

The Covington News

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021



TELLING T

\$1






SPORTS:

REDSKINS ON DECK

Social Circle ready to swing away for 2021 season

[See A8](#)

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Vegan curry fit for Lenten season

Keep flavors fresh on non-meat day with potato recipe

INSIDE:

Silken chicken recipe to satisfy hunger pangs, see [FOOD B1](#)



His Word

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3, KJV

Black History Month

Reverend recalls historic time

Newton's first Black commissioner saw himself as team member rather than trailblazer

By TOM SPIGOLON
[tspigolon@covnews.com](#)

The Rev. Harold Cobb believes he was more of a member of a team working to better his community than a ground-breaker for Black Newton residents in county government.

Cobb was the first African-American county resident elected to the Newton County Board of Commissioners in 1976 and served parts of three decades on the county's governing body.

He also led the committee that organized the annual Martin Luther King Celebration from 1985 to 2017.

Cobb, 80, is a Newton County native. He recalled he ran for a seat on the Covington City Council five times before he earned the District 4 seat on the Newton County Board of



From left, Tiffany Clay accepts the 2015 MLK Trailblazer Award from the Rev. Harold Cobb, who organized the awards event for 32 years.

Commissioners.

He served until 1996 when he left the commission to return to college and earn a degree in theology.

Cobb recalled he ran for the commission seat to bring more recreation ser-

vices to the city and county.

"I saw a lot of things I wanted to do to improve the city and county," said the longtime church pastor.

After serving in the military, he returned with a "desire to work and be a part

of improving the quality of life in his hometown.

However, he said he won election in an effort to better the whole county — not just one part of it, Cobb

See [RECALLS, A3](#)

Local Crime

Man shot six times outside Collier St. home

Suspect charged; victim in 'serious condition'

By TOM SPIGOLON
[tspigolon@covnews.com](#)

COVINGTON, Ga. — A Covington man reportedly was in serious condition at an Atlanta hospital after being shot in the stomach early Sunday, Feb. 14, and several officers responding to what sounded like a "gun battle."

Covington Police charged Terry Smith, 22, of Covington, with one count of aggravated assault after the victim was found in the driveway area of his home with six gunshot wounds.

At least 20 officers responded to the incident that was originally reported as a firearm

See [SHOT, A2](#)

Oxford College

Scholarship established in Johnson's honor

Family happy to continue jurist's legacy through helping others

STAFF REPORTS
[news@covnews.com](#)

OXFORD, Ga. — To honor one of its "most prominent" alumni, Oxford College of Emory University recently announced the establishment of the Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship Endowment to provide need-based scholarships

to prospective students.

According to a spokesperson from Oxford College, "generous" donations from alumnus Keith Burns and the Johnson family made the endowment possible.



Horace J. Johnson Jr.

The Alcovy Superior Court judge died July 1, 2020, of a cardiac arrest. He had been diagnosed with COVID-19 days before.

Johnson grew up in the Sand Hill community and was a graduate of Newton High School, part of the first integrated class to go through the local schools. He graduated from Oxford College of Emory University, then earned a degree from the Goizueta Business School at

Emory in Atlanta. He later earned his Juris Doctor at the University of Georgia School of Law. Johnson went into private practice and in 2002, Gov. Roy Barnes appointed him to the Superior Court bench for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, making him the first Black Superior Court judge in the circuit, and at the time of his death was the only Black person to have served as a Superior Court judge in the circuit covering Newton

and Walton counties.

Friday, Feb. 5, Newton County's judicial center in Covington was formally renamed the Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr. Judicial Center to honor the late jurist.

Johnson was described as one of the college's "pioneering and most prominent African-American alumni and spent years as a sought-after and generous

See [HONOR, A3](#)

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Inside

Piedmont Newton welcomes new board members

See [BUSINESS, A7](#)



Weather

Wednesday, Feb. 17
High: 54°; Low: 42°
100% chance of rain.

Thursday, Feb. 18
High: 62°; Low: 34°
100% chance of rain.



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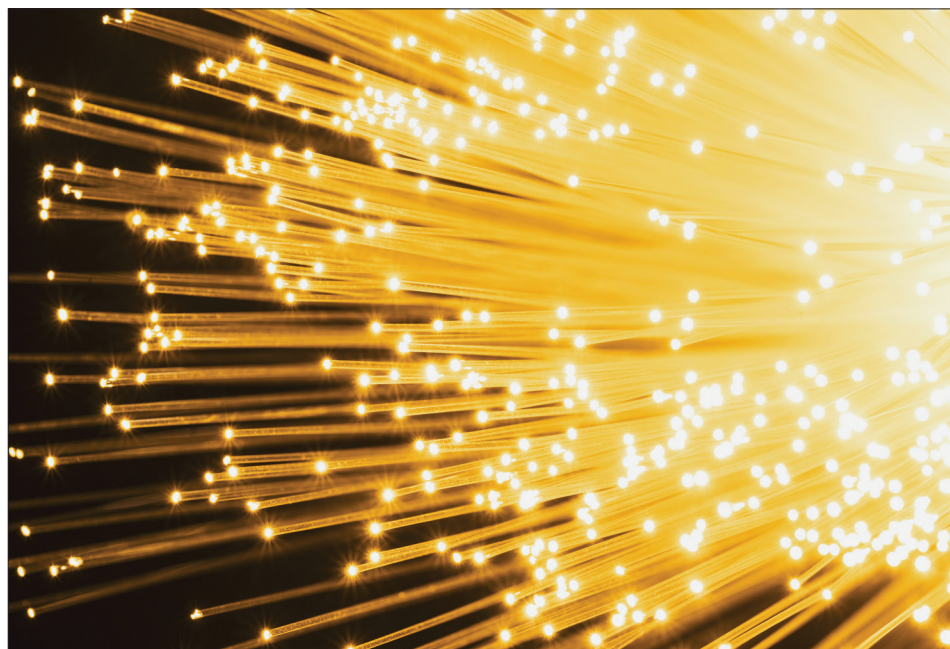
Broadband partnership to bring high-speed internet to rural Middle Georgia

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Two Middle Georgia utilities and a Kansas City-based fiber optic company announced a partnership Monday, Feb. 8, that will bring broadband service to homes and businesses in 18 mostly rural counties.

Central Georgia EMC, which serves part of south Newton County, and Southern Rivers Energy and Conexon will invest more than \$210 million to design and build a 6,890-mile fiber network that will provide both improved electric service and high-speed internet access to all 80,000 of the two utilities' customers. Service is expected to begin as early as June 2021 and continue rolling out during the next four years.

Under the deal announced Feb. 8, Central Georgia EMC and Southern Rivers Energy will own the fiber and lease excess capacity to Conexon, which has agreed to



Metro Creative Services

Georgia's partnership with a Kansas City-based fiber optic company will bring broadband internet to rural middle Georgia, including Newton County.

serve every EMC customer with fiber-to-the-home internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second.

The internet service will be powered by EMC fiber, but Conexon will provide the retail service to homes and businesses and manage account set-up, customer service and billing.

The 18 counties to be served through the partnership announced Feb. 8 are Bibb, Butts,

Clayton, Coweta, Crawford, Fayette, Henry, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Pike, Putnam, Spalding, and Upson.

State and local political and business leaders have long identified the lack of broadband connectivity in many parts of rural Georgia as instrumental in holding back rural communities.

The coronavirus pandemic, which has

forced many students out of their classrooms to rely on online instruction and hamstrung rural companies trying to conduct business, has given the need for high-speed internet even greater urgency.

"Many economic, medical and other challenges facing rural Georgia can not be fixed by a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach," Gov. Brian Kemp said during

Monday's announcement at the Georgia Capitol. "[It takes] EMCs, private partners and community leaders working together on creative solutions to close the gap between those with internet service and those without."

