundation, Inc. and all the other groups, individuals and organizations who have helped make it a reality."

The trail, a former Norfolk Southern rail bed, runs through Newton County and intersects the city of Covington at Eagle Drive, moves past Legion Field towards the Downtown Square, across Turner Lake Road and eventually terminates on Spillers Drive in close proximity to Washington Street.

Newton Trails holds a long-

See TRAIL, A6

TRASH:

Continued from A1

reached out to Keep Newton Beautiful, as well as the Newton County Public Works Department, for comment on the situation and if any course of action would be taken to better clean the county's littered roads.

Karen Key, program assistant for Keep Newton Beautiful, said the head of her organization made the decision not to conduct any activities for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19.

One of the reasons for such littered roads could be due to

the Newton County Jail being on "lockdown" due to the novel virus, Key said. Before COVID-19 hit Newton County, inmate litter details would work keeping roadsides free of trash. Now, the program has been suspended indefinitely.

In the meantime, Key said residents could put in a request to the county's public works department to have workers come clean up the area in question, but unfortunately, the request isn't a guarantee that county crews will make it out immediately.

Brenda Johnson, administrative specialist for Newton County Public Works, said though it may seem trash is piling up, the county is working diligently to clean up all of its streets.

She said the department had purchased a machine that is pulled by a tractor and operates with a four-person crew to help create piles of trash. Once piles are made, a second crew comes to make the pick-up.

"This tractor wouldn't be efficient if we kept moving it from spot to spot around the county,

so they are working their way around the county — the major roads," she said. "They are supposed to be in the vicinity of Kirkland, Fairview and Jack Neely this week. Hopefully they'll be working toward Oak Hill and Magnet soon."

Johnson said there was a separate work order created for several bags of trash to be picked up by a different crew on Magnet Road.

"We are attempting to get some more temporary employ-



Taylor Beck | The Covington News

Loose trash was found by The Covington News along Oak Hill Road and other parts of Newton County recently. One local resident urges the community to pick it up.

ees to work as a trash detail," Johnson said. "I'm unsure when we will be able to implement that crew, but they may be able to address my list of roads that citizens have requested."

Conditions of state highways, like Salem Road (Georgia Hwy. 162), falls under the responsibility of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Johnson said, but she was not sure of the department's plan for upkeep.

In an effort to combat littering, GDOT launched a campaign in October called Keep It Clean

According to GDOT, the average American produces five pounds of trash each day, which plays a part in the nearly \$11.5 billion spent on litter clean-up in the U.S. each year, and the more than 50,000 miles of roads across the state offers plenty of potential for garbage to pile up. "The Peach State is one of the

nation's top travel destinations and welcomed a record 152.3 million domestic and international visitors in 2019," said Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson in an October statement.

"The many industries that call Georgia home take pride in our state, and our economy depends on all of us working together to ensure our breathtaking mountains, serene tranquil coast and picturesque small towns remain the beautiful places visitors and residents know and love. By

putting the tools and informa-

tion from Keep It Clean Georgia to good use, we not only support GDOT in eliminating litter across the state, but also put our best foot forward as we welcome visitors from around the world.'

A few things GDOT encourages residents to do in fighting against littering include:

- Securing litter in vehicles with compact cans or trash bags.
- Bringing reusable bags to the grocery store or farmers market.
- Using refillable beverage

bottles and containers.

- Ensuring outdoor trashcans are securely closed to prevent garbage from being spread by weather or animals.
- Simply disposing of trash properly and encouraging others to do the same.

Residents can learn more about the state's clean-up initiative by visiting KeepGAClean. Although Keep Newton Beau-

tiful has suspended all activities due to the virus, Key said people are encouraged to create clean-up groups and tackle some of the trash-riddled roads on their own. She said her organization would be happy to help by offering clean-up supplies. Key said the issue of littering

begins and ends with the people.

"It's a sad reality that as soon as a road is cleaned it is trashed again in no time," Key said. "I don't know where this mentality

around for us."

comes from, it's sad and frustrating to say the least ... I hope future generations can turn this

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OPINIONS

The Covington News

Tom Spigolon news editor

Don't let businesses fade away

ne of the most heartening bits of news I've heard lately amid the continuing pandemic is

the lift customers gave a legendary metro Atlanta small business when it appeared it would close.



Brian

Maloof, the owner of Manuel's restaurant and tavern in Atlanta, gave the bleak details about his impending closing in a Dec. 3 Facebook

He wrote about the longtime gathering spot failing to survive amidst a pandemic that can only be solved by people not gathering:

"Since March Manuel's has had an average reduction in sales of 62% per month. We have been spending cash reserves to make up the average \$25,000 a month shortage. Currently, we have no more reserves. Without a cash injection, we will be forced to close for good.

"The operational plan put in place in March was to make Manuel's super COVID safe, cut all costs, expand the to-go business, be open only during our most profitable hours, reduce labor costs, retain employees, and get to the end of the pandemic.

"Along the way, we applied for and received our PPP loan. We used the PPP funds wisely and productively but they are now gone."

Maloof had grown up in the small business located near Atlanta's famous Little



COVID-19 forced several local small businesses to close their doors or alter their business models. It's imperative we show our support so those businesses can stay open and remain fixtures in the community.

Five Points retail area. His father, who was a DeKalb County political leader, and uncle opened the business in

One longtime customer described it as, "A welcoming watering hole and meeting hall for artists, lawyers, carpenters, academics, police, actors and activists.'

It's a place where people have regularly held wedding receptions, or authors have read from their new books. Politicians of all stripes have given their victory speeches there on election nights.

A longtime customer

set up a GoFundMe page, hardly expecting the public to cough up the minimum of \$75,000 Maloof needed to pay for his liquor license and insurance to remain open past Dec. 31.

To date, more than 2,900 individuals have pledged \$178,000 in donations simply to keep a neighborhood bar and restaurant from going dark.

Manuel's may not be similar in clientele to businesses that make up the historic fabric of Newton County.

The question is: Are there businesses in or near Newton County that should never go away, even if you have to donate the few extra dollars you can spare to keep them

Most towns have something similar — businesses that have been around in some form since before you were born; that have AL-WAYS been there and you believe will never, or should never, disappear.

It may be where your uncle worked all his life, or where vour father met vour mother. It's the "meat and three" restaurant on the downtown square where your family

liked to go for dinner on Friday nights when you were young.

What if the Old Mill in Porterdale had not been converted to lofts? They may no longer grace the eastern bank of the Yellow River if a developer had not taken on the task of converting the former clothing factory.

How about some of the iconic restaurants around the Covington Square?

This economic downturn that a virus — and not the normal economic cycle brought about has affected businesses and institutions like nothing in most people's memories.

It forced restaurants to lay off entire wait staffs and only offer to-go orders. Most churches didn't have large crowds from March until September or October, depriving church-goers of the fellowship of choir-accompanied church gatherings and Sunday school — and churches of needed revenue.

