






SPORTS:
BACK ON THE DIAMOND
Eastside, Social Circle baseball teams begin training for 2021
[See A10](#)

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT
Fresh take on spaghetti

INSIDE:
Try a different take on classic spaghetti, see [FOOD B1](#)
All you need to know about glaucoma, see [HEALTH A9](#)

HEALTH & FITNESS
Guidance on glaucoma

safe to donate blood?

His Word
Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
Psalm 55:22, KJV

Newton County

County planning commission eyes recommendation on I-20 travel center

Residents remain at odds over potential development

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — A county commissioner was among those opposing a plan for a travel center and fast food restaurants at I-20 and Georgia Hwy. 11 when the planning commission considered it as scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 26.

District 1 Commissioner Stan Edwards said he had heard overwhelming opposition from area residents to the proposal by Jackson-based Jones Petroleum for a travel center covering 19 acres of a 46-acre site.

JPC Design Construction, which is affiliated with Jones Petroleum, submitted a rezoning request from a mixture of Highway Commercial and Agricultural Residential, to Highway Commercial on the entire site at the exit's southeast



File | Special Photo
A site plan submitted to Newton County planners shows the location of the proposed travel center and future retail stores.

corner.

JPC also submitted a conditional use permit to Newton County Development Services to allow a truck stop in the Highway Commercial zoning district.

Proponents of the plan, such

as Jones, said it would bring jobs and additional services to the area, as well as facilities that I-20 motorists and cargo haulers need.

Edwards said residents

See EYES, A3

Social Circle



Special Photo | The Walton Tribune
From left, Bobby Howard of the Moore's Ford Memorial Committee speaks to a crowd as state Rep. Tyrone Brooks looks on July 25, 2006.

Community mourns civil rights activist

Services set for Thursday for Robert "Bobby" Howard

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

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — A longtime Social Circle civil rights activist will be laid to rest Thursday, Jan. 28, within two weeks of having a new bridge in his hometown named in his honor.

Services for Robert "Bobby" Howard, who died Thursday, Jan. 21, at age 80, are set for noon at Lakewood Memorial Cemetery at 325 Hickory Drive in Social Circle. Visitation is set for Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Young Levett Funeral Home at 3106 West St. SW in Covington.

Howard was an activist locally and regionally during the Civil Rights Era.

He later was among the most active and

visible members of a biracial group called the Moore's Ford Memorial Committee that sought to bring attention and reopen the case of the 1946 Moore's Ford lynchings in Walton County.

On Jan. 16, members of Howard's family and Social Circle city officials unveiled a sign bearing his name on a new South Cherokee Road bridge. The Robert "Bobby" Howard Bridge spans the CSX railroad tracks outside downtown Social Circle along old Georgia Hwy. 11, the Walton Tribune reported.

Howard has battled Alzheimer's disease for a number of years and his wife, Rachel, accepted the honor on

See MOURNS, A7

Municipal Elections

Qualifying fees, dates set across Newton

One mayoral seat up for bid among several city, town council posts

By **TAYLOR BECK**
[tbeck@covnews.com](#)

COVINGTON, Ga. — One mayoral seat will be up for grabs in Newton County among several council posts in November.

The cities of Covington, Mansfield, Oxford and Porterdale, and the town of Newborn, have each recently set their respective municipal qualifying requirements and election dates for the 2021 cycle.

COVINGTON
In Covington, East

Ward Post 1, currently held by Susie Keck will be on the ballot, as well as West Ward posts 2 and 3, held by Hawnethia Williams and Anthony Henderson, respectively.

The qualifying period for candidates will be held Aug. 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Candidates in Covington must qualify by filing a notice of candidacy at the Newton County Board of Elections and Registration. Fees total \$270 — 3% of the position's annual

salary — which was approved Jan. 18. The election will take place Nov. 2 at the City of Covington Council and Courtroom Chambers located at 2116 Stallings St.

MANSFIELD
Council Posts 3, 4 and 5 will return to the ballot in Mansfield on Nov. 2. Qualifying will be Aug. 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at city hall, located at 3146 Hwy. 11 S. The qualifying fee is \$36.

The last day to

register to vote in the municipal election is Oct. 4. A runoff will be held Nov. 30 if needed.

NEWBORN
The office of mayor, as well as council Post 3 and Post 4 will be featured in the town of Newborn's general election Nov. 2.

Gregg Ellwanger is the current mayor. He was sworn in to office February 2014 after the late Roger Sheridan died at the age of 92 shortly after being

See SET, A7

Volume 156, No. 8





6 91868 30003 8

Inside
Newton County commissioner talks coroner funding
See A3



Weather
Wednesday, Jan. 27
High: 58°; Low: 33°
Up to 90% chance of rain.

Thursday, Jan. 28
High: 52°; Low: 27°
Sunny.



