

The Covington News



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1865

\$1

SPORTS:

Prep hoops tip off

Redskins' 2020-2021 basketball season underway

[See A7](#)

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Un-Bundt-lievable

Recipe for an un-Bundt-lievable cake, see [FOOD B1](#)

HEALTH & FITNESS

Common lung cancer myths DEBUNKED

Common lung cancer myths debunked, see [HEALTH A6](#)

His Word

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26, 1JV

General Election

Newton plans 4 early voting locations for Senate runoff

Second recount brings little change to outcome

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Two Newton County locations will be available for in-person advance voting beginning Dec. 14 and two more Dec. 21 for the runoff election for Georgia's two U.S. Senate seats and a Public Service Commission position.

County election officials also said they completed their recount Monday, Nov. 30, of the General Election votes for president that only changed the totals by five votes.

Turnout for the Jan. 5 runoff could be as high as 40% of Newton County registered voters based on requests for absentee ballots, said Phil

Johnson, chairman of the Newton County Board of Elections.

The heavily advertised races are expected to set spending records for a U.S. Senate election, in part because they could alter the balance of power in the body if Democrats win both seats.

The advance voting period is set for Dec. 14 to 31 and

[See PLANS, A3](#)



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

From left, an observer from Joe Biden's presidential campaign and a Democratic Party monitor watch the hand recount of Newton County's votes in the Nov. 3 presidential election in the county elections office in Covington.

Prep Football – Road to Atlanta



Anthony Banks | The Covington News

Eastside players pile on kicker Jaydon Fain after he nailed a game-winning field goal with no time left to lift the Eagles over Southwest DeKalb 3-0 on Saturday night in Round 1 of the GHSA Class AAAAA State Playoffs.

>> See **SPORTS A7** for a full game recap and preview of the Eagles' matchup in Round 2.

NCSS closes middle school to in-person learning after COVID-19 exposure

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Unexpected staff absences and a previously-announced precautionary quarantine led school system officials to temporarily close Indian Creek Middle School for in-person learning Sunday, Nov. 29.

Reopening was tentatively scheduled for Monday, Dec. 7, a news release stated.

The announcement followed the Newton County School System's Nov. 24 announcement there were

no plans for closing the school after some students and staff were exposed to someone with COVID-19.

School system officials said in the release that in-person learning students should not report to school Monday, Nov. 30, but should revert to virtual learning through the Canvas learning management system.

The closure had no effect on students already participating in virtual learning.

"Students who need to pick up medication or other items that they

must have during the closure should call the school's front office to make an appointment," the release stated.

"Students needing to borrow technology for the week may pick up a device tomorrow at the school between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. If you have questions regarding technology, please reach out to the school."

The students also may obtain a free breakfast and lunch meal at any school location, the release stated.

"What does this

mean for all other NCSS students? The closing of Indian Creek Middle School is a necessary precaution as we work to ensure in-person learning can continue in our other schools.

"We anticipate, as we have communicated throughout this process, there will be additional quarantines and school closures as we operate during this pandemic," it stated.

"We need our entire community to work together: stay home

[See CLOSES, A3](#)

Kemp: COVID-19 vaccine poised for mid-December rollout in Georgia

By **BEAU EVANS**
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia is gearing up to distribute the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to health-care workers and the state's elderly residents in the coming weeks once federal officials approve the vaccines for emergency use.

Gov. Brian Kemp said Monday, Nov. 30, he expects health-care workers and nursing home residents in the state to start receiving vaccines in the second or third week of December, noting several state agencies have been preparing to move quickly on distribution as soon as the initial vaccine shipments arrive.

"Obviously, that timeline could change, but that is what we're shooting for right now," Kemp said at a meeting with local nursing home administrators.

"I'm confident that when the vaccine is authorized ... that we will be ready to distribute that," he added.

Kemp also relaxed certain red-tape state rules Monday to allow nurses and pharmacists to administer the



Brian Kemp

new COVID-19 vaccines and to let people receive the vaccines in their vehicles via drive-thru services.

Two vaccines from pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna showed unexpectedly good results in recent clinical trials and are now poised for emergency-use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The federal government is leaving it to governors and other state officials to hash out plans for distributing COVID-19 vaccine doses in their respective states, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention giving guidance on which populations to prioritize like health-care workers, first responders, elderly persons and those with chronic health conditions.

Between 30 million and 40 million vaccine doses could be available by January with emergency federal approval, said Dr. Carlos del Rio, a leading Emory University epidemiologist who has focused on the virus since its onset in March.

The general public should expect to have access to COVID-19 vaccines sometime between May and July of 2021 after officials

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Inside

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SINCE 1865

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State lawmakers seek special session for voter ID changes before Senate runoffs

By **BEAU EVANS**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A group of Republican state lawmakers are calling for the General Assembly to hold a special session ahead of the Jan. 5 runoff elections for U.S. Senate to consider changes to Georgia’s voter ID laws amid testiness over the recent presidential

contest.

State election officials have said a second recount of the Nov. 3 presidential election that began Tuesday, Nov. 24, likely will not include inspecting signatures on absentee ballot envelopes, which allies of President Donald Trump have demanded since his loss to President-elect Joe

Biden in Georgia.

In Georgia, county election officials verify mail-in voters by matching the signatures they are required to make on ballot envelopes with their signatures on file from when they registered. The envelopes are then separated from the actual ballots to protect voter privacy, making it

tough to re-match those signatures later.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger’s office has repeatedly said state and local officials have found no evidence so far of any widespread fraud in this month’s general election. Raffensperger has, however, advocated for tightening the state’s voter ID laws.

Gov. Brian Kemp has not said whether he would convene the legislature before the regular session on Jan. 11. His office responded Tuesday with a prior statement from the governor, Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan and Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, saying they “share the same concerns many

Georgians have about the integrity of our elections.”

If a special session is convened, lawmakers should consider creating a notary or photo ID requirement for voting by mail and hold committee hearings on “any evidence of voter fraud,” four

See **VOTER**, A3

Man stabbed after argument at house party in southwest Covington

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

COVINGTON, Ga.

— A man told Covington Police he was stabbed repeatedly in

the chest by someone he knew early Sunday but whose identity he did not want to disclose.

EMS transported the victim, Darrion Smith, to Piedmont Newton Hospital after the Sunday, Nov. 29, incident on Walnut Street in southwest Covington. Smith told police he

and the suspect were attending a house party on Walnut Street. As the victim spoke to a female party-goer, the suspect “kept interrupting him.”

“He stated that they exchanged words while at the party, and continued to exchange words after they left the house and were walking down

Walnut (Street),” a report stated.

The victim said he then hit the suspect and they got into a physical altercation, after which “a bunch of people jumped in to stop the fight.”

“While he was being pulled away, (the suspect) was still holding onto him, and

then stabbed him with a knife,” the report stated. “Smith stated he did not feel the cuts but later became woozy and could feel where he had been stabbed.”

The victim reportedly only identified his attacker as “Cory” and refused to reveal his attacker’s last name.

NCSO asks public for help locating shooting suspect

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga.

— Newton County authorities need the public’s help in locating a suspect involved in a shooting Friday, Nov. 27.

Between 5:05 p.m. and 5:11 p.m., the Newton County Sheriff’s Office stated, two African American males were reportedly fighting

in the parking lot of the Shell gas station located off Salem Circle in Covington.

Gunfire was exchanged during the altercation, the sheriff’s office stated.

When Newton County deputies responded to the scene, the suspect and victim were gone.

The victim was later identified as Cameron Williams, 20, of Cov-

ington. Officers said he was grazed in the shoulder by a bullet and his injuries were non-life-threatening. He was later transported to a local hospital.

The unidentified suspect left the scene in a red Volkswagon, with another individual accompanying him. He was reportedly wearing a camouflage hoodie, red undershirt,

and black pants with a white strip down the side.

No arrests had been made as of Monday, Nov. 30.

Anyone with information regarding the incident should contact Cpl. Mickey Kitchens at mkitchens@newton-sheriffga.org or 678-625-1515.