Newton Countians need to be ready to help out small businesses as they maneuver through the ebbs and flows of the state government's efforts to balance people's livelihoods with the public's safety during the pandemic.

They may need your help before they fade away and become only a nice memory your children will never share.

Tom Spigolon is news editor of The Covington News. He may be reached at tspigolon@covnews.com.

David Carroll columnist

Summing up 2020 in six words

s anyone who knows me will gladly testify, I'm not above recycling an old joke. Or three.

For example: A pastor enraged when he



found a charge for a \$500 dress on his credit card bill. The pastor showed the

bill to his wife. "How could you do this?" he asked. "You know we're on an incredibly tight budget!"

"I know," she said, "but the devil was with me that day. He told me I looked good in that dress, and I just had to buy it." The pastor replied, "Well, you should have said, 'Get thee behind me, Satan!"

"Oh, I did," she replied. But then he said,

'Wow, you're looking good from the back, too!"

So as we look back on 2020, I asked some friends to describe this unforgettable year, in six words or less. Some of the responses may have landed my friends in Facebook jail. You don't want to go there. I'm told it is quite uncomfortable.

That reminds me of a second joke. A man joined a monastery.

The abbot explained to the aspiring monk that he would only be allowed to speak two words every 10 years.

At the end of the first decade, he was given a chance to say his first two words. He looked at the abbot and said, "Bed's hard."

Ten years later, the abbot gave him the chance to say two more words. He opened his mouth and said, "Food's bad." Finally at the end of his 30th year he looked the abbot straight in the eye and said, "I quit." "I can't say that I'm surprised," replied the

all you do is complain." Getting back on

abbot. "You've been

here for 30 years, and

topic, how do you describe 2020 in six words or less? Some of us have been blessed, others have been cursed, and all too many have been touched by illness or

tragedy. Here are a few responses that stand out, mixed in with some comments of my own.

A friend who lost her dad to COVID said simply, "The worst year of my life." I can't argue that one. I've lost more friends this year than ever before, and COVID played a role in most of them. None of them got a fitting good-

bye, in my opinion. Other six-word summations of 2020 were, "Never in my wildest, saddest dreams," "Just a complete and total disaster," "A train wreck and dumpster fire," "I miss my family and friends," "Did this awful year really happen?" and "Thank God it is almost over."

Others were more philosophical. "Twas a reflection of our foolishness," said one. You may interpret that any way you wish. A favorite of mine is, "Love, forgive, appreciate what you have."

For those who look

for a silver lining, how

about, "Awful, but I still have work." Another is, "Hallelujah! I am still above ground." I echo this one: "Hugs are worth more than gold."

A friend in the medical field was brutally honest: "Being a nurse sucks right now." Just please know that the rest of us totally get it: "Doctors, nurses are the

real heroes." I'm thankful some of us kept our sense of humor, with six-word reviews like these: "What happened to the toilet paper?" Plus, "Wake me when this is over." And, "This year isn't what I ordered." "The fat lady needs to sing." And the story of my year, "Left my mask in the car."

As we shoo out this nasty year, I'll close with an old joke, frequently told by President Reagan. It's about twin boys, age 6. Worried that the boys had opposite personalities – one was a grim pessimist, the other an over-eager optimist their parents took them to a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist tried to brighten the pessimist's outlook, taking him to a room piled to the ceiling with brandnew toys. But instead

of yelping with delight, the little boy burst into tears. "What's the matter?" the psychiatrist asked. "Don't you want to play with any of the toys?" "Yes," the little boy bawled, "but if I did I'd only break

them." Next the psychiatrist treated the hyperactive optimist. Trying to settle him down, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with horse manure. But instead of screeching in disgust, the optimist emitted a yelp of delight. He then climbed to the top of the pile, and began gleefully digging out scoop after scoop with his bare hands. 'What do you think you're doing?' the psychiatrist asked. "Well, with all this manure," the little boy replied, with a huge smile on his face, "there must be a pony in here somewhere!"

So let's find that fast-forward button, and give 2021 a try. Here's hoping we all find a pony in there somewhere.

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. He may be reached at radiotv2020@yahoo.com.

The Covington News

Newton Newspapers Inc.

OWNER

Patrick Graham pgraham@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR

Taylor Beck

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Cynthia Warren cbwarren@covnews.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Amanda Ellington aellington@covnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Tom Spigolon tspigolon@covnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Mason Wittner mwittner@covnews.com

LEGALS CLERK

Lee Ann Avery lavery@covnews.com

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

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The Covington News

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Help Wanted HELP WANTED

REMODELING PRO needed to complete home projects: cabinets, light electrical, fencing, roof leak repair, floors, sheetrock, paint, etc. MUST have dependable transportation & clean background PROJECT STARTS 12/18 CALL 770-241-7341

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

The Covington News

Place your ad here! Call 770-787-6397

LEGALS

Public Notices

Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

SITE 2 MSWL - PHASE 8A LANDFILL CELL CONSTRUCTION NEWTON COUNTY LOWER RIVER ROAD LANDFILL RFB #21 - 11

NEWTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE **AUTHORITY NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

SEALED BIDS for Site 2 MSWL -

Phase 8A Landfill Cell Construction at the Newton County Lower River Road Landfill will be received by the Newton Purchasing Department located in the Administration Building, 1113 Usher Street, Suite 204, Covington, Georgia 30014, 10:00 a.m. legal prevailing time (local time) on Friday, January 15, 2021, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Site 2 MSWL - Phase 8A Landfill Cell Construction" and submitted to the attention of Ms. Randi Fincher, Purchasing Coordinator. No bid may be withdrawn after the closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty

THE WORK to be done consists of furnishing all materials, and equipment and performing all labor necessary for:

SITE 2 MSWL - Phase 8A Landfill Cell Construction THE PROJECT or Work consist of

initiating, preparing and completing the construction of Phase 8A Landfill Cell for the purpose of filling Phase 8A with municipal solid waste as permitted by Georgia EPD. Work shall begin with the installation of BMPs and other requirements as set forth the Land Disturbing Permit for this Work (NPDES Stormwater Permit Compliance). Maintenance, as part of the Permit, shall continue for the duration of the Project. Work shall also include the removal of debris such as concrete, wood and stone materials and clearing and grubbing of the site to begin the construction of Phase 8A. With the site cleared, excavation may begin with the removal, filling, shaping of base and finished grade to elevation, and the compaction of soils. Excavation shall be to the grades shown unless unstable or unsuitable soils are encountered.

