

The Covington News



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020



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\$1

SPORTS: LOOKING BACK

Sports Editor Mason Wittner begins review of area's top stories from 2020

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT Celebrate the perfect pairing

Take peanut butter, chocolate combo to new heights with decadent terrine



INSIDE:

Take peanut butter and chocolate combo to new heights with decadent terrine, See **FOOD B1**

His Word

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:9, KJV

Year in Review

2020 Rewind

The Covington News begins its review of Newton County's top stories and topics from 2020 ranked 6-10. Stories and topics ranked 1-5 will be published in the Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 2-3, 2021, edition of The Covington News.



File | Special Photo

Newton County school board members break ground for the new Eastside High School on Jan. 21, joined by the family of the late Almond Turner.

NCSS breaks ground on new Eastside HS

STAFF REPORTS news@covnews.com

Arguably one of the biggest events to take place in 2020 for Newton County Schools came early as district officials broke ground on the new Eastside High School on Jan. 21.

The site of the new school is located at 140 Georgia Hwy. 142 in Covington and is expected to accommodate approximately 1,650 students.

Aside from school administra-

tors and board members, the family of late school board member Almond Turner also attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

"Mr. Turner was a dedicated member of the Newton County Board of Education and he played an important role on our team," Newton County Schools Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey said. "He was actively involved in all of the discussions concerning the construction of the new Eastside High School, so it was very

important for us to include his family in the groundbreaking of the school. We were so happy to have them there to participate in his honor."

Total cost for the school's construction stands at \$59.48 million. The district, so far, has been billed for 21% of the cost (\$12.65 million). The school system purchased the 107-acre property it will set on for approximately

See **EASTSIDE, A8**

7 Economic development strong despite pandemic

STAFF REPORTS news@covnews.com

Newton County had a favorable year for economic development in 2020 despite the virus slowing the overall economy.

The year began with a coup of sorts for Newton County industrial recruiters.

German supermarket operator Lidl announced it planned to build a \$100 million, 925,000-square-foot distribution center and regional headquarters in Newton County for its expanding supermarket chain.

The center was to create 270 jobs when completed by 2022.

Gov. Brian Kemp made the announcement in early January after the company said it chose



Special to The Covington News

In September, Facebook announced it would add three more buildings to its Newton Data Center complex by 2023.

to build in Newton rather than its previously announced location in Bartow County.

Site work began later in the

year on land along I-20 in western Newton County at the Rockdale

See **STRONG, A8**

Newton County

Judges appoint Branche to lead Juvenile Court

By TOM SPIGOLON
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COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton's Superior Court judges have chosen a longtime prosecutor with "an extensive background in dealing with troubled youth" as the county's new Juvenile Court judge.

Candice Branche, who is currently an associate Probate Court judge, was appointed as Newton County Juvenile Court judge, Chief Judge John Ott announced Dec. 24.

State law requires the Alcovy Judicial Circuit's five Superior Court judges to make the four-year appointment of juvenile court judges in the circuit, which includes Newton and Walton counties.

Branche replaces Judge Jenny Simchick Carter, who was appointed on an interim basis until Dec. 31 after Judge Sheri

See **BRANCHE, A3**



Candice Branche

General Election Runoffs

Only two early voting days remaining

By TOM SPIGOLON
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COVINGTON, Ga. — Including today, Wednesday, Dec. 30, Newton County voters only have two more days of advance voting before Election Day for the U.S. Senate runoff elections.

About 20,600 — or 27% of all registered Newton County voters — had cast ballots through Monday, Dec. 28.

That total includes 7,300 absentee voters and 13,300 who cast ballots during the first 11 days of the in-person advance voting period before the Jan. 5 runoff election.

Locations for advance voting include:

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

Remaining days and times are:

- Dec. 30, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all locations.
- Dec. 31, times will be from 8 a.m. to noon at all locations except at the Administration Building, where it will be open until 5 p.m.

• No voting will be done on New Year's Day on Friday, Jan. 1.

The first week of in-person advance voting far exceeded the total who voted during

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Inside

Piedmont Academy football player participates in Gatlinburg All-American Bowl

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Chris Pittman

Weather

Wednesday, Dec. 30

High: 50°; Low: 42°

Mostly cloudy with up to a 40% chance of rain, per NWS



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Peggy Joanne Jaynes Moss Monroe

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SINCE 1865

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File | Special Photo

Pictured are Matt and Kristen Cooper, of Covington. Matt works for the Covington Police Department. He returned to duty in May just two years after being shot in the head.

Officer Cooper reports for duty

By MASON WITTNER
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COVINGTON, Ga. — Less than two years after being shot in the head while on duty, Officer Matt Cooper returned to work with the Covington Police Department.

Cooper's life was forever altered on the afternoon of Sept. 3, 2018, when he responded to a call at the Walmart on Industrial Boulevard. While in pursuit of a shoplifting suspect, he suffered a gunshot wound to the head. The bullet clogged his carotid artery, clotting his blood and ultimately preserving his life while also causing a brain injury.

Following a multitude of operations and months of intense therapy, Cooper was officially cleared to return to duty for the CPD.

In preparation for a press conference via

Zoom on Thursday, May 21, Matt Cooper sat on a black couch beside his wife, Kristen. Seated beneath a black and blue flag emblazoned with '148' — Cooper's badge number — in white, the Coopers expressed to reporters how excited they are for Matt to be back at work.

"I've been doing therapy for like a year and a half now, so to mix it up a little bit and be able to say I'm going back to work — even though it's not full duty yet, but just being in the atmosphere — it felt really good," Matt said. "It was like going back to school again."

Officer Cooper was first assigned to the CPD's Support Services department and helped out on the administrative side. While he's made immense physical progress, he admitted that he still frequently

finds himself struggling with mental fatigue.

"Every day that passes is taxing on my mind," Matt said. "I don't know the right way to put it, but just trying to stay awake with a traumatic brain injury is my biggest challenge yet."

Kristen opened up about the "whirlwind of emotions" she and her family had faced over the past 20 months, likening their journey to riding a roller coaster.

"Some moments we have are really good, and we're like, 'Yes! We've got this.' And then others, it's like, 'OK, what just happened?'" she said. "I think we've kind of learned to acclimate to each situation."

After being shot on Labor Day in 2018, Officer Cooper — a six-year veteran of the CPD at that time — was life-flighted to WellStar

Atlanta Medical Center and spent over a week at Grady Memorial Hospital before transferring to Shepherd Center in Atlanta for rehabilitation. On Dec. 19, 2018, he graduated from the Shepherd Center's inpatient brain injury rehabilitation program and returned home for the holidays.

In the months that followed, as he continued his recovery and rehabilitation process through occupational, physical and vision therapy, Matt noted that he found personal strength through a renewed relationship with God.

"There were many days I was broken during my recovery," he said. "I just didn't think I could do much more, mentally and physically. So I broke down and starting praying again and renewed my faith in God."

He also thanked the CPD and local community for their willingness to jump in and support him in numerous ways throughout his journey.