OBITUARIES

Marsha Neal McCall Sears

Marsha Neal McCall Sears of Covington, passed away Saturday, November 28, 2020, at the age of 73. Born to the late William Neal and Martha Peters McCall, Mrs. Sears was born and raised in Social Circle. She attended Marsh Draughon Business College, in Atlanta, and in the 80’s attended Dekalb Technical College to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Mrs. Sears married her sweetheart, Charles Sears, September 30, 1966, and worked for the United States Marine Corps before the birth of her first child. She was a faithful member of Calvary Baptist Church, loved doing selfless acts without recognition, and enjoyed socializing with her friends for breakfast

at McDonalds. In addition, Mrs. Sears had a special place in her heart for cats, and was known by her family and friends as the “cat lady”. She loved her family dearly, but her greatest joys were her grandchildren. Mrs. Sears was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Sears; parents, William Neal and Martha Peters McCall.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters and son-in-law, Lisa and Tim Singley, Valorie Patrick; grandchildren, John Singley, Kaitlyn Patrick and fiancé, Parker Hutchinson; great-grandchild, Ruby Winona Hutchinson; sister-in-law, Becky Sears; as well as several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A graveside service for Mrs. Sears was held Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 3:00 P.M., at Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington, with

Pastor Ron Swann and Rev. J.B. Leachman officiating. Flowers are accepted, or donations may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 4228 Mill Street NE, Covington, GA 30014, or Kitty City Cat Rescue, 4530 Knight Road, Macon, GA 31220 <https://www.kittycitycatrescue.com/>

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

Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

The Covington News

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- Subscription Renewals
- Other Duties as Assigned

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Brenda M. Pickrell

Brenda M. Pickrell of Covington, passed away Monday, November 23, 2020, at the age of 73. Mrs. Pickrell was a member of County Line Baptist Church and taught the Lady’s Bible Study class at Covington Square Apartments for over 10 years. She was strong in her faith and liked studying the word of God. Mrs. Pickrell retired from Southern Bell after a dedicated 20 years. She enjoyed fishing and reading her Bible, and had a fondness for Sweet Rolls, coffee, and ketchup. Mrs. Pickrell was known by her family and

friends for being a wonderful caretaker – even taking care of her neighbors when in need. She was always giving no matter what and was everyone’s favorite cheerleader. Mrs. Pickrell loved her family dearly and will be missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronnie Pickrell; parents, Chet and Jeanette Martin; and brother, Hugh Martin.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Leigh Pickrell; Jay and Jarma Pickrell; grandchildren, John Rellenger, Jamie Rellenger, Baylee Pickrell,

Taylor Pickrell, Molly Pickrell, Collin Pickrell; sister Linda George; brothers and sisters-in-law, Grant and Lynne Martin, Don and Brenda Martin.

A Funeral Service for Mrs. Pickrell was held Saturday, November 28, 2020, 1:00 P.M., at the Chapel of Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, 1215 Access Road, in Covington, with Rev. J. Clifton Brown officiating and interment followed in Covington City Cemetery, in Covington.

Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences

Kiwanis Korner

The Kiwanis Club of Covington meets each week at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Covington First United Methodist Church. We wear masks except when eating and have our seating arranged to assist in social distancing. At each meeting, we have food catered by the owner of Bradley’s Barbecue, fellow-

ship, club announcements, and typically some speaker from either the club or the community. At our last meeting, we discussed the history of the club through trivia and a word search.

On a local level, our local club sponsors such projects as Boy Scout Troop 222 and the local Miracle League, at the Georgia District level, we participate in such projects as the Buck-n-Ear program for

the Auditory-Verbal Center and Young Children Priority One, and on an international level, we work towards such projects as Project Eliminate, which seeks to rid the world of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

For more information about the club, visit us at a meeting in person or visit us online at covingtonkiwanis.org or the Facebook page for the Kiwanis Club of Covington.

VOTER:

Continued from A2

Republican state senators who called for the session said in a news release.

“As the [first recount] has shown, we have structural issues with the implementation and proper execution of our ballot counting procedures,” read a joint statement from Sens. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming; William Ligon, R-Brunswick; Brandon Beach, R-Alpharetta; and Burt Jones, R-Jackson.

A statewide hand recount that wrapped up last week confirmed Biden’s win over Trump in Georgia by 12,670 votes out of a record-setting roughly 5 million ballots cast in the election amid a surge of mail-in voting due to the COVID-19

pandemic.

Trump has not yet conceded defeat and his allies in Georgia have homed in on the process for verifying voter signatures on absentee ballots as problematic not only for the presidential election, but also potentially for the intensely watched U.S. Senate runoffs in January.

Georgia’s two Senate runoff races are poised for high turnout due to their unique importance. Wins by both Democratic candidates over the Republican incumbent senators would give Democrats control over the White House and Congress for at least the next two years. Many Georgia Republican leaders have pointed to rough-

ly 5,000 ballots that went uncounted in the initial election results but were discovered during the hand recount that wrapped up last week as proof of problems with the election system. Those ballots trimmed Biden’s lead over Trump by 1,900 votes.

State election officials had said prior to the recount that they expected to find some discrepancies from the original count, but stressed also any additional recount or effort to again verify signatures would not likely change the ultimate outcome of the presidential election.

Even so, among those pushing to verify signatures and change the state voter ID law is Kemp, who last week

called the discovery of thousands of ballots during the hand recount “simply unacceptable.”

However, the governor also recently railed against “baseless attacks [on Georgia’s election system] that are absolutely absurd.”

“These are ridiculous,” Kemp said at a news conference Tuesday. “They only seek to breed fear, create confusion and sow discord among our citizens.

“We must ignore those that want to divide us and find a way to overcome the challenges that we all face together.”

Early voting for the Senate runoff elections starts Dec. 14. The deadline for Georgia voters to register for the runoffs is Dec. 7.

PLANS:

Continued from A1

four Newton County advance voting locations will be available:

- Newton County Administration Building at 1113 Usher St. in Covington.
- Newton County Library at 7116 Floyd St. in Covington.
- Zion Baptist Church at 7037 Highway 212 North in Covington.
- St. Augustine Catholic Church at 11524 U.S. Highway 278 in Covington.

Johnson said the election board wanted to double the number of early voting sites to help cut down the sometime lengthy wait times voters endured in October before the Nov. 3 General Election.

The Administration Building and Library will be sites Dec. 14-31. The two churches will be locations, too, Dec. 21-31.

However, only four hours of voting will be scheduled on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, Johnson said.

No voting is scheduled on Christmas Day, New Year’s Day or the weekends during the three-week period.

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

Three races will be on the ballot, including the two U.S. Senate seats and the District 4 seat on the Georgia Public Service Commission.

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.

Gov. Brian Kemp appointed Loeffler to serve in the seat until an election could be held Nov. 3. Loeffler and Warnock qualified for the runoff after they were the top two vote-getters out of a field of 20 candidates in the primary.

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

The Public Service Commission race features Democrat Daniel Blackman challenging incumbent Republican Lauren “Bubba” McDonald.

The deadline for registering to vote in the runoff election is Dec. 7 and can be done by visiting <https://georgia.gov/register-to-vote>.

For information on applying for an absentee ballot for the election or advancing voting times, visit co.newton.ga.us/169/Ways-to-Vote.

RECOUNT CHANGES LITTLE

Johnson said the recount of Newton County’s 54,500 votes for president decreased Democrat Joe Biden’s total by five votes in Newton County.

It also left totals unchanged for incumbent Republican President Donald Trump and Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen compared to the county totals certified Nov. 9, Johnson said.

He said he believed the votes were taken away after a review panel determined that five voters did not clearly show on their ballots they were choosing Biden or any other candidate.

An election board member and representatives of the county’s Democratic and Republican parties comprised the three-member vote review panel.

About 240 voters did not make any choice for president out of the 54,500 who cast ballots in the General Election, according to county election totals.

Monday’s action, including recertification of the results, completed Newton County’s part of the statewide recount requested by Trump’s campaign after he lost to Biden in Georgia by 12,600 votes out of 5 million cast.

Biden’s statewide margin of victory was 0.25% in winning the state’s 16 electoral votes. Georgia law allows the losing campaign to request a recount if the difference is less than 0.5%.

All 159 counties must complete their individual recounts by Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 11:59 p.m., the Secretary of State’s office has announced.

VACCINE:

Continued from A1

have prioritized more vulnerable populations, he said.

“The most important thing is we need to allocate the vaccine in such a way that we rapidly bring down mortality and hospitalizations from this disease,” Del Rio said at a news conference Monday.

Amid high hopes for ending the pandemic, Georgia officials still need to figure out how to hand out millions of doses across the state while keeping the vaccine stored at low temperatures that may

require purchasing new refrigeration equipment, Del Rio said.

Hospitals and long-term elderly care facilities also face a daunting few months ahead as outbreaks of the virus flare up in Georgia and short-handed staff who have battled the pandemic since March feel fatigue.

