

The Covington News

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021



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1865

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SPORTS:

BENTON BIDS FAREWELL

Newton football star announces decision to transfer to new school

See A8

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local issues at
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INSIDE:

Try a different take on classic spaghetti, see **FOOD B1**



His Word

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20, KJV

Newton County Schools

District kicks off 150th anniversary celebration

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — As Newton County has kicked off its bicentennial celebration, the county's school system will soon commemorate its 150th anniversary. Newton County Schools students and employees began celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the district Monday, Feb. 1, officials announced. Special videos, proclamations

See CELEBRATION, A7



Samantha Fuhrey



Special to The Covington News

From left, Michael Green and Newton County resident Bob Mackey pitch their product to members of the 'Shark Tank' panel at the Las Vegas studio.

‘Yono’ for everyone?

Newton resident pitches germ-reducing product on ‘Shark Tank’

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A Newton County resident and his business partner believe they have a good idea for a product to keep items relatively secure and germ-free in public places.

Now, the world will see if the “sharks” on ABC-TV’s “Shark Tank” are willing to take them to the next level of production.

Bob Mackey and his partner, Decatur resident Michael Green, will pitch their product called the Yono Clip to the group of famed investors Friday, Feb. 5.

Taping of Friday’s episode was done in September — meaning they went from a rough idea for a product to taping “Shark Tank” with a working clip in about seven months.



Special to The Covington News

The Yono Clip is designed to hold up to 15 pounds.

Mackey, who is CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia, said he cannot disclose what action the “sharks” took

before Friday’s episode airs but he has told some of his club’s members that “all your goals are in reach” with the right amount of

effort.

Green said he hoped their experience would prove to be an example for others, as well.

“You can have the greatest idea but if you don’t take action it will just stay an idea,” he said.

The Yono Clip is a product designed with a flat suction device on one side and a foldable clip on the other to allow the user to hang items up to 15 pounds — allowing a small purse or bag to be hung from a table rather than place on the ground.

“Shark Tank” features a panel of millionaires who hear pitches from entrepreneurs seeking investors for their products. The panelists often pick apart the

See ‘YONO’, A3

Volume 156, No. 10



Inside
\$4.6 million bid
approved for more
landfill space

See A3

Weather

Wednesday, Feb. 3
High: 50°; Low: 26°
Sunny.



Thursday, Feb. 4
High: 55°; Low: 43°
Partly sunny.



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SINCE 1865

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Newton County

Authority approves \$4.6M bid to create more landfill space

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The board that operates the Newton County landfill has approved a bid from a familiar source to create more space and extend its life.

The Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority voted to accept a \$4.6 million bid from Peed Brothers Inc. to add a new cell to the landfill on Lower River Road south of Porterdale.

A landfill “cell” is an area designed with extra features such as a rubber lining to stop water runoff from polluting the surrounding environment.

The new cell will add about 740,000 cubic yards of volume and almost seven years of additional life to the landfill, officials have said.

County Solid Waste Manager Kevin Walter told Authority members Jan. 21 they will be asked to approve a contract with Peed Brothers at their February meeting — after which they can proceed with construction if approved.

The Authority will use a \$3 million loan it received from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) in 2020 for part of the funding for the new cell.

It will pay back the loan — which has a 1.44% interest rate — from user fees, officials said in June.

Authority members also must consider if they want to borrow the remaining \$1.62 million from GEFA or use money from cash reserves for the balance, said Curtis Reynolds of Harbin Engineering.

Walter told the Authority the staff may recommend seeking an additional GEFA loan for the remainder because it likely will include a relatively low interest rate. The department is working to build up its cash reserves, he said.

The Newton County landfill once ran at a deficit in recent years and the county government was forced to spend money from its General Fund to keep it operating before the Authority began overseeing it.

Peed Brothers, based in Butler, Georgia, already is doing work to move garbage from an older part of the landfill that does not have a rubber lining installed, to a lined area of the Lower River Road landfill.

A lining will then be installed in the older part by 2022 when the newer part is expected to be at capacity, officials said.

Rubber linings around the bases of new landfills stop wastewater from running off and polluting lakes, rivers and groundwater.

Operators in many areas of the U.S. in the past formerly routinely allowed their landfills to pollute nearby water sources with water runoff, or burned garbage to create serious air pollution.

The federal government began enforcing more stringent environmental standards in the later decades of the 20th century and imposed hefty fines on operators for violating them.

In other action at the Jan. 21 meeting, the Authority

voted to delay action on a request by Walter for using about \$833,000 in Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenues to buy a tracked shredder for the landfill.

The machine can be used to extend the life of the landfill by shredding mattresses, furniture, tires and yard waste to reduce the amount of space needed for them, Walter said.

However, some Authority members said they wanted to see if alternatives were available because it could be prone to maintenance problems and the benefits may not be worth the cost.

The Authority also voted to elect Kent Campbell its 2021 chairman and County Commissioner Ronnie Cowan its vice chairman.

COVID-19 variant up to 19 identified cases across Georgia

By BEAU EVANS

Capitol Beat News Service

Nineteen cases of a highly contagious COVID-19 variant originating from Europe have been identified in metro Atlanta, state public-health officials confirmed on Monday.

Early studies suggest the COVID-19 variant is “significantly more contagious” than the original coronavirus strain that sparked a global pandemic last March, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

Georgia is among 30 states reporting cases of the variant so far.

The 19 variant cases

in Georgia have been reported in several metro-Atlanta counties including Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Cobb, Clayton, Cherokee, Carroll, Douglas and Paulding. It has infected Georgians from ages 15 to 61, DPH said in a news release.

“We must ensure we are taking every precaution right now to prevent transmission of COVID and to avoid a surge in hospitalizations and loss of life,” said state Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey.

Toomey added the COVID-19 variant now spreading in Georgia will likely become the

“dominant strain” of coronavirus in the U.S. by March after originating in the United Kingdom.

DPH officials are warning Georgians to follow COVID-19 safety measures even more strictly since laboratories have only tested a small number of samples for the variant so far, giving public-health experts a limited view of where the variant might be spreading.

Public-health officials are urging Georgians to wear masks, wash hands and social distance to help curb the highly contagious virus’ spread at a time when COVID-19 positive

case rates and deaths have started trending down after grueling winter outbreaks.