THE 5.2 acre Phase 8A solid waste landfill will be built up with 24 inches

Fun by the Numbers

Here's How It Works:

of compacted soil liner on base

grades. The liner will be overlain with

reinforced geosynthetic clay liner,

HDPE geomembrane liner, geonet

drainage media, cushion geotextile

and protective cover. These landfill

components shall be installed

according to the Contract Documents

ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES included

in the Work are: maintenance of

erosion and sediment control devices,

clearing and grubbing, stripping,

hauling and stockpiling soil, building

access roads, relocating a sediment

pond dam, furnishing and installing

a prefabricated flare system, and

constructing a storm water system

as shown as required by the Contract

FURNISHING AND installing a

prefabricated flare system will include

sitework, piping, connections, pilot gas, fencing and gates, blowers,

controls, electrical and all other

THE BIDDER hereby agrees to

commence work under these Bid

Documents on or before a date to

be specified in a written "Notice to

Proceed" and to fully complete the

Project within 270 consecutive days

for the Project thereafter as stipulated

in the specifications. Bidder further

agrees to pay as liquidated damages.

the sum of \$400.00 for each

BID DOCUMENTS may be obtained

from or examined at the Newton

County Purchasing Department 1113

Usher Street, Suite 204, Covington,

Georgia 30014. Digital copies of the

Bid Documents may be obtained at

the Purchasing office at no charge

by visiting www.co.newton.ga.us or

contacting Randi Fincher at 678-

625-1237 or rfincher@co.newton

ga.us. Hard copies of the Bid

Documents may be obtained upon

a non-refundable payment of \$25.00

for each set. The Authority is not

obligated to consider the contractor's

bid if they are not on record with the

issuing office as having received

MANDATORY pre-bid meeting

will be held on Tuesday, January 5,

2021 at 2:00 p.m. (local time) at the

Newton County Landfill located at

ALL bids

accompanied by a Bid Bond in an

amount not less than ten percent

(10%) of the Total Bid amount for the

awarded the Contract, will be required

to furnish a Performance Bond and

Payment Bond, each in the amount

of one hundred percent (100%) of the

The Successful Bidder, if

must be

complete Bid Documents

Georgia 30014.

consecutive working day thereafter.

appurtenances

and regulatory requirements.

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out

				7						
		8				6		4		
					3			6	5	
								2		
	9	7			8	4				
			4	5	9					
	5									
	6	4	2			7				
			3	9	5					
	Level: Intermediat									

THE SURETY company on the

Contract amount.

performance bond shall be a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Georgia. Bond and surety shall be subject to approval by the Owner's attorney.

QUALIFICATIONS OF Bidder: Each Bidder shall submit a list of completed similar projects and show experience with projects of similar size, type and complexity satisfaction of the Engineer and the Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority (Owner.) Submission of qualifications are to be provided with the bid.

BIDDERS MUST hold a current Utility Contractor License issued by the Georgia State Construction Industry Licensing Board. The bidder must have been the prime contractor on at least three (3) projects including over two (2) million square feet of flexible membrane liner for municipal solid waste landfills

PROOF OF professional liability and worker's compensation insurance, an E-Verify Affidavit, SAVE Affidavit, and Affidavit of Non-collusion will be submitted with the Bid.

PERMITS REQUIRED for the Project selected, whether federal, state, or local, will be obtained prior to the issuance of the Notice to Proceed. All anticipated rights of way and easements required for the Project have been obtained.

OWNER'S RIGHT: The Newton County Solid Waste Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to rebid. The Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority will deliver a notice-to-award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder or bidders (subject to its right to reject all

NEWTON COUNTY Solid Waste

NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117700

NOTICE IS given that Articles of Incorporation that will incorporate Cultivating Lives and Activating You, Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 70 Chestnut Drive, Covington, GA 30016 and

Corporations

address is Danielle Graves.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117688

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Xprezz Mycelf Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia **Business Nonprofit Corporation** Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 20 Mountainview Court, Covington, Georgia 30016 and its initial registered agent at such address is

PUBLIC NOTICE #117703

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY

PANZIE S. FANTAUZZI

DIEDORO A. FANTAUZZI, JR.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV-2045-5

TO: DIEDORO FANTAUZZI

by publication dated NOVEMBER 16, 2020 you are hereby notified that on OCTOBER 8, 2020 (date of filing) PANZIE FANTAUZZI (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

YOU ARE required to file an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the represented).

THIS, THE 16th day of NOVEMBER, LINDA D. Hays

PUBLIC NOTICE #117649 11/25,12/2,9,16

Foreclosures

UNDER POWER NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

the initial registered agent at such

4 8 6 2 9 3 5

8 5

the order in which the numbers will

appear by using the numeric clues

already provided in the boxes. The

it gets to solve the puzzle!

9

6 2

more numbers you name, the easier

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

5 4 8

3 7 6 8

7 3 4 5 9 8 2

1 6 5 2 8

4 1 3 9 7

4 6

Shelia Westbrook-Stakely.

12/16,23

STATE OF GEORGIA

PLAINTIFF.

DEFENDANT.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

BY ORDER of the court for service

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

WITNESS THE Honorable W. KENDALL WYNNE, JR., Judge Superior Court of Newton County,

CLERK OF Superior Court

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a

Street Mortgage Corporation, dated September 29, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 2299, Page 141, Newton County, Georgia Records as last transferred to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS CERTIFICATE
TRUSTEE OF BOSCO CREDIT
VI TRUST SERIES 2012-1 by assignment recorded on July 30, 2020 in Book 4044 Page 251 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine and 0/100 dollars (\$25,999.00), 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 January 5, 2021, the following described property: ALL THAT tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 185 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 140, Phase II of

Security Deed given by Carol P.

Prendergast to Mortgage Electronic

Registration Systems, Inc., As Grantee, As Nominee For Market

Registration

plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 40, page 26-35, Newton County, Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description. THE DEBT secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided

Fairview Estates Subdivision, as per

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 THE ENTITY having full authority to

negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Franklin Credit Management Corporation they can be contacted at 800-650-7162 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to 101 Hudson Street, 24th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302, 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 Carol P. Prendergast, Alicia Gooden and Marques Prendergast or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 150 CHANDLER FIELDS DR, Covington, GA 30016. THE SALE will be conducted subject

to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcv Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND

SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS CAPACITY INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF BOSCO CREDIT VI TRUST SERIES 2012-1 as Attorney in Fact for Carol P. Prendergast **BROCK & Scott, PLLC**

4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road SUITE 310 ATLANTA, GA 30341 404-789-2661 **B&S FILE** no.: 20-05028

PUBLIC NOTICE #117665 12/9,16,23,30

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

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Thomas E. Hooks

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as Nominee for SunTrust Mortgage, Inc., dated September 24, 2008, and recorded in Deed Book 2655, Page 465, Newton County, Georgia Records, subsequently modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded April 4, 2016 in Book 3420, Page 426 in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Five and 23/100 (\$122,925.23) Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Truist Bank, successor by merger to SunTrust Bank by assignment recorded on January 12, 2015 in Book 3292 Page 417 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 Twenty-Eight Thousand Eighty-Six and 0/100 dollars (\$128,086.00), 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 January 5, 2021, the following described property: THE LAND referred to in this Exhibit is

and Teresa M. Hooks to Mortgage

located in the County of Newton and the State of Georgia in Deed Book 715 at Page 86 and described as follows: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 137 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, containing .59 acres and being known as Tract #10 of Salem Meadow Subdivision, as shown on that Plat of Survey prepared by Louie D. Patrick, Georgia, R.L.S., dated January 10, 1986, and recorded in Plat Book 20, Page 117, Newton County, Georgia records, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference for a more particular and complete description.