Although a couple of Georgia's electric membership cooperatives have been providing broadband service for years, the General Assembly first authorized the EMCs to enter the broadband business just two years ago. Since then, EMCs in the North Georgia mountains, West Georgia and South Georgia have launched broadband projects.

"We are marking today this investment not only in rural broadband but in the future of this state," said House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge. "This investment will bring the latest generation of fiber optic high-speed broadband to the doorstep of every resident of this region."

Melton leaves Ga. Supreme Court

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton will step down from the state Supreme Court effective July 1, he announced Friday.

In a statement, Melton said he doesn't know what's next.

"July 31 will mark my 30th year working in state government, 16 years with the Court," Melton said. "This fall, all of our three children will be attending college at the same time. Now is the best time for me to explore opportunities for the next season of life that will allow me to best serve our legal community and my extended family."

"I do not now know what my next move will be. With this announcement, I can begin the search process in earnest."

Melton will leave one year and two months before his term as chief justice comes to an end. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2005 by then-Gov. Sonny Perdue, and became chief justice in 2018.

"It has not been easy to decide the best time to leave a job with a mission that I believe in and people I love working with," Melton said to court staff.

"We have done great work together for the benefit of the citizens of this great state, and this Court is well-positioned to continue the high calling that has clearly been set before us."

Gov. Brian Kemp will appoint a successor.



Harold Melton

SHOT:

Continued from A1

discharging Sunday at about 12:43 a.m. on Collier Street in south Covington.

The officer reported responding to the initial call and hearing the dispatcher tell him Covington Police were receiving multiple calls about gunshots.

About five minutes after the initial call, the officer reported hearing "multiple shots fired that sounded like a gun battle" while waiting on backup to arrive. "Shortly after the

gunfire stopped a light color compact car sped up the road, then stopped and backed up," a report stated.

The officer used a patrol car as cover to locate the incident and found a woman waving officers down and "stating her husband had been shot."

Officers then began rendering aid to the victim while other officers secured the scene. The victim "was alert and stated that his neighbor shot him,"

according to the report.

Investigators reportedly found numerous spent rounds of 9mm bullets in the yard.

After speaking with witnesses officers found they were looking for two suspects identified as "Ook" and "T." The pair attempted to get away from the scene in a 2006 blue Hyundai Accent before backing the car up, stopping and taking off running from the vehicle, the report stated.

Later, the reporting officer checked vehicles waiting to get to their residences "on the

other side of the crime tape" at about 2:50 a.m.

"One of the vehicles I approached was occupied by a passenger matching the physical description" of one of the suspects, the report stated.

"When I asked where they were trying to get, he stated the house where the incident occurred," the officer reported.

The occupant of the house told the officer she was not expecting anyone. Officers then detained the man, who was identified as

Smith, and witnesses identified him as the shooter, the report stated.

An Armsor 206 .38-caliber pistol was placed into evidence.

In addition, a shoe was found that possibly belonged to Ook, the report stated. He was described as wearing a red T-shirt, black jeans, black slides with white socks, and a low fade haircut.

Smith was being held in the Newton County Jail without bond Monday.

OBITUARIES

Alice Mays

In loving memory of our beloved mother Alice Mays, she was born and raised in Covington, GA she leaves to cherish her sons Dwight Petty, Michael



Smith, Kenneth Smith, Keith Smith and Carl Smith Daughters Sherry Watson and Sharon Gregory. We love and miss you.

Vivian A. Helm

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

Vivian A. Helm, of Covington, passed away Friday, February 12, 2021, at the age of 86. Mrs. Helm had a love of traveling and did so as often as she could. Although she visited many places over the years, her favorite destinations were Europe and Asia. Gifted with an eye for detail and steady hands, Mrs. Helm excelled in needlework, especially cross-stitch and quilting. She also enjoyed time spent with her beloved grandchildren and regular lunches at Butcher Block. Mrs. Helm was preceded in death by her parents, George C. and Ruth (Waters) Agee; sisters, Hazel Smith, Doro-

thy Kitchens, Murice Granger, Reesie Payne; and brother, Clinton Agee.

The memory of Mrs. Helm will be forever cherished by her adoring husband of 68 years, Don Helm; sons and daughters-in-law, Darrell and Laura Helm, Steve and Sherri Helm; grandchildren, Donald "Buck" and Amanda Helm, Jennifer and Ashley Senn, Derreck Helm, Drew and Juliana Helm; great-grandchildren, Lily Helm, Kate Helm, Thomas Lynn, James Senn; as well as sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Joe Cawley.

A Graveside Service to honor the life of Mrs. Helm was held Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 4:00 P.M., at Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington, with Rev. Mike Wadley officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shiloh United Methodist Church, 10 Almon Church Road, Covington, GA 30014. Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

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Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!

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Moratorium on new residential county development proposed to run into mid-July

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Increasing demand for residential construction is prompting county planners to ask commissioners to slow the pace of growth into mid-summer to update zoning laws that are not “adequately” addressing recent development trends.

The Newton Board of Commissioners Tuesday, Feb. 16, was set to conduct a public hearing on a request to extend until July 20 its current moratorium on accepting new requests for residential rezonings and any preliminary plans for new residential subdivisions in the county’s unincorporated area. The current, 30-day moratorium ends Feb. 19 and Development Services Director Judy Johnson said an overhaul is needed on county ordinances that guide how future subdivisions and residential areas are developed.

A moratorium lasting until the county commission’s July

20 regular meeting will give planners the time needed to address existing concerns and any new concerns raised in a work session, which likely would be scheduled for late April, she said.

It also will give it time to host two public hearings on the changes, as well as account for any possible delays because of safety concerns around the spread of COVID-19, Johnson said.

“We may not need the entire time,” she said.

Johnson said her staff believes the current ordinance is not sufficiently regulating new residential developments based on current trends.

The staff wants to address conflicting language in the county ordinance, as well as to clarify development densities, traffic concerns and zoning requirements and differences between types of multi-family dwellings, she said.

Johnson said commissioners may want to address residential

densities in proportion to an area’s infrastructure — such as roads or sewer availability — as well as the availability of public services like law enforcement, fire protection and schools.

She said the county already had received 144 applications for building permits for single-family residential construction between Jan. 1 and Feb. 9.

If those permits eventually lead to construction of new homes, numerous new residents buying those homes will need services, she said.

“It’s not that we don’t want growth, just sustainable growth,” Johnson said.

She said the Board of Commissioners also may want to better define requirements for amenities in subdivisions, such as creation of pocket parks or walking facilities within individual communities.

Johnson gave the example of the county ordinance’s requirement for reserving 30% of land in mixed-use subdivisions for “civic use.”

Rep. Johnson to chair Judiciary Subcommittee

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Lithonia, was recently elected to lead the Judiciary Subcommittee — Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet (IP) again.

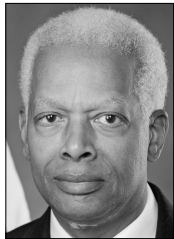
Johnson served as chairman in the 116th Congress as well.

“I am honored and excited to again take the helm of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet,” Johnson said. “We started the critical work of bringing more transparency and accountability to the federal courts in the last Congress, and we will continue that work to ensure that the courts are equipped to promote and provide justice to all who appear before them.”

The Subcommittee plays a key role in setting the legal stage for America’s innovation economy through its work on intellectual property laws.

“Now more than ever, it’s important for IP laws to be modernized and optimized to support innovators, entrepreneurs, and small businesses as we look forward to jump-starting the economic recovery after the coronavirus pandemic and beyond,” he said.

The subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the administration of the federal courts, federal rules of evidence, civil and appellate procedure, judicial ethics, and the Legal Services Corporation.



Hank Johnson

RECALLS:

Continued from A1

said.

“You cannot go into politics looking out for yourself,” Cobb said.

The former commissioner served with such chairmen as Roy Varner — for which Lake Varner is named — and David Morgan, he said.

At the time of his election, there were few recreation facilities for anyone in the city and county, Cobb said.