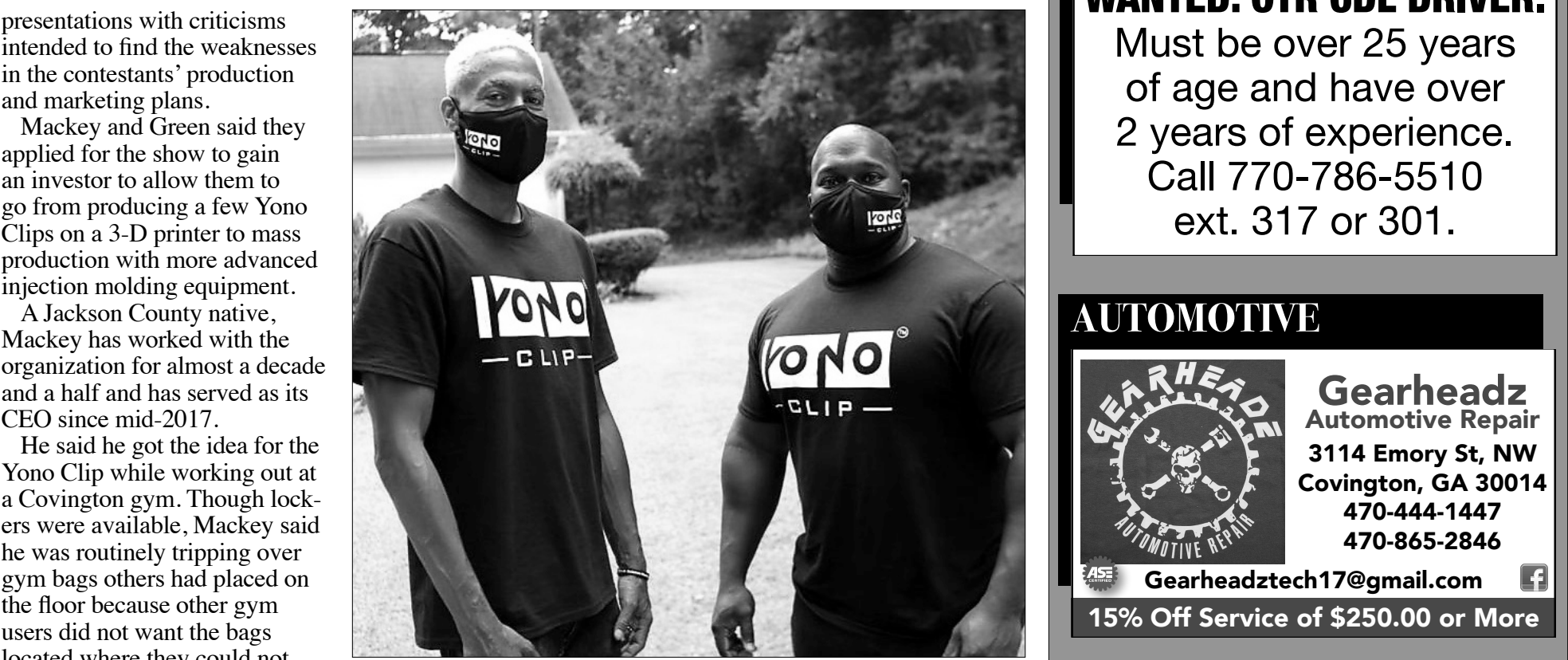
The variant’s discovery in Georgia also comes as state officials, hospitals and pharmacies rush to distribute tight supplies of COVID-19 vaccines to health-care workers, nursing-home residents and staff, first responders and people ages 65 and older.

Pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna have stressed that their COVID-19 vaccines “appear to work” against the variant, according to DPH.

The virus has killed 12,600-plus Georgians.

'YONO':

Continued from A1



Special to The Covington News

From left are Michael Green and Newton County resident Bob Mackey, inventor of the Yono Clip.

presentations with criticisms intended to find the weaknesses in the contestants’ production and marketing plans.

Mackey and Green said they applied for the show to gain an investor to allow them to go from producing a few Yono Clips on a 3-D printer to mass production with more advanced injection molding equipment.

A Jackson County native, Mackey has worked with the organization for almost a decade and a half and has served as its CEO since mid-2017.

He said he got the idea for the Yono Clip while working out at a Covington gym. Though lockers were available, Mackey said he was routinely tripping over gym bags others had placed on the floor because other gym users did not want the bags located where they could not see them.

He said he drew the rough design of the product on a napkin and eventually asked friends on social media if they were in position financially to work with him on producing what would become the Yono Clip. Only Green answered the call, Mackey said.

Green, meanwhile, is the president of Science for Everyone, which offers science-based presentations for a wide range of groups including schools and youth organizations.

He said he answered the call to Mackey in late February 2020 — a few weeks before many parts of Metro Atlanta and the rest of the U.S. began shutting down as a safety precaution against the coronavirus.

“My income literally went to zero,” Green said. “It gave me more time to focus on Yono.”

The shutdown allowed the duo to work on refining the product’s design and ultimate

production. Green and Mackey bought two 3-D printers and went to work on a prototype.

After some months of testing and design, they used the 3-D printers to begin slowly producing small batches of their product.

They then appealed to the public with a Kickstarter campaign and raised almost \$8,000 in 24 hours, Mackey said.

Then, after contacting producers in an effort to appear on “Shark Tank,” the duo was chosen to be among the few to travel to Las Vegas to pitch their product on the show out of about 40,000 applicants annually, according to information from the show’s producers.

Mackey said the pandemic “brought to the forefront” how people need to protect themselves and be cognizant of the numerous surfaces where germs

may live.

He said he and Green are not claiming their product will keep items germ-free, but less likely to pick them up from some of the most germ-filled surfaces on the floors of places like gyms or restaurants.

The episode is scheduled from 8 to 9 p.m. on WSB-TV Channel 2, according to the station’s online TV listings.

Mark Cuban, Kevin O’Leary, Lori Greiner, Barbara Corcoran and Daymond John were set to be the “sharks” on this episode.

Mackey and Green will appear on the same episode with Florida siblings promoting what they believe is a way to prevent drink “spiking”; a Brooklyn woman with “guilt-free” vegan treats; and a Colorado entrepreneur with an eco-friendly skiing product, according to the show’s producers.

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David Carroll columnist

Be more like Walter Cronkite

Being a news guy is a weird occupation these days. When I got into the profession back in the '80s, there was no Twitter, no Facebook, and very few cable TV channels. It would be a while before some "news" channels went way left, and others went way right.



Walter Cronkite had just retired a few years earlier, and he had not reached the saintly status his name invokes today.

Almost every day, someone attacks me, or pretty much any news person because we have reported a story they don't agree with, or one that doesn't echo their views. They usually say, "The news ain't been worth a (flip) since Walter Cronkite! Y'all tell everyone how to think, but he kept it right down the middle!"

First off, this is ironic, because the complainer obviously wants us to tell the news only from the side he or she prefers. This is nowhere near "right down the middle."

Secondly, and I hate to break this to you, but Cronkite was not shy about sharing his opinion. For many people, all they know about him is that he emotionally broke the news of President Kennedy's assassination. It was a moment that was

captured for eternity by CBS News because the network was broadcasting live at 1:38 p.m. that Friday afternoon, enabling Cronkite to interrupt the soap opera "As the World Turns." (NBC and ABC did not provide network programming to local stations during that hour, so they were basically "out to lunch").

The truth is, Cronkite had opinions, as most humans do, and when so moved, he would share them. Most notably, he spearheaded a prime time documentary exposing misinformation being spread by the Lyndon Johnson administration about the war in Vietnam.

In 1968, Cronkite went to Vietnam to see who was really winning the war. Much to President Johnson's chagrin, the anchorman compiled a one-hour program showing the harsh realities of American casualties that had previously been under-counted and under-reported. At the end of the program (buckle up, folks), Cronkite... expressed his opinion! He said, "It seems now, more certain than ever that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate. It is increasingly clear that the only rational way out will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as an honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could." Wait, what? We couldn't win the war? At least, that was Walter Cronkite's informed



Wikimedia Commons
Walter Cronkite, left, stands with Florida Gov. Claude Kirk, right, in 1967. Cronkite was anchor for the CBS Evening News for 19 years (1962–1981). During the 1960s and 1970s, he was often cited as "the most trusted man in America" after being so named in an opinion poll.

belief. Americans were not used to hearing such a negative report on our military efforts in the 20th century.