Several local nursing homes noted at Monday’s meeting with Kemp that while the state has helped prop up staffing levels with federal relief money, many facilities continue

struggling to both fend off viral transmissions and provide everyday care for their elderly residents after losing employees early during the pandemic.

“Unfortunately, I think we’re going to be dealing with it for another six months,” said Neil Pruitt, chairman and CEO of PruittHealth.

Positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 have risen in Georgia since October as officials and public-health experts worry a larger spike

could come amid the winter holiday season. As of Monday, more than 422,000 Georgians had tested positive for the virus and 8,778 had died.

Kemp urged people Monday to keep up safe distancing, masking and hand-washing habits despite the temptation to let their guard down with vaccines on the horizon.

“We’ve got to remain vigilant [and] keep our foot on the gas,” Kemp said.

CLOSES:

Continued from A1

when you’re sick; get tested if you’re symptomatic; report your child’s positive test to their school; if you are directed to quarantine, follow the instructions and limit interaction with non-family members; socially distance, and wear a mask when

in public.”

The announcement followed the Nov. 24 announcement that 22 students and nine staff members at Indian Creek Middle had been identified as contacts to an individual with COVID-19.

“In accordance with

current CDC and Health Department guidelines, these individuals must quarantine for a period of 14 days from their date of exposure.”

“All parents and guardians of affected students were notified (Nov. 24) by school

district personnel. The school will be deep-cleaned during the Thanksgiving Break.”

Indian Creek is located on Covington Bypass Road near the southern city limits of Covington.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

- Late Night Christmas Shopping on the Covington Square begins.
- Santa on the Square, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

- Lion’s Club “Reverse” parade begins at 6 p.m. Floats will be lined up along Newton Drive in front of the YMCA where spectators can drive or walk through the area. Three high school marching bands will also perform.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

- The Newton County Democratic Committee will hold its Bi-Annual Executive Committee/Officer Elections via Zoom at 7 p.m. Interested parties should visit rebrand.ly/NewtonDemsVOTE for specific details on how to register to vote and for details on how to register to be a candidate.

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

- Santa on the Square, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

- Santa on the Square, from 5-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25

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

ONGOING

- Everyone is invited to join Covington Christian Church on the Round on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for worship. The church is located at 141 Highway 142 in Covington.
- 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 Hulan at foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org to sign up.

Send your event announcements to news@covnews.com.

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Tom Spigolon news editor

Congressman should stop tweeting, show us evidence

Eastern Newton County is represented in Congress by someone who apparently believes that all his constituents subscribe to the wild claims the president is making in the wake of his election loss.



It's almost a given that U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Greensboro, of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, would support fellow Republican Donald Trump's reelection bid, as almost all Georgia Republican leaders did. Trump is the candidate whose campaign spent millions to find out more Democrats than Republicans vote absentee — in a year when voting in-person could potentially leave a voter of any political stripe sick with COVID-19.

And, so, the president deduced voting absentee by mail was akin to fraud, despite no real evidence to support it. Unfortunately, the congressman apparently is following him blindly down this rabbit hole.

Hice on Sunday alleged on Twitter that fraud was present “on multiple fronts with mounting evidence in Georgia.”

Where is your evidence, congressman? “No real signature verification of absentee ballots,” the congressman wrote in yet another of the recent conspiracy-laden tweets mirroring Trump.

Election officials with the Georgia Secretary of State have said repeatedly that signatures were verified as part of a two-step verification process.

They also noted it is not possible to match signatures at this point in the process because ballots are separated from envelopes to ensure the secrecy of voters' selections.

Is Hice wanting Republican activists — bent on finding any way to steer the election to Trump — to legally verify the signatures by looking at secret ballots?

Wouldn't he have had a problem with that if Biden had wanted Democratic activists looking at secret ballots?

Hice also claimed, “No rigorous audit of the election.”

In Georgia — including all the counties Hice represents — election officials have conducted a hand recount of 5 million ballots overseen by representatives of both political parties, followed by a machine recount of the same 5 million ballots watched by the same

representatives. The president's lawyers are challenging the elections in many states they lost, including Georgia, and courts denied those challenges here and in state after state after no evidence of widespread fraud was shown.

Numerous safeguards were in place nationwide, verified by security experts and President Donald Trump's hand-picked cybersecurity expert Chris Krebs — who was fired when he wouldn't support Trump's wild claims of a “rigged” election.

Hice also tweeted, “Where are our GA leaders?”

Yes, where are leaders like you, Mr. Hice, in urging that we move on from the inflammatory rhetoric that has led to death threats against the Georgia Secretary of State from your own party?

Or urging the president to at least consider he might not have been the majority of voters' first choice to lead the country for the next four years?

Trump was outpolled by more than 6 million popular votes and 74 electoral votes.

Yes, I know Democrat Stacey Abrams also did not concede her 2018 loss to Gov. Brian Kemp. But that's a different election and a different set of issues, and it didn't result in

Kemp not being inaugurated.

Speaking of the governor, Mr. Hice, how about defending him against Trump's claims he colluded with his 2018 election opponent about voter signatures?

How about when Trump over the weekend said he was “ashamed” he endorsed Kemp in 2018 — despite the president boasting that his “full endorsement” helped then-Secretary of State Kemp edge Abrams to win the 2018 election.

Trump said the governor also has “done absolutely nothing” to question the state's election results.

I guess the president, as he famously does, did not do the research that would have shown Kemp supported a second hand recount and also called for a check of absentee ballot signatures soon after Georgia's results were certified Nov. 20.

My prediction: Hice will either ignore this column or call this opinion piece an example of “fake news.”

And, again, he will have no evidence to back it up.

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

David Carroll columnist

Did you see that obscene jester?

Oh, those mistakes you hear on the news.

Like the reporter who said, “The man was electrocuted, but not seriously.” (Don't try that at home, please.)



With that in mind, it's time for another roundup of Facebook flubs and spell-check bloopers. Every few months, I share the latest collection of foul-ups, many of which are sent in by you, my kind and eagle-eyed readers.

“You say I can watch your news ‘screaming online.’” Sorry, but I prefer my news without all the screaming.” (I guess I'll have to lower my voice.)

“I just heard that it's musky dime season. Does anyone know where I can find some?” (No, but I've got a drawer full of old pennies.)

“There's so much more I could say. I'm just scratching the service.” (Which branch of the military are you scratching?)

“I have three sisters and a bother.” (Yep, there's one in every family.)

“Our city needs to build more infant structure!” (Yep, we only have one McDonald's with an indoor playground.)

“I saw the police arrest him, and take him away in coughs.” (It must have been during allergy season.)

“They're just looking for an escape goat.” (I think I saw him over there by the kudzu.)

“They arrested him for tax invasion.” (Did he break into the IRS?)

“You should see the big law enforcement presents on I-75.” (Santa must have come early for the police this year.)

“I don't trust them poles. I don't know a single sole who has ever been poled.” (There's a country song in here somewhere.)

“They said I'll have to go to court if I don't have Affa Davis. I don't even know anybody by that name.” (You should probably just go to court. Maybe Affa will be there.)

“Did you see that obscene jester?” (I remember when jesters kept it clean.)

“I can't believe they're proposing that budget. It's all smoking mirrors.” (Quick, grab the fire extinguisher!)

“My doctor says I

need to stay hibernated.” (Oh my. That could take all winter.)

“We had a great time. We went out to a nightclub and sang teriyaki.” (Well, I've heard of people playing “Chopsticks,” but this is a new one.)

“Bad spelling is our worst enema.” (But with you leading the fight, we're sure to have a good outcome.)

“I will only vote for candidates who pledge no new taxis.” (People need to walk more anyway.)

“If anyone has a child who needs help in school, I'm available for inexpensive tudoring.” (Proving, you get what you pay for.)

“I am so forgetful lately. Reckon I might have dimension or something?” (Well, it's something, all right. Now what was your question?)

“We can't have another government shutdown. That would be a national apostrophe!” (I'm glad you put an explanation point there.)

“I guess it just got lost in the shovel.” (That's why you need a wheel barrel.)

“If you want to see real competition, you should've come to our cheerleader trouts.” (I wish you had let minnow. I was home watching Tuna Half Men on TV.)

“I told him to stay away from her. She's star craving mad!” (And you don't want to be around her when she's craving stars.)

“Every woman should get an annual monogram.” (Maybe that way, she will never forget her name.)