Cobb said he was proud he was able to bring about construction of some recreation facilities and establishment of a “strong” recreation program.

During his time on the county commission, Cobb also saw such major achievements as the establishment of the county’s new drinking water source at Lake Varner, which opened in northeast Newton in 1992.

“The whole board really worked together on that,” he said.

He said the board at the time was nonpartisan and was “unique” in working together on projects without regard to race.

However, Cobb admitted that, while the commission may have worked in harmony, the county still had a



File | The Covington News

From left, County Commissioner Harold Cobb stands with Commissioner Franklin Gray, Chairman Roy Varner and Commissioner Nelson Allen in 1979.

long way to go on race relations.

Cobb recalled not being allowed to enter the park in the middle of the Covington Square when he was young because of his race.

As a result, he rarely thought about the statue that honors Confederate war dead in the middle of the park.

The century-old monument has proven divisive in recent years. Some community members have called

for its removal because they said it was offensive to the county’s Black community.

“That statue never even crossed my mind,” Cobb said.

He said he believed the statue should be removed but “put in the right place” and not destroyed.

“A statue can’t hurt me,” he said. “It’s not something I’m going to cry over.”

After working for everyone from Litho-

nia Lighting to the city of Atlanta, Cobb left his seat on the county commission to return to college full time and earn a theology degree.

“God told me to work for him,” Cobb recalled.

He ended up pastoring or helping to pastor six churches in three counties, including White’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Conyers where he remained 12 years.

HONOR:

Continued from A1

mentor to many students” in a statement from Oxford College. It was also said he had an ongoing presence around the Newton County campus. Johnson even agreed to be the 2020 Oxford commencement speaker and was “standing by” for whenever the college could safely gather and celebrate its graduates.

“I can think of no more fitting way to honor the memory and legacy of Horace Johnson than the establishment of this scholarship,” Doug Hicks, dean of Oxford College, said in a news release. “Horace touched the lives of so many students through his counsel, example, and generosity. The Horace J. Johnson Jr. Scholarship will make an Oxford College education possible for a host of deserving students far into the future.”

Johnson also held a presence

at Emory in Atlanta, where a conference room in the new student center is named for him and his Emory fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. Burns, who was Johnson’s fraternity brother, called the late jurist a “friend, ... brother and a personal hero who epitomized servant leadership.”

“He was also a mentor, role model and active participant in the success of hundreds of Emory and Oxford College students for more than three decades,” Burns said. “A few weeks before he died, we spoke about heeding the call of public service and I believe this scholarship is the best way to honor him and continue his legacy of service.”

Johnson’s wife, Michelle, said he loved Oxford College. She was glad the family was able to provide a donation.

“Horace loved Oxford College, often sharing his story on how he decided to attend, through the encouragement of his parents, because he wanted to attend a different university,” she said. “He was so happy he listened to his parents. Through Horace’s love and energy, our family loves Oxford, too. A gift in his memory to support Oxford students honors Horace’s legacy, and provides the opportunity for students to begin establishing their own.”

Community members are encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund here: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1705/giving/index.aspx?sid=1705&gid=3&pgid=600&cid=1358&bledit=1&dids=12535&appealcode=1EHJ2>.

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OPINIONS

The Covington News

Rev. Lyn Pace columnist

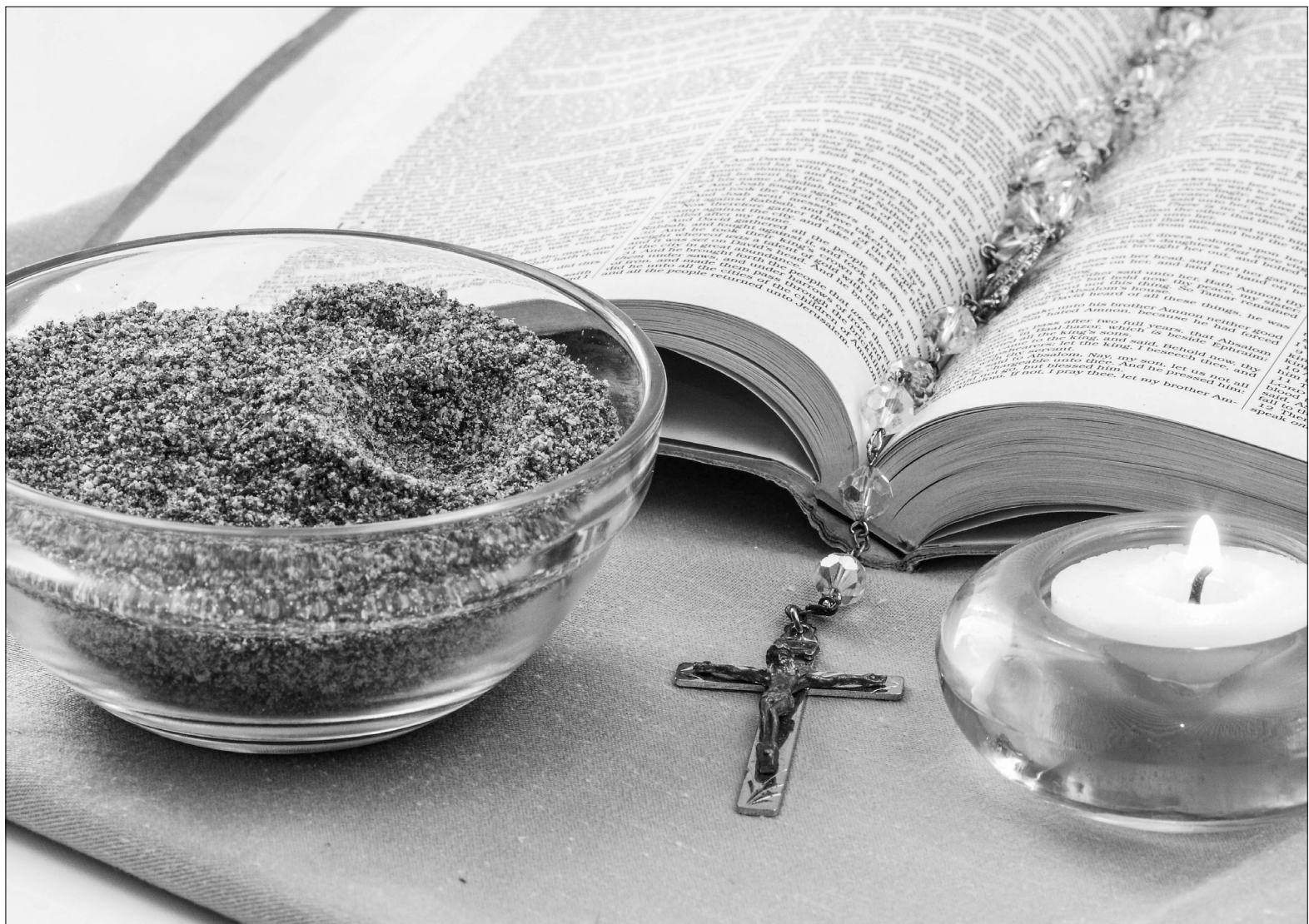
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

In almost five years of articles, I have never focused solely on Ash Wednesday, the Christian holy day where we intentionally focus on our mortality. This is not a greeting card kind of holiday. It is not the holiday full of joyous carols or egg hunts. However, it, too, has its place.



One of the scriptures for the day is from the prophet Joel. “Return to me with all your hearts.” “Rend” or tear “your hearts and not your clothing,” the prophet writes. In her poem, “Rend Your Heart: A Blessing for Ash Wednesday,” Jan Richardson says, “To receive this blessing, all you have to do is let your heart break.” Every year on Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge our mortality. That is why we smudge ashes on our foreheads and wear them around for others to see.