Although he didn't call it "fake news," President Johnson was quite unhappy. Wait, it gets better. Cronkite soon had lunch with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, urging him to run against Johnson for the Democratic presidential nomination. Hold on: the guy we now call The Most Trusted Man

in America, was playing a role in presidential politics? Who in the Sean Hannity would do such a thing?

I'm not trying to criticize Cronkite, not at all. He was an excellent journalist who had filed reports from World War II, and he was an authoritative news anchor. But his newscasts almost always featured an opinion segment. It was usually delivered by his colleague Eric Sevareid, who did

so with dignity, and without the histrionics and theatrics associated with the Tucker Carlsons and Don Lemons of the world. His opinions were expressed in a dignified way, during a more dignified time. It's safe to say that if Cronkite didn't want opinions during his newscast, they wouldn't have been there.

Those opinion segments were clearly labeled as such. Many

of today's viewers are unable to tell the difference between opinion and news. We see a talking head on TV, and that's "news." We see a video on YouTube, and that's "news" if it echoes our views. We see a diatribe or meme that has been copied and pasted on Facebook, and it is "truth" if it advances our existing beliefs.

So I get cussed out from the left when we give air time to Marjorie Taylor Greene, the ultra-conservative U.S. Representative from northwest Georgia, and then someone from the other side spews obscenities when we give air time to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is Greene's polar opposite. They both make news, and they both have their constituencies. Neither side believes the other should receive any attention. Yet they say we should cover the news "right down the middle."

If that's true, why is WGN's NewsNation, which promotes itself as totally nonpartisan, attracting only 90,000 viewers daily, compared to 3.6 million for "conservative" Fox News, and a combined 3.9 million for "liberal" CNN and MSNBC? You've chosen sides, America. How is that working out?

David Carroll,
a Chattanooga news anchor and author. You may contact him at radiotv2020@yahoo.com.

Dave Belton guest columnist

All signs pointing to 'big' budget increase

The House passed the amended or "small" budget this week. The amended budget tweaks the current fiscal year's



budget based on the amount of money that is coming in versus what was expected. The Senate will now have to look at it, while the House starts to work on the next year's "big" budget.

Based on very favorable revenue returns,

we will be adding \$654 million to this year's original \$25.9 billion budget, a 2.5% increase. Because of the safe reopening of Georgia's businesses, we are in a lot better shape than most states. Thus, we will be adding more than half a billion dollars into this year's current budget, mostly to education and health care. Keep in mind, last summer we cut the current year's budget substantially due to the pandemic, down 10% for most agencies for a total of \$1.6 billion less overall. Now, this year's "small" or Amended Budget will fill back some of the those empty coffers.

Education will get the lion's share, putting in \$567 million to replace 60% of the \$950 million cut we made. We are also holding schools harmless this year for declining growth, as many parents are leaving virtual public schools for in-person learning at private

schools. At \$9.6 billion, K12 Education is by far the largest item in our budget, taking up 43% of the total amount. The Feds are also chipping in \$144 million to Early Care and Learning and a whopping \$2.1 billion from the CARES Act. Higher Education got an additional \$70 million as well.

Healthcare got over \$100 million overall. This includes \$18 million for Department of Public Health, \$15 million for AIDS, \$41 million for Community Health, and \$24 million for Medicaid. We also added \$130 million to Human Services for COVID relief. But the big addition here was again from the feds, who added a stunning \$1 billion for COVID. Because of this huge outlay, and more promised monies coming from President Biden, Georgia DPH agencies are not asking for more money at this time.

The Federal CARES Act will also provide \$60 million to the Department of Labor for Unemployment, \$437

million to Transportation, and \$11 million for election security.

Georgia will also add \$25 million for Forestland Protection Grants, \$199 million to new roads and bridges, and \$20 million for Rural Broadband Grants.

Georgia is doing much better economically than most states. In a shocking report, the US Commerce Dept recently announced that overall, the US GDP shrank 3.5% in 2020, the first decline since 2009 and the worst collapse since 1946. Pre-COVID, the GDP had been up a stunning 2.2%.

On the bright side, the fourth quarter GDP from last year was up 4% throughout the US. That means that the nation is climbing out of this. But it was not enough to overcome the disaster of the second and third quarters of 2020 caused by the lockdowns.

The report also mirrored what the UGA economist told us last week. Real incomes are down overall through-

out the U.S. by 10%, yet people have 13% more money in the bank. Having more savings is always good, but printing and then throwing borrowed money at the nation is problematic, as people are saving and not spending most of it.

Overall, we should count ourselves lucky to live in a state that has balanced the needs of saving both lives and livelihoods. Every state (except Utah) lost GDP over the last year, but Georgia is third best in the nation at losing the least, only 2%. Some states lost as much as 8%, (again, the nation lost 3.5% overall.)

I hope you will continue to pray for me as I continue to serve the good people of Newton and Morgan counties.

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

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Corporations

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HAVE BEEN delivered to the
Secretary of State for filing in
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Nonprofit
CORPORATION CODE. The initial
registered office of the corporation
is located at 3142 Hwy 278 NW,
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its initial registered agent at such
address is Myrtle Smalls.

PUBLIC NOTICE #118847
01/27,2/3

Debtors Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND
DEBTORS

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

KERRY LAU Wright
EXECUTOR OF the Estate
OF JOSEPH Bradford Wright, III
C/O ROBERT Stansfield, Esq.
GREER, STANSFIELD & Turner,
LLP
P.O. BOX 1617
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015-
1617
(770) 786-4390

PUBLIC NOTICE #117786
1/13,20,27-02/3

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate**
of FRANCINE LOUSIE BENNETT
, deceased, late of Newton County,
Georgia. You are required to
render your demands and/or make
payments to the undersigned estate

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION:

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



CITY OF COVINGTON
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain
open until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021. The City
of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

representative according to law.
THIS THE 27TH day of January,

2021.
BOBBIE A. BLAKLEY
7270 S. DEPEW ST.
LITTLETON, CO 80128

PUBLIC NOTICE #118877
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate**
of HELEN KELLY JOHNSON.,
deceased, late of Newton County,
Georgia. You are required to

render your demands and/or make
payments to the undersigned estate
representative according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of January,
2021.

JOEY JOHNSON
225 LAKEVIEW TRAIL
COVINGTON, GA30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #118873
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate**
of JEANETTE MARIE GRIGGERS.,
deceased, late of Newton County,
Georgia. You are required to
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payments to the undersigned estate
representative according to law.
THIS THE 27TH day of January,
2021.

JAMES G. GRIGGERS
699 FINCHER RD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #118876
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate**
of RALPH HODGES., deceased,
late of Newton County, Georgia. You
are required to render your demands
and/or make payments to the
undersigned estate representative
according to law.
THIS THE 20TH day of January,
2021.