"The community really stuck behind me in this whole process," Matt said. "I was not able to take care of my family, but guys came by, cut our grass and helped us with stuff. Just being there as another support really helped me out, and I'm proud of that."

Asked if this week had been a target date for Matt to make his return, he and Kristen both said they didn't have a set date in mind. However, Matt was eager to get back to work.

Kristen was initially apprehensive about Matt returning to the line of duty, but was overwhelmed with joy when she saw how happy her husband was to report to the CPD on Monday.

"I definitely had some fears about him returning to work because for the past 20 months, my role has been to really be a protector of him. Whether it be his medical treatment, or his emotional health," she said. "I've had to learn to kind of change my mindset also and know that he is going to make mistakes, and it's OK. We can pick ourselves back up from them."

Friday, May 22, was Matt Cooper Day in Georgia, a proclamation from Gov. Brian Kemp's office that was first announced May 2019.

9 Rallies of summer



File | The Covington News

Rallies were held often at the Covington Square over the course of 2020 concerning topics including police brutality, Black Lives Matter and the Confederate monument located on the Square.

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Odds were good that weekend visitors to the Covington Square in June and July would stumble across any of a number of events in which organizers aired their opinions about recent governmental actions on the local and national levels.

If there was a central theme to all the events — organized by local residents on opposite ends of the political spectrum — it was an emphasis on letting their voices be heard at the polls in the 2020 elections.

Mostly young people turned out in Newton County to protest during three June events in the weeks following the now-infamous May 25 death of an unarmed Black Minnesota man at the hands of police.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, who died after being

restrained by officers, touched off months of protests in some U.S. cities — including Atlanta where downtown landmarks like the CNN Center and government buildings were vandalized over the course of months.

In Newton County, two Eastside High School graduates organized separate, peaceful protest marches and demonstrations in June in and around the Covington Square to air their concerns and emphasize the need for voting in the year's elections.

Timothy Birt, a 22-year-old graduate of Eastside High School, said he felt led to organize a peaceful protest following a prayer session June 3.

Birt urged those in attendance to remain nonviolent and express their frustration through words rather

See RALLIES, A8

OBITUARY

Peggy Joanne Jaynes Moss

Peggy Joanne Jaynes Moss, 87, of Monroe, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospice House in Watkinsville.

Peggy was born in Porterdale, to the late J.T. and Ruth (Harrison) Jaynes. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband Jack W. Moss and sister Betty Faith Jaynes. Peggy graduated from Newton County High School in 1950 and went on to attend Crawford W. Long School of Nursing from 1950-1954. She worked for Newton County Hospital for 30 years and then became a Director at St. Mary's Hospital for 20 years, where she established the patient guest relations program. Peggy gave over 50 years to the healthcare industry. She was an avid Georgia Bulldog fan and raised many English bulldogs over her lifetime, leaving behind her last one, Dooley. Peggy was a member of First Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Peggy is survived by her son and daughter in law Jack "Jay" and Donna Moss, grandson Chad (Amanda) Folds, granddaughter Shelley (Kiley) Dillingham, 5 great grandchildren, Grace, Emma, and Jaxson Folds, and Hayden and Macy Dillingham, several nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends. A visitation was to be held Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 from 12-1:30 p.m. at Wheeler Funeral Home in Covington. Immediately following the visitation there will be a commitment service at Lawnwood Memorial Park with Reverend Dr. Phil DeMore, Reverend Royce Stowe, and Reverend Lamar Holly. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to be made to: Friends of Porterdale, Inc. Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. Please understand we will be following the State's COVID guidelines. We also ask all guests and family members attending visitations and services to please bring and wear a mask and you are encouraged to practice social distancing. Those who are unable to attend we understand, and appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Guest may sign the online register at www.wheelerfuneralhome.com.



The Covington News
will be closed December
31st and January 1st to
celebrate the New Year.

Happy New Year
Everyone!

The Covington News

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File | Special Photo

A joint state and local water rescue team works to find two drowning victims Aug. 11 in the Alcovy River at Factory Shoals Park.

Disasters strike across Newton

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

The calendar year of 2020 hasn't been kind to many people across the nation with much of the blame being pointed toward COVID-19. However, the novel coronavirus wasn't the only resemblance of disaster to strike in Newton County.

First responders rescue six from flood waters

Members of the Covington/Newton County Dive Team waded through icy and rising flood waters from the Yellow River on Friday, Feb. 7, to rescue six people trapped in their homes at the Riverside Estates Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Park on the Access Road in Covington.

Newton County Fire Battalion Chief Joe Cagle said firefighters were dispatched to the park on a report of a person trapped in a camper. While authorities were on the scene, more people were reportedly trapped.

Newton Fire Lt. Tim Martin and Fire Apparatus Operator Bret Madsen donned dry suits and using a boat rescued the initial victim before conducting a door to door search of the flooded area. No injuries were

reported.

One of the rescued victims, Billy New, said of the firefighters, "They did a great job."

According to Newton County Emergency Management Agency Director Jody Nolan, the team is made up of public safety personnel from Covington and Newton County and is funded by the EMA.

Two drown in Alcovy River

A Covington resident's efforts to save his girlfriend's son from drowning Tuesday, Aug. 11, ended tragically for both in the Alcovy River.

Members of a local and state water rescue team recovered the bodies of Covington residents Antonio Perry, 38, and Dejerain Grier, 14, from the river adjacent to Factory Shoals Park in south Newton County.

Family members reported the two missing Tuesday night after both went under the water around 7 p.m., said Sheriff Ezell Brown.

"(Responding deputies) were told the teenage son had gone out swimming and the teenage son appeared to have gotten in a ... challenging mode with the waters," Brown said.

Perry then went out into the

water to rescue the teen "and he was succumbed by the waters, as well," Brown said.

Media reports said family members had gathered at the park for a day of fun and relaxation. The mother of Grier and girlfriend of Perry, Tonya Hardeman, also was there, Fox5 News reported.

Brown said the group had been "to another area and they left that area and they chose to come to this last area where they were all together again."

"They were just going to enjoy, have fun," he said.

The Newton-Covington Dive Team was called in to search after the incident occurred but called off their efforts because of darkness Tuesday night.

The team resumed its search Wednesday and found Perry Wednesday afternoon but ended the search because of heavy thunderstorms, said spokeswoman Caitlin Jett of the Newton County Sheriff's Office.

The team then resumed the search of the river Thursday morning, Aug. 13, and found Grier, Jett said.

Brown said he wanted the families of the victims to know

See STRIKE, A8

BRANCHE:

Continued from A1

Roberts died April 25.

"We cannot thank (Carter) enough for the job she did," Ott said.

Carter had been an associate Juvenile Court judge before her appointment to replace Roberts, who was the circuit's first female jurist when appointed in 2009.

Branche earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's degree in community counseling, both from the University of Georgia; and her law degree from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law.

She directed youth and adult programs in two states, including working as director of needs assessment for the Palmetto Lowcountry Behavioral Health and Charter Greenville Behavioral Health in South Carolina, and CPC Parkwood Hospital in

Atlanta.