Last year, when we gathered in person in our chapel, I knew of COVID and had some idea it would reach us soon in Georgia, but I had no idea what we would be facing. None of us did. I had no idea how much our hearts would break because of the death, isolation, loss of work, sacrifices and then, of course, the stress of essential workers and others. Smearing ashes on our forehead and reflecting on our mortality reminds us that life is a gift. Life is also fragile. There is more to Ash Wednesday than this, too. It is the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a 40-day season of rest, reflection, renewal, and repentance. For



“Ash Wednesday is not a greeting card kind of holiday,” Rev. Lyn Pace writes. “It is not the holiday full of joyous carols or egg hunts. However, it, too, has its place.”

instance, Joel also writes, “Return to me with all your hearts.” Joel is not asking us to return to him, the prophet. He is speaking as if God is speaking, “Return to me (God) with all your hearts.” Joel introduces another theme of this day and the season of Lent – to return. To return or turn around is what the word “repent” literally means. The question for us is, “What are the ways in which we need to turn around or change direction in our lives?” It is an important question to keep in front of us during Lent.

When I think of changing

directions, I often think of forgiveness. Who needs forgiving? Well, all of us. We need to forgive ourselves. Forgive others. We often need to allow someone to forgive us. There is a beautiful song from the Taizé community in the south of France called “God is Forgiveness.” Just as Joel writes, “Return to me with all your hearts,” so the song reminds us, “God is forgiveness. Dare to forgive and God will be with you.” Indeed. Later in her poem, Jan Richardson reminds us that our entire life is inscribed

whole upon our heart’s walls. She says it could take days to wander the rooms of our heart, a heart that contains our entire life. “Forty, at least,” she writes. Lent’s 40 days are ripe for us to wander. They are ripe for “trusting the breaking,” as she writes. It is a season for us to be intentional. It is a time where we can develop the intention with which we want to live the rest of the days in 2021. Whether or not you participate in these Christian sacred days and seasons, you still have the chance to think about intention. Read

more poetry. Take more walks. Join a virtual book club. Develop a contemplative practice. Forgive more. Judge less. Let this season of wandering remind you of God’s love. Of our need for forgiveness and to forgive. Of setting intentions. Let the wandering lead you to wondering.

The Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace is a United Methodist minister and college chaplain who lives in Oxford with his spouse and 8-year-old.

Dave Belton guest columnist

Representative believes no cuts in order for ‘big’ budget

Both the House and the Senate agreed on a “small” or Amended Budget for 2021 with very few differences. Again, the big winner was education, who



received \$647 million from the state and \$2.1 billion from the Feds, as well as a \$1,000 one-time bonus for all teachers. Healthcare got the second biggest share, with an additional \$103 million as well as \$418 million in savings due to a change in the federal law as well as \$1 billion from the Feds. Also, the gover-

nor pushed for a one-time bonus of \$1,000 for every full-time state employee that makes under \$80,000. That does NOT include legislators, as we are only part-time making about \$17,000 a year. Overall, the 2021 is slightly smaller than 2020 because of COVID. Now, we will work on the “big” budget for 2022. Thankfully, as revenues continue to outpace the nation, we should not be making any cuts.

We passed a very important bill in the House called the Pandemic Business Safety Act. It extends protections for businesses in Georgia who remained open during COVID against frivolous lawsuits. These brave businesses are the reason Georgia is in such good financial shape right now. The vote was very narrow, with nearly all the Democrats voting “no.” My Teacher Tax Credit bill got unanimous votes in two committees, and should be on the floor of the House

next week. Again, it would be a \$3,000 for five years incentive for teachers who choose to work in a very rural or poorly performing school. The pilot program would cost \$3 million a year. I am also sponsoring (or co-sponsoring) three state compact bills; for speech pathologists, occupational therapists and counselors. These are requested by the military so that their dependent spouses can easily practice their trade when they move to a new duty station. Keep in mind, these compacts apply to everyone in these fields, not just military. Compacts also increase health care accessibility via telehealth, especially to rural areas. I got these bills through committee unanimously and am looking forward to more progress next week. I’d like to end with some very good news. Two years ago, my committee passed legislation that encouraged local EMCs to get into the rural broadband business. This week, I was very happy to be asked by the governor

to stand with him as he announced a huge public-private partnership with Central Georgia EMC, Southern Rivers, and Conexon to spend \$210 million to build nearly 7,000 miles of fiber internet into very rural areas, including Newton and much of southern Morgan counties. And, as I have stated before, the governor is budgeting an additional \$20 million for rural broadband and \$40 million for rural innovation. Additionally, Georgia EMCs are going green ... big time. It’s hard to believe, but Georgia alone accounts for a third of all co-ops in the entire nation in solar power. This new massive expansion will install enough solar panels to reach Sweden, providing over 1182 megawatts of power and 1,000 new jobs. GA Power has also invested over \$400 million in solar panels on our military bases. Overall, Georgia Power has invested \$2.65 billion, and Georgia as a whole over \$3.2 billion, in solar power over the past few years, making us the fifth best solar

state in America. Solar provides 3% of Georgia’s electricity needs, and almost 5,000 jobs over 2,225 installations. When the sun is shining, solar is cheaper than natural gas. For the first time in nearly 100 years – mostly because of fracking and deregulation – America is finally energy self-sufficient. That means we DON’T have to rely on the Middle East or Russia to get our energy; actors that do NOT have our best interests at heart. This EMC project, as well as Georgia Power and countless others, is a great example of how businesses – not government mandates – provide solutions in a way that is both smart and green. America is way cleaner than China or India or Russia – or nearly every other country in the world – because of private enterprise ... not onerous regulations.

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

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pgraham@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR

Taylor Beck
tbeck@covnews.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Cynthia Warren
cwarren@covnews.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Amanda Ellington
aellington@covnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Tom Spigolon
tspigolon@covnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Mason Wittner
mwittner@covnews.com

LEGALS CLERK

Lee Ann Avery
lavery@covnews.com

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Help Wanted

“LIVE in Augusta, GA”
LEADING
MANUFACTURER OF Polyethylene
Film & Bags seeks positive
self-motivated problem solving
Supervisors & Lead Operators with
3+ years of blown file experience.
Salary based
ON EXPERIENCE. Send Resume
to: HR@amcorplastics.com and Visit
our website: amcorplastics.com/jobs

ANGEL'S SEAFOOD & More
LLC is looking for a Safe Serve
Certification Food Service MGR.
Must have the skills to operate &
run a existing Seafood restaurant.
Must be able to work at least 4
days a week. Hours & salary will be
discuss upon interview please call
Alfreda Armstrong @ 404-484-4474
restaurant is located at 2308 Hwy
1212 Covington, Ga. 30016

LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Newton County to foreclose liens against the vehicle (s) listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicle (s) is : 9179 Aaron Dr. Covington, GA 30014. Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before: 2/25/2021 Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerks office located at: Newton County Court House Forms may also be obtained online at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com

- 1994 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1GK13E9RU055537
20-4666AV
2008 NISSAN SENTRA
3N1AB61E98L675214
20-4667AV
2000 FORD RANGER
1FTZR15X4YTA0817
20-4665AV
1998 CHEVROLET CAVALIER
1G1JF12T9W7227535
21-145AV
1991 NISSAN SENTRA
1N4EB31B2MC766453
21-143AV
1996 FORD F150
1FTEF15N5TNA14773
21-147AV
2004 CADILLAC CTS
1G6DM5770191632
21-146AV

PUBLIC NOTICE #119925
2/10,17

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION HILL TOP TOWING INC

**LOCATION: 8360 Nolley Drive
COVINGTON, GA 30014**
DATE: FEBURARY 18th 2021
TIME-10:00AM

BIDS STARTS AT \$2800

- CASH ONLY, SOLD AS IS
LIST OF VEHICLES**
- 1.1994 FORD EXPLORER,VIN-1FMDU34XSRUC11758 (WRECKED)
2.2006 CHEVY TAHOE,VIN-1GNEC13V76J149428 (WRECKED)
3.2003 HONDA ACCORD,VIN-1HGCM66593A038141 (WRECKED)
4.2002 FORD FISO,VIN-1FTRW07L72KB19872 (WRECKED)
5.2012 DODGE JOURNEY,VIN-3C4PCDCA86CT324369 (WRECKED)
6.2018 HONDA CIVIL,VIN-JHMF1F30JX025481
7.2012 KIA OPTIMA,VIN-KKNAGM4A75C5297664 (WRECKED)
8.2013 KIA OPTIMA,VIN-SXXGM4A75DG241708 (WRECKED)
9.2005 VOLK Jma,VIN-3VWWR69M6SM035138 (WRECKED)

PUBLIC NOTICE #118856
02/10,17

Adoptions

NOTICE PUBLICATION

TO: MATTHEW GERALD DURHAM.