HARRY HODGES
4282 HWY 81S
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #118875
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate** of
RITA HARDEN CORLEY., deceased,
late of Newton County, Georgia. You
are required to render your demands
and/or make payments to the
undersigned estate representative
according to law.
THIS THE 27TH day of January,
2021.

LYNN SPOHN
75 WELLSLEY DR
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #118871
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND
CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the
debtors and creditors of the **Estate** of
WINDFORD E. BATES., deceased,
late of Newton County, Georgia. You
are required to render your demands
and/or make payments to the
undersigned estate representative
according to law.
THIS THE 22ND day of January,

2021.

MARILYN BATES
2400 WHITE PINE LANE
MANSFIELD, GA 30055

PUBLIC NOTICE #118874
02/3,10,17,24

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
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NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power
of Sale contained in a Security Deed
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CIT Group/Consumer Finance, Inc.,
dated October 5, 2005, and recorded
in Deed Book 2037, Page 579,
Newton County, Georgia Records, as
last transferred to U.S. Bank National
Association, as Trustee, Successor in
Interest to Bank of America, National
Association, as Trustee, Successor
by Merger to LaSalle National Bank,
as Trustee for C-BASS Mortgage
Loan Asset Backed Certificates,
Series 2007-CB2 by assignment
recorded on December 30, 2020 in
Book 4120 Page 524 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 Thirty-Nine
Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Two
and 0/100 dollars (\$139,992.00), 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 March 2, 2021, the following
described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL
OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN
LAND LOT 138 10TH DISTRICT,
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA,
BEING LOT 562 THE FIELDS
OF ELLINGTON SUBDIVISION,
AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN
PLAT BOOK 41, PAGES 138-152,
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
RECORDS, SAID PLAT BEING
INCORPORATED HEREIN AND
MADE REFERENCE HERETO.

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: PHH
Mortgage Corporation they can be
contacted at 1-800-750-2518 for Loss
Mitigation Dept, or by writing to One
Mortgage Way, Mount Laurel, New
Jersey 08054, to discuss possible
alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold
See LEGALS, A6

Valentine's Date Night

Subscribe to the Covington News for your chance to
Win dinner to Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse (\$50
value) and a bouquet of flowers.

1 month subscription (1 chance to win).
6 month subscription (6 chances to win).
1 year subscription (12 chances to win).

\$5.00 for a 1 month subscription. \$30.00 for a 6 month subscription.
\$60.00 for a 1 year subscription.

Drawing will be held on February 4, 2021.
All subscriptions must be placed by midnight on February 3, 2021.
Valid for new and renewal subscriptions.
(Non-refundable)
This offer is valid January 5, 2021 –February 3, 2021.



The Covington News

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Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Method:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Credit Card # _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Expiration Date _____

Bring Form to 1166 Usher Street, Covington, GA 30014.

LEGALS:

Continued from A5

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 Kathryn Riley or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **60 Dogwood Pl, 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.

U.S. BANK National Association, as Trustee, Successor in Interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, Successor by Merger to LaSalle National Bank, as Trustee for C-BASS Mortgage Loan Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2007-CB2 as Attorney in Fact for Kathryn Riley.

BROCK & Scott, PLLC
4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road
SUITE 310
ATLANTA, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S FILE no.: 20-12785

PUBLIC NOTICE #118870
02/3,10,17,24

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF NEWTON

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

BECAUSE OF a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by **Shirley K. Russ and Eddie R. Scofield** to The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc. dated March 22, 2000, and recorded in Deed Book 912, Page 1212, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Lehman ABS Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Asset-Backed Certificate Trust, Series 2001-B, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$90,369.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, March 2, 2021, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN CEDAR SHOALS DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF MORNINGSIDE DRIVE AND A NEW ROAD (NORTH LAKE DRIVE), AND RUNNING IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY SIDE OF MORNINGSIDE DRIVE A DISTANCE OF 158 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, COMMON CORNER PIN OF BOUNDARY OF WALTER ALLGOOD'S PROPERTY LINE AND MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT'S PROPERTY LINE; THENCE RUNNING ALONG MORNINGSIDE DRIVE IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 125 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 230 FEET ALONG PROPERTY OF MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 99 FEET ALONG PROPERTY OF MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 230 FEET ALONG PROPERTY LINE OF WALTER ALLGOOD TO BEGINNING POINT. THIS BEING PART OF THE LAND DEEDED BY HOWARD PIPER TO JOHN R. BENEDICT (HUSBAND OF MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT, NOW DECEASED). MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT, HEIR TO SAID PROPERTY, CONVEYED BY DEED AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 50, PAGE 229, SEE ALSO DEED BOOK 35, PAGE 449, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY.

THIS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY MRS. DORA G. BENEDICT (MRS. JOHN R. BENEDICT) TO GERALD E. BENEDICT BY WARRANTY DEED DATED APRIL 16, 1960 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 54, PAGE 284, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2000 HORTON MODEL NT6 MOBILE HOME BEARING SERIAL NUMBER H171773GLRAB.

THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING KNOWN AS 415 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE, COVINGTON, GEORGIA - 30016

TAX PARCEL Identification Number: 0045A00000008000

SAID PROPERTY is known as **415 Morningside Dr, Covington, GA 30016**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, 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.

THE PROCEEDS of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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

THE PROPERTY is or may be in the possession of Shirley K. Russ and Eddie R. Scofield, successor in interest or tenant(s).

U.S. BANK National Association, as Trustee, for Lehman ABS Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Asset-Backed Certificate Trust, Series 2001-B as Attorney-in-Fact for Shirley K. Russ and Eddie R. Scofield

FILE NO. 20-076940

SHAPIRO PENDERGAST & HASTY, LLP*

ATTORNEYS AND Counselors at Law

211 PERIMETER Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 300

ATLANTA, GA 30346

(770) 220-2535/HG

SHAPIROANDHASTY.COM

***THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

PUBLIC NOTIC #11750
02/3,10,17,24

Public Notice
NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN

APPROVAL
P. I. 0015095
NEWTON COUNTY

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

THE DATE of location and design approval is: January 27, 2021

THIS PROJECT proposes an intersection improvement of Access Road NW at Crowell Road, just south of I-20, including the realignment of Access Road NW. This realignment is approximately 3,300 feet in length and diverges from the existing Access Road NW to the south and intersects with Crowell Road approximately 515 feet south of the existing intersection. In addition, Crowell Road would be improved by widening the existing roadway to accommodate proper turn lanes for vehicles entering and exiting I-20 and the newly aligned Access Road. The project length is approximately 0.7 miles and located within Land District 9 in Land Lots 188, 189, 196, and 197 in Newton County.

TRAFFIC WILL be maintained during construction on the existing Access Road and Crowell Road. Traffic will be shifted to the realigned Access Road after completion. Access to Harold Dobbs Road from the Access Road east of Crowell Road may be closed for a short duration (up to 2 weeks) to allow for the construction of a retaining wall and the minor realignment of the intersection of the Access Road and Harold Dobbs Road.