In South Carolina, she operated a school daycare center and oversaw a 15-person staff in a program for underprivileged children that allowed them to attend private daycare, Ott said.

Branche worked in the Newton County District Attorney's office for nine years as an assistant DA in the Juvenile Court and as the deputy chief assistant DA in Superior Court. She has served as an associate judge in Newton County Probate Court since August 2019.

The Alcovy Superior Court judges also reappointed Walton County Juvenile Court Judge Stan Rhymer to serve another four-year term. Rhymer has worked as Juvenile Court judge in Walton since 2004.

Juvenile courts in Georgia have original jurisdiction over cases involving delinquent

children under the age of 17 and deprived or unruly children under the age of 18, according to the court's website.

They also have jurisdiction over minors committing traffic violations or enlisting in military services, consent to marriage for minors, and cases involving the Interstate Compact on Juveniles — which regulates the movement across state lines of juveniles under court supervision, the website stated.

Juvenile courts and superior courts share jurisdiction in cases involving capital felonies, custody and child support cases, and in proceedings to terminate parental rights.

The superior courts have original jurisdiction over those juveniles who commit certain serious felonies, the website stated.

EARLY:

Continued from A1

the first week before the Nov. 3 General Election that included the hotly contested presidential race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Phil Johnson, chairman of the Newton County Board of Elections, has said he was happy the board decided to approve an additional two locations for advance voting the second and third weeks.

He said he believed the election's national prominence, combined with voter enthusiasm that carried over from the General Election, is helping drive the relatively heavy turnout for a runoff election.

"I thought it was going to happen," he said of the turnout.

The Newton County elections

office also has seen a relatively high number of absentee ballots so far, Johnson said.

It had received 7,320 absentee ballots through Dec. 19, which is nearly half of the total received throughout the Nov. 3 election. Updated totals were unavailable before deadline.

Election officials statewide were allowed to begin processing absentee ballots for the runoff Dec. 21.

The election has received national attention because victories by challengers Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock would give Democrats a one-vote majority and shift the balance of power in the U.S. Senate.

More than 1.3 million Georgians already had voted through

Dec. 19, news reports said.

About 54,000 — or 69% of Newton County's 79,000 active registered voters — cast ballots in the Nov. 3 General Election that included the two U.S. Senate races.

Georgia law says a runoff between the top two vote-getters in each of the Nov. 3 Senate races must be conducted Jan. 5 to determine the winners after none of the candidates won majorities of votes cast in their elections statewide.

Of those who participated, 15,585 (29%) voted absentee, 20,867 (38%) voted in-person during the three-week advance voting period, and 18,015 (33%) voted in-person on Election Day.

Community Calendar

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

• New Year's Day! The Covington News, like other area businesses and government offices, will close Dec. 31-Jan. 1 to allow its staff to observe the holiday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 5

• Election Day for the 2020 General Election Run-offs. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ONGOING

• 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 Hulgán at foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org to sign up.

• 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.

Send your event announcements to news@covnews.com.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEALTH CARE

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Now hiring CNA, PCA, homemakers, full time, part time and PRN positions for areas in Newton, Rockdale and other surrounding counties.

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Tom Spigolon news editor

Trump’s presidency to end in ironic fashion

Isn’t it ironic? Looking back at 2020, I recall President Donald Trump referring to U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah as a “loser” who, as the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, couldn’t even defeat a sitting president in the midst of a bad economy. The most openly sensitive president in modern history tweeted his opinion after Romney became the only senator of a president’s own party in history to vote to convict him on impeachment charges in February. How ironic, then, that Trump just lost an election he was positioned to win in a landslide against an apparently weaker opponent — pandemic or no pandemic? All Trump had to do was exhibit some national leadership on COVID-19. He could have heroically led us out of this pandemic by merely following a pandemic “playbook” his administration already had



access to. He could have boosted his image and re-election prospects while helping the rest of us by leading the economy back to some semblance of pre-pandemic normalcy. Instead, he politicized the pandemic and played the victim — he was always being criticized by the “fake news” media after all — and sought to divide individual states in their efforts to defeat the virus. When Barack Obama left office in January 2017, the economy was growing at a 2.3% clip after emerging from the deepest recession in generations. Trump inherited the ongoing economic growth of the previous administration and was overseeing a slightly higher 2.5% annual increase in his first three years, according to the BBC. Even with an impeachment trial in January that everyone knew was doomed to failure — the Republican-led Senate voted to acquit him — Trump could keep boasting about the economy on Twitter and the numbers would back him up. But gathering dust

on a shelf somewhere in the White House was the playbook the U.S. wrote on how to effectively deal with a pandemic — just as a pandemic was brewing in China. The 69-page document was written by members of the Obama administration in 2016 after they saw how badly some countries dealt with the Ebola outbreak in 2014. It laid out the decisions to be made and agencies to be mobilized in a health disaster, according to a report from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. “Throughout its pages, the document stressed the need for an early public health response coordinated by the federal government” and was designed “so there wasn’t piecemeal thinking when trying to fight the next public health battle,” said one former official who contributed to the playbook in a story published by the online news outlet Politico. Trump’s homeland security adviser, Tom Bossert, even expressed enthusiasm about its potential as part of a broader strategy for the

incoming administration to fight pandemics, two former officials told Politico. But Trump was focused as ever on his image and worried about such inconsequential things as the size of the crowd at his inauguration. He apparently believed anything the Obama administration passed on to his administration had no value. As a result, other countries have done far better at dealing with the pandemic and did far less harm to their economies than the U.S. did. Taiwan, for example, did not record a single locally-transmitted case of COVID-19 for more than eight months before early December. Soon after dealing with its first case, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told his country’s citizens that fighting COVID “means fighting the enemy.” Posters from the government stated “to stay home is to love your country.” By contrast, Trump sent out tweets urging governors to “LIBERATE” and lift the stay-at-home orders three weeks into the lockdowns of Michigan,

Minnesota and Virginia, the Milwaukee newspaper reported. “While leaders of other countries united their citizens behind the idea of collective sacrifice through lockdowns and other measures, U.S. leaders, especially the president, politicized the pandemic. When Americans most needed to pull together, they slipped deeper into bitter polarization.” It also noted in the October news story that Trump “routinely dismissed the advice of his own health experts, downplaying the severity of the pandemic” and admitted to journalist Bob Woodward that he downplayed it to avoid triggering panic. With no national leadership or single response, governors like Brian Kemp were left to fend for themselves and compete against other governors for scarce PPE. As a result, Kemp and other governors had to deal with the disease — and often constant criticism from a president who should have taken responsibility — the best they could. In my view, Kemp inherited a mess and has helped bring Georgia’s

economy back in better fashion than other states, giving us a comparatively lower jobless rate than many despite increasing infection rates in recent weeks. As a result of a lack of national leadership, the American economy could require years to rebound while other, better-prepared countries require far less time. These are countries, like Nigeria, that we’ve historically looked down on for their public health practices. But their willingness to sacrifice for the greater good, rather than not taking it seriously, left them with COVID death rates that in some cases were 10 times lower than the U.S. He’s done his best to politicize a tragedy that’s resulted in 335,000 Americans dead from his “China virus.” Mr. Trump, it’s time to go and make way for someone who is serious about trying to lead us out of the mess you helped cause.