YOU ARE hereby notified that a Petition for Adoption was filed in this Court requesting the termination of your parental rights in the referenced male child.

ALL PARENTAL rights you may have with respect to the referenced male child will be lost, and you will receive neither notice of nor be entitled to object to the termination of your parental rights and the adoption of the referenced male child unless, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice, you file: (1) a petition to legitimize the referenced male child in the Superior Court

OF NEWTON County, Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A.§ 19-7-22;(2) notice of the filing of such petition to legitimize the referenced male child with the Adoption Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, at 1132 Usher Street, Room No. 338, Covington, Georgia 30014; and (3) notice of the filing of such petition to legitimize the referenced male child with the Petitioners attorney, William F. Elliott, at 1140 Brown Street, Covington, Georgia 30014.

YOU MUST make known such other objection as you may have to the adoption of the referenced male child within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice.

THIS NOTICE of Publication shall be published for three (3) consecutive weeks and personal service of said notice is perfected upon the last day of publication.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this

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

Level: Intermediate

11 day of February, 2021

WILLIAM F. Elliott
ATTORNEY PETITIONERS
GEORGIA BAR No. 244905
1140 BROWN Street
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014
770-788-9400

PUBLIC NOTICE #119947
2/17,24

Alcoholic Beverage

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Newton County Board of Commissioners to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) for off-premises consumption by: **BAILEY'S 2536,LLC**
NURUDDIN BARDAI
2536 HIGHWAY 81S
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #119949
2/17

Bids

THE CITY of Covington and the Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority, (JV, Joint Venture) jointly seek Proposals (RFP) from qualified and experienced firms or contractors for the development of a bio-solids handling and disposal program to serve their collective waste water treatment systems. Requested services should include the following project descriptions.
PART 1: Pilot Program: Develop a scaled demonstration project that receives dewatered sludge from the JV's wastewater treatment plants and converts same to a stable, Class A, bio-solid as defined by Georgia EPD. The demonstration project would examine alternatives for converting the dewatered sludge to a stable product for use as a soil additive for agricultural or landscaping uses. The JV feels that Newton County community has the potential to support composting of bio-solids, as an example.

PART 2: Full Scale Program: Based on a successful Pilot, scale up the operation to receive all the **JV'S RESIDUAL** bio-solid stream on an ongoing basis. The Full-Scale Program may or may not lead to a multi-year agreement to be negotiated at the conclusion of Part 1.
OFFERORS SHALL submit Proposals to the Owner Contact by 4:30 p.m., April 12, 2021.

ON MARCH 3, 2021, the Joint Venture will host a mandatory pre-proposal conference consisting of overview and tour of existing facilities. The conference will meet at 10:00 a.m. at The Center, 2104 Washington Street, SW; Covington, Georgia, 30014. A project overview will be presented with questions and answer session to provide additional context, followed by caravan visits to the JV's facilities located around Newton County.

THE OWNER Contact will act as the sole point of contact for this RFP and will administer the RFP process. All communications should be submitted in writing via email, and specifically reference this RFP. This RFP is subject to revision after the date of issuance via written Addenda. Any such addenda will be distributed directly to known Offerors via email. All questions and responses will be shared by Addenda with all parties having acknowledged the RFP. Please direct questions to the Owner Contact as follows:

MS. LINDSEY Chambers
ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN
NCWSA
11325 BROWN Bridge Road
COVINGTON, GA 30016
PHONE: (770) 385-3923
EMAIL: LC@NCWSA.US

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #119952
2/14,24

Debtors Creditors

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **LINDA MARIE MOORE**, late of Newton County, deceased, 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:

NAME OF Executor: **Cheryle Denise Brooks**

CHERYLE DENISE Brooks
C/O SHANNON D. Sneed
ATTORNEY AT Law
P.O. BOX 1245
COVINGTON, GA 30015

THIS 11TH day of February, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #119948
2/17,24-3/3,10

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 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 render your demands and/or make 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

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

GUY PITTERSON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
KENEISHA PITTERSON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2021-CV-229-4

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: KENISHA PITTERSON
45 WIMBLERLY Way
COVINGTON, GA 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **FEBRUARY 9, 2021**you are hereby notified that on JFEBRUARY 12, 2021(date of filing) **GUY PITTERSON** (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 **CHEVEDA D. MCCAMY** , Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

THIS, THE 10th day of **FEBRUARY 2021.**
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #119950
2/17,24-3/3,10

Foreclosures

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 212, 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 NOTICE #11750
02/3,10,17,24

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

YOU ARE hereby notified that on the 9 day of Feb, 2021 Maurice Akpan, filed a Petition to Change Name in the Superior Court of Newton County. Maurice Akpan desires to change his/ her form Maurice Johnson Akpan to Maurice Mightly Johnson. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition to Change Name was filed.

MAURICE AKPAN
240 CREEKVIEW Blvd
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #119951
2/17,24-3/3,10

Public Notice

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Newton STATE OF GEORGIA

COVTANI UMBLE-EFIJEMUEH PLAINTIFF,
V.
FRANKLIN EFIJEMUEH DEFENDANT,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
SUCV2021000151

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IT APPEARING By Affidavit, that the above named defendant on whom service is to be made in this case resides out of the State, or has departed from the State, or cannot after due diligence, be found within the State, or conceals himself or herself to avoid service of the Summons, and it further appearing, either by Affidavit or by verified Complaint on file, that a claim exists against the Respondent in respect to whom service is made, and that he or she is a necessary or proper party to the action.
IT IS hereby considered, ordered, and decreed that service be made by publication as **PROVIDED** by law.

SO ORDERED, this 4TH day of February 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #119926
2/10,17,24-3/3

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 re-alignment of Access Road NW. This re-alignment 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.NEWTON.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 TO THE PUBLIC

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on February 22, 2021, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. at the Newton County Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, Covington, Georgia 30014, a presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County will hear the case of **STATE OF GEORGIA vs. NEWTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** and **NEWTON COUNTY, Civil Action File No. 2021-CV-225-2** in the Superior Court of Newton County, the same being a proceeding to confirm and validate Taxable Industrial Development Revenue Bond (Stanton Grove Project), Series 2021 (the "Series 2021 Bond"), in the principal amount of \$16,100,000, to be issued by the Newton County Industrial Development Authority (the "Issuer") pursuant to the terms of a resolution adopted by the Issuer, in order to promote and expand for the public good and welfare, industry, trade, commerce and employment opportunities within the "area of operation" of the Issuer in Newton County, Georgia (the "County"). The Series 2021 Bond is to be issued to pay certain costs of the acquisition, development and improvement (including, without limitation, the installation or provision of public infrastructure) of a parcel of vacant land that includes approximately 335 acres and that fronts U.S. Highway 278 and Interstate Highway 20 at Exit 101 in the County (collectively, the "Project"). In such proceeding, the Court will also: (a) hear and determine the validity of instruments relating to and providing security for the Series 2021 Bond, and (b) hear and determine such other questions of law and fact pertaining to the right of the Issuer to issue the Series 2021 Bond and to provide the security therefor. The Series 2021 Bond shall be special and limited obligations of the Issuer, payable from funds pledged by the Issuer for such purpose, and **NO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OR PERFORMANCE REVIEW SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITH RESPECT TO SUCH BOND ISSUE**. Any citizen of the State of Georgia residing in Newton County, or any other person wherever residing who has a right to object, may intervene and become a party to these proceedings.