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

THE ENTITY having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Truist Bank, successor by merger to SunTrust Bank they can be contacted at (800) 443-1032 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to 1001 Semmes Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23222, 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 Thomas E. Hooks and Teresa M. Hooks or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 105 Salem Meadow Drive, Covington, GA

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. TRUIST BANK, successor by merger

to SunTrust Bank as Attorney in Fact for Thomas E. Hooks and Teresa M. BROCK & Scott, PLLC 4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road

SUITE 310 ATLANTA, GA 30341 404-789-2661 **B&S FILE** no.: 15-17945

PUBLIC NOTICE #117609

Covington

Study recommends city increase employee salaries

Raise to account for market adjustment, other changes take effect in FY 2022 if council approves

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. Recent salary study results show some employees of the city of Covington could use a pay raise.

In a salary survey conducted by The Archer Company, recommendations for the city to consider included each job grade consist of 14 steps and 3% between each step. The market step is set at step Archer also recommends each employee reach their salary range midpoint after six years of employment.

Recommendations to increase the salary range to account for a market adjustment; and increase salaries one step (up to the grade maximum) would require approval from the Covington City Council, Assistant City Manager Freddy Morgan



Covington City Manager Scott Andrews (right) speaks during a past city council meeting as councilmen Anthony Henderson (left) and Don Floyd (middle) look on.

For the study, Covington was compared to similar organizations including Carrolton, Conyers, Griffin, Lagrange, Lawrenceville, Marietta, McDonough, Newnan, Smyrna and Wind-

Across city departments, the study found that 2.22% was the average increase for a job title. More than 70% of job

grades received an increase; 49% of job grades received an increase of at least 3%; and more than 25% of job grades received an increase of over 5%.

Broken down by each city

department, community development led the way with an average increase of 5.53% followed by the auto shop at 4.39%.

Among other notable departments' average percentage change was 2.52% for Emergency 911, 1.96% for the fire department and 0.35% for the police depart-

The only decreases were for utility billing (-2.46%) and cemetery and parks departments (-3.94%).

The study's results were presented to the Covington City Council during a Nov. 16 work session. If the city council formally approves the salary changes suggested by Archer, they would be implemented on July 21, 2021, for the FY 2022 budget. As the current data would be one year old at the time proposed changes would

take effect, the city's human resources department suggested increasing the scale to adjust for cost of living.

If approved, the next steps for the city would include:

 Evaluating each employee to compare their years of experience to the market midpoint. A plan will be developed for each employee with six years of experience who is not at the market midpoint.

• Any employee whose current pay is below grade will have their pay increased to at least the minimum pay for their job title. Every two years a salary

and wage survey is conducted for the city of Covington to compare the competitive worth of each job and to establish a pay range for each job title, Morgan said.



Alan Fowler | Special to The Covington News

Tuba players perform during the 13th annual "Tubachristmas" event which featured an hourlong performance of Christmas carols.

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

PORTERDALE, Ga. — The city of Porterdale hosted its annual Christmas Parade through its neighborhoods and welcomed 30 tuba players to the 12th Annual Porterdale "Tubachristmas" celebration last

The Porterdale Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 12, brought the nighttime event directly to city residents

this year in response to the need for social distancing.

Instead of the regular route along Main Street, parade participants traveled along parts of Ivy, Hemlock, Main, Poplar, Elm and Crowell roads and Austin Terrace.

Lighted floats and entries on wheels were featured, with Santa Claus featured at the end.

"Tubachristmas" was an hourlong program of Christmas carols Sun-



Claudia Callaway | Special to The Covington News

Santa Claus wraps up the Porterdale Christmas Parade through the streets of the city Saturday, Dec. 12.

day, Dec. 13, presented under the directions of Alan Fowler and Elijah

It is held annually in hundreds of cities around the nation and the world, said event coordinator Lowell Chambers.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Porterdale was one of only two celebrations in Georgia and one of very few in the Southeast this year, he said.

Porterdale adapted by having all activities outdoors, requiring masks for all participants and the audience, practicing social distancing, and sanitizing all shared materials, Chambers said.

"Both participation and audience size was reduced, but those that did attend experienced the joy of the season on a beautiful afternoon," he

ELECTIONS:

Continued from A1

locations the second and third weeks, Dec. 21 through 31, at Zion Baptist Church at 7037 Ga. Hwy. 212 North, and St. Augustine Catholic Church at 11524

Hwy. 278 East. No voting is scheduled on Christmas Day Dec. 25 and New Year's Day Jan. 1.

The board also voted Monday, Dec. 14, to require its staff to use an area of the county election office that is visible to the public to begin processing the thousands of absentee ballots it has received

for the Jan. 5 runoff. It also voted to research if the county government could use equipment, already used to livestream board meetings, to broadcast the signature

verification process. Chairman Phil Johnson said the Georgia Republican Party has asked Newton and other counties to do the processing in a public setting.

Elections director Angela White-Davis said her office already has issued more than 12,000 absentee ballots for the runoff election.

Johnson said he asked county political parties to provide monitors for the processing.

He said the county would be able to process the ballots openly but not allow public viewing of voters' personal information.

The Secretary of State's office said they should comply with the request but left it up to local election offices on

the process, he said. Johnson suggested any audience be allowed to see the rear of a computer only to comply with the request for public viewing while maintaining confidentiality.

Board members agreed livestreaming of the process did not need to be available for viewing on a screen in the room where the verifications were being done.

Election workers verify voters' identities through comparing the signature on the ballot's envelope to a digital version of the voter's registration card on file with the Georgia Secretary of State office.

The board's Republican member. Dustin Thompson, said he agreed with the procedure.

'What you suggested makes sense," he said. "I don't have another recommendation."

He added later he believed the public verification method the board was suggesting would be the norm in future elections because of statewide Republicans' concerns about the transparency of the process at the county

'This is going to be the expectation going forward," Thompson

Voters lined up Monday on the first day of advance voting. Davis said slow internet connections throughout the day slowed check-ins of voters, which led to lines for advance voting at the Administration Building.

However, no lines were reported throughout the day at the second location at the Newton County Library, she said.

Davis told board members she tried to encourage voters in line to travel to the Library location but few apparently did so.