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

David Carroll columnist

More clichés to consider striking

Once wrote about the clichés we used in TV news. Oh, I still hear them every night. I even slip up and use them myself now and then. Whenever I say “Police are literally combing the area for clues,” or “The



investigation is continuing,” I want to smack myself. Now I’m working on eliminating some other clichés from my daily conversations. This is even harder. I have come to realize, if I cut out all the clichés, I may have very little left to say. For instance, “At the end of the day.” I’m not sure of the exact time that takes place, but I

think it’s around “When all is said and done.” How about, “To be honest,” or even better, “I’m not gonna lie to you.” Does this mean I shouldn’t believe anything you’ve said up until now? I’ve needled some of my school principal friends about their favorite phrase. Apparently you can’t be a principal until you’ve mastered the phrase, “At this time.” As in, “Students, at this time we are all going to the gym.” It isn’t an official order unless you say, “At this time.” I once complained to a co-worker that I felt like “a red-headed stepchild.” She quickly pointed out that not only did she have red hair, but yes, she was also a stepchild. I just seem to have a gift for making small talk. I never know quite what to say to console someone when they’re feeling down. I once told a friend, “Don’t worry, life is a marathon, not a sprint.” He said, “That’s not much of a choice. Either one would wear me out.” Later in the conversation I told him, “Just

let me know if there’s anything at all I can do for you.” Without missing a beat, he replied, “Absolutely. You can paint my house.” How about when someone rattles on for a while, then says, “Does that make sense?” I guess I could respond with an equally inane cliché like, “I hear what you’re saying.” Together, we have proven only that he speaks somewhat sensibly, and I don’t need a hearing aid. There are other phrases we use that are basically time fillers. “I’m just sayin’!” (Yes, we heard you say it). “I say that to say this.” (So, why didn’t you just say “this” in the first place?) “Now this is just ME talking.” (Yep. There’s no one else around). “It’s neither here nor there.” (But it has to be somewhere, right?) Plus, my personal favorite, “Needless to say...” (So don’t say it.) I have also noticed that when someone says, “To make a long story short,” the story is about to get much longer. If you ever listen to a coach or athlete being

interviewed, you can count on these clichés: “It is what it is.” (So, what is it exactly?) Just once, when a reporter says, “Was this a big win?” and the athlete responds by saying, “No question,” I wish the reporter would say, “Uh, yes it was a question. Could you please answer it?” You see it in ads too. How about, “New and Improved!” (It has to be one or the other, it can’t be both). “It’s a new beginning!” (Ever seen an old beginning?) And, “We’re thinking outside the box!” (Has anyone ever seen that box?) In a recent help wanted ad, the employer told applicants to be prepared to answer questions about their “past history.” Believe me, that is so much easier than talking about your future history. How about, “Pre Planning”? Does that mean you have to plan to plan? When someone tells me, “I just can’t wrap my head around that,” I have to firmly agree. Sometimes folks will mix up their clichés, and make an even better one. There was this

one guy who was trying to say, “It’s not rocket science,” but he got it confused with, “It’s not brain surgery.” He ended up saying, “It’s not rocket surgery!” Remember when you would see someone face to face, and actually talk to them? In 2018, that just won’t do. Now you must “reach out.” As in, “Could you reach out to the preacher to see if he likes dumplings?” I want to say, “He lives right across the street. Don’t reach out. Just holler at him!” How about these annoying clichés? “Well, personally, I think...” (Well, I figured it was you, since you’re the one who’s talking.) And, “I can’t EVEN!” (You can’t even what? Finish a sentence?) I’ll close with this. You’ve probably heard someone say, “He made his bed, now he has to sleep in it.” That one is true. And it usually happens, “At the end of the day.”

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. He may be reached at ra-diotv2020@yahoo.com.

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

WILLIE HENDON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
VIVIAN HERNDON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV2476-Z

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: VIVIAN HERNDON
P.O. BOX 171
LITHONIA, GA 30058

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **DECEMBER 7, 2020** you are hereby notified that on **DECEMBER 10, 2020** (date of filing) **WILLIE HERNDON** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

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

THIS, THE 17th day of **DECEMBER 2020**.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117721
12/30,01/3,6,10

Foreclosures

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 **Carol P. Prendergast** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., As Grantee, As Nominee For Market 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 the 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 Fairview Estates Subdivision, as per 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 in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

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. 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.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS CERTIFICATE 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

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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

UNDER POWER NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Thomas E. Hooks and Teresa M. Hooks** to Mortgage 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 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 been given).

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 30016**.

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. Hooks.

BROCK & Scott, PLLC
4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road
SUITE 310
ATLANTA, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S FILE no.: 15-17945

PUBLIC NOTICE #117609
12/9,16,23,30

Public Notice

GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY - Newton County has been awarded Federal Funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) /Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP).

NEWTON COUNTY has been chosen to receive \$39,444.00 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; The Jewish Federations of North America and, United Way Worldwide. The Phase 38 Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A LOCAL Board made up of Representatives from County Government, The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army,

Newton Senior Services, the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Faith Community, and the United Way will determine how the funds awarded to Newton County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

UNDER THE terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

NEWTON COUNTY has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, the Community Food Pantry, FaithWorks, Project ReNeWal, Newton Senior Services, the local St. Vincent de Paul Society and Rainbow Shelter participating.

PUBLIC OR private voluntary agencies interested in applying for these Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds may request an application by emailing your request to: faithworksinc@bellsouth.net

The deadline for completing and returning the application is 12:00 pm on January 29, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117735
12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE: Covington-Newton County Communications is proposing to build a 200- Foot Monopole Tower located at 835 GA County Road 162, Covington, Newton County, GA 30016 (33° 32' 43.14" North and 83° 54' 46.40" West. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: J.Ivey, Terracon, 2105 Newpoint Place, Suite 600, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, 678-564-0568 or joann.ivey@terracon.com

PUBLIC NOTICE # 117736
12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE: Covington-Newton County Communications is proposing to build a 200-Foot Monopole Tower located at 720 FFA FHA Camp Road, Covington, Newton County, GA 30014 (33° 26' 03.15" North and 83° 49' 56.76" West. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: J.Ivey, Terracon, 2105 Newpoint Place, Suite 600, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, 678-564-

0568 or joann.ivey@terracon.com
PUBLIC NOTICE # 117737
12/30

Public Sales Auctions

AUCTION FOR a
2006 DODGE Ram 1500 Sit
5.7L, V8, Gas, VIN 2, Des EZB, 16V,
OHV, USA/Canada
VIN:1D7HU18216S678567

12/31/2020 @5AM
LOCATION 3114 GearHeadz
Automotive Repair
3114 EMORY Street NW, Covington
Ga 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE 117715
12/23,30

NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property Georgia Self Storage Act (210-215) Extra Storage Rental Spaces is hereby given that the under- signed self storage units will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, in their entirety to the highest bidder, on or after January 15, 20210 to satisfy the lien of the Lessor, Extra Storage Rental Spaces Terrell Management LLC, for rental and other charges. The auction will be held at 11471 Brown Bridge Road Covington, GA 30016 and will begin on January 15, 20210 at 10:00 AM for the following units: unit 28 Orlando Durden, unit 27 Joannes Williams, unit 46 Chelsea Withrow, unit 509 Donna Garrett, unit 88 Tashanna Williams, unit 605 Beverly Hull, unit 57 Tamara Hinson, unit 45 Darryl Bailey. The contents consist of general household goods, furniture, boxes, and miscellaneous items. The terms of the sale will be cash only and must be paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is. Extra Storage Rental Spaces reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner of auction completion.