DRAWINGS OR maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Newton County, Public Works:

CHESTER CLEGG, Newton County Transportation Director
CCLEGG@CO.NEWTN.GA.US
65 PIPER Road
COVINGTON, GA 30014
(678) 625-1300

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

KIMBERLY NESBITT, State Program Delivery Administrator
GDOT OFFICE of Program Delivery
ATTN: BRUCE Anderson
BRANDERSON@DOT.GA.GOV
600 WEST Peachtree St NW
ATLANTA, GA 30308
(478) 538-8595

PUBLIC NOTICE #118878
02/3,10,17,24

NOTICE
PETITION OF Rhonda Oliver-Bell, to Probate Will in Solemn Form, Estate of Harlen Bell, UPON WHICH AN ORDER FOR SERVICE WAS GRANTED BY THIS COURT ON January 22, 2021.

TO: TREY M. BELL
THIS IS to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition of Rhonda Oliver-Bell to Probate Will in Solemn Form, Estate of Harlen Bell.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objection to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/ telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. All objections must be filed by March 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL
PROBATE JUDGE

BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK OF PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014
770 784 2045

PUBLIC NOTICE #118872
2/3,10,17,24

Trade Names

NOTICE OF Filing of Articles of Amendment

NOTICE IS given that certain Articles of Amendment of The Burge Club, Inc. have been filed with the Secretary of State's office in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The registered office of the Corporation is located at 1110 Jeff Cook Road, Mansfield, Georgia 30055.

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **REGINA MINOR.**, whose address is35 GLEN RIDGE CT COVINGTON, GA 30014the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: LETS WIN that the nature of said business is: . CLEANING CO.
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 20th day of January 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE #118842
01/27-2/3

TRADE NAME
REGISTRATION
AFFIDAVIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **RICK WESTBROOK.**, whose address is2131 HWY 81, OXFORD, GA 30054the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: RKREATIONSthat the nature of said business is: . ONLINE SALES OF CUSTOM MADE WOOD PRODUCTS
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 29th day of January 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE #118878
02/3,10



Special to The Covington News

Ashley Spears and her husband recently chose a family-centered C-section for her son's birth. This allowed both Spears and her husband to participate more in the event, including watching their son being born through a clear drape, her husband cut the cord, and the baby was immediately placed on her chest for uninterrupted skin-to-skin time.

Newton mom says family-centered C-section ‘incredible experience’

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Ashley Spears thought she knew exactly what to expect as she prepared to deliver her second child at Piedmont Newton Hospital. As a surgical assistant with a local OB/Gyn’s office, Spears spends a lot of time in the hospital’s Women’s Services department, and she had also delivered her daughter at the hospital via cesarean section nine years earlier.

“Even though I’m working in the hospital on a regular basis, my experience as a patient was completely different,” Spears said in a news release.

“As a patient, I experienced exceptionally personalized care. That’s one of the main benefits of delivering at a smaller hospital. I received the same high-quality, clinical care patients think they have to travel to Atlanta to receive, and I was minutes from home. That’s incredible.”

Spears and her husband chose a family-centered C-section for her son’s birth. This allowed both Spears

and her husband to participate more in the event, including watching their son being born through a clear drape, her husband cut the cord, and the baby was immediately placed on her chest for uninterrupted skin-to-skin time.

“When my daughter was born, I remember being sad because I felt like I only saw her briefly before she was taken to another part of the room to be measured and weighed,” Spears said.

“With the family-centered C-section, both my husband and I were able to fully engage in our son’s birth and he was immediately put onto my chest. It was an incredible experience for both my husband and me.”

The Women’s Services department at Piedmont Newton offers families high-quality clinical care in an atmosphere that focuses on patient-centered, personalized care. Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics indicates that integrated mother-infant care leads to optimal outcomes for healthy mothers and babies.

Family-centered maternity care is supported by nurses and staff educated on the latest clinical research and best practices. Examples include skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding within 30 minutes of birth which reduces post-partum hemorrhage, maternal depression and stress.

According to Spears, once she moved into a postpartum room, she experienced another change the hospital recently implemented; quiet time. Understanding that rest plays a role in healing, as well as gives new families uninterrupted bonding time, Piedmont Newton has “quiet hours” from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. During quiet time, there will be limited disruption to patients to allow for rest and recovery.

“During the designated times, the entire department was quiet,” Spears said. “Hospitals are busy places, so to have those few hours of quiet gave us an opportunity to bond with our son, as well as get some much-needed rest without a constant influx of people in and out of the room.”

NCSO reports COVID outbreak within jail back under control

By **TAYLOR BECK**

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Newton County Sheriff’s Office reported Monday that its number of COVID-19 positive inmates has dropped from 22 to four, all of whom “show little to no symptoms.”

“We can contribute the reduction of positive cases to the tireless work and cooperation of our medical and detention staff,” the sheriff’s

office stated via Facebook.

Sheriff Ezell Brown first confirmed Jan. 8 that 22 inmates within the Newton County Jail had tested positive for the novel coronavirus, though all but one were demonstrating little to no symptoms.

After investigating and using contact tracing, Brown said there was reason to believe the inmates had contracted the virus from staff members.

The lone inmate who was showing significant symptoms was transported in to the Newton County Jail from another jail that had already witnessed an outbreak. He was quarantined in a zero-pressured unit and recieved “special attention as a result of his symptoms,” Brown said.

Jan. 8 marked the first time since the pandemic began that an outbreak occurred within the jail.

‘Legacies’ crews back for 2-day film session in Covington

By **TAYLOR BECK**

tbeck@covnews.com

Crews with the television show “Legacies” was returning to Covington on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and today, Wednesday, Feb. 3, to film “a very simple scene” on Floyd Street and “close a

very small portion of East Street and College Avenue for parking,” according to Community Development Director Trey Sanders.

“This is not a road closure. This is a lane closure and intermittent traffic control,” he said. “We don’t expect

any issues.”

Crews will be filming each day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Though Sanders doesn’t expect the crews’ plans to make a major impact on traffic flow, motorists should expect minor delays if driving through the area.

CELEBRATION:

Continued from A1

and artwork is planned to circulate the school system’s social media, a Jan. 29 press release stated, to help spread the news that 150 years ago — on Feb. 7, 1871 — the district was officially born.

Members of the Newton County Schools Board of Education recently adopted a resolution celebrating the school system’s 150th anniversary to commemorate the milestone.

“We are super excited to celebrate the founding of the Newton County School System,” Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey said in a statement.

“I’m honored to be the superintendent of schools on this momentous occasion, and I am fortunate to have benefitted from the extraordinary leadership of those superintendents before me. The incredible work and commitment of all our former staff, educators and leaders positioned us for success. Over the past 150 years, we have worked hard to attain — and maintain — our mission of providing educational excellence to all students. During the past century-and-a-half, our students and employees have been recognized at the regional, state, and national level, bringing home countless awards and honors along the way.

“Our students and staff have proven time and time again that they can compete toe-to-toe with their peers at any level and achieve,” she continued. “I hope the Newton County community is extremely proud of their local public school system, where our vision is that all students will be well-rounded and prepared for the future.

“We never dreamed we’d be in the midst of a pandemic during our 150th year,” Fuhrey added, “but

that won’t dampen our celebration. We will be celebrating throughout the week leading up to the anniversary date and we hope that our community leaders and residents join us in the activities by posting and sharing positive notes on their social media as well. We have an incredible history and there’s no telling what outstanding accomplishments Newton County School System will see in the next 150 years!”