“The president should deny the alligations. In fact, he should sue those alligators.” (I wouldn't do that. I hear their attorney can be quite slippery.)

“Pay no attention to that story. It's just an old wise tale.” (And wisdom is obviously in short supply here.)

“Now that is definitely one for the wrecker books.” (In fact, it might break the old world wrecker.)

“At the rate things are going, our nation will soon be in dire scrapes.” (Watch out for those scratches, too.)

Keep 'em coming, folks. And until next time, stay hibernated.

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. He may be reached at radio2020@yahoo.com.

U.S. Rep. Jody Hice guest columnist

Georgians deserve legitimate elections regardless of political view

Americans have high yet simple expectations for our elections. We want free and fair votes, honest counts of legal ballots, and a serious



investigations of fraud allegations.

I have deep concerns that the state of Georgia has failed to meet these standards. Newly uncovered ballots, suspicious irregularities, and a flawed verification process have caused many of us to doubt this election's integrity.

One of my biggest

frustrations has been with the signature verification of absentee ballots. This year, a massive number of Georgians voted absentee by mail. Mail-in voting is inherently more susceptible to fraud and requires a meticulous verification process to compare the signatures of absentee voters to ensure that they are indeed legally registered voters. That this failed to occur is evident in the data. In 2018, approximately 223,000 Georgians voted absentee by mail, and 3.5% of these ballots were rejected because the signatures could not be verified — a rate comparable with other states. In 2020, however, more than 1.3 million Georgians voted absentee by mail but just 0.3% of ballots were rejected. It defies common-sense that the number of absentee ballots would skyrocket and the number of signature mismatches would plummet. Until a rigorous signature verification process

occurs, we will never know how many of the 1.3 million absentee ballots were illegal votes that should not be included in the count.

It was no surprise to me that the Georgia recount did not significantly change the margins of the race. The recount merely counted the same ballots a second time, and made no effort whatsoever to remove illegal ballots. This is completely unacceptable. Every single illegal ballot diminishes the value of each legal vote. All Georgians, regardless of our politics, deserve legitimate elections.

Looking forward, as your federal representative in Washington, I am committed to working to restore the integrity of our election system — and to encourage our state representatives in Georgia to do the same.

Jody Hice represents Georgia's 10th Congressional District in U.S. Congress.

The Covington News

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The Covington News (USPS 136140) is published bi-weekly on Sunday and Wednesday 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Yard Sales

Yard & Estate Sales

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FRI, DEC 4 and Sat Dec 5
8AM TO 4pm
3531 ZINGARA Road
CONYERS, GA

Jobs

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dependable person to clean
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BACKGROUND/DRUG TEST
required. 706-476-0233

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Corporations

NOTICE IS given that articles of
incorporation which will incorporate
VETERAN'S FAMILY SUPPORT
FOUNDATION, INC. have been
delivered to the Secretary of State
for filing in accordance with the
Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code
(O.C.G.A. Section 14-2-202.1).
The initial registered office of the
corporation will be located at 490
Freeman Drive, Newton County,
Covington, Georgia 30016 and
its initial registered agent at such
address is JAMAR WHITE.

EDGAR LAW FIRM, LLC
HILLARY W. EDGAR
1132 FLOYD STREET
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014
TELEPHONE (770) 786-1353

PUBLIC NOTICE #117646
11/25,12/2

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

PANZIE S. FANTAUZZI
PLAINTIFF,

-VS-
DIEDORO A. FANTAUZZI, JR.
DEFENDANT.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: DIEDORO FANTAUZZI

BY ORDER of the court for service by

Fun by the Numbers

Here's How It Works:

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 the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

5 8 6 1 9 7 2 3 4
1 2 3 6 4 5 7 8 9
7 4 9 2 3 8 1 5 6
3 6 4 7 8 9 5 2 1
9 5 1 3 6 2 4 7 8
8 7 2 4 5 1 6 9 3
6 1 8 5 7 3 9 4 2
4 9 7 8 2 6 3 1 5
2 3 5 9 1 4 8 6 7

Level: Intermediate

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 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 **W. KENDALL WYNNE, JR.**, Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 16th day of NOVEMBER, 2020.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

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

Juvenile Court
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
B.E. **SEX:** Female
DOB: 06/17/2013 Case #107-20J-0424
A CHILD Under 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS

TO: BRITTANY DEMPSEY, Mother; **MATTHEW EDGE,** Putative Father; **JOHN DOE,** and any unknown, unnamed biological father or other persons claiming to have a parental interest in the minor child named above born to **BRITTANY DEMPSEY** on the date above-listed.

A PETITION to Terminate Parental Rights was filed in this Court on November 3, 2020, by the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, concerning the above child(ren). In accordance with O.C.G.A. §15-11-281, you are hereby notified that this proceeding and the hearing(s) specified herein is for the purpose of terminating your parental

rights and to place permanent custody of said child(ren) with the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, pending adoption. The Court shall mail a copy of said Petition to the last known address of the above-named parent(s) within fifteen (15) days of filing of the Order of Service by Publication. This is a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, you, the party(ies) named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as said case may be continued, and until discharged from the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear in said Court at the time and place below stated, each of you then and there to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said child(ren) and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT

GEORGIA LAW provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed requesting the Court to terminate your parental rights to your child(ren). A copy of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights can be obtained from the Clerk of the Newton County Juvenile Court. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for the 29th day of January, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the Newton County Juvenile Court, Newton County Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

IF YOU fail to appear, the Court can terminate your rights in your absence.

IF THE court at the trial finds that

the facts set out in the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your child(ren), the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your child(ren).

IF THE judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child(ren). This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child(ren) or make any decisions affecting your child(ren) or your child(ren)'s earnings or property. Your child(ren) will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else.

EVEN IF your parental rights are terminated:

(1) **YOU** will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child(ren)'s care unless and until your child(ren) is/are adopted; and

(2) **YOUR** child(ren) can still inherit from you unless and until your child(ren) is/are adopted.

PURSUANT TO statute, you are put on notice that as a biological father you may lose all rights to your child(ren) named above and will not be entitled to object to the termination of your rights to such child(ren) unless, within 30 days of receipt of notice, you file:

(1) **A** petition to legitimate such child(ren); and

(2) **NOTICE** of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Court in which the termination of parental rights proceeding is pending.

THIS IS a very serious matter. A party is entitled to an attorney in the proceedings. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and to have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney if the Court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or

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

IF YOU have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone number of the clerk's office which is 770-784-2060.

THIS IS a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

WITNESS THE Honorable Jenny S. Carter, Judge of said Court, this 3rd day of November, 2020.

/S/ JANELL Gaines
JANELL GAINES, Clerk
JUVENILE COURT of Newton County, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117583
11/11,18,25,12/2

Public Hearings

NOTIFICATION OF a
PUBLIC HEARING.

AN APPLICATION for a Certificate of Appropriateness has been submitted for 13 Pink St. P001000000006000 to the City of Porterdale Historic Preservation Commission. A public hearing has been scheduled for 6:00 PM Tuesday December 22, 2020. Porterdale City Hall 2800 Main Street, GA 30014.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117657
12/2

Trade Names

NEWTON SUPERIOR COURT
TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

PERSONALLY APPEARED the undersigned who on oath depose and says that: A.L. BRUNS AND COMPANY, LLC, 40 CROSSFIRE DRIVE, COVINGTON, GA 30014, is doing business in Newton County, Georgia under the name of **ANIVES, 40 Crossfire Drive, Covington, GA**

30014 and that the nature of the business to be carried on at such address is Website offering tools and resources for those seeking to self-help in career development and seeking employment within the hospitality industry..
AARON L. Bruns, Member

PUBLIC NOTICE #117605
11/25,12/2

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **JAY TERRELL**, whose address is 11471 BROWN BRIDGE ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30016 and **TERRELL MANAGEMENT, LLC** whose address is 11471 BROWN BRIDGE ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30016 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 11471 BROWN BRIDGE ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30016 in the following trade name, to-wit: EXTRA STORAGE RENTAL SPACES; and that the nature of said business is: SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY. **THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county. **THIS THE** 19th day of November, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117647
11/25,12/2

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **JOHN A. ANSHUTZ**, whose address is 311 POPLAR HILL ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30014 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 311 POPLAR HILL ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30014 in the following trade name, to-wit: POPLAR HILL PECANS; and that the nature of said business is: PRODUCTION AND SALE OF PECANS. **THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county. **THIS THE** 6th day of November, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117604
11/25,12/2

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **SUTTLES VETERINARY SERVICES, LLC**, whose address is 10257 HWY 142 N, COVINGTON, GA 30014 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 10257 HWY 142 N, COVINGTON, GA 30014 in the following trade name, to-wit: SIGMAN VETERINARY CLINIC; and that the nature of said business is: PROVISIONS OF VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICES, GROOMING SERVICES, BOARDING SERVICES, SALE OF VETERINARY PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATTERS. **THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county. **THIS THE** 30th day of October, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117653
11/25,12/2

Newton sees big drop in unemployment

2,300 residents
found work
during October

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
tspigolon@covnews.com
COVINGTON, Ga.
— More than 2,300 Newton County residents found work in October, state officials said.