LINDA D. Hays
CLERK, SUPERIOR Court,
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #119921
2/10,17

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</



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The Covington News

BUSINESS

The Covington News

Piedmont Newton Hospital

Local pastor, Bridgestone Golf CEO among four joining hospital board

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Piedmont Newton Hospital recently welcomed four new members to its board of directors.

Serra P. Hall, Debra J. Lary, the Rev. Eric W. Lee Sr. and Dan Murphy officially began service on the board in November.

The Piedmont Newton Hospital board of directors includes mostly volunteer, non-clinical community members, said hospital spokeswoman Sarah Teach.

The board works in an advisory role to make sure the hospital's resources are applied in a way that promotes community benefit and better health. However, it does not manage the Newton hospital's operations or finances, Teach said.

David Kent, CEO of Piedmont Newton Hospital, said, "We are pleased to welcome Serra, Debra, Rev. Lee and Dan to the Piedmont Newton family."

"These individuals bring a unique set of skills and diverse perspectives to the table," Kent said in a news release. "Undoubtedly, each is a great addition to our board."

Lee has served as senior pastor for Springfield Baptist Church since May 1999. The church has more than 10,000 members and serves the communities of Newton and Rockdale through more than 40 ministries such as the Food Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Recovery at Work Substance Abuse Ministry, and Transitional Prison Ministry.

Lee graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in history. He then attended the Vanderbilt University



Special to The Covington News

Four new members have joined the board of Piedmont Newton Hospital, located in Covington.

Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, where he concentrated in Ethics, Religion and Society and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Gordon-Conwell Theological School in 2019.

He is a member of the Morehouse College National Alumni Association, a member of the Executive Council of the Hampton University Minister's Conference, and was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. International Board of Preachers in 2018.

Murphy is president and CEO of Bridgestone Golf. He first joined the company in 2004 as executive vice president of sales and marketing before leaving the company in 2015 and returning in 2018 as CEO.

Prior to joining Bridgestone, he worked for Maxfli Golf, TaylorMade Golf and Dunlop Sports.

With a background in sales and marketing, Murphy brings extensive experience in developing consumer brands into industry leaders.

Murphy is a graduate of Wake Forest University. He

is active in the Covington/Newton County Chamber of Commerce, serves as a board member for The First Tee, and is a past board member of the Arts Association in Newton County.

Hall is vice president of Project Development for the Newton County Industrial Development Authority.

She joined the Newton County Office of Economic Development in 2012 and her primary focus areas are recruitment and retention support for industrial, commercial and hospitality businesses within Newton County.

As the recruitment leader for Newton County, Hall has worked closely with companies such as McKinley Paper Inc., Facebook Newton Data Center and Lidl Inc., as well as Nisshinbo Automotive, FiberVisions and General Mills as they have expanded in the community.

In addition to recruiting businesses to the area, Hall is actively engaged in workforce development and job creation.

She attended the Univer-

sity of Georgia where she studied Recreation/Leisure Studies and Business Management at the Terry College of Business.

Lary serves as Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator for the Newton College and Career Academy and works to advance career technology education.

She also serves as the Entrepreneurial Business Incubator coordinator and the Work-Based Learning coordinator for the Newton College and Career Academy, as well as the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) department chair and content specialist.

Prior to joining the Newton College and Career Academy, Lary taught Business and Computer Science at Newton High School.

Lary earned a Bachelor of Computer Science degree from Spelman College and a Master of Education in Business and Education Specialist in Leadership degrees from the University of West Georgia.

For more information, visit piedmont.org.

Winter storm affects The News

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A winter storm sweeping across most parts of country Monday, Feb. 15, has affected *The Covington News*.

Because its newspaper is printed in north Alabama, *The News* was required to move up its deadlines for today's edition.

Georgia remains mostly clear from the winter storm's impact.

For breaking news, follow us on social media or visit CovNews.com.

Social Circle

Resident travel agent becomes safety verified

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Christina Norris, a Dream Vacations specialist and franchise owner in Social Circle, has completed an extensive training program to become a Travel Safety Verified Travel Advisor.

The training covered health and safety best practices while traveling; travel protection health policies; safety protocols in place at resorts, airlines, and cruises; and how to address customer concerns for various scenarios.

"It was important for me to become Travel Safety Verified because as a Certified Travel Advisor, I am an advocate for my clients and it is my duty to ensure they have a safe, yet fun vacation experience," Norris said.

"A lot has changed over the last year, and this training provided me with detailed information so I can answer my clients' questions and concerns about what to expect when traveling."

Now more than ever it is important to book a vacation with a travel agent. Norris walks clients step-by-step through the entire booking and planning process, from selecting destinations and excursions based on clients' interests to providing enhanced packing lists and guidance on what to expect when traveling.

For more information or to book a Dream Vacation, please call 678-660-3650 or visit www.cnorris.dreamvacations.com.



Christina Norris

Covington

COUNTRY Financial donates \$1,500 to CPD

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — COUNTRY Financial representative Scott Harpe recently announced the Covington Police Department was recipient of a COUNTRY Financial Operation Helping Heroes donation.

Harpe said the \$1,500 donation would be used for new equipment.

"It's more important now to support your local community and we want to provide support to the local police department," said COUNTRY Financial representative Harpe.

COUNTRY Financial donated more than \$3 million in 2020 to organizations and programs that support first responders, healthcare workers and active-duty service members, supporting the company's vision to "enrich lives in the communities we serve."

The Operation Helping Heroes program was created in 2015 to support non-profit events and programs that benefit active-duty service members,



Special to The Covington News

Scott Harpe (pictured center, right) presents Covington Police Chief Stacey Cotton a \$1,500 donation for the department as part of COUNTRY Financial's Operation Helping Heroes.

veterans and their families. In 2019, COUNTRY Financial expanded the program and donated \$700,000 to

approximately 500 first responder and military organizations.

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The Covington News

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Baseball

Redskins resume rebuild

Development key for Social Circle in Dawkins' second season

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Kevin Dawkins' first season in Social Circle didn't go exactly according to plan. After playing just 10 games — and winning two of their previous three — the Redskins were forced to press pause in early March due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, the elongated stoppage developed into an outright cancelation as the remainder of the 2020 campaign was washed out.

Dawkins' first season as head coach at Social Circle resulted in a 3-7 finish. Fielding a young roster in the early stages of a rebuild, he knew success was never going to be measured by figures in the win column. Dawkins' biggest disappointment wasn't the program's losing record, but rather the anticlimactic send-off for his three seniors.

"I felt bad for those guys because they didn't get to finish their senior season out like they had hoped," Dawkins said. "It's really disappointing because we were — right there at the end — kind of on a hot streak. We were starting to figure it out. I felt bad for everybody, but especially for those seniors."

With six freshmen penciled into the starting lineup each day, the Redskins had their fair share of growing pains through the first month of the 2020 season. They won't be much older this spring. Dawkins is expecting to have six freshmen and 13 sophomores in the program on Opening Day, alongside a small crop of upperclassmen. But don't be so quick to quick to overlook this club.

Last summer, Social Circle brought in Rob Patton and Nate Ethridge to coach the football team and help revamp the weightlifting program. The move has already impacted the entire Redskins athletic program, including Dawkins' young prospects.

"Coach Patton and Coach Ethridge came in with the football staff as our weightlifting coaches and have really set the tone early," Dawkins said. "It helps when you've got all the coaches in the athletic



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Sophomore catcher Mason Moore (pictured) will be back behind the dish for Social Circle this season as the young club continues to garner experience in year two of the Kevin Dawkins era. After graduating just three seniors last year, the Redskins will open their new campaign with only one senior on the roster.