PUBLIC NOTICE # 117734
12/30,01/6

Trade Names

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **BRIAN HOUSTON**., whose address is 10295 FLAT SHOALS RD, COVINGTON, GA 30014 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 10295 FLAT SHOALS RD, COVINGTON, GA 30014 in the following trade name, to-wit: SIGNAL 88 SECURITY OF SE ATLANTA and that the nature of said business is: SECURITY INVESTIGATION AND PATROL SERVICES.

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 16 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117717
12/23,30



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Year in Review



The Piedmont Academy Lady Cougars captured a GISA Class AA State Championship this year, the school's second in program history.

File | Special Photo

Lady Cougars win GISA Class AA state title

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

The Piedmont Academy fast-pitch softball team can now say “mission accomplished.” The Lady Cougars (18-3-1) swept Briarwood Academy 7-1 and 10-5 in the GISA Class AA state cham-

pionship series in Dublin last week for the second state championship in program history. Piedmont went undefeated in the postseason and stopped a strong Lady Buccaneer team. “This has been a season to remember for sure,” coach Joe

Johnson said. “This group of young ladies have worked very hard since the third week of June and they definitely earned this state championship. I couldn’t be any prouder of them for it.”

7 Rams upset Brookwood for 2020’s game of the year

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

Upset complete. Hosting previously unbeaten Brookwood at Sharp Stadium for Senior Night, Newton entered Friday night’s contest as a considerable underdog on paper. The Rams were undeterred, however, as they powered their way past the Broncos for a 28-16 win to apply the first blemish to Brookwood’s record. The victory put an end to a three-game skid for Newton, improving the club to 3-3 overall and 1-1 in Region 4-AAAAAAA play. Brookwood fell to 6-1 and 0-1 in the region. The script of the game was flipped on three consecutive plays in the third quarter. Clinging to a 7-2 lead at the break, the Rams began their first drive of the second half on their own 7-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, junior quarterback Jevarra Martin Jr. connected with senior Nyland Green, who showed off his wheels on his way to the end zone for a 93-yard touchdown. Following the ensuing kickoff, Newton sophomore defensive lineman Justin Benton powered his way into the backfield and pummeled the quarterback, forcing a fumble. The Rams recovered the ball on the Brookwood 15-yard line, seizing both possession and momentum.



Newton defeated an unbeaten Brookwood on Senior Night, Oct. 30, by a stunning score of 28-16. The Rams were considered underdogs prior to the contest.

File | The Covington News



Prep Football

Pittman competes in All-Star game



Special to The Covington News
Piedmont Academy standout quarterback Chris Pittman recently competed in the Gatlinburg All-American Bowl.

By CHRIS BRIDGES
Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — Piedmont Academy senior Chris Pittman competed one more time during 2020 as part of an All-Star showcase last weekend in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Pittman, who helped guide the Cougars to back-to-back state runner-up seasons, was the starting quarterback for his team which featured players from Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama. “It was a tremendous honor for him to be the starter for his team with so many talented players,” Piedmont Academy head football coach Will Johnson said. The standout senior eclipsed 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards passing during the 2020 season. “The Gatlinburg All-American Bowl was an awesome experience,” Pittman said. “I got to play with some of the best players from the Southeast. It was fun to meet new people. I’m very thankful for my coaches at Piedmont and at the All-American game. It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience.” Pittman was All-Region and All-State this fall and was named to the annual GISA All-Star game although that event was not played due to COVID-19 concerns. Johnson said Pittman is currently monitoring college options where he hopes to continue his athletic career. The coach said the senior should have a decision ironed out by late January or early February.

Prep Hoops – GHSA Rankings, Wk. 6

Girls' Basketball Class AAAAAA	9. Warner Robins (6-1)
1. Collins Hill (7-0)	10. St. Pius X (7-0)
2. McEachern (6-3)	
3. Woodstock (6-2)	Class AAAA
4. Cherokee (12-1)	1. Jefferson (7-1)
5. Campbell (6-1)	2. Troup County (4-2)
6. Parkview (6-2)	3. Luella (9-1)
7. North Forsyth (8-1)	4. Carver-Columbus (4-2)
8. Marietta (5-4)	5. Marist (8-1)
9. Grayson (4-3)	6. McDonough (5-0)
10. Archer (8-3)	7. Spalding (7-1)
	8. Baldwin (5-0)
Class AAAAAA	9. Arabia Mountain (2-0)
1. Westlake (6-0)	10. Cedar Shoals (5-2)
2. Lovejoy (7-2)	
3. Kell (6-0)	
4. Carrollton (8-1)	
5. Buford (5-0)	
6. Langston Hughes (7-1)	Class AAA
7. Sprayberry (6-2)	1. Johnson-Savannah (5-0)
8. Rockdale County (6-2)	2. Cross Creek (4-1)
9. Johns Creek (7-4)	3. Lumpkin County (7-3)
10. Heritage-Conyers (6-2)	4. Coahulla Creek (9-1)
	5. Stephens County (5-1)
Class AAAAA	6. Beach (5-2)
1. Forest Park (5-1)	7. GAC (2-3)
2. Woodward Academy (4-1)	8. Upson-Lee (5-0)
3. Southwest DeKalb (5-1)	9. Gilmer (5-0)
4. Cass (9-0)	10. Douglass (4-2)
5. Hiram (7-1)	
6. Loganville (8-1)	Class AA
7. Maynard Jackson (5-2)	1. Early County (2-0)
8. Griffin (6-2)	

See RANKINGS, A7

8



File | The Covington News

Dyke joined the triple century club in September after pedaling 309.3 miles, with 11,108 feet of elevation climbing, in under 24 hours.

Mr. 300: Inside the cyclical life of Jeremy Van Dyke

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

It's a Friday afternoon in September and Jeremy Van Dyke is sprinting down a path on his bicycle.

He reaches the bottom of a hill and stops to check his watch. He sees he shaved a few seconds off his time, prompting a ride to the top for another attempt. He races back down the strip of concrete.

Even his behavior is cyclical. Van Dyke finds himself

on Cricket Frog Trail on this particular Friday afternoon for a scheduled photo shoot with *The Covington News* following a milestone achievement. But right now, he's not thinking about getting his picture taken for the newspaper. In fact, he's not thinking about much of anything other than competing against himself to beat his personal record on that slope.