The increase in employed residents dropped the county's unemployment rate faster than the region and state during the same month, according to a report from the Georgia Department of Labor. However, Newton County also saw an almost 3% increase in initial claims for jobless benefits during the same time period, the department reported. Newton County's unemployment rate decreased by 2% to 5.0% in October — putting the county's jobless rate slightly higher than Metro Atlanta and the

state, Georgia's labor commissioner said. The jobless rate in the 29-county Metro Atlanta region, of which Newton County is included, decreased by 1.9% to 4.7%. The statewide jobless rate dropped by 1.7% to 4.5% during the same period. "In October, every region and county saw unemployment rates dramatically decrease, including some areas that dropped to pre-pandemic numbers, demonstrating how strong our economy was across the state prior to the crisis and how we are successfully recovering," said Commissioner of Labor Mark Butler in a news release. Newton County ended October with 49,425 employed residents — an increase of 2,382 from 47,043 in September. However, it was down 1,369 compared to October 2019. The labor force —

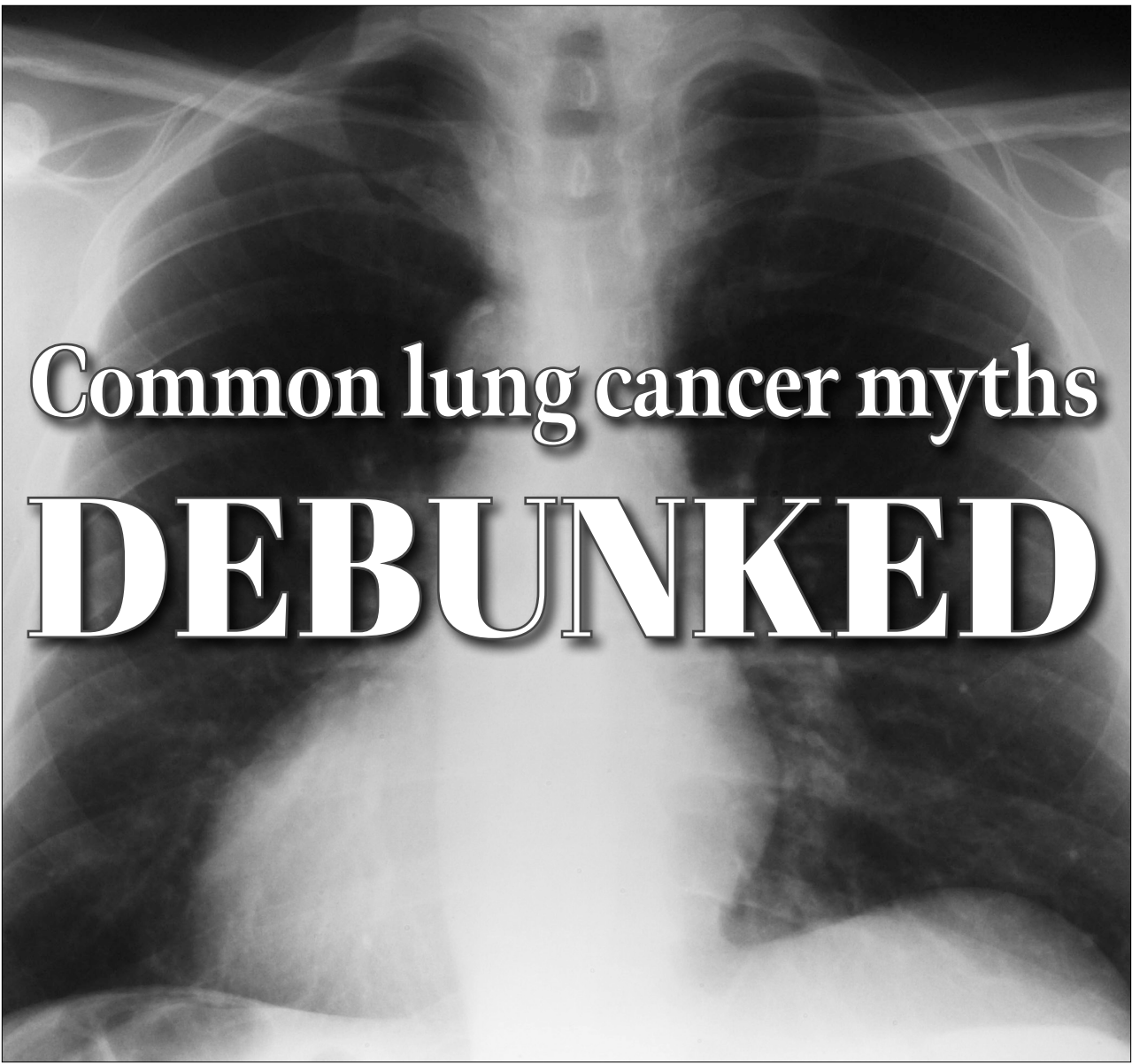
the total of all county residents employed or actively seeking employment — increased in October. That number was 52,047, which was up by 1,487 from 50,560 in September but down by 556 from 52,603 in October 2019. But initial claims for unemployment benefits in Newton County increased by 2.7% in October, from 2,122 in September to 2,179 in October. Statewide, initial claims were down 2.5% for the same period. When compared to the pre-pandemic period of last October, claims in Newton County were up by about 800%, according to GDOL. The GDOL's online job listing service at employgeorgia.com showed 442 active job postings in Newton County for October, the department release stated.

Piedmont Academy Robotics team earns third place in Alabama competition



Special to The Covington News
The Piedmont Academy robotics team recently competed in Montgomery, Alabama, in the "OutBreak" robotics competition. The PAC Robotics team placed third overall and won second place in Creative Design. Team members are Jessica McEwen, Taylor Boyd, T.J. White and Isabel White with team sponsor Ralph Hickman.

HEALTH & FITNESS



Common lung cancer myths DEBUNKED

Metro Creative Services

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

CONYERS, Ga. — Lung cancer causes more deaths than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined, according to the American Cancer Society. Yet, few are aware of the disease that is second only to heart disease as the largest killer in the United States.

Dr. Chandar Bhimani, medical oncologist at Piedmont Rockdale, debunks a number of myths about lung cancer.

1) Myth: Lung cancer only affects men. Lung cancer kills almost twice as many women as any other cancer. In fact, on average a woman dies every eight minutes in the U.S., according to the American Lung Association. Significantly, lung cancer diagnoses have more than doubled in women over the

past 30 years, highlighting the need to devote greater attention toward treating lung cancers.

2) Myth: If you don't smoke, you won't get lung cancer. Lung cancer doesn't discriminate. Smokers are at greater risk for developing lung cancer but non-smokers are not immune to the disease. There are a number of risk factors that put non-smokers at risk including exposure to secondhand smoke, radon, carcinogens and environmental pollution. According to the Lung Cancer Alliance, more than 17% of men and women with lung cancer have never smoked.

3) Myth: Lung can-



Chandar Bhimani

cer isn't treatable. There are treatment options for lung cancer, especially if it is caught early and contained within the lungs. Depending on the stage of cancer, treatment can include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and targeted therapies. In recent years, the five-year survival rate for early-stage lung cancer has increased to 60%.

4) Myth: Since fewer people smoke, lung cancer isn't as big of a health threat. Lung cancer is the most common cancer in the world. Here in the U.S., the American Cancer Society estimates there will be 228,820 new cases of lung cancer this year alone.

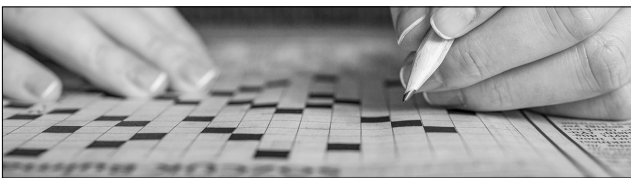
5) Myth: Lung cancer only affects older adults. While more than 80% of those living with lung cancer are over the age of 60,

studies show that the rate of lung cancer in young, non-smoking women is on the rise and has been for the past few years.