She added she was unable to add more staff to the advance voting locations because the county already had stopped taking applications.

They also required training that could not be performed in time, she said.

Three races are on the McDonald. runoff ballot, including hotly-contested and heavily-advertised races for Georgia's two U.S. Senate seats.

Democrat Raphael Warnock is challenging incumbent Republican Kelly Loeffler for the right to complete the remaining two years of the term of Johnny Isakson, who resigned

in December 2019 for health reasons.

Democrat Jon Ossoff is challenging incumbent Republican David Perdue for a full sixyear term in the U.S. Senate seat that Perdue has held since 2014.

Also on the ballot is a runoff for the District 4 seat on the Georgia Public Service Commission between Democrat Daniel Blackman and incumbent Republican Lauren "Bubba"

Election day for in-person voting at the county's 22 voting precincts is set for Jan. 5.

For more information about voting in the runoff election, call 770-784-2055 or visit https://www. co.newton.ga.us/167/ Board-of-Elections-Registration.

VACCINE:

Continued from A1

emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine, the first to emerge from the U.S. pipeline targeting coronavirus. A second vaccine produced by Moderna is expected to receive federal approval for distribution this week.

"This is really exciting for us," said Dr. Marybeth Sexton, an assistant professor of medicine and epidemiologist at Emory. "We're going to have access to a vaccine that looks in initial clinical studies to be highly effective."

Approval of vaccines

to combat COVID-19 is being sped through what usually is a lengthy process by the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed because of the pressing nature of the pandemic, as cases of COVID-19 diagnoses, hospitalizations and deaths continue surging across the country. As of Sunday, 476,044 had been diagnosed with coronavirus, and 9,205 had died from the virus in Georgia.

But Sexton said the rush to get the vaccines into American arms did not compromise safety. The technology behind

the vaccines was thoroughly tested in clinical trials before the pandemic began, she said.

"The researchers were able to use lessons learned," she said.

Sexton said Americans should not be concerned about the side effects accompanying the vaccines, including soreness in the arm, fatigue or a slight fever.

"These are not serious, life-threatening or dangerous," she said.

Sexton said healthcare workers will be in the first group to get the shots because of concerns that the surge in coronavirus hospital-

izations is straining the health-care workforce.

"Even if they have a mild case [of COVID-19], they're out of work 10 days," she said. "We've got a real concern for staff to take care of patients."

Sexton said the prioritizing of health-care workers for vaccinations includes not just doctors and nurses but custodians, transporters and other hospital workers.

"All of these people are considered healthcare workers and are prioritized," she said.

The other group getting top priority to receive the vaccines – residents of nursing homes and other elderly-care facilities – will be served through a partnership the CDC has set up with CVS and Walgreens.

Sexton said the next group to receive vaccinations after health-care workers and residents of elderly-care facilities probably will be essential workers who must leave their homes despite the pandemic, such as grocery store employees and delivery truck drivers.

Another group that will receive high priority are seniors and Georgians suffering from chronic illnesses that leave them vulnerable

to the virus, she said. While many Americans have expressed reservations about getting the shots out of safety concerns, Sexton said the number of willing participants is going up, probably due to the impact of the surge in

Medical experts have said achieving "herd immunity" against COVID-19 – the threshold for making further spread of the virus unlikely – is getting 60% to 70% of the U.S. population vaccinated.

TRAIL:

Continued from A3

term lease on the entire 15-mile former rail corridor, including the portion which runs through the city of Covington. Newton Trails and the city have a formal agreement which

allows the city to develop, build and maintain a multi-use trail on the old rail bed.

"Newton Trails cannot thank Covington's city council and officials

enough for their collective understanding of the value of multi-use trails and for their investment of time and money into the development of the Cricket Frog Trail," said Greg

Richardson, Newton Trails' board chair. "In partnership, we are building a truly unique trail system that will enrich our community in multiple ways."

SPORTS

The Covington News

College Football



Anthony Banks | The Covington News Former Eastside standout Eric Stokes Jr. was named the Southeastern Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against Missouri on

Stokes named **SEC Co-Defensive** Player of the Week

By MASON WITTNER

Georgia defensive back Eric Stokes Jr., a former Eastside Eagle, was named the Southeastern Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Week on Monday for his performance in the No. 12 Bulldogs' 49-14 victory at No. 25 Missouri on Saturday.

It's the first time in Stokes' collegiate career that he's earned an SEC weekly award. He shared the honor with Bryce Thompson from the University of Tennessee.

Stokes, a junior, recorded two tackles and one interception against Missouri.

He's had a stellar 2020 season thus far, starting all nine of Georgia's games and recording 20 total tackles, as well as a league-leading four interceptions — two of which were returned for touch-

Georgia (7-2) was scheduled to close out its regular season this Saturday against Vanderbilt, but has since been canceled due to COVID-19 complications.

Former Ram, **Bulldog enters** transfer portal

By MASON WITTNER mwittner@covnews.com

JJ Holloman could find himself on a different roster once again next fall.

The former Newton High School and University of Georgia wide receiver has reportedly entered the transfer

See TRANSFER, A8



Anthony Banks | The Covington News Former Newton High School standout and Georgia Bulldog JJ Holloman (9) entered the transfer portal last week after spending two seasons playing for Florida International University in Miami.

Prep Wrestling

Eastside's Bennett wins South Metro wrestling tournament

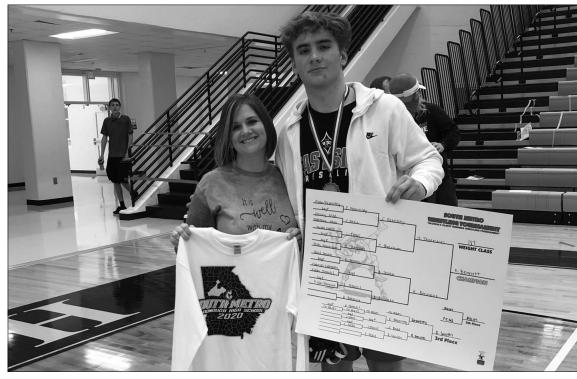
STAFF REPORTS news@covnews.com

MCDONOUGH, Ga. Eastside wrestler Kyan Bennett ran the table in the 182-pound bracket at the South Metro wrestling tournament at McDonough High

Bennett received a firstround bye and proceeded to go 3-0 in the tournament en route to being crowned champion of his weight

School over the weekend.

The Eagles entered the tournament with momentum on their side after taking down Newton and Alcovy earlier in the week to claim the Newton Cup. They're scheduled to return to the mats at the end of the month for the East Metro tournament at Monroe Area High School on Dec. 29.



Special to The Covington News

Kyan Bennett, a wrestler at Eastside High School, earned a first-place finish in the 182-pound bracket at the South Metro wrestling tournament at McDonough High School over the weekend.