Social Circle head baseball coach Kevin Dawkins speaks to a handful of players during a recent practice. Further player development will be the key to success in his second season at the helm.

Mason Wittner | The Covington News

department bought in. These players have bought in, too. You can tell the progress and improvements in the weight room have transitioned out here."

After seeing the fruits of their labor in the weight room, the Redskins are starting to carry themselves differently on the diamond. Dawkins' believes this accelerated maturation process could pay off over the course of a season.

"I think these guys — you could already tell by day two, day three of practice — are already more confident," he said. "They're stronger, they're bigger than they were last year. They've just got a little bit more swagger about them, which is nice to see."

Among notable

returners for Social Circle this spring will be sophomores Mason Moore and Mitchell McCullough, who split time behind the dish as freshmen. Jason Ball, a junior, has the potential to emerge as the team's No. 1 starter on the mound.

Other names Dawkins' advises people to keep an eye out for include Ty Lemaster, who is expected to take over at shortstop, Landon Davis, who will compete for a job in the infield, and Mason Hill, a contender for significant playing time in the outfield.

The Redskins have their work cut out for them in Region 8-A Public. Commerce, a preseason top-10 program in Class A, Lake Oconee Academy and Washington-Wilkes

will provide stiff league competition. But as the rebuild continues, Social Circle continues to set its sights on lofty goals.

"The No. 1 goal is always win the region, make the state playoffs, then compete for a state championship," he said. "This program has a storied history of having success, so you always want to continue that success."

The Redskins were slated to open their 2021 campaign at home against George Walton Academy on Tuesday, Feb. 15. They'll travel to Alabama later this week to square off against Glenwood and Tuscaloosa Academy in the Border Wars tournament Friday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m. ET and Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. ET.

Prep Basketball

Cougars wrap up regular-season GISA 1-AA title

Piedmont to host region tournament

By CHRIS BRIDGES
Correspondent

MONTICELLO, Ga. — The Piedmont Academy boys' basketball recently added two more region wins and entered the final week of the regular season with a GISA 1-AA title already wrapped up.

The Cougars swept a back-to-back series with region foe St. George on Friday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 6. Piedmont won, 68-25, on the road Friday before winning again on Saturday at home, 65-26.

In the first meeting, Luke Welch scored 14 points while Ryan Holder and Jeb Satterfield both added 10. Cole Wade finished with nine points and Jackson Welch poured in eight.

Cameron Mobley totaled seven points and Spencer Carter added five.

On Saturday, Holder scored 18 points to lead the Cougars with Luke Welch adding 11. Jackson Welch scored seven and Ethan Brewer finished with six.

Mobley scored five

points and Wade and Satterfield both added four in a balanced scoring attack.

Coach Will Johnson said he was able to play his entire roster in the two contests.

On Tuesday of this week, Piedmont hosted Class AAA Augusta Prep and recorded a 66-52 non-region win to improve to 14-7 overall. Luke Welch led the team with 20 points while Bradley Greenwood scored 17 and Holder finished with 15.

The Cougars looked to wrap up an undefeated season in region play on Friday when they play Windsor on the road in Macon. They emerged with a 68-46 victory, finishing the regular season with a pristine 8-0 record in league play.

Piedmont is scheduled to host the region tournament this week. The Cougars will be seeking their first region title since 2012.

"We want to win the region tournament and then get to at least the Final Four at state," Johnson said. "It would be the first time for the program making it that far. We will need to work on cutting down on turnovers. We still have a lot of work to do."

Prep Equestrian



Special to The Covington News

Saturday, Jan. 30, the Piedmont Academy Equestrian team competed in an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) horse show at Wellspring Farm located in Monroe. The Middle School Hunt Seat Team results are as follows: Lyleigh Thompson took fourth place in the Beginner Walk/Trot Equitation on the Flat class, Madalynn Bryant finished fifth place in the Beginner Walk/Trot Equitation of the Flat class and Isabel White took third place in the Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter Equitation on the Flat class.

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

The Covington News

Vegan curry fit for Lenten season

Keep flavors
fresh on non-
meat day with
potatoe recipe

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Lent is a solemn season of introspection and prayer as Christians prepare for the Easter celebration and feast. One of the hallmarks of the this time of year is abstaining from meat each Friday and during certain days of obligation.

People who routinely consume meat and poultry may be wondering which meals they can enjoy to keep flavors fresh on nonmeat days. Many Indian dishes are meat-free, vegan options that can be perfectly inserted into Lenten Fridays. Such is the case with this recipes for “Curry of Vegetables With Potatoes” from “Menus and Memories From Punjab” (Hippocrene Books) by Veronica “Rani” Sidhu.

Curry of Vegetables with Potatoes (Aloo Mutter)

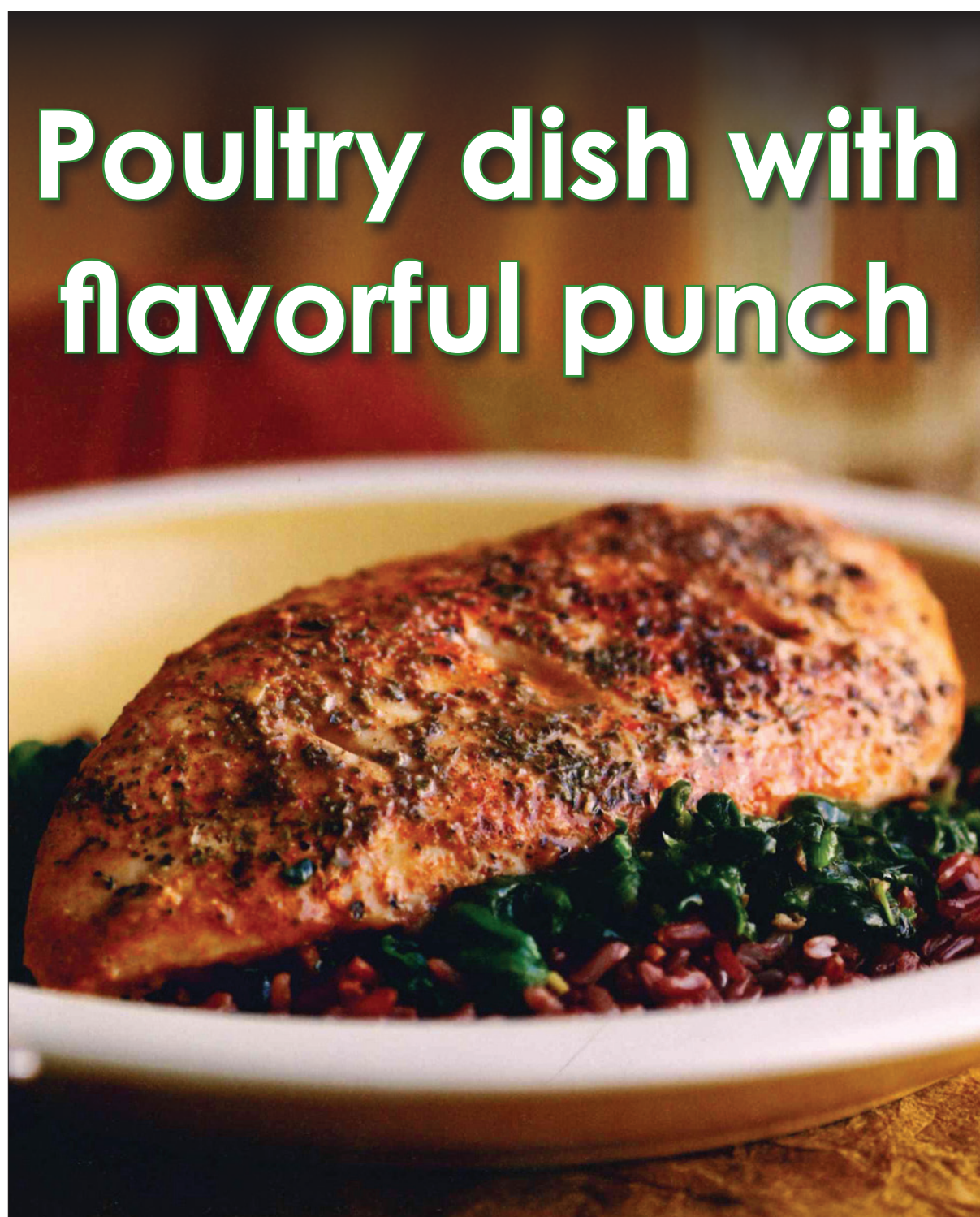
Yield: 10 1-cup servings

Ingredients:
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 medium onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 inches of ginger, minced
2 teaspoons ground turmeric
1 1/2 teaspoons whole or ground cumin seeds
1 tablespoon ground fenugreek seeds (optional)
1 medium/large tomato, chopped
1 or 2 long green chile peppers, seeded and finely chopped
1 1/2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
1/3 cup tomato paste
2 teaspoons garam masala
4 cups potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 1/4-inch cubes.
3 cups frozen peas, thawed
1/2 cup cilantro leaves and stems, finely chopped, plus some for garnish