For more information on cancer treatment at Piedmont, visit www.piedmont.org/cancer. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bhimani, visit www.piedmont.org or call 678-750-2816.

Dr. Bhimani is a board-certified hematologist and medical oncologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and blood disorders. His special interests include treatment for breast, lung, colon, prostate, lymphoma and all other cancers. His office is conveniently located on the campus of Piedmont Rockdale Hospital.

Find benefits in crossword puzzles



Metro Creative Services

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Crossword puzzles are one of the most popular pastimes in the world. Crosswords are square grids made up of white- and black-shaded squares. The goal is to fill in all of the letters to form words and phrases that work both vertically and horizontally. The grid varies based on the country of origin. Certain grids also have 180-degree rotational symmetry so that the pattern appears the same if the paper is turned upside down.

Historians are uncertain about who created the world's first crossword puzzle, although it is believed to be something that originated in the 19th or early 20th century. Arthur Wynne, a journalist from Liverpool, England, published a word-cross puzzle in the New York World that had many of the features of the modern game, and the crossword is frequently attributed to Wynne.

Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.

- Improve vocabulary: Crossword puzzles introduce players to new words. And players may learn some interesting facts about various subjects simply by filling in crosswords correctly.
- Strengthens memo-

ry: The more frequently participants engage with word puzzles, the better they can perform tasks that measure attention, reasoning and memory, according to a study from the University of Exeter Medical School and Kings College London. The study found people who play crosswords have brain function equivalent to those 10 years younger than their actual age.

- Improve socialization: Crossword puzzles can help you connect socially with others who also play crossword puzzles. Solving a puzzle together as a group is a fine way to connect and meet new people.
- Help relieve stress: Crossword puzzles can engage the brain and mind, helping direct attention away from stressful situations. Crosswords also provide a way to relax and unwind.
- May help prevent brain diseases: According to the Alzheimer's Association, research indicates keeping the brain active seems to increase its vitality and may build reserves of brain cells and connections. In addition, those who keep their minds active may have lower amounts of a protein that forms beta amyloid plaques attributed to Alzheimer's disease.

Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

6 popular health-based resolutions to keep in mind

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Resolutions that focus on health and fitness are made each year. Numerous people are eager to lose weight, improve their physical fitness levels or even stop habits that can hinder their mental or physical wellness. As the new year ticks closer, individuals can explore these popular resolutions as they get on the path to better health.

1. Commit to quit. The American Cancer Society says about half of all Americans who keep smoking will die due to the habit. Smoking kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, guns, HIV, and illegal drugs combined. Smoking not only causes cancer, it also damages nearly every part of the body, including the bones, reproductive organs, mouth, skin, eyes, and blood vessels. Quitting can help reverse the effects of years of smoking.

2. Limit alcohol intake. The phrase "everything in moderation" applies to alcohol consumption. Excessive consumption of alcohol



Metro Creative Services

As "exercising more" is a popular resolution people commit to ahead of the new year, "addressing stress" is too. Left unchecked, stress can contribute to heart disease, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

can lead to liver and kidney damage. When these organs are not functioning properly, they cannot filter toxins out of the body, resulting in potentially irreparable damage. Resolve to cut down on alcohol consumption if you are drinking more than two

drinks per day.

3. Address stress. It's easy to underestimate the effects of stress on the mind and body. Left unchecked, stress can contribute to heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure, says the Mayo Clinic. Resolving

to reduce stress by adopting certain techniques can improve self-esteem and mood.

4. Exercise more readily. Physician Partners of America states that exercise can improve mood and sleep, help people control their weight, reduce the risk of


heart disease, improve bone and muscle strength, and potentially extend their lives. Resolving to exercise doesn't require drastic changes. Small steps can add up to big results.

5. Visit the doctor. Too often people put off going to the doctor until something is wrong with their health. It is much better to be proactive and avoid illness through testing and conversations with a physician. Doctors may be able to recognize symptoms and risk factors that could be indicative of future illness. Routine physical exams also will check cholesterol and glucose levels, monitor blood pressure and include other preventive care options.

6. Improve your diet. Eating more meals made at home and incorporating more fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean protein into your meals can improve overall health.

Healthy changes top the list of New Year's resolutions each year. Certain resolutions can greatly improve overall health.

Prep Hoops



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

Junior K.J. Reid (0) and the Redskins are positioned for repeat success following a breakout campaign last year.

‘Skins hoping to build off historic season

By DAVID JOHNSON
Correspondent

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Sending onto the court most nights a starting lineup comprised entirely of underclassmen, first-year Social Circle boys basketball coach Taylor Jackson wasn’t sure what to expect last winter.

Certainly, he didn’t expect a drought-busting campaign that positioned his program for a breakout season this year.

“I was nervous going in,” Jackson said. “We had lost three really tough seniors, but I knew we had a good sophomore class.”

Having spent the previous two seasons as an assistant with the team, the transition to a new coach was, as Jackson said “about as ideal of a situation as possible.”

And the year turned out beyond his wildest expectations. The Redskins won 21 games, played for a region title, and made the state playoffs for the first time in eight years.

See BUILD, A8



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

Kim Battle (left) was tabbed as head coach of the Social Circle girls’ basketball team last winter. Despite inheriting a depleted roster, she’s looking to promote growth for the program.

Second-year head coach eager to lead Lady Redskins

By DAVID JOHNSON
Correspondent

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Kim Battle picked a tough spot to begin her head coaching career.

A longtime assistant, she was hired to take over the Social Circle girls’ program last winter. It was an unenviable task.

The Lady Redskins hadn’t had a winning season in over a decade, their best record over that time in 2015 when they finished 13-13. They were perennial region cellar dwellers, having not won a league game in three of the

See LEAD, A8

Eastside Eagles 3, Southwest DeKalb Panthers 0

KICKED TO THE CURB

No. 2 Eastside knocks off No. 3 Southwest DeKalb in opening round

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Jaydon Fain has ice in the vein.

Eastside’s junior kicker drilled a 19-yard field goal as time expired to lift his Eagles to a 3-0 win over Southwest DeKalb at Sharp Stadium on Saturday night. The victory sent his club to the second round of the Class AAAAA state playoffs.

It was Fain’s second game-winner this season. He previously nailed a 36-yard field goal at the buzzer to take down rival Alcovy in September. Called on to be clutch once again, what was on Fain’s mind as he lined up on the left hash for the field goal attempt?

His teammates.

“I was just thinking about all my seniors,” Fain said. “I didn’t want them to be done yet, so I wanted to put them through to the second round of the playoffs.”

Eastside’s defense and special teams played pivotal roles in the club going 8-2 and earning a No. 2 seed in the postseason. Fittingly, it was those two units that ultimately came through against third-seeded Southwest DeKalb.

“Our defense was lights out,” Eastside head coach Troy Hoff said. “They don’t score, they can’t win. Our guys take a lot of pride in that.”

The Eagles pitched a shutout for the third time in their past four games. They’ve now allowed just 10 points over a five-game stretch since surrendering 35 points in a narrow loss at Region 8 champion Clarke Central.

Eastside’s defensive unit was dominant for four quarters, but perhaps their most important stop of the night



Anthony Banks | The Covington News

Eastside's Jaydon Fain (30) kicked a game-winning field goal from 19 yards out as time expired to put the Eagles over the Southwest Dekalb Panthers, 3-0, in the first round of the Class AAAAA state playoffs.

came with just over six minutes left in regulation.

Deep inside Eastside territory and driving, the Panthers moved into the red zone on a defensive pass interference call. Four plays later, facing a fourth down on the 11-yard line, sophomore quarterback Sabian Campbell took off toward the left sideline as the pocket collapsed around him. Campbell slipped inside the 5-yard line before a hit from Eastside junior Montarious Reed jarred the ball loose, leading to an Eagles’ recovery.

The sequence was critical because it not only kept Southwest DeKalb off the board, but also marked the last time the Panthers would advance past midfield.

Eastside later forced a punt, setting the Eagles up on their own 33-yard line with 1:46 to go. They proceeded to chip away with the ground attack, bleeding the clock while inching their way toward the red zone.