Index
Obituary.....A2
Opinions.....A4
Classifieds/Legals.....A5
Health and Fitness.....A9
Sports.....A10
Food and Entertainment.....B1

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Covington

City begins HPC expansion

Council votes to file text amendment adding two commission member seats, removing term limits

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — City staff members believe adding more members to the Covington Historic Preservation Commission and eliminating term limits will improve the board's function moving forward.

During its latest meeting, the Covington City Council voted 4-2 to begin the process of expanding the board with the addition of two members and removing term limits for board members at the request of City Manager Scott Andrews and city staff members.

Currently, there are nine positions on the board, but before the Jan. 19 meeting, Mayor Steve Horton said only six seats were taken. However, a business item

was added to the council's agenda to fill the vacant seats toward the meeting's end.

"So, the question is, do you want to proceed to add two more? Or since we've been operating with less than a full [commission], do you want to try the nine first?" Horton said. "And if that's the case, then we will just work on the term limits at this time."

"The more options we have the better," Andrews said. "We've had a challenging time getting people on the call when we have meetings lined up. In fact, staff has to often seek them out and call them while cases are waiting on the line. So, the more the merrier in our eyes."

Horton addressed the staff's reason for suggest-

ing the removal of term limits.

"Term limits say members can't serve more than two consecutive terms," Horton said. "Staff has some concern that if you have to roll people off at that period of time, the way these things are staggered, you could end up putting half your board off the commission and then be trying to put new members that are not all experienced to the same level."

Shortly after Horton's comments, a motion was made to initiate a text amendment to add two members to the Historic Preservation Commission, expanding the board from nine to 11 total members, and end term limits.

See EXPANSION, A8

Council finalizes change to park rules, hours

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Parks within the city of Covington will now close earlier.

Before the Covington City Council voted Tuesday, Jan. 19, to unanimously approve the amended ordinance, Welcome Center Park, located at the intersection of College Avenue and Oak Street, was added to the legislation.

Mayor Steve Horton said the city had received numerous complaints about "undesirable activities" taking place across the city's various parks, but Welcome Center Park had become chief among problematic areas.

"Complaints coming recently include claims of having loud music, large gatherings at the college street park, known as Welcome Center Park," Horton said.

He also said complaints of residents finding used condoms had also been voiced.

Weeks ago, Horton said City Attorney Frank Turner Jr. drafted a new version of an ordinance to amend and "provide clarity" of park rules and operating hours.

With the passage of the amended ordinance, city parks will be open from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Currently, parks remain open to the public until 11 p.m. Parks and facilities that fall under the ordinance's jurisdiction include Academy Springs Park, Baker Field, Central Park, Conyers Street Gym, Chimney Park, City Pond Park, Judicial Building Park, Old Cousins Gym, Pacific Field, Rota-Dyne, Nelson Heights Community Center, Trailblazers Park, Turner Lake Park, and Welcome Center

See PARK, A8

OBITUARIES

The Rev. John Bill Burnett

Peachtree Cremation

The Rev. John Bill Burnett, husband to Sarah Sue Burnett, died at the age of 84 in Covington's Piedmont Newton Hospital on January 17, 2021 after a short illness. Born May 23, 1936 in Spartanburg, SC to the late Jesse Woodrow Burnett and Myrtle West Burnett, he is brother to siblings Wayne Burnett of Inman, Mrs. Freida Wall

of Boiling Springs, and the late Bobby Burnett of Spartanburg. He is also survived by three children, Billy Burnett of Charleston, SC, Darrel Burnett of Nahunta, GA and Belinda Rowe of Covington, GA; with 22 grand-children and 22 great-grandchildren.



Reverend Burnett was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in October of 1971 by the Travis Avenue Baptist Church of Ft. Worth, TX and completed his theological studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in July of 1974. He held pastoral positions at Wheatland Baptist in Ft. Worth, Anderson Dr. Baptist in Jesup, GA and County Line Baptist in Covington before going on

to plant the Harvest Baptist Church, also in Covington, where he first retired from ministry. Coming out of retirement, he then went on staff as an Associate Pastor at First Baptist of Social Circle, spent two years on the mission field in Nova Scotia for the North American Mission Board and then on to his last position as Associate Pastor at the Berean Baptist Church of Social Circle.

A celebration of his life will be held on January 30, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Berean Baptist Church for those desiring to honor his love of the ministry and passion for caring for widows, orphans and poor.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to the Berean Baptist Missions Fund at Berean Baptist Church, PO Box 866, Social Circle, GA 30025.

Sheilah Daws

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home

On Saturday, January 23, 2021, Sheilah Daws, a loving wife and mother of four children and eight grandchildren, passed away at the age of 69.

Sheilah was born on July 11, 1951, in Covington, GA to Marion and Idell Head. On June 12, 1970, she married Billy Daws. They raised three sons, Josh, Jeremiah, and Jonathan, and one daughter, Jenny Love. Sheilah was a supportive



pastor's wife for 50 years. She loved children so much and spent her life teaching them about the love of Jesus and always told everyone she met "Jesus loves you." She welcomed everyone into her home and made them feel like part of the family.