Directions:
In a large, heavy-bottomed pot, heat the oil and sauté the onions, garlic and ginger over medium heat until lightly browned, stirring frequently. Add the spices and brown for 1 more minute. For a smooth gravy, purée this tarka in a blender.

Return the tarka to the pot and add the tomato, chile pepper and salt, stirring constantly for another few minutes. Stir in the tomato paste, 1 teaspoon of the garam masala, potatoes, and three cups of water. Simmer for 30 minutes over low heat, stirring occasionally.

Add the peas plus 2 1/2 cups water. Taste for salt and heat through. Before serving, sprinkle with the last teaspoon of garam masala and the cilantro leaves garnish.



Metro Creative Services

“Silken Chicken” is light and packs that familiar flavorful punch that endears Indian cuisine to millions of people across the globe.

Silken chicken recipe to satisfy any hunger pangs

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Many people aspire to eat light meals that satisfy hunger pangs without creating feelings of fullness. Some may assume light meals must be lacking flavor, but the following recipe for “Silken Chicken” from Madhur Jaffrey’s “Quick & Easy Indian Cooking” (Chronicle Books) is light and packs that familiar flavorful punch that endears Indian cuisine to millions of people across the globe.

Silken Chicken *Serves 2 to 4*

Ingredients:
For marinating the chicken:
4 boned, skinned chicken breast halves (about 1 1/4 pounds)
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon homemade garam masala (see below)
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground roasted cumin seeds (see below)
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed to a pulp
1/2 teaspoon peeled, finely grated fresh ginger

For sprinkling over the

chicken:

Salt as needed
Freshly ground black pepper
A little homemade garam masala
A little ground roasted cumin seed
A little cayenne pepper
1 teaspoon dried mint flakes
Generous squeezes of fresh lemon juice

Directions:
Preheat the oven to its highest temperature and arrange a shelf in the top third of the oven.

Cut three diagonal slits across the top of each piece of chicken breast, being careful not to cut all the way through and also not to go to the edge. Prick the chicken pieces with the sharp point of a small knife. Put them in a single layer in a large baking dish and rub both sides with the salt and lemon juice. Leave for five minutes. Meanwhile, combine the cream with the garam masala, cayenne, cumin seeds, paprika, garlic, and ginger in a bowl. Stir this mixture well and pour it over the chicken. Rub it into the meat and leave for 10 minutes.

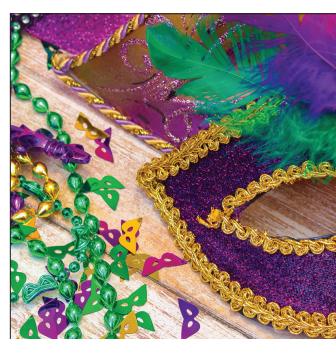
Lift the chicken pieces up (most of the marinade will cling to them) and place them down in a single layer in a shallow baking pan lined

with aluminum foil. On top of each, sprinkle a little salt, black pepper, garam masala, ground roasted cumin seed, cayenne, dried mint, and lemon juice. Put into the top third of the oven and bake for 15 minutes, or until the chicken is just white all the way through. Serve immediately, minted side up.

Garam Masala

Ingredients:
1 tablespoon cardamom seeds
One 2-inch cinnamon stick
1/3 of one nutmeg
1 teaspoon black pepper-corns
1 teaspoon black cumin seeds
1 teaspoon whole cloves

Directions:
Place ingredients into a clean coffee or spice grinder and ground to a powder.
To make ground roasted cumin seeds:
Put four to five tablespoons of the whole seeds into a small cast-iron frying pan and set over medium heat. Stir the seeds and roast them over dry heat until they turn a few shades darker and emit a wonderful roasted aroma. Wait for them to cool slightly and then grind them in a clean coffee or spice grinder. Store in a tightly closed jar.



Metro Creative Services

Celebrating Mardi Gras at home may be the safest bet. The following tips can help make such celebrations more festive.

Ways to enjoy Mardi Gras from home

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Mardi Gras in 2021 will look very different from past celebrations. Even though COVID-19 already started to spread around the world in February 2020, New Orleans, home to one of the most famous Mardi Gras festivals, carried on with its historic parade as the world was still learning about the virus and how it spread.

According to New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, there will be no Mardi Gras parades in 2021, as “large gatherings have proven to be super-spreader events of the COVID-19 virus.” Cantrell said Mardi Gras 2021 was “not canceled, just different.”

Mardi Gras, which precedes the Christian Lenten season, is an opportunity for one final day of joviality and some well-intentioned indulgence prior to the solemn period of Lent. Revelers have long celebrated Mardi Gras with parades and a carnival atmosphere has become synonymous with New Orleans.

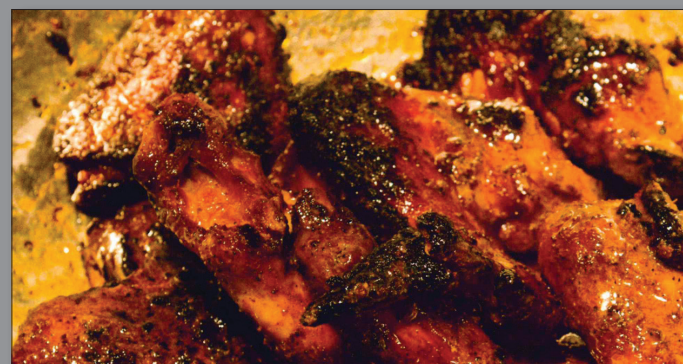
Celebrating from home may be the safest bet. Use these tips to make such celebrations more festive.

- Bake a King Cake. This cake is only available during Carnival season. It is a circular sweet pastry frosted to look like a crown in the yellow, green and purple colors of Mardi Gras.

- Delve into recipes for New Orleans cuisine, whether by ordering in or cooking it yourself.

- Buy or decorate masks. Mask-wearing has become the norm for people around the world, but Mardi Gras masks cover the eyes rather than the nose and mouth.

- Keep “throws” on hand. Throws are one of the beloved traditions of Mardi Gras parades. Replicate the effect by tossing anything small, like candy coins or faux jewelry, back and forth with your fellow revelers.



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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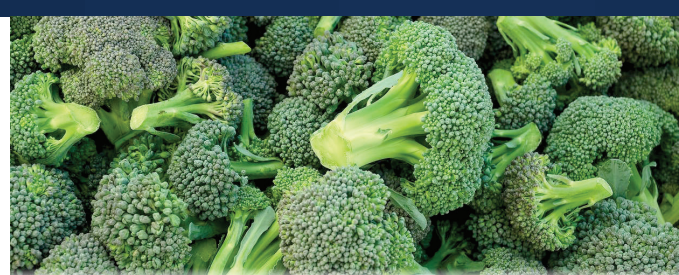


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