Prep Basketball

Lady Cougars off to impressive start



Chris Bridges | Special to The Covington News

Piedmont Academy's girls' basketball team is off and running with a 3-0 start to the 2020 campaign.

By CHRIS BRIDGES Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — It has been so far, so good for the Piedmont Academy varsity girls' basketball team.

Coach Michael Wilson's Lady Cougars have raced out to a 3-0 start and have been impressive in each outing. The most recent victory came in the region opener at home on Saturday in a 54-14 win against Oak Moun-

Previously, Piedmont defeated Rock Springs Christian Academy, 63-35, on the road last Thursday after opening the season with a 61-20 home victory against New Creation Christian Academy.

We had about as good a first week as we could want," Wilson said. "I think the girls played well together from the start and that momentum just built and grew. We are going to find out an awful lot about us this coming Friday so we can't enjoy the week for too long or we will be in for a rude awak-

See START, A8

Cougars looking to build off early momentum



Special to The Covington News

After winning its first two games of the season, Piedmont Academy has its sights set high for the remainder of the 2020-2021 campaign.

By CHRIS BRIDGES Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — The Piedmont Academy varsity boys' basketball team has started the new season on a positive note.

The Cougars (2-0 overall, 1-0 in region play) had little preparation time before their first game but have not allowed that fact to hamper their efforts. Piedmont defeated Central Georgia Arts, 69-42, before opening region play with an impressive 60-35 win against Oak Mountain at home Saturday.

We have started off well," coach Will Johnson said. "It was good to be able to play a game before we

played Oak Mountain. We only had one day of practice before the season opener but it was still good to play. We then spent the rest of the week preparing for Oak Mountain.'

In the victory against the Oak Mountain Warriors, Ryan Holder scored 27 points. Holder also scored

24 points in the season opener.

Luke Welch finished with 15 points against Oak Mountain while Jackson Welch also finished in double figures with 11.

"We responded well against Oak Mountain,"

See BUILD, A8

START:

Continued from A7

ening in Sandersville. It's a definite step up in competition and will be good for us and I know the girls are ready to get a chance to show how good of a team we can be."

Through the team's first three games, eighth grader Marissa Holder is averaging more than 16 points per contest. Senior Sydney Stroud is averaging more than eight points per game and Haley Ann Frank is averaging more than seven points.

"We hit the ground

running," Wilson said. "We felt these first few games were ones where we would be better and we challenged the girls to not overlook or take anything for granted and to handle their business. They did that and much more. I am definitely very pleased with the first three games and their results. Everyone got to play, we got contributions from many different players and as the games went on many of the younger girls appeared to get more confident."

While the coach knew Holder was talented, even he has been impressed with what she has done so far.

Marissa's shooting performance against Rock Springs was unbelievable," the coach said. "It's one of the top scoring performances for any girl ever at Piedmont and to do it in your second game as an eighth grader is kind of mind blowing. To make 7-of-15 three-pointers in a game is outstanding."

Holder finished with a game-high 29 points against Rock Springs.

"I think what impressed me more was her game against Oak Mountain," Wilson said. "She didn't' shoot the basketball poorly as she only got about a quarter and a half of playing time because the game was so far

out of hand. I know she wanted to score but she didn't force it. She played the game and helped us with her assists and rebounds."

The team has also received quality efforts from Stroud, Frank and Jayden Young.

"They have been great leaders and they are doing so by their actions," Wilson said. "All These girls want is to win. They remember being in eighth grade and losing games by 40 or 50 points to teams like Brentwood and they've worked so hard to lift the program to a level where we are on equal footing with the top basketball programs in GISA."

The Lady Cougars will travel to Brent-wood on Friday for an early-season marquee matchup beginning at 5 p.m.

"As good as the results have been, we still have to clean up some areas if we want to be successful this Friday," Wilson said. "Specifically, we have to do a better job on the defensive boards and in how we play defense. We relied too much, at times, on just being better and got sloppy with our rotations and were slow to react and move. Against better teams that could result in fouls, easy baskets and a result we don't want to see so we will fix that this week in practice and look to get back on the court Friday and have a successful result."

Wilson said it will take a team effort in the next game.

"Haley Ann is leading us in assists, Sydney is leading us in steals and Jayden is rebounding and playing great defense," he said. "In addition, their attempts have dropped and it's simply because they are unselfish and the rest of the team is feeding off that."

Prep Golf



Special to The Covington News

Cameron Bruce, a member of the golf team at Social Circle High School, recently signed his National Letter of Intent to extend his academic and athletic career at Loyola University in New Orleans. Cameron has been the top golfer in the Redskins program during his time at Social Circle. He helped lead the school to a top-eight finish in the state in 2019.

Prep Basketball





File Photos | The Covington News

Eastside recently tipped off its boys' and girls' basketball seasons. Led by first-year head coach Dorrian Randolph, senior Jaylen Woods (left) and the Eagles are looking to establish a new identity as a program this winter. Meanwhile, junior guard Lizzie Teasley (right) is helping anchor a young Lady Eagles squad as they begin to rebuild. Look out for in-depth season previews for both teams in the next edition of *The Covington News* and at CovNews.com.

BUILD:

Continued from A7

Johnson said. "We are only six or seven players deep right now. It is not easy for our football players to be able to go the whole way. It

takes a while to get into basketball shape."

Holding the Warriors to 35 points showed how strong Piedmont was on the defensive

end of the court.

"It was a great start to our region schedule," Johnson said. "It looks like Oak Mountain, Windsor and us are among the favorites so to get a big win like that was important."

Cole Wade and Bradley Greenwood are also in the starting lineup for the Cougars with Spencer Carter the first player off the bench.

"We have to make sure to stay out of foul trouble," Johnson said. "We will need Spencer to come in and help with on defense and with rebounding. Our starting five is strong. Several of them have been through the battles with me. If we can stay healthy, we feel we can do some damage in the

region."
Johnson added that the 2020-2021 season should be a strong one for Holder.

"He is an all-around player," he said. "He has progressed so much from his time as an eighth grader. He can beat you off the dribble. So much of his game is impressive and he is only going to get better."

In the first two games Greenwood has impressed his coaches with cutting down on turnovers. Greenwood finished with eight points in Saturday's win.

Johnson said having Luke Welch and Jackson Welch both healthy has also been a major

plus.

Piedmont will travel to Brentwood on Friday for a non-region contest at 6:30 p.m.

"It will be a good test for us," Johnson said. "Adam Lord is a good coach. He took George Walton Academy to a Final Four. It will be a strong early road challenge."

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Shannon accounted for the Eagles' only points Friday night when he hauled in a 9-yard touchdown catch against Jones County in the Class AAAAA state quarterfinals. The junior tight end finished the night with four receptions for 42 yards.





TheAirConditioningSpecialist.com

TRANSFER:

Continued from A7

portal after spending the last two seasons at Florida International University.