Eastside spent its final timeout with 0:02 left and the ball on the seven-yard line. Fain then appeared to nail a 24-yard field goal, but

an offsides penalty blew the play dead before the ball was snapped. Following another offsides penalty and a pair of Southwest DeKalb timeouts, Fain trotted back out onto the field to attempt the kick from 19 yards out.

And his leg kept his team’s season alive.

The Eagles and Panthers combined for five punts in the first quarter Saturday night.

Southwest DeKalb took over on its own 11-yard line with four ticks of the clock

See KICKED, A8

Piedmont to host state championship Friday

Cougars meet Thomas Jefferson in rematch of last year’s final

The Piedmont Academy football team will look to win its first state championship in almost a decade when the Cougars host Thomas Jefferson Academy on Friday.

It is a rematch of last year’s GISA Class A state championship, which was won by the Jaguars. Piedmont (6-3 overall) has already gained some measure of payback winning the 2020 regular season matchup 28-7 between the schools which allowed the Cougars to host this year’s title contest.

Despite the victory in the regular season meeting, Piedmont coach Will Johnson said he is expecting a much closer battle on Friday.

“It is going to be a fight until the end,” Johnson said. “We can’t expect to go in and win easily. This is going to be a war in every aspect.”

The programs have been familiar foes of late but the Cougar coaching staff is leaving no stone unturned in preparation for this contest.

“We have seen every film on them for the last three years,” Johnson said. “So



Special to The Covington News

Piedmont Academy takes on Thomas Jefferson for the GISA Class A State Championship on Friday.

many people are looking forward to this game. We expect a big crowd for both schools. It will be a great environment.”

The players in the trenches will be key for Piedmont. Center Mark Hicks, guards Ridge Stroud and Ryan Reeves along with tackles

Mason Tanner and Jackson Welch will help clear the way offensively for the Cougars. Welch is the lone senior up front.

Piedmont has amassed 3,000 yards of total offense in 2020.

“We couldn’t do it without our linemen,” Johnson said.

“They have really progressed during the season.”

Kickoff at Cougar Field is set for 7:30 p.m.

To read the full preview for Piedmont Academy’s big game, visit CovNews.com and follow @CovNewsSports on Twitter for game coverage.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Alcovy Tigers

#1 Danny Moore

Moore had a break-out game on the ground for the Tigers in the first round of the playoffs. He gashed the Brunswick defense with several impressive runs Friday.



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Eastside Eagles

#30 Jaydon Fain

Fain nailed a 19-yard field goal against Southwest DeKalb as time expired to send the Eagles into the second round of the state playoffs. It was his second game-winner this season.



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Newton Rams

#12 Darius Green

Green and the Rams put up their best effort to slow down a powerful Lowndes offense in the opening round Friday night.



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Social Circle Redskins

#10 Tucker Clearly

Clearly played an integral part in helping the Redskins make their first playoff appearance in 10 years on Friday night.

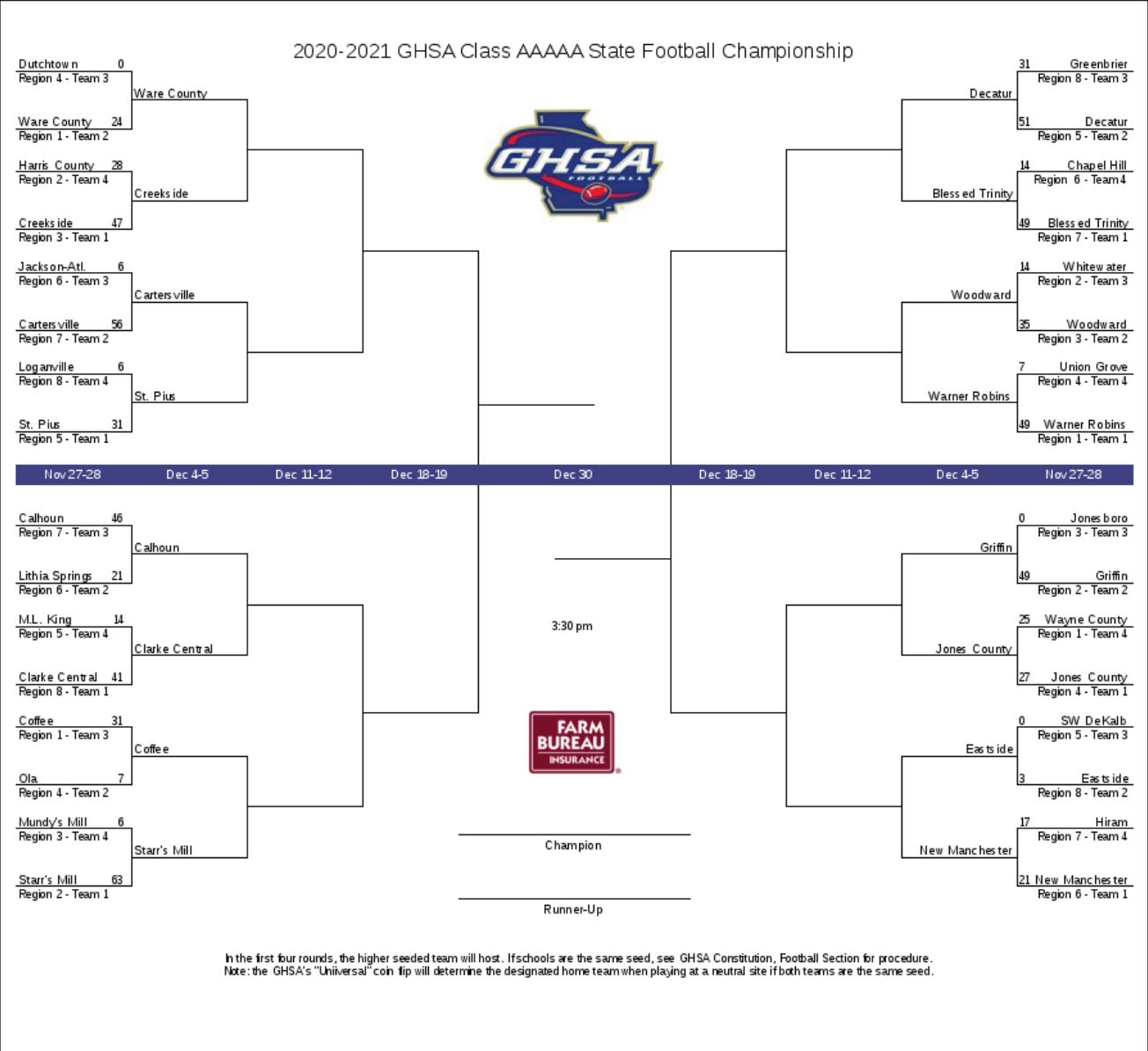


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KICKED:

Continued from A7

remaining in opening period. The club proceeded to grind its way down field, chewing up clock in the process as it drained more than 7 minutes of game time during the drive. It proved to be all for naught, however, as the Panthers threw an interception at the goal line.

A pair of Eastside punts bookended another Southwest DeKalb turnover to send the teams into the locker room locked in a scoreless draw. Three minutes into the third quarter, it appeared as though the Panthers had finally cracked the end zone. Campbell dropped back and unloaded a deep ball



No. 2 Eastside vs. No. 1 New Manchester
Classification: AAAAA
When: Friday, Dec. 5,
@ 7:30 p.m. ET
Where: New Manchester High Stadium in Douglasville, Ga.

to senior wideout Robert Grady, who trotted in unscathed for a 69-yard touchdown. Unfortunately for Southwest DeKalb, however, a holding penalty negated the big play and preserved the goose eggs on the scoreboard.

Eastside will travel to Douglasville on Friday for a second-round matchup against

top-seeded New Manchester. The Jaguars outlasted No. 4 Hiram, 21-17, in the opening round Friday night. New Manchester secured a No. 1 seed in the postseason by winning Region 6. The club posted an 7-3 record in the regular season, its blemishes coming at the hands of East Coweta (42-20) and Cedartown (24-0) before dropping an overtime thriller against region adversary Lithia Springs (20-14). For in-depth coverage of the second-round action, visit covnews.com and follow @CovNewsSports and @mason_wittner on Twitter.

BUILD:

Continued from A7

“We checked a lot of boxes and got a lot of ‘firsts’ out of the way,” Jackson said. “Now we want to raise the expectations at Social Circle. We want to be winning region championships and going deep into the state tournament.”

Such goals don’t seem so outlandish this season. After all, the Redskins return their entire starting lineup plus a few talented additions.