Sheilah is survived by her husband, her four children, their spouses, her niece and nephews, and her eight grandchildren.

On Saturday, January 30th, there will be a small gathering to celebrate the life of Sheilah Daws. The family will be having an open house from 1 pm to 4 pm at the First Baptist Church of Buford,

4550 Hamilton Mill Road, Buford, GA 30518. At 2 pm, there will be a short time of worship and celebration.

Sheilah wouldn't want to let Covid stop her family and friends from gathering and loving on each other. Hugs are welcome and encouraged. Masks and social distancing will be optional.

Instead of flowers, we ask that donations be sent to either SewLove (SewLove.org) or Jambos (jambosdonates.com) in memory of Sheilah "Lala" Daws.

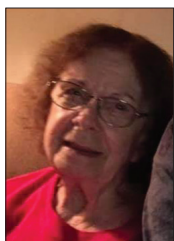
Visit townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online memorial register.

Ezell Massengill

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

Ezell Massengill of Oxford, born Feb. 10, 1927 passed away Thursday January 14, 2021. Mrs. Massengill enjoyed working in her flower beds, shopping in her flower beds, traveling and card games.

She will be Dearly missed! She is survived by; daughters and son in law, Linda Wilson Mary Weldon, Laura and Tom Carswell; sons and daughter-in-laws; David and Teodora Massengill, Andrew and Brandy Massengill, and Lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren.



John M. Estes

J.C. Harwell & Son Funeral Home

Mr. John M. Estes, age 79, of Covington passed away Friday, January 22, 2021. He was born in Carlinville, Illinois and following graduation from high school began his career with the United States Marine Corp. While serving he was stationed in San Diego, Camp Pendleton, and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Mr. Estes fought during The Battle of Khe Sanh that lasted from January 21, 1968 through July 9, 1968. His career in the Marine Corps spanned 20 years. Following retirement, he drove a truck for NAPA for another 20 years and then worked 10 years as a security guard at

Piedmont Technical College.

Mr. Estes was an avid reader, he enjoyed walking especially on the Eastside Trail where he made many friends, he was a UGA Football Fan, and watched Fox News every day. He was preceded in death by; his parents John Estes and Virginia Miller, his son John M. Estes, his sister and brother-in-law Ginger and Robert Williams, his step daughter Linda

Gail Umabarger, his step son Robert C. Witt, and his in-laws Dewey and Lucille Bowen.

Mr. Estes is survived by his wife Carolyn B Estes, his stepson Gary Wheeler and his wife Vicki, his daughter Robyn Marlin and her husband Jimmie, his grandchildren, Nicholas Williams, Skyler Marlin, Ollie Marlin, and Allen Wheeler and his wife Amber, his great grandchild Amelia Grace Wheeler, along

with many nieces, nephews, other family, and one special young man Jacob Hudgins.

A gathering of friends will be held Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 2:00pm until 4:00pm at J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.

Due to the COVID 19/Coronavirus Pandemic all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements will be

followed. There is a limit of 50 people at any large gathering, social distancing must be recognized, the use of mask will be mandatory, and most importantly if you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID 19 you will not be allowed to attend the service. Please be respectful of the family during this difficult time and follow the requirements of the CDC.

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Cleo Fuller

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

Cleo Fuller of Covington, passed away Thursday, January 21, 2021, at the age of 87. Mrs. Cleo loved attending services at East Newton Baptist Church. In her spare time, she enjoyed helping people at the library and going out on Sunday nights with the ladies from church. Mrs. Fuller loved her son and caregiver dearly and will be missed by

all. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 34 years, George Broadnax Fuller; parents, Elisha Travis and Annie Cleo Allen; sister, Mabel Bone; and brother, Rev. Bob Allen.

Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Allen Fuller; niece, Judi Oliver and husband, Tom; nephews, John Allen, Jr., and wife, Jennifer, Jim Allen and wife, Sharon, Joel Bone and wife, Cindy, Clayton Bone

and wife, Karen; as well as her caregiver, Juanita Glover.

A Graveside Service for Mrs. Fuller was held Sunday, January 24, 2021, 3:00 P.M. at Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington, with Pastor Danny Sorrells officiating.

Visit caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

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Commissioner says coroner funding suggested because of liability concerns

Bailey-Butts' claim of information that would 'shut Covington down' not factor

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A county commissioner says he was worried about the liability to the county from use of a contract employee that had not been paid when he suggested a one-time payment to the new coroner to set up her new office.

District 5 Commissioner Ronnie Cowan said he was using his past experience as a human resources director to make sure Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts had funding she needed to set up and operate her office after she hired an administrative assistant and a temporary worker.

He added he was not reacting to Bailey-Butts' public assertion she had information she did not disclose that could "shut Covington down" amid a discussion about moving to vacant space in the county-owned R.L. Cousins building.

Cowan said he did not feel she was using the information to try to convince county commissioners to approve funding for her office.