All festivities will be celebrated virtually, according to the district’s spokesperson, due to the ongoing pandemic. Initial festivities kicked off Monday morning with a video from Newton County Education Chairperson Abigail Coggin posted on the district’s social media pages. Students’ artwork commemorating the event was also shared on social media.

“As we celebrate the past of our school system, we must always remember to look towards the future,” Coggin said while standing in front of the construction site of the new Eastside High School. “I am proud to be a part of the Newton County Schools and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for us.”

Coggin represents District 5 of Newton County, which includes parts of Brick Store, Alcovy, Oxford, Leguinn and Covington Mills areas. She was first elected to the board in November 2010.

Newton County Chairman Marcello Banes is expected to present a proclamation to the district Thursday, according to a spokesperson from the school system.

Pick up a copy of The Covington News’ Feb. 6-7 weekend edition to explore the school systems’ founding.

Georgia film industry bouncing back nicely from COVID-19 hiatus

By **DAVE WILLIAMS**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia’s film industry has recovered from the coronavirus pandemic and then some.

Film and TV producers currently are working on 37 projects in the Peach State, up from 23 at this time last year, Lee Thomas, the state Department of Economic Development’s deputy commissioner for film, music and digital entertainment, told members of a Georgia House committee Monday.

“In spite of all that’s happened, we’re up considerably now from where we were last year,” she said.

COVID-19 shut down production in Georgia for two months last spring. As a result, the film industry’s economic impact in the state declined during the last fiscal year for the first time since the General Assembly enacted a generous film tax credit in 2008, from \$2.9 billion fiscal 2019 to \$2.2 billion in fiscal 2020.

Thomas said the industry began to bounce back in May



File | The Covington News

Film and TV producers currently are working on 37 projects in the Peach State, up from 23 at this time last year.

when Gov. Brian Kemp released a set of voluntary best practices to protect film crews from the virus.

In July, the filming of commercials resumed, followed by independent films in August and major studio productions in September, Thomas said.

“We signaled the industry early on that we were going to

be ready for business when they were,” she said.

Thomas said the sheer number of sound stages that have been built in Georgia during the last decade also contributed to the fast resumption of film and TV productions.

“They were looking for areas where they could have a controllable environment,” she said.

The legislature passed a bill last year aimed at giving the film industry more scrutiny in light of the tax credit’s high cost. The legislation requires all film productions located in Georgia to undergo mandatory audits by the Georgia Department of Revenue or third-party auditors selected by the state agency.

But Thomas assured members of the House Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee Monday that the tax credit more than pays for itself.

She cited a report from fiscal 2016 showing the film industry generated \$2.2 billion in direct spending in Georgia that year, while the tax credit cost the state \$667 million.

APEX available to youth across Newton County

By **MELISSA BROWN**
Special to The Covington News

COVINGTON, Ga. — It goes without saying that the past year has been unprecedented and very challenging.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought on uncertainty and stress, and children are experiencing an increased level of anxiety, depression, behavior challenges, and grief. Since most chronic mental health disorders begin in childhood, and this traumatic event can affect them across their lifespan, it is imperative to identify and treat these issues early.

As we assist our children with navigating the new normal, it is important that we complete mental health checks with our children/adolescents.

Check-in often. It is essential that you invite your child to talk about how they are feeling. For younger children that are not able to articulate how they feel, ask them to draw you a picture. Always validate and never judge their feelings regardless of what they are.

Children require safety and security. Communicate what your family is doing to stay safe

and engage in positive communication regarding the future. Remember to use age-appropriate language with your child.

Pay attention to your child’s behavior/appearance. Some children/adolescent may hide their challenges but there are some common symptoms that may appear.

- Changes in appearance and mood
- Decline in academic performance
- Loss of interest in things they previously enjoyed and or
- Recurring thoughts about death, suicide (i.e. talking about it, posting on social media, writing, or drawing)
- Younger children regress in some developmental milestone (i.e. tantrums, defecating on self, difficulty sleeping)

Seek help when needed. It is important to know that you are not alone, and help is available. If you have concerns regarding your child’s mental health contact your pediatrician, school counselor, and or mental health professional.

Viewpoint Health is a staple in the community and has a wide array of resources for those

seeking mental health services. The APEX program provides school-based services to youths within the Newton County School System. Youths can receive individual, group, and or family services from a licensed professional in the school setting. APEX program is offered in the following schools: Middle Ridge Elementary School, Veterans Middle School, Clements Middle School, Indian Creek Middle School, Liberty Middle School, Newton High School, Alcovy High School, and Newton Career and Academy.

Due to the growing need for services and with coordination with Newton County School District APEX school-based program is being offered to all youths within the Newton County School System.

Viewpoint Newton County Outpatient center on Hazelbrand Road is currently open and utilizing telehealth services from the comfort of your own home.

Services include individual counseling, group counseling, substance abuse services and veteran services to name a few.

RETURN:

Continued from A1

frustration many of you feel at this time,” district officials stated in a Jan. 27 news release. “We want the students back in the building just as much as you do, as we know that in-person learning is, for most students, the most beneficial. Unfortunately, our community’s data just do not allow for the return to in-person instruction at this time. However, current data models predict an expected decrease in the rate of transmission within the next few weeks.”

Officials said if the projected decrease in cases over the next week holds true, all self-contained, special need students would be welcomed back for in-person instruction Monday, Feb. 8.

All other students currently enrolled for in-person learning, including those reentering for the second semester, would be welcomed back the following week, Feb. 16.

“We need your help to reduce the transmission of this virus in our community,” officials stated. “In order to implement our tentative return-to-

school schedule, it is a must that residents in our community practice social distancing, wear a mask, and watch their distance. If you are sick or awaiting a COVID-19 test result, please stay home.”

While remote learning is in process, parents of regular in-person students may obtain free breakfast and lunch meals daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the nearest school, or pick up meals from one of the district’s designated bus stop delivery locations. More information can be found at <http://newtonschoolnutrition.org/index.php?sid=0702132359289201&page=MealRoutes>.

The NCSS School Nutrition Department, in conjunction with the NCSS Transportation Department, will also deliver daily meals, including weekend meals on Fridays, to the following temporary bus delivery locations: Arbor Lake Apartments, Cedar Grove Community, Covington Estates, Five Oaks Subdivision, Jamestown, Long Branch Subdivision, Salem Springs, Twin

Chimneys Subdivision, Wagon Train, and Wells Mobile Home Park. Delivery times may be found at https://newtoncountyschools.org/departments/public_relations/news/n_c_s_s_expands_meal_distribution_program.

In addition to daily meals, NCSS School Nutrition will also provide weekly meal boxes for pick-up at the following school distribution sites: Live Oak Elementary, Heard-Mixon Elementary, West Newton Elementary, Middle Ridge Elementary, and Oak Hill Elementary. The NCSS Food Bus will also stop at select locations throughout the county to distribute weekly meals. More information may be found at https://newtoncountyschools.org/departments/public_relations/news/n_c_s_s_expands_meal_distribution_program.

Current virtual learning students may continue to obtain free meals at their regular bus stop drop off sites, officials said.

Publishing new issues every Wednesday and weekend.

The Covington News

Subscribe today for only \$5 a month! Call 770-787-6397 or visit CovNews.com.