According to 247Sports, Holloman entered the portal this week as a graduate transfer, which would allow him to become immediately eligible to play at any Division I program he chooses. As a redshirt junior, he

could potentially have

two seasons of eligibility remaining due to exceptions made by the NCAA in response to COVID-19.

NCAA in response to COVID-19.

Holloman was dismissed from Georgia's football team ahead of the 2019 season after an investigation was launched due to claims he assaulted his girl-

friend in April 2018.

Prior to his dismissal,

he produced a breakout

sophomore season by racking up 24 receptions for 418 yards and five touchdowns.

five touchdowns.

After transferring to FIU, Holloman sat out the 2019 season due to transfer protocol. He appeared in three games for the Panthers this fall, reeling in eight catches for 108 yards and one touchdown as his team posted a

dismal 0-5 record.

Holloman was a hot commodity for college coaches when he came out of Newton in 2017. He was graded as a four-star athlete and ranked the No. 125 overall prospect in the nation by 247Sports. He had offers from the likes of Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Tech and Notre Dame in addition to the Bulldogs.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Latkes to love

Serve potato pancakes for holiday celebrations

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Potato pancakes are traditionally served during Chanukah celebrations. This dish is often referred to as "latkes," a Yiddish word that loosely translates to "little oily thing." Potato pancakes are

not exclusive to Jewish celebrations and cuisine. Germans have their own variation called "kartoffelpuffer" that can be served with sour cream, applesauce or smoked salmon. The Irish have "boxty," which may be made with a combination of shredded potato and mashed potato before

Many potato pancake recipes are quite

being fried.

similar. They involve only a few ingredients and fry up in a flash. Some chefs recommend draining the shredded potato prior to cooking so that the pancakes will fry up crispy and not be soggy or break apart. Enjoy this recipe for "Latkes," courtesy of AllRecipes.com.

> Latkes Serves 12

Ingredients:

- 3 large potatoes, peeled and shredded
- 1 small onion, shredded
 - 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons all-pur-
- pose flour, or as needed 1/2 cup vegetable oil

Directions:

- 1. Place the potatoes and onion into a bowl, and stir in eggs, salt and flour as needed to make the mixture hold together. With wet hands, scoop up about 1/3 cup of the mixture per patty, and form into flat round or oval shapes.
- 2. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat until it shimmers, and gently place the patties into the hot oil. Fry until the bottoms are golden brown and crisp, 5 to 8 minutes, then flip with a spatula and fry the other side until golden.
- 3. Line a colander or strainer with 2 paper towels, and drain the cooked latkes in the colander. Serve hot.



Germans have their own variation called "kartoffelpuffer" that can be served with sour cream, applesauce or smoked salmon. The Irish have "boxty," which may be made with a combination of shredded potato and mashed potato before being fried.

Cheers to Christmas classic

Drink up this eggnog recipe easy to master at home



Metro Creative Services

While it's perfectly acceptable to purchase store-bought eggnog in the dairy case and dress it up with a favorite spirit, most eggnog recipes only feature a handful of ingredients and are quite easy to make at home.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

No beverage is more associated with holiday cocktail parties than eggnog, which is a beloved beverage come the holiday season.

While it's perfectly acceptable to purchase store-bought eggnog in the dairy case and dress it up with a favorite spirit, most eggnog recipes only feature a handful of ingredients and are quite easy to make at home.

Rum, whiskey and brandy are customary liquors to use in eggnog recipes. However, The Spruce: Eats has taste-tested them all and believes brandy

tops the others for the perfect finished product. Enjoy their version of "Quick Brandy Eggnog" below.

> **Quick Brandy Eggnog** 1 cocktail

Ingredients:

1 ounce brandy

1 1/4 ounces milk

1/2 ounce simple syrup

1 egg yolk

Grated nutmeg or cinnamon for garnish

Directions:

In a cocktail shaker, combine the brandy, milk, simple syrup,

and egg yolk. Dry shake with-

out ice. Fill shaker with ice, then shake vigorously for about 30 seconds to ensure the egg is well mixed. Strain into an old-fashioned or cocktail glass. Add a dash of grated nutmeg or

cinnamon as a garnish. *Note: Only use a fresh egg.* Test the egg's freshness by placing it in a glass of water. If the egg floats, discard it, as this indicates the egg is too old. Only use eggs that rest on the bottom of the glass. This will ensure the most flavorful drink and helps to reduce the risk of salmonella.

Four factors to consider when choosing a business dinner venue

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Hosting a business dinner for the first time is a great chance to make a strong impression on clients and colleagues. Planning such dinners can be intimidating, but hosts who give careful consideration to a handful of factors when planning the party may find hosting isn't so tall a task, after all.

1. Space Venues with tight quarters and intimate settings may be perfect for date nights. However, business dinners may work better in restaurants with ample room for everyone to spread out. This is especially important when hosting new or prospective clients who hosts have never before met in person. Clients might be tall and may not appreciate being crammed into small quarters, regardless of how good the food is. Visit each venue before making any reservations to ensure there's ample space for everyone. Business dinners can sometimes be lengthy, and a little extra legroom can make everyone more comfortable as the dinner

progresses.

2. Location

The location of the venue is another factor that bears ample consideration. The venue should be located near accessible highways that make it easy for guests to arrive and get home. If hosting out-oftown clients, look for an establishment within a reasonable distance of the airport or the hotel where guests will be

staying.

3. Menu Food allergies and dietary restrictions are relatively common, so look for a venue with a menu that can accommodate people who may only eat certain foods. Restaurants that offer vegetarian foods and gluten-free menus are safe bets. In addition, speak with a restaurant representative before making a reservation, discussing how flexible the kitchen staff may be in regard to accommodating people with more unique

dietary restrictions. 4. Reputation

Subpar service is not the fault of the person trusted with hosting the business dinner. However, a restaurant with a strong reputation for great service can help hosts create a strong first impression in the eyes of their colleagues or prospective clients. Peruse online reviews of restaurants before making a reservation, ultimately choosing a venue that has glowing reviews in terms of its reputation for service.

Hosting a business dinner is a big responsibility. But dinners tend to go smoothly when hosts exercise their due diligence in regard to planning.



Have a recipe you'd like to share?

Email it to news@covnews.com and be featured in a future edition of The Covington News.

B2 Wednesday, December 16, 2020

HEALTH & FITNESS

The Covington News

Hand sanitizer or soap and water?

Knowing when each handwashing method works best helps slow spread

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

In the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, millions of people across the globe found themselves scrambling for hand sanitizer. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that cleaning hands at key times is one of the most important steps people can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs, there are differences between washing with soap and water and washing with alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

The CDC notes that preventing the spread of sickness through handwashing is most effective when people know which method to use when cleaning their hands.

When to use soap and water The following are common situations when the CDC advises using soap and water to clean hands.