Bailey-Butts did not respond to two requests for information about her Jan. 19 discussion with commissioners. An open records request has been filed with the coroner's office for the information she referred to on Jan. 19.

In a lengthy and sometimes rambling review of her needs, Bailey-Butts told commissioners she needed at least \$9,000 for training and supplies.

She also said she needed office space and equipment and repair of the county morgue, which she said had not been maintained properly.

A former coroner said the building is owned and maintained by the sheriff's office.

On a motion by Cowan, the Newton County Board of Commissioners voted to make a one-time payment to Bailey-Butts of up to \$50,000 for the coroner's office.

However, before it will give the coroner the funds, commissioners will need to approve a separate budget transfer at a future meeting, said Finance Director Brittany White.

The final amount will be determined after White and County Manager Lloyd Kerr meet with Bailey-Butts to determine what she needs to operate through the remainder of the 2021 budget year.

She said she has used her own funds to pay for staffing and sought assistance from agencies like Piedmont Newton Hospital to acquire needed equipment.

Bailey-Butts also complained about problems with inoperable and obsolete equipment and insufficient office space for such needs as records storage space.

The coroner's office has about \$49,000 remaining in its 2021 budget to operate through the end of the year.

County officials have told other area media sources that she had enough money remaining in her budget for her needs so it was unclear why she was asking the board for extra funding.

Cowan said he believed much of her remaining budget is tied up in personnel costs which is why he suggested investigating if she needed more funding.

He said she was using her personal funds to pay an administrative assistant she hired.

Another assistant she hired on a contract basis had been working voluntarily for the coroner's office — creating another potential liability, Cowan said.

He said the funding was needed because Bailey-Butts is the first coroner he can recall in decades that was not associated with a business she could use to provide needed equipment.

Bailey-Butts' predecessor, Tommy Davis, and Davis' predecessor Bob Wheeler also worked for funeral homes.

The coroner also told the board that the county morgue facility needed funding to "bring it up to code." She said there was mold and mildew and the inside temperature could not be regulated for proper storage of bodies during her investigations.

Other claims she made referred to her role as an investigator at any death scene in Newton County and transportation of bodies after any incident.

Sheriff Ezell Brown responded with a statement: "We do not have anything to say in regards to what was discussed between Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts and the Newton County Board of Commissioners last week.

"We believe it is in the best interest of our Newton County community to not become involved in what appears to be a nature of polarization at the Newton County Coroner's Office, whether it's direct questions or social media posts.

"As the Office of the Sheriff, our fundamental duties are to serve and protect this county," Brown said.

EYES:

Continued from A1

opposing it have a range of concerns — from potential criminal activity and increased traffic, to the facility emitting too much light at night in a relatively undeveloped area around I-20's Exit 98.

Another county commissioner, Ronnie Cowan of District 5, said Monday, Jan. 25, that he wanted to see the action the planning commission took before taking a public position on the plan.

Cowan said he lives in a nearby subdivision — the project site sits at the border between Districts 1 and 5 — and had made his private views known to the homeowners association.

The planning commission only makes recommendations about rezonings and conditional use permits to the Newton County Board of Commissioners, which was to take final action on the requests at its Feb. 16 meeting.

Plans submitted in October stated the travel center would be valued at \$15 million and include a 24,900-square-foot commercial travel center with convenience store, 16 pumps with 32 fueling positions for passenger vehicles, and eight diesel fueling lanes for tractor-trailers.

Restaurants with drive-through windows, such as Burger King and Dunkin' Donuts, also were planned, Jones said.

It will create about 150 jobs and generate about \$3 million in annual tax revenue for Newton County, he said.

Jones said I-20 motorists and tractor-trailer operators already demand the services the travel center is planned to offer.

A 35-mile section of I-20 between Conyers and Madison lacks any kind of 24-hour retail services specifically designed for tractor-trailers, he said.

He said he had not heard any direct opposition to the Newton County plan.

However, he said residents did oppose a plan for a similar facility now operating in Butts County. Opposition subsided after an open forum at which he answered questions and gave a presentation about his project, Jones said.

"When you go into a community, you're always going to have pushback," he said. "I don't fault people for having different opinions."

The facility will have 24-hour security service and will be well-lit to help dispel customers' fears about the potential for criminal activity at any hour of the day, Jones said.

"You don't want to go to a dimly lit facility," Jones said.

Developers plan to keep natural buffering already in place along the north side of the project to screen truck parking from I-20. The project will be set back 100 feet from Hwy. 11, according to a rezoning petition the developer submitted to Newton County.

A 54,000-square-foot second phase also is planned for "future development" and will include "big box" retail development with nine individual tenant spaces, according to plans Jones submitted.

Jones said he wanted a second phase of the project to include a supermarket because "that end of Newton County" does not have any retailers offering the variety of food products that some national chain grocers do.

Area residents must travel at least four miles from I-20 and Hwy. 11 for a traditional supermarket, with the closest being about four miles west in Covington and five miles north in Social Circle.