SPORTS

The Covington News

Chris Bridges columnist

Hammerin' Hank: the ultimate Hall of Famer

The Atlanta Braves lost another icon in recent days and this may have been a loss of THE icon. Hank Aaron passed away years after his playing days were complete but his legacy has endured. In fact, Aaron, it could easily be argued, is one of the most recognizable, and important, sports figures in our state's history.



Arguments about who was the best in any professional endeavor or is something typically left for sports bars. But frankly speaking, you would be hard-pressed to find a handful of professional baseball players who topped what Aaron did on and off the field.

Some detractors have tried to take away from Aaron's legacy simply because he played for so long. "Of course, he broke the record after playing that many years," is something I've heard from more than one person.

Hogwash. Aaron played the game with an aura of dignity and respect. He broke a record during a time when it was actually dangerous for him to do so as hard as that may seem now.

If you've never read some of the venomous hate mail Aaron received while chasing the home run record, you owe it to yourself to do so. The words are tough to read. Imagine if they were directed at you.

In an era of time when numerous national figures were assassinated in this country, it would not have been shocking for someone to attempt the same thing on Aaron. It's hard for fans of today to understand such hatred but it existed.

The fact that Aaron broke the all-time home run record while playing for a franchise in the Deep South is really fitting. He probably did as much to help race relations in this state as anyone.

Described by those who knew him as a humble person, Aaron always seemed to be an athlete who simply enjoyed the sport of baseball. He didn't have a bodybuilder frame which made the fact he connected for so many home runs even more impressive.

Decades after his diamond career came to a close, Aaron continued to be a respected voice in Atlanta and the state of Georgia. His name helped many charities but you never saw the baseball icon get involved in political matters.

He never used his position to force his ideas on others. He felt his stature could be better served in other ways.

When the Braves moved from their original home of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, there was a push for the new facility to be named in honor of Aaron. The new stadium was eventually named for Ted Turner. Certainly, Turner deserved credit to some degree, but his resume failed miserable in comparison to the impact "Hammerin' Hank" had on the game and the city of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Braves organization will certainly honor Aaron during the upcoming 2021 season. His statue has become as much an icon in Atlanta as the state capitol.

Atlanta was not the only city that Aaron called home during his professional baseball career. However, it is the place he's most associated with. His final two seasons were actually back in Milwaukee, this time for the Brewers. In some ways, it was fitting for Aaron to complete his career there as the full circle was complete.

His legacy will always remain, though, here and everywhere. His history is directly tied with the sports history of our state. It was an honor to have him here, much more than we could ever truly understand.

A professional baseball player who was a 25-time All-Star and four-time home run leader doesn't need anyone to brag on him. Yet, it seems no matter how much he has been bragged on in recent weeks, it doesn't seem like enough.

Chris Bridges is a former sports editor for The Covington News. He welcomes feedback about this column at pchrisbridges@gmail.com.

Prep Football

Benton headed to IMG Academy



File | Anthony Banks | The Covington News

Newton sophomore Justin Benton (99) announced Friday he intends to transfer to IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, to close out his prep football career. Benton led the Rams in three defensive categories in 2020.

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton football standout Justin Benton took to social media Friday afternoon to announce his intention to transfer to IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

Benton, a four-star recruit according to 247Sports.com, has received a bevy of scholarship offers from the likes of Georgia,

Florida, USC and Oregon, among others. In a post on his Twitter account, he thanked his teammates, coaches and teachers at Newton for the role they've played in his development.

"My love runs deep for Newton and I will forever be a Ram," Benton said in a Tweet. "However the Lord has provided me with the opportunity of a lifetime and a dream for

most people to attend IMG Academy."

During his sophomore campaign with the Rams, Benton recorded 93 total tackles as a defensive lineman. He led the team in sacks (12.5), tackles for loss (24.5) and QB hurries (22), tied teammate Darius Green for solo tackles (55), and added an interception.

IMG Academy, which was founded in 1978, is a world-fa-

mous boarding school known for housing prominent student-athletes. Among notable alumni are Kellen Mond, Bo Scarbrough and Anfernee Simmons.

The Ascenders posted an 8-0 record on the gridiron in 2020, outscoring opponents 381-82 en route to being crowned national champions by *USA Today*.

Davis resigns from GWA after two seasons

By **BRETT FOWLER**
brettfowler@waltontribune.com

MONROE, Ga. — Shane Davis, the Walton Tribune's 2020 Coach of the Year, has resigned as the head football coach at George Walton Academy.

George Walton officials sent an email to The Tribune early Saturday morning confirming the news.

"George Walton Academy will launch a search for a new head football coach as Shane Davis has announced his resignation effective immediately," the statement read. "GWA thanks Coach Davis for his service and wishes him well as he pursues other opportunities."

The move comes after the school reportedly suspended Davis in December, leading to an online petition with more than 1,000 signatures by players and parents asking GWA officials to reinstate the coach.

"We've agreed to part ways," Davis said by phone Saturday afternoon. "Any further questions should be directed to



Brett Fowler | The Walton Tribune

George Walton Academy announced Saturday that head football coach Shane Davis stepped down following two seasons at the helm.

George Walton Academy's head of school."

When asked about Davis' suspension, the school said that it didn't comment on personnel matters.

Davis was 15-8 in two seasons with the Bulldogs including a trip to the Elite Eight this past season. His 2020 team ended the regular season with a top-10 ranking by the Atlanta Jour-

nal-Constitution. George Walton's only losses were to region foes Prince Avenue Christian, the eventual state champion, and Athens Academy. Both schools also ended the regular season in the top 10.

Prior to his tenure at George Walton, Davis served as the strength and conditioning coach at Grayson. GWA athletic director Mark Whitley hired Davis in the winter of 2018 as the school's strength and conditioning coach, football offensive coordinator and football assistant head coach under longtime head coach Don Williams.

Williams retired after the 2018 season, giving way to Davis.

Davis spent nine years at the Barrow County school and compiled a 48-59 record with four playoff appearances and a region title before resigning after the 2014 season. He then joined Jeff Herron's staff at Prince Avenue in 2015 and followed Herron to Grayson in 2016 when the Rams won the Class AAAAAAA state title.

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

The Covington News

Try sweet treats at home this Valentine's Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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Dining out is a Valentine's Day tradition. Couples new and old typically make Valentine's Day into date night at nice restaurants, making this holiday that much more special.

Couples who want to add a special twist to Valentine's Day date night can enjoy a nice meal out before returning home for some homemade dessert. Whether couples prepare it together or surprise their significant others, the following recipe for "Coffee Crisp" from Bob Blumer's "Surreal Gourmet Bites" (Chronicle Books) can make for the perfect ending to a Valentine's Day date night.

Coffee Crisp

Yields 12 bites

Ingredients:
6 egg yolks
8 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons instant espresso or
Coffee powder
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks and six tablespoons of the sugar for 1 minute, or until smooth and pale yellow in color. Reserve.

In a second medium bowl, add espresso granules and 1/4 cup of the cream. Whisk until smooth, then add remaining cream and vanilla, and whisk until well blended.

Very gently, fold espresso cream mixture into egg yolks.

Use a ladle to pour custard mixture into espresso cups, filling them three-fourths of



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Coffee Crisps can make for the perfect ending to a Valentine's Day date night.

the way to the top.