It's not that he doesn't value other things in life; when Van Dyke mounts his bicycle, he

simply allows everything else to melt away. The lens through which he sees the world suddenly shrinks to the size of the reflective sunglasses he's wearing as his wheels spin along the pavement.

This is his escape.

Dyke joined the triple century club in September after pedaling 309.3 miles, with 11,108 feet of elevation climbing, in under 24 hours.

9 Eagles swim to historic season

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

What a year it was for the Eastside High School swim team.

Under the guidance of second-year head coach DeAnna O'Brien, the Eagles produced the most successful season in program history this winter. After winning a regular-season meet for the first time ever in 2018, they raised the bar during their 2019-20 campaign by earning five first-place finishes. They then capped off the year by sending 10 qualifiers to Georgia Tech for the state meet — nine more than they

sent a season ago.

Making such a monumental leap in just a one-year span is no small task. So, how did the Eagles accomplish the feat?

"We redesigned the entire program and the atmosphere," O'Brien said.

"A big thing this year was teaching them how to be a team and what it meant to be a team, and that swimming is a team sport," she continued. "If you're here to be for an individual, you do not need to be a part of this team. It is a team sport and that's what we're about."



Special to The Covington News

Eastside's swim team had a historic season in 2020, including five first-place finishes and 10 swimmers representing the Eagles at the state level.

10 Ashton Hagans signs with Minnesota Timberwolves

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

Former Newton High School standout Ashton Hagans signed an undrafted free agent deal with the Minnesota Timberwolves following the completion of the 2020 NBA Draft on Wednesday.

The news was first reported by NBA Insider Shams Charania of *The Athletic*.

Hagans spent two seasons playing for head coach John Calipari at the University of Kentucky.

As a freshman guard, he appeared in 37 games and averaged 7.7 points, 4.3 assists, 2.6 rebounds and 1.6 steals per contest. He was named the 2019 Southeastern Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year alongside LSU's Tremont Waters.



Special to The Covington News

Former Newton Rams standout Ashton Hagans signed with the Minnesota Timberwolves following the 2020 NBA Draft. He spent two seasons at the University of Kentucky.

RANKINGS:

Continued from A6

2. Rabun County (6-0)
3. Woodville-Tompkins (8-0)
4. Elbert County (5-0)
5. Washington County (3-0)
6. Josey (2-3)
7. Heard County (9-1)
8. Dade County (3-1)
9. Dodge County (6-1)
10. Banks County (9-5)

Class A-Private

1. St. Francis (7-2)
2. Holy Innocents' (2-2)
3. Mt. Paran (8-1)
4. ELCA (6-0)
5. Hebron Christian (8-2)
6. Galloway (9-0)
7. Wesleyan (3-0)
8. Greenforest (4-3)
9. Calvary Day (6-1)
10. Tallulah Falls (7-3)

Class A-Public

1. Calhoun County (3-0)
2. Greenville (2-0)
3. Turner County (7-0)
4. Lake Oconee Academy (8-0)
5. Clinch County (0-1)
6. Trion (6-2)
7. GMC (4-1)
8. Wilcox County (1-0)
9. Pelham (2-0)
10. Dooly County (2-1)

Boys' Basketball

Class AAAAAA

1. Milton (8-2)
2. Grayson (9-3)
3. McEachern (8-2)
4. Pebblebrook (10-2)
5. Berkmar (9-3)
6. Cherokee (10-2)
7. Newton (6-4)

8. North Gwinnett (7-4)
9. Discovery (10-2)
10. Denmark (7-4)

Class AAAAAA

1. Wheeler (9-2)
2. Kell (7-2)
3. Evans (8-1)
4. Shiloh (7-1)
5. Richmond Hill (8-0)
6. Centennial (7-2)
7. Chattahoochee (6-1)
8. Lanier (6-3)
9. Allatoona (9-3)
10. Tucker (6-2)

Class AAAAA

1. St. Pius X (8-0)
2. Eagle's Landing (10-0)
3. Tri-Cities (7-3)
4. Veterans (5-0)
5. Woodward Academy (5-0)

6. Forest Park (4-0)
7. Jonesboro (7-0)
8. Lithonia (5-1)
9. Griffin (7-1)
10. Dutchtown (6-4)

Class AAAA

1. Spencer (4-0)
2. Baldwin (4-0)
3. Luella (11-1)
4. Fayette County (5-6)
5. Monroe (5-1)
6. Westover (4-1)
7. Miller Grove (2-2)
8. Stephenson (1-1)
9. Jenkins (6-4)
10. Bainbridge (2-1)

Class AAA

1. Sandy Creek (5-3)
2. Johnson-Savannah (6-0)
3. Hart County (7-1)

4. Windsor Forest (2-0)
5. Salem (4-1)
6. LaFayette (4-0)
7. Cross Creek (6-3)
8. GAC (3-4)
9. Southeast Bulloch (3-2)
10. Monroe Area (5-4)

Class AA

1. Pace Academy (9-1)
2. Swainsboro (5-1)
3. Lovett (4-3)
4. Washington County (3-0)
5. Columbia (3-2)
6. Woodville-Tompkins (7-1)
7. Westside-Augusta (8-1)
8. Thomasville (5-1)
9. Banks County (8-4)
10. Chattooga (5-2)

Class A-Private

1. Greenforest (2-2)

2. Mt. Pisgah (7-2)
3. St. Francis (4-3)
4. Providence Christian (8-2)
5. Galloway (6-0)
6. Trinity Christian (5-5)
7. St. Anne-Pacelli (2-1)
8. Holy Innocents' (3-1)
9. Walker (7-0)
10. Tallulah Falls (6-2)

Class A-Public

1. Drew Charter (9-0)
2. Hancock Central (0-0)
3. Dublin (8-1)
4. Lanier County (5-2)
5. Towns County (4-0)
6. Turner County (6-2)
7. Chattahoochee County (2-0)
8. Manchester (2-1)
9. Calhoun County (1-1)
10. Warren County (4-1)

EASTSIDE:

Continued from A1

\$727,600. The facility is currently expected to be finished and ready for students by January 2022.

During a Newton County Schools Board of Education meeting held in November, Project Manager Jeff Prine delivered a progress update, as well as a financial update on the facility. The project was about 40 days behind as of August due to massive amounts of rain in early spring.

“(The delays were) primarily tied back to the wet weather we had in early spring and all summer,” Prine said. “But since August, we’ve been able to work with the contractor to make up about a week of that time, and they’ve been working on the week-ends. They brought in extra crews, and in all, they’ve been working longer days. So they really are doing their job trying to make up days, and we’re confident that we’ll be able to continue making progress to get those days back so we can get back on schedule.”

He reported 99% of site grading and utilities, and under slab utilities were finished. Approximately 95% of drives and parking were wrapped up, including the clearing and grading of the school’s entrance off U.S. Hwy. 278. The construction of arched culverts for the entrance was just getting underway.