Completion of the travel center's first phase is expected by December 2021, with completion of both phases by the end of 2023.

Edwards said the project also must meet the requirements of the Brickstore Overlay District, which covers the area around the Brick Store Historic Site and I-20 intersections with both Georgia Hwy. 11 and U.S. Hwy. 278.

An overlay district places additional requirements on development in a specific area and governs such items as lighting, building materials, setbacks, buffering from neighboring properties and more.

Area residents like Mary Street and Kayla Arrington are among those opposed and signers of a petition that has attracted hundreds of signatures.

Street said she and others "just don't feel it's necessary there" and suggested I-20 and Alcovy Road in the city of Covington as an alternative.

She said residents also "aren't crazy about a bunch of tractor-trailers" traveling through the area.

Other kinds of commercial development — such as a supermarket that is not open 24 hours — may be acceptable, Street said.

"I know that progress is going to come," she said.

Arrington said she is concerned about a loss of the area's "rural environment."

In addition to concerns about increased air pollution and traffic, she said she does not believe the project will add value to the surrounding area even if developers plan a more upscale design than typically offered by such businesses.

"It's still a truck stop," she said.

Longtime area resident Betty Bledsoe, who was a member of a committee which helped develop the Brickstore Overlay District, said roads around the project also lack enough lanes to handle expected traffic.

She said residents around the Stanton Springs area typically travel to Madison or Covington for retail services. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural or residential with large lots.

Bledsoe said the overlay district was developed so that eastern Newton did not develop in the same way other parts of the county did in the 1990s and early 2000s before design standards and other requirements were put in place.

"We know it's got to grow, but it's got to grow in a positive way," she said.

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OPINIONS

The Covington News

Our View on the Issue

Newton leaders answer call on trash pick-up

Recent action taken by the Newton County Board of Commissioners was a reflection of the power and influence of journalism.

Since the pandemic began, there has been an issue of littering across Newton County, and *The Covington News* was on the receiving end of several complaints. Residents voiced their concerns over leaders' "inaction" and called the trash problem an "embarrassment," according to an article written by Covington News Editor and Publisher Taylor Beck.

His article highlighted the issue, raising awareness by using both the residents' viewpoint and comments from county representatives.

It served as a call to action from the people of Newton County to her great leaders and other residents.

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

We're happy to report that, as you've read inside today's edition



Taylor Beck | The Covington News
Pictured is the intersection of Salem and Cowan roads riddled with garbage. The picture was originally published Dec. 16.

of *The Covington News*, our leaders answered the call.

During a Jan. 19 meeting, commissioners elected to hire a collection of temporary workers to lead the clean-up effort of the county's roadways. City leaders have also answered

the call, as there have been road-side clean-up days scheduled in late December with more anticipated to come.

We can't say our leaders' actions were made because of our article, but where might we be if the article never published?

This is the power and purpose of community journalism.

Our focus is not only to tell our community's story, but to also stick up for our community by holding our leaders accountable and letting your — the community's voice be heard.

But don't get confused. We aren't here to bash anyone or pick sides. We're here to report the facts, be fair, honest and nonpartisan in our reporting.

When that happens, as you've seen, we're a better community for it.

Our View on the Issue is an opinion of The Covington News editorial board, which includes Owner Patrick Graham, Editor and Publisher Taylor Beck and News Editor Tom Spigolon.

Dorothy Piedrahita columnist

Handling hospitalization during pandemic was scary

What is a virus? An infective agent that typically consists of a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat and is able to multiply only within the living cells of a host.

Like millions of us have felt and are feeling we have been kidnapped by an unseen monster. And we aren't able to escape. I have a fondness for horror movies, so much so I decided to reread Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." That's actually how I've cast COVID-19. I fear COVID-19. Last summer, in one month, I wept for 20-plus friends who died from the virus.

I recently had surgery performed on my right foot. I fell Nov. 3, 2020. My foot started hurting on Dec. 3, 2020. My podiatrist was surprised by my answer. After reviewing my X-rays it was clear my foot required surgery. COVID-19 had started to enter my life. The doctor's offices have changed, the hospitals have changed. As I said earlier. I have a fondness for horror movies. I am now a part of the unwilling Americans who are afraid to visit their doctor, not to say be hospitalized. I had no choice. I, like so any others, must seek the help of the medical community.

My first encounter started in the waiting room. I sat there alone. Appointments are given, masks are worn, our temp is taken, sanitation liquid is available.

There I was in an empty waiting room. The only positive or improvement there it's any waiting time. I like that. Then when I got to the examination, the medical staff was in the room quickly. She was dressed like she had entered a room that was infected. Then entered my doctor. He was dressed the same. Both of them sanitized their hands. I made my decision I was having surgery. Now, come time for my pre-op. There again, temps are taken, mask must be worn. Chairs are six feet apart.