Place cups in a baking dish or roasting pan and transfer to oven. Fill a pitcher with warm tap water. Before closing oven door, pour water into pan (but not into the cups themselves!) until it reaches halfway up the sides of the cups.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until the custards jiggle just slightly when you shake the pan. Remove pan from oven and leave out on counter, allowing the residual heat of the water to finish the cooking process.

When custards have fully solidified, refrigerate for two

hours

Just before serving, sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of sugar evenly overtop each custard. Use a small blowtorch to caramelize the sugar. Alternatively, place cups 1 inch below oven broiler under a watchful eye for approximately two minutes, or until sugar caramelizes.

Warm up with stew on cold wintry nights

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

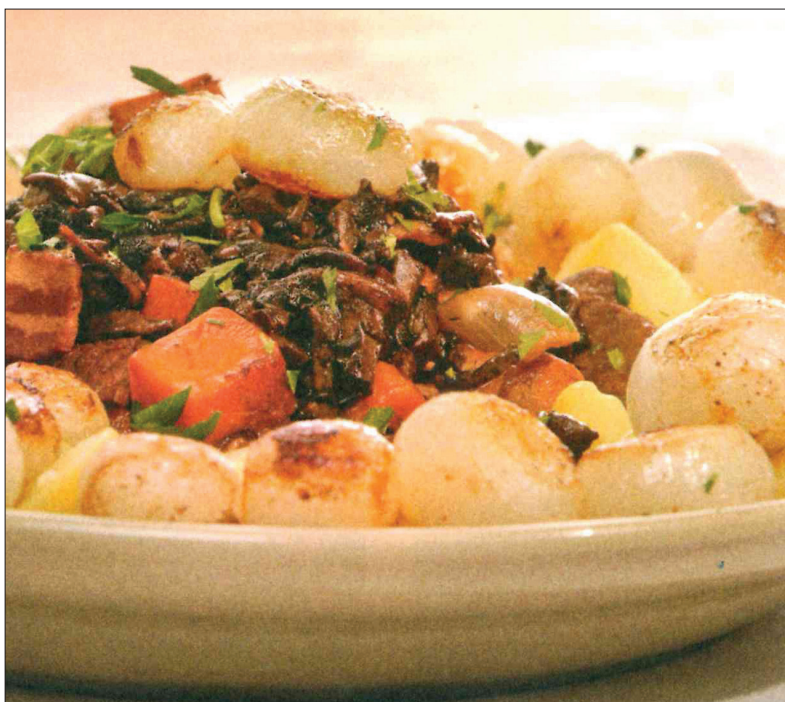
news@covnews.com

Hearty meals are best on cold nights, when food can provide a warming effect after coming in from the cold outdoors. This recipe for "Boeuf Bourguignon" from Jill Lightner's "Edible Seattle: The Cookbook" (Sterling Epicure) is sure to provide such an effect.

Boeuf Bourguignon

Serves 6 generously

Ingredients:
2 pounds beef shoulder, cut into 2-inch pieces (see note)
1 onion, cut into large dice
2 carrots, cut into large dice
2 stalks celery, cut into large dice
2 dried bay leaves
4 sprigs fresh thyme
7 sprigs fresh flat-leaf parsley
1/4 teaspoon black peppercorns
1 bottle red wine
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon canola oil
1/4 pound slab bacon, cut into large dice
1/2 stick (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups beef stock
2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into large dice
1 pound pearl onions, blanched and peeled
1 pound button mushrooms, diced



Metro Creative Services

Hearty meals, like Boeuf Bourguignon, are best served on cold nights.

Directions:

1. Put the beef chunks in a large bowl and add the onion, carrots and celery. In a piece of cheesecloth, tie together a bouquet of garni of the bay leaves, thyme, parsley, and peppercorns and add to the bowl. Pour in the bottle of wine. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator overnight, stirring the mixture once or twice over the course of the evening.

2. The next day, remove the meat from the marinade and dry the pieces in a shallow pan lined with several layers of paper towels. Remove the vegetables and reserve them separately, along with the bouquet garni. Reserve the

wine. Season the beef with salt and pepper.

3. In a large Dutch oven over medium heat, warm the canola oil. Add the bacon and cook until browned and the fat is rendered, about five minutes. Remove the bacon from the pot and set aside. In single-layer batches, brown the beef chunks on all sides, then set aside. Brown the reserved onions, carrots and celery, about 10 minutes. Add additional canola oil to the pot if there is not enough bacon fat to brown all of the beef and vegetables.

4. Return the beef to the pot with the vegetables and add three tablespoons of the butter. Sprinkle with the

flour and cook, stirring, for about three minutes. Add the reserved wine and deglaze the pot, scraping up all the browned bits from the bottom. Add the bacon and stock and bring to a boil. Skim off the scum that rises to the top; once the scum is removed, add the bouquet garni. Simmer, covered, over medium-low heat until the beef is very tender, about one and a half hours. Remove the bouquet garni.

5. Toward the end of the beef's cooking time, bring the potatoes to a boil in a separate saucepan covered generously with salted water. Cook until tender, about 15 minutes.

6. In a medium sauté pan, melt three tablespoons of the butter over medium-high heat. Add the pearl onions and sauté for three to four minutes. Add the mushrooms to the onions and cook until both onions and mushrooms are golden brown, about five minutes longer. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

7. Serve the stew in bowls, garnished with the pearl onions, mushrooms and potatoes.

Note: When shopping for beef, you won't find a cut labeled "beef shoulder" — what you want is either a chuck roast of some sort or, from a bit lower on the shoulder, a cut labeled either "arm

roast" or "round bone roast."



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Parents who rely on babysitters and caregivers to tend to children while they get a night out may find that their sitters are also celebrating on Valentine's Day.

Enjoy Valentine's Day — even when the sitter's away

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Come Valentine's Day, couples are anxious to enjoy time spent with the one they love — whether it involves a dinner at a restaurant or a few hours of uninterrupted conversation at home. Parents who rely on babysitters and caregivers to tend to children while they get a night out may find that their sitters are also celebrating on Valentine's Day. This leaves parents of children of all ages potentially wondering how to celebrate with kids in tow. Here are some ideas to get started.

Breakfast celebration

Who says Valentine's Day love and affection is restricted to the evening? Make use of your time by tinkering with the schedule so that you can enjoy one-on-one moments in the morning or afternoon while children are in school or at daycare. Enjoy a couple's breakfast or brunch, followed by a massage.

Meet for lunch

If you can't spare a day off from work, make a point to meet for lunch at a place halfway between your offices. This is yet another kid-free opportunity to enjoy meaningful conversation and time spent as a couple.

Let the kids help

Enlist the kids to give you the night off from dinner, or have them select the perfect take-out menu for a Valentine's Day dinner. Children do not always have the opportunity to give back to their parents, and on Feb. 14 they can step up their game. Move up bed times a little so the kids are tucked in early enough to allow you to cuddle on the couch.

Catch up on family time

Children are a shining example of their parents' love for one another. Use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to skip other obligations, including extra-curricular activities, and have a family day. Watch a movie together and enjoy a picnic.

On Valentine's Day, there are many work-arounds if the babysitter is unavailable.

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