• Before, during and after preparing food

Before eating food

- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or
- After using the bathroom, changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or When washing with soap and wa-

ter, the CDC advises people to wet their hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and applying soap. Lather the hands by rubbing them together with the soap, making sure to scrub all surfaces of the hands, including palms, backs, fingers, between fingers, and under the nails. Scrub for 20 seconds before rinsing hands clean under running water and



Clean hands can prevent the spread of disease. Knowing which hand cleaner to use in certain situations can be an especially important preventative measure.

drying your hands, be it with a clean towel or air drying.

When to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer

Hand sanitizer should not be applied to hands that are dirty or greasy. Hands that become dirty or greasy after activities such as gardening or fishing should be cleaned with soap and water. The CDC advises using alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

 Before and after visiting a friend or a loved one in a hospital or nursing home, unless the person is sick with Clostridium difficile (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).

 If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

Children should always be supervised when applying alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, the CDC recommends covering all surfaces of the hands with the product before rubbing hands together until they feel dry, which should happen after roughly 20 seconds.

Clean hands can prevent the spread of disease. Knowing which hand cleaner to use in certain situations can be an especially important preventative measure.

Easy ways to keep your immune system strong

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS news@covnews.com

The immune system is a powerful component of the human body. The immune system recognizes when viruses, bacteria and other foreign invaders enter or compromise the body, and then takes action to prevent illnesses from taking over. The average person can help his or her immune system do its job more effectively by making

Harvard Medical School says that diet, exercise, age and psychological stress may affect immune system response. Certain lifestyle choices can promote a strong immune

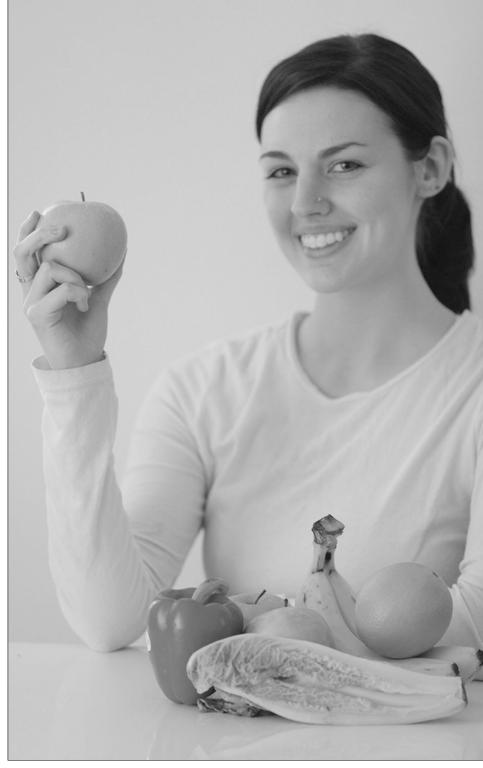
the immune system as

strong as it can be.

• Get adequate sleep. Doctors believe sleep and immunity are closely tied. A study of 164 healthy adults published by the National Institutes of Health found those who slept fewer than six hours each night were more likely to catch a cold than people who slept for more than six hours. Aim for adequate rest each night to keep your body in top form. Increase your intake

of fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables supply the powerhouse antioxidants that are essential for protecting a body against free radicals. Free radicals may play a role in heart disease, cancer and other diseases. Serve fruits and/or vegetables with every meal to ensure you're getting enough antioxidant-rich foods.

 Consume fiber and fermented foods. Fiber can help feed the gut microbiome, which is linked to a robust immune system. The microbiome also may prevent harmful pathogens from entering the body through the



Metro Creative Services

Harvard Medical School says that diet, exercise, age and psychological stress may affect immune system response.

digestive tract. Data also suggests that eating more fermented foods can further strengthen and populate healthy bacteria in the gut.

• Exercise regularly. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise per day, advises the American Heart Association. Thirty minutes of exercise each day can go a long way toward keeping the body healthy. The U.S. National Library of Medicine says physical activity may help flush bacteria

out of the lungs and airways. Exercise causes changes in antibodies and white blood cells. These antibodies and white blood cells circulate rapidly, so they may detect illnesses earlier than they would if you do not exercise. Body temperature also rises during exercise, which could naturally prevent bacteria from growing. • Try to minimize

stress. According to Simply Psychology, when people are

stressed, the immune system's ability to fight off antigens is reduced, making people more susceptible to infections. The stress hormone corticosteroid can suppress the effectiveness of the immune system. Limiting stress through meditation and breathing exercises, or trying to remove stressors from one's life, may help.

A healthy immune system is vital to fending off or recovering from illness.

Relationship between eating and exercise

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Diet and exercise are each vital components of a healthy lifestyle. While these components tend to be looked at separately, diet and exercise are actually interconnected.

According to the American College of Sports Medicine, adequate food and fluid should be consumed before, during and after exercise. Following that advice can help men and women maintain their blood glucose concentration during exercise, which allows them to maximize their performance and improves their recovery time.

Some people understandably may feel that eating before exercising seems counterintuitive, as food may contribute to feelings of sluggishness that would make it hard to maximize a workout. But what people eat, and drink, prior to working out is important, as the right foods can make a positive impact while the wrong foods can have the opposite effect.

The American Heart Association and the ACSM recommend hydrating with water prior to working out. The ACSM recommends drinking between two and three cups of water two to three hours before exercising. Adults accustomed to working out in the early morning can try to wake up earlier so they can give their bodies time to hydrate before they begin exercising. It's also important to continue hydrating during a workout, as the ACSM recommends drinking between 1/2 and one cup of water every 15 to 20 minutes during a

workout (amounts can be adjusted based on variables such as the weather and individuals' body sizes). After a workout, the ACSM recommends drinking two to three cups of water for every pound lost during the exercise session.

Food also plays a vital role in maximizing a workout and improving recovery time. The AHA recommends fueling up on healthy carbohydrates, such as whole-grain cereals, whole-wheat toast or low-fat or fat-free yogurt, two hours before exercising. Doing so might pose a problem for early morning exercise enthusiasts, and in such instances the AHA advises eating a piece of fruit such as an apple or banana five to 10 minutes before beginning a workout. Avoid saturated fats and a lot of healthy protein prior to working out, as it takes longer for these fuels to digest in the stomach. Until foods are digested, muscles may not get all of the oxygen and energy-delivering blood they need during a workout, so it's best to stick with foods that the body can digest more quickly.

The Mayo Clinic notes that it's also important to make food a part of your post-workout routine. Eating a post-workout meal that contains both carbohydrates and protein can aid muscle recovery and replace glycogen stores that help increase energy levels after working The most effective

way to exercise involves healthy foods, which can improve performance and lead to quicker post-workout recovery.

The Covington News Wednesday, December 16, 2020 | B3



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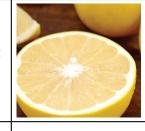












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