Several patients can be in the waiting room, they are spaced apart. Then, would you believe, a foolish man came in and wanted to remove his mask. Everyone looked up. He was carrying on as if he was deranged. Why this, why that, I don't want to show you my insurance card. He was downright irritating. The woman behind the shield didn't get angry. She called for the security guard. They had a talk and he set down and acted as if he had sense.

An unseen monster has entered our lives. Each day I post death and those who have been infected by COVID-19 on my Facebook page in Newton County. I have been posting since 2020. Frankly, I was informed about an illness in January 2020 from an acquaintance. She had taken a cruise and had taken ill like other people on the ship. She recovered, but she believes she had COVID-19.

I was recently informed Jan. 2 my granddaughter has COVID-19 and the flu. My great-grandson tested negative. The monster is in my house.

My column isn't making a political statement, Newton, County. It's my story! However, if you see yourself or a loved one in my words, I understand.

Dorothy Piedrahita is a Covington resident who has worked as an activist and in government and business throughout her career.

David Carroll columnist

America wasn't always like this

Most of us are who we are, because of the adults who influenced us in our youth. Our parents, grandparents, older siblings, teachers and others. I was blessed to have role models



who taught me to respect people of all colors, ethnic groups, and religions. As parents, my wife and I have passed this down, and I know our sons will do the same. Judging from America's current turmoil, many folks have been passing down the wrong message.

As I watched what happened recently in Washington DC, I recalled happier days. In 1988 I attended a presidential luncheon at the White House, and I even got to ask Ronald Reagan a question, which he answered quite well. Four years later, I later covered an inauguration with one of America's

most cherished traditions: the transition of power. George H.W. Bush passed the torch to Bill Clinton. I was proud to see America at its best. This year, when Vice President Pence and singer Garth Brooks chose to attend the inauguration, many Americans called them "traitors." Let that sink in.

When I was in high school, I met a man who would be a major influence on my life. Edward H. Carter was making his teaching debut at the age of 22. He drew a tough assignment. Some of the veteran teachers were rather lax. Discipline was spotty, tardiness was common, and there were too many class clowns. So after a few hours of "Welcome Back Kotter" style behavior, we entered a real classroom, and had to deal with serious Mr. Carter instead of witty Mr. Kotter.

His style was no nonsense, no excuses, and no fun. Some of the older students tried to intimidate

the rookie teacher, figuring they could run him off. It had worked before: a new guy comes in, starts enforcing the rules, and suddenly, he resigns. This time, that would not happen.

Quite courageously, this young teacher took on some of the disgusting behaviors of that era. It was not uncommon to hear racial slurs thrown around in public, and in the classroom. Yes, it was inexcusable. You can say we didn't know any better, or our parents didn't know any better, and in some cases you would be right. Mr. Carter wouldn't hear of it. He had zero tolerance for bigotry, profanity, and bullying. Some of the older students, who were close to Mr. Carter's age, tried to bully him, but he stood his ground. Sadly, few students stood up for him, because that was not the "cool" thing to do.

The heat would reach a boiling point every year in the month of May. As graduation time neared, some of the lazy students would express shock when they learned they wouldn't get a diploma. They had failed Mr. Carter's class, having missed numerous assignments despite his frequent warnings. The young teacher would not yield. The outcry was predictable. The failing students squealed, and their parents squealed louder. "Just let him make up the work!" they would yell. But Mr. Carter was a stickler for the rules. He had standards, and his students were expected to meet them.

Against all odds, the tough young teacher stayed, and helped change the school's culture. For a record-breaking 45 years, Ed Carter taught thousands of students. The school is a far better place, now a na-

tionally recognized school largely due to his influence. His fellow teachers had to step up their game to keep pace. After all, who wants to be known as "the easy teacher?" No one will ever say that about Ed Carter. He taught us our presidents (yes, I can still recite them, as can most other former Carter students). He taught us how to behave like decent people, taught us how to be good citizens, and taught us how to succeed in college.

He is now retired and quite active, and I've frequently thanked him for his influence on my life and career. He was the teacher who got me excited about government, politics, history and current events. From what I see on social media, his students are among the few who actually know the meaning of the word "impeachment." Every day I work in journalism, I'm drawing upon the lessons I learned in Ed Carter's classroom in Higdon, Alabama. He was a good role model, who worked hard to break the chain of hatred and bigotry. I thought of him fondly in recent weeks, watching the bad behavior of so many people at the Capitol. Apparently, they had poor role models in their lives.

I hope our nation can turn down the hatred, so we can show our children and grandchildren that America isn't always like this. If there is a history of hatred in your family, please be the one who breaks the chain.

David Carroll, a Chattanooga news anchor, is the author of "Volunteer Bama Dawg," available on his website, ChattanoogaRadioTV.com. You may contact him at radioTV2020@yahoo.com, or 900 Whitehall Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

The Covington News

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The Covington News (USPS 136140) is published bi-weekly on Sunday and Wednesday for \$60 a year for home delivery or \$80 a year for mail delivery by Newton Newspapers Inc., 1166 Usher St. NW, Covington, GA 30014. This newspaper is printed at the Jackson County Sentinel in Scottsboro, Alabama. Periodicals postage paid at Covington, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015. Contents Copyright © 2021 Newton Newspapers Inc.