The backcourt might be the strength of the team. Back are a pair of first-team, all-region guards who combined to average 27 points a game.

Leading to offense will be junior point guard Tyrhell Branch, who averaged 15 points and was named pre-season all-state Class A. Joining him in the backcourt is junior shooting guard K.J. Reid, who scored 12 a game.

Returning at the forwards are juniors in Amaron Russell and Trey Douglas.

Douglas, who’ll open at power forward, is a big inside presence

who is a reliable rebounder who can also step out and hit an occasional three pointer. Russell, who’s the football team’s leading rusher, might be the best athlete on the team, according to Jackson.

The youngest starter will be A.J. Vincent at the post. The 6-foot-5 sophomore led the team in rebounding last year with seven a game. Jackson says he capable of averaging a double-double.

Despite the return of every starter, the Redskins could get off to a slow start since most of the team’s roster also play football. On the bright side, region play won’t begin until January, giving them time to assemble everyone and get up to speed.

If all goes well, Social Circle could check off a very big box this season: a region title for the first time since 1982.

The Redskins opened their season Tuesday, Dec. 1, on the road against Apalachee.



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune
Junior point guard Tyrhell Branch returns to lead the Social Circle offense after averaging 15 points per game last winter.

LEAD:

Continued from A7

previous eight seasons and more than three just once.

She inherited a roster so depleted that the Redskins began the season with a point guard who had never played organized basketball.

That the Lady Redskins won seven games, including three region contests, provided a ray of hope for a struggling program. Now in her second year, she’s hoping to build on last year. But if she’s nothing else, she’s realistic.

“We’re still very young and inexperienced,” Battle said. “Right now I’m just looking for growth. I’m hoping we can break .500.” On the bright side, she returns

her leading scorer and second leading rebounder in junior Taylor Favors. She averaged 11.7 points, the only player in double figures, and 5.2 rebounds.

Joining her in the back court is returner Tara Poole. A star on the school’s softball team, she took up basketball last year and proved a quick learner while earning a starting spot.

Ana Allen is the only other returner, although she’ll be back in a different spot. The 5-foot-8 forward will be moving to the post to replace Areonna Vinson, who averaged seven points and rebounds a game last year.

“Our focus this year is on improving our work ethic,”

Battle said. “We want to find our identity.”

What exactly that is remains to be seen.

“Our style of play will be determined by our personnel,” Battle said.

One promising development for the Lady Redskins is the drop in classification from AA to A. Two of their seven wins last year came against Lincoln County and Washington-Wilkes, both of whom are in Region 8-A public with Social Circle.

The Lady Redskins’ 2020-2021 campaign tipped off Tuesday, Dec. 1, on the road against Apalachee.

Dig into slice of Orange Spice Cake with berries perfect for holidays

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Preparing homemade cakes is an endeavor that families can enjoy together. Baking is a popular holiday tradition in many families, and few cake styles are as recognized as the Bundt cake.

The Bundt® pan was created in 1950 by H. David Dahlquist, the founder of the Minneapolis-based Nordic Ware kitchen products manufacturer. The shape was inspired by a traditional European cake known as kugelhupf. The design creates a hole in the center of the cake, which enables a heavy, dense cake to be baked without risk of the center being undone.

Many cakes lend themselves well to the Bundt form, and that includes this “Orange Spice Cake With Berries” from “Classic Stars Desserts” (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti.

- Orange Spice Cake with Berries**
Serves 10
- Cake**
Butter for the pan
3 tablespoons fine dried bread crumbs
3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1 cup milk
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice



Metro Creative Services

Few cake styles are as recognized as the Bundt cake.

- Grated zest of 2 oranges
3/4 teaspoon peeled and grated fresh ginger
8 ounces unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
3 large eggs

- Glaze**
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
1 1/2 teaspoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 pint raspberries (about 2 cups)
1 pint blueberries (about 2 cups)

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 10-inch Bundt pan and dust with the bread crumbs, tapping out the excess.

Sift together the flour, white pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, baking soda, and baking powder onto a piece of parchment paper or into a bowl. Add the salt and set aside. In a small bowl or measuring cup, stir together the milk, lemon juice, orange zest, and ginger and set aside.

Combine the butter and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the pad-

dle attachment and beat on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about three minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Reduce the speed to low and add the dry ingredients in three additions, alternating with the milk mixture in two additions, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients and mixing well after each addition. Spread the batter into the prepared pan.

Bake the cake until a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean, about 40 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes. Invert a platter on

top of the pan and then invert the plate and pan together. Lift off the pan.

To make the glaze: In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, orange juice, and lemon juice over low heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Brush the glaze on the cake. It will seem like a lot of glaze, but the cake will absorb it. Let the cake cool to room temperature. Slice the cake and serve with raspberries, blueberries and cream, if desired.

Bakers at home can experiment with other berries for the holiday season, such as sugar-dusted cranberries.

Get kids involved with holiday baking

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Many holiday traditions are centered around food, with much of the focus on all of the decadent treats and desserts taking center stage at many family gatherings.

Many parents hope to involve their children in as many family holiday traditions as they can. Holiday baking is one kid-friendly tradition, and parents can make it even more so by taking a few simple steps before they get started.

- Purchase kid-friendly baking equipment. Bakers rely on lots of tools to make cookies, cakes and other delicacies. That equipment is even available in kids’ sizes. Kids may



Metro Creative Services

Many parents hope to involve their children in as many holiday traditions as they can, and baking can be one of those.

be more excited about baking if they have their own equipment, and such gear also can

make it easier for them to lend a hand. A spatula made for youngsters can make it easier for

kids to move cookies from a baking sheet to a platter, while colorful measuring cups and

their own whisk can excite youngsters about baking.

- Plan ahead. Seasoned bakers know that it’s imperative to have the right supplies, including ingredients, on hand before beginning a baking session. That’s even more necessary when baking with kids, who might not be as patient as moms and dads hope if a baking session has to be paused to run to the store for a missing ingredient or to dig out some tools from the back of the pantry. Plan ahead by setting everything out and assembling all the necessary ingredients the night before you plan to bake.
- Delegate wisely. Young kids may want to do everything mom and dad do, but baking

is a delicate science that requires careful attention to detail and a strict adherence to recipes. So it’s important that parents delegate wisely when involving children in holiday baking. Whisking, stirring and topping off cookies with frosting and sprinkles are fun, kid-friendly tasks.

- Add some fun foods to the menu. If you plan to bake holiday cookies, purchase kid-friendly holiday cookie cutters before your baking session so youngsters have as much fun as possible. Kids may have more fun if they get to make Santa Claus, Frosty or Rudolph cookies.
- Make a mess. Don’t be afraid to get a little messy when baking with children. Moms and dads may love a clean kitchen, but kids tend to have more fun in the kitchen when things get a little messy. Douse each other with a little flour and make a joke of things if some ingredients find their way onto the counter or the floor instead of into your mixing bowl.

Parents can make the holiday baking that much more fun by letting their kids pitch in this year.



Have a recipe you’d like to share?

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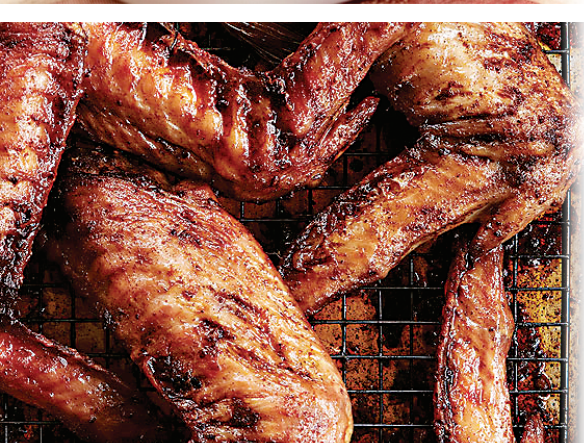
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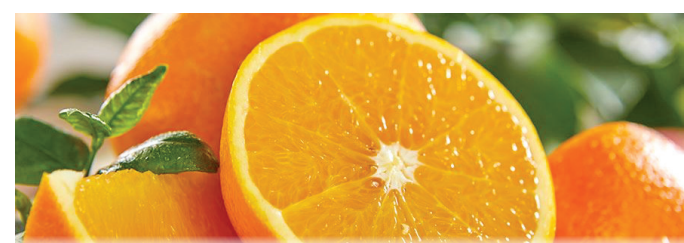
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