“They’ve done an extensive amount of work in putting road control measures in to make sure that you don’t have any kind of sediment down in the stream area,” Prine said of the entrance construction.

On-grade concrete was 95% completed, as well as structural steel erection for the school’s lower building, Prine reported. Only 10% of the structural steel had been erected for the upper building.

Sports fields, including football, track, baseball, softball and practice fields, were 85% complete, he said. The fields are currently getting sod, irrigation and fencing installed. Prine said workers had also started paving the track.

Prine expected the lower building roofing and drives and parking to be completed in December.

RALLIES:

Continued from A2

than physical actions. He also emphasized the importance of voting and called for unity.

Three days later, fellow Eastside graduate Kalene Heilesen, 19, organized a demonstration against police brutality in America and encourage the community to unite behind the Black Lives Matter movement.

Hundreds of protestors showed up on the Covington Square to march around

sidewalks, lying facedown for eight minutes and 46 seconds — the amount of time a police officer kept his knee on Floyd’s neck before he died — and chanting, “I can’t breathe.”

Birt then organized a third demonstration but connected it to the annual June 19 celebration of Juneteenth in Covington.

The event was the first to feature participants walking

along downtown streets and brought a heavy police presence to protect both marchers and speakers on the square, officials said.

About 200 Black and white attendees walked along Brown, Clark, Church and Ivy streets chanting slogans like “Black Lives Matter” before giving prepared and impromptu speeches about their experiences with other races and law enforcement at

the Covington Square.

The following month, organizers of another series of events took on a different topic: the proposed removal of a century-old Confederate memorial statue from the park in the middle of the Covington Square.

(Editor’s note: The week-end edition will recount the issue surrounding the statue’s removal, which we ranked No. 2 in our 2020 Rewind.)

STRIKE:

Continued from A3

“that they have our greatest sympathies for their loss — especially during these times.”

He noted concerns about COVID-19 had forced changes in how funerals are conducted.

“Any time is a bad time, but these times are unprecedented times that you do not have the opportunity to really mourn and cannot have a traditional funeral,” Brown said. “It’s tough, and I want the families to know that.”

The Dive Team is a joint effort of the Newton County Sheriff’s Office, Newton County Fire Services, Covington Fire Department, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, and Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Jett said.

Park apartments at 2140 Conyers St. and found the air conditioning unit caused sprinklers to turn on and cause extensive water damage in a third floor hallway, said Donnie Tudor, deputy chief of operations for the department.

Two Newton County Fire Department units assisted city firefighters in responding with two ladder trucks, two engines, a rescue squad unit and two battalion units. No injuries were reported.

Tudor said the American Red Cross assisted the displaced residents by finding overnight housing at an area motel.

Tornado hits Covington homeless shelter

Director Clara Lett stood outside what was left of the Rainbow Community Shelter building Monday morning.

She said she had been in the shelter’s doorway five minutes before a tornado hit the building without warning two days earlier.

“I’d just drove off and got around that corner and they said a tornado had hit,” she said.

The National Weather Service reported a tornado touched down in Covington

and ran for about 1.4 miles Saturday, Oct. 10.

Police reported it uprooted some trees but only caused one minor injury — to a volunteer at the homeless shelter when the tornado hit the building off Turner Lake Road about 5:15 p.m., said Covington Police spokesman Capt. Ken Malcom.

The EF-1 tornado was tracked from Washington Street and Walker Bend Parkway to Woodhaven Drive near I-20 in western Covington, according to the National Weather Service.

An EF-1 has estimated wind speeds of 73 to 112 mph, according to the NWS.

The tornado downed trees along its path, including in the area of Brown Bridge Road and Turner Lake Road near the Rainbow shelter, a local official said.

Downed trees also caused some power outages in western Newton County, Snapping Shoals EMC reported.

The storm was the remnants of Hurricane Delta that struck the coast of Louisiana and prompted several tornado warnings across Georgia.

STRONG:

Continued from A1

County line.

Lidl already employed 150 in stores in metro Atlanta and Augusta and operated 85 stores in nine eastern states.

In May, a series of announcements began that boosted companies and projects near the county’s industrial center centered around Alcovy Road and I-20.

Mytex Polymers US Corp. announced it planned to make a \$7 million investment to expand its Newton County facility on Alcovy Road. The expansion will create 15 jobs.

Funcster, a long glass reinforced injection molded grade polypropylene, is the main Mytex product from Covington. It’s used for structural applications in automobiles or in conjunction with other materials such as PVC.

The company will build a new production line in its existing 140,000-square-foot space.

In June, the long-planned Covington Town Center saw the first of three announcements of hotels and apartments proposed for the 160-acre master planned development.

Covington Town Center has been in the works since 2016 on Alcovy Road at City Pond Road. Ground-breaking took place in early 2018 and was planned to include apartments and townhomes, office space, retail stores and restaurants.

On June 11, a division of Starlight Hotel Group LLC, announced it planned to invest more than \$32 million to build a six-story, 123-room Residence Inn and a six-story, 99-room Courtyard by Marriott employing a total of 150.

A 113-room Staybridge Suites Hotel was announced in September after Covington Partners LLC announced it was planning the \$19 million investment, which will employ 40. Early 2022 was the targeted opening date.

A groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 17 for the Cove at Covington Town Center marked

a major milestone in development of the project’s residential component.

The Cove is planned as a 26-acre, \$57 million apartment complex that will provide 350 “Class A” apartments starting in 2022.

In a separate development near Covington Town Center, film production support company Cinelease announced in early July it would join forces with Three Ring studios to create Cinelease Studios – Three Ring on Ga. Highway 142.

The 250,000-square-foot studio and production facility covers 160 acres and includes sound stages, stage support space, offices, mill space and hundreds of parking spaces.

Studio operators announced in October they were open for bookings as film productions began to start again after shutting down in March because of the pandemic.

Cinelease is a veteran film production support company providing lighting and sound equipment, among other services.

Plans for Three Ring were first announced in 2017 and construction finally began two year later in October 2019.

In September, Facebook announced it would add three more

buildings to its Newton Data Center complex by 2023.

Combined with two buildings now under construction, it will give the social media company a total of five buildings with 2.5 million square feet and represent a total \$1 billion investment.

The social media company announced in 2018 it would begin construction on the first two buildings. It will include 970,000 square feet and employ about 50 when completed in 2021 in the Stanton Springs business park in northeast Newton County.

The additional buildings it announced in September will comprise nearly 1.5 million square feet and employ more than 200 for Facebook, officials said.

Work on the facility also has resulted in construction jobs for between 1,000 and 1,200 workers, said Katie Comer, community development regional manager for Facebook.

Also in September, General Mills announced it planned to add 40 jobs and boost production of its Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal at its newly expanded Covington facility at 15200 Industrial Park Blvd. NE.

The expansion project will help General Mills increase capacity and efficiency for producing one of the best-selling cereals in the U.S., Cinnamon Toast Crunch, at the Covington Plant.

The plant opened in 1989 and also is near the county’s industrial center surrounding Alcovy Road near I-20.