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Help Wanted

SEEKING: LOVING dependable child care Teachers. Excellent work environment. Apply in person at Kids R Great. 2235 Dixie Road across from East Newton Elementary.

Real Estate

For Rent

APARTMENT FOR RENT
CONYERS- IN-LAW apartment, completely furnished, 1BR, 1BA, kitchen & living room area, Cable & Utilities included. Very Nice neighborhood. \$725/month, \$200/ deposit. No Pets **678-558-5478**

LEGALS

Public Notices

Adoptions

TO: TERRY Ray Drake and Unknown Putative Father Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-8-12(c)(3), you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of January, 2021, James Frnaklin Ricks filed a Petition to Adopt a minor male child. The case is known as In the Interest of: Dilynn Ray Drake, Newton County Superior Court, Civil Action No.:2021-A-1-1. A hearing to finalize the adoption shall be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 12, 2021, at the Newton County Superior Courthouse, 1132 Usher Street, Covington, Newton County, Georgia 30014. Pursuant to Georgia law, you shall lose all rights to the child and will neither receive notice nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child unless, within 30 days of receipt of such notice, you file: (1) A Petition to Legitimate the child pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22 or an Acknowledgment of Legitimation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-21.1; and (2) Notice of the filing of the Petition to Legitimate or Acknowledgment of Legitimation with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia and to Petitioners
ATTORNEY, RUSSEL Davis Moore V. Nation, Moore & Assoc. LL., 770-922-1818

PUBLIC NOTICE #118822
01/20,27-02/3,10

Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST OF PROPOSAL
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
RFP #21-14

SEPARATE SEALED proposals for Landscape Maintenance for County Facilities will be received by Newton County Board of Commissioners electronically until 9:00 AM, local time, February 19, 2021. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUMITTED THROUGH BONFIRE'S ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PORTAL.

PROPOSERS SHALL maintain a valid Business License for the duration of their contract term. A current copy of this license shall be submitted with your proposal.

ONLY EMPLOYEES of the successful proposer will be permitted to work on County property. Subcontracting of employees or companies is not permitted.

INSURANCE: CONTRACTOR SHALL maintain the following insurance:

A) COMPREHENSIVE General Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence;

B) COMMERCIAL Automobile Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per accident;

C) STATUTORY Worker's Compensation Insurance, including \$1,000,000.00 employer's liability insurance;

ALL INSURANCE shall be provided by an insurer(s) acceptable to the County, and shall provide for thirty (30) days prior notice of cancellation to the County. Upon request, Contractor shall deliver to the County a certificate or policy of insurance evidencing Contractors compliance with this paragraph. Contractor shall abide by all terms and conditions of the insurance and shall do nothing to impair or invalidate the coverage.

EACH PROPOSAL will be considered by the OWNER, taking into consideration specific evaluation factors, listed in their order of relative importance, as set forth in the Request for Proposal.

NEWTON COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitation, the right to reject any Proposal that the OWNER believes would not be in the

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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



Employment Opportunity:
POLICE OFFICER

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Required training and experience include a high school diploma or a GED, acceptable driving record, no felony convictions, and Georgia P.O.S.T. certification. The department requires a pre-employment drug screen, physical, background investigation, CVSA and may require psychological exam. Applications should be submitted to: Chief Dave Harvey, 110 West Clark Street, Oxford, GA 30054. Applications may be picked up at City Hall Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 to 5:00 and are also available on our website at www.oxfordgeorgia.org. Please contact Chief Harvey at 770-788-1390 with questions. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Oxford is an equal opportunity employer.

best interest of the Project.

DIGITAL COPIES of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the Purchasing office at no charge by visiting www.co.newton.ga.us or contacting Randi.Fincher@co.newton.ga.us at 678-625-1237 or rfincher@co.newton.ga.us. Hard copies of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained upon a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 for each set. The County is not obligated to consider the contractor's proposal if they are not on record with the issuing office as having received complete Proposal Documents

JANUARY 25, 2021
LLOYD KERR, County Manager
NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners

PUBLIC NOTICE #118848
01/27

Corporations

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Beyond the 4Walls4, Inc. **HAVE BEEN** delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit **CORPORATION CODE**. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 3142 Hwy 278 NW, Unit# 132,Covington, GA 30014 and 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

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
BECAUSE OF a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by **James F. Moss, Jr.** to New Century Mortgage Corporation dated May 24, 2005, and recorded in Deed Book 1920, Page 340, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee, for Carrington Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2005-NC3 Asset Backed Pass-Through

CERTIFICATES, SECURING a Note in the original principal amount of \$93,500.00, 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, February 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 Land Lot 199, 9th Land District of Newton County, Georgia, and being shown as 1.171 acres on Moss Road on that plat of survey for James F. Moss Jr. prepared by Knight Surveying, Inc. and certified by John Elwin Knight, Georgia R.L.S. No. 1945; said plat being dated February 8, 2000, revised May 30, 2000, and being recorded in Plat Book 34, Page 89, Public records of Newton County, Georgia, and said plat by reference thereto being incorporated herein and made a part hereof for a more particular description of the property hereby conveyed.