The Covington plant employs about 400 and is responsible for producing several varieties of cereal and snack products, the release stated.

On Nov. 24, FiberVisions announced it planned to invest \$48 million to expand its manufacturing operations and add 21 jobs at its Newton County plant in response to demand for hygiene products related to the pandemic.

Installation of the bicomponent fiber line is expected to be complete by the first half of 2021. Once renovations are complete, FiberVisions will be hiring for positions in advanced manufacturing.

The company, which is a subsidiary of Thailand-based Indorama Ventures Public Co. Ltd., employs about 230 at the Alcovy Road plant in Covington it has operated for 53 years.



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Celebrate the perfect pairing

Take peanut butter, chocolate combo to new heights with decadent terrine

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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Few dessert pairings are as beloved as chocolate and peanut butter. These are strong flavors that are coveted on their own, and especially so when eaten together. When packed in a decadent terrine, peanut butter and chocolate take indulgence to new heights. Whether hosting a gathering at home or preparing a dessert for family, this recipe for “Chocolate-Peanut Butter Terrine with Sugared Peanuts” from “Classic Stars Desserts” (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti is sure to please. For best results, use chocolate with 58 to 62 percent cacao, rather than a chocolate of higher percentage.

Chocolate-Peanut Butter Terrine with Sugared Peanuts
Serves 8

Terrine
11 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
1 ounce unsalted butter
6 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
4 large egg yolks
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 3/4 cups whipping cream

Glaze
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
2 1/2 ounces unsalted butter
2 teaspoons light corn syrup

Sugared Peanuts
1 large egg white
6 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 1/2 cups unsalted peanuts



Metro Creative Services

To serve, transfer the chocolate-peanut butter terrine to a serving platter and arrange the sugared peanuts on top. Cut the terrine with a hot, dry knife.

Directions:
Spray an 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-by-2 3/4-inch loaf pan with non-stick spray. Line the sprayed pan with plastic wrap, allowing a 1 1/2-inch overhang on all sides.
In a stainless-steel bowl, combine the chocolate, butter, and peanut butter. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water, making sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water. Heat, stirring occasionally, until the chocolate and butter melt. Remove from the heat and whisk until smooth.
Combine the egg yolks and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whip attachment and whip on high speed until thick, about 1 minute. Remove the bowl

from the mixer stand. Using a wooden spoon, stir in the chocolate mixture in three equal additions. The mixture will be quite thick.
In a separate bowl, whisk the cream until it starts to thicken. Using a spatula, fold the cream into the chocolate mixture in 4 equal additions. Spread the batter in the prepared pan. Cover with the plastic wrap overhanging the sides and refrigerate until firm, at least four hours.
To unmold the terrine, fold back the plastic wrap and invert the pan onto a wire rack. Pull on a corner of the plastic wrap to release the terrine from the pan. Lift off the pan and carefully remove the plastic wrap. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and place the rack on

it. Return the terrine to the refrigerator while you make the glaze.
To make the glaze, in a stainless-steel bowl, combine the chocolate, butter and corn syrup. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water, making sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water, and heat, stirring occasionally, until the chocolate and butter melt. Remove from over the heat and whisk until smooth. The glaze should be pourable but not so thin that it will run off the terrine. If the glaze is too thin, let it sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes.
Slowly pour the glaze evenly over the top of the terrine, allowing it to stream evenly down the sides. With

an offset spatula, spread the glaze to cover the terrine smoothly and completely. Refrigerate until the glaze is set, about 30 minutes.
To make the sugared peanuts, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, whisk the egg white until frothy. Whisk in the sugar. Add the peanuts and mix until they are evenly coated with the mixture. Spread the peanuts in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet and place in the oven. Toast the nuts, stirring them every five minutes, until dry and golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.
To serve, transfer the terrine to a serving platter and arrange the sugared peanuts on top. Cut the terrine with a hot, dry knife.

Vegan appetizer that appeals to the masses



Metro Creative Services

Having a series of tested recipes on hand can fulfill a variety of needs when having people over for dinner parties or informal gatherings.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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The holiday season is a time when people open their homes to family and friends. Having a series of tested recipes on hand can fulfill a variety of needs when having people over for dinner parties or informal gatherings. This recipe for “Creamy Cashew Spread” from “Vegan Cooking for Beginners” (Publications International Ltd.) by the editors of Publications International can meet various dietary needs, making it an ideal addition

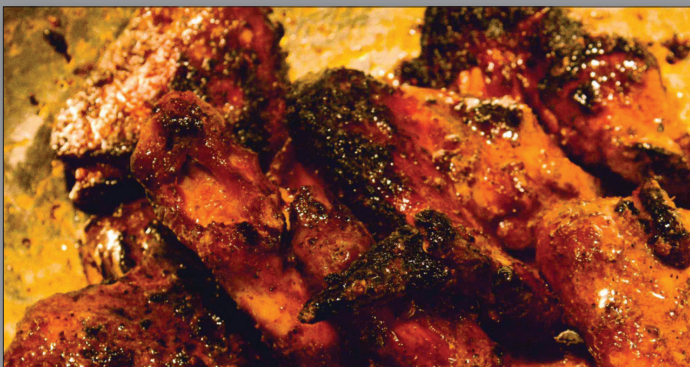
to the menu when hosting guests. Although a vegan recipe, it certainly can appeal to any guest who appreciates tasty dips and spreads.

Creamy Cashew Spread
Makes about 1/2 cup

Ingredients:
1 cup raw cashews
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon tahini
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 teaspoons minced fresh herbs, such as ba-

sil, parsley or oregano (optional)
Assorted bread toasts and/or crackers

Directions:
Rinse cashews and place in a medium bowl. Cover with water by at least 2 inches. Soak 4 hours or overnight. Drain cashews, reserving soaking water.
Place cashews, 2 tablespoons reserved water, lemon juice, tahini, salt, and pepper in food processor or blender; process for several minutes or until smooth. Add additional water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until desired consistency is reached.
Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Stir in herbs, if desired, just before serving. Serve with assorted bread toasts and/or crackers.
Tip:
Use this dip as a spread for sandwiches or as a pasta topping. Thin it with additional liquid as needed. You can also use it in place of sour cream as a topping for tacos and chili.



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.

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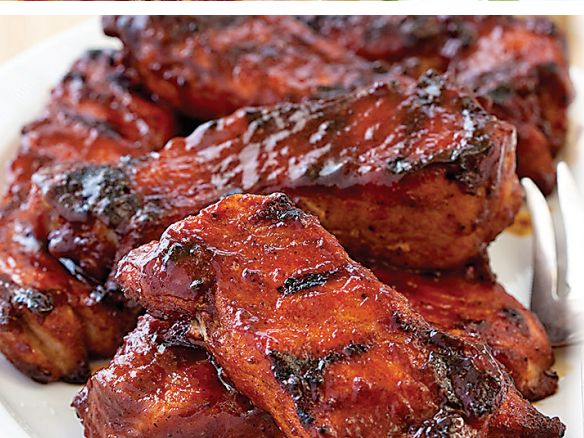
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