SAID PROPERTY is known as **118 Moss Road, 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 James F. Moss, Jr., successor in interest or tenant(s).

DEUTSCHE BANK National Trust Company, as Trustee, for Carrington Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2005-NC3 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates as Attorney-in-Fact for James F. Moss, Jr.

FILE NO. 08-003395
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 # 117716
01/06,13,20,27

Public Notice

NEWTON COUNTY School System Current Solicitations

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PUBLIC NOTICE #118844
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H T T P S : / / N C S S E B I D . I O N W A V E . N E T / C U R R E N T S O U R C I N G E V E N T S . A S P X

PUBLIC NOTICE #118844
01/27,31

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All subscriptions must be placed by midnight on February 3, 2021.

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The Covington News

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

Newton County

Board narrowly OKs roadside trash pick up plan

30-day moratorium on new zoning applications approved to overhaul regulations

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — County commissioners narrowly voted to use savings from budgeted jobs left unfilled to create crews of temporary workers to pick up roadside trash. Commissioners voted 3-2 on Jan. 19 to transfer \$200,000 in funds that Finance Director Brittany White said were budgeted for positions not filled by the anticipated hiring dates.

The county will hire two, five-person crews to pick up the roadside trash that some residents said had been increasing in recent months.

A temporary employment agency will be used to employ the workers through the end of the budget year, said County Manager Lloyd Kerr.

Kerr said he “likely” will continue the program after the new budget year begins with temporary workers rather than with regular employees. He said he planned to include funding for them in the 2022 county spending plan.

District 3 Commissioner Alana Sanders said she believed the \$155 fee for dumping trash in convenience centers is prompting residents to illegally dump items as large as couches.

The county has imposed the fee since 2016 after it being a free service for decades.

District 4 Commissioner J.C. Henderson said hiring workers to pick up trash means the county now is subsidizing a service for which taxpayers already are paying.

Sanders said some residents had suggested county Solid Waste Management Authority funds be used to hire roadside pickup crews rather than the county budget.

However, Kerr said the county government traditionally had employed roadside trash pickup crews.

Chairman Marcello Banes said the Authority — which is a separate governing body from the county — had discussed funding the positions but recently found that costs of a planned addition to the county landfill were higher than expected.

“I think (using cost savings) is one of our best options for now to make sure we keep our roads clean,” said Banes, who is also an Authority member.

District 1 Commissioner Stan Edwards, also an Authority mem-

ber, said he had heard complaints about the dumping and thanked Kerr for being “innovative” in trying to find funding to deal with it.

Commissioners Edwards, Ronnie Cowan of District 5 and Demond Mason of District 2 voted for the budget transfer while Sanders and Henderson voted against it.

In other action during the recent meeting, Development Services Director Judy Johnson asked commissioners to place a moratorium on the acceptance of applications for zoning, preliminary plat and concept plan petitions for new residential developments until Feb. 19.

Johnson said the 30-day moratorium was needed to correct conflicting language in the county ordinance, as well as clarify development densities, traffic concerns and zoning requirements and differences between types of multi-family dwellings.

She said the county ordinance needed to be revised to clarify, for example, what is required in an area reserved for “civic use” in some new, mixed-use subdivisions.

At the same meeting, commissioners also:

- Voted to accept a \$65,408 grant from the

Initial unemployment

claims on rise in Georgia

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — First-time unemployment claims in Georgia increased by 5,581 last week to 37,039, reflecting a national trend, the state Department of Labor reported Thursday.

As a result, the state agency paid out more than \$223 million to jobless Georgians last week, as benefit checks authorized by a second COVID-19 relief package Congress passed during the holidays continued uninterrupted.

However, the agency is continuing to work on implementing changes to the system required by the new stimulus package. That work has to be completed before those eligible for the 11 weeks of extended payments can receive all of their benefits.

“Our ... teams are working around the clock to implement the new guidelines that include complex requirements and programming,” Georgia Commissioner of Labor Mark Butler said.

“The complexity of some of the additional specifications are challenging to program and will be an increased burden, not only on our staff, but to claimants as well. They could’ve done this in a more simplified manner with more input from the states.”

The labor agency is encouraging claimants to continue requesting weekly payments for those who have exhausted benefits or are awaiting eligibility determinations. All eligible payments will be issued when a decision on eligibility is released.

Since the pandemic first took hold in Georgia last March, the labor department has distributed more than \$17 billion in federal and state unemployment benefits to nearly 4.3 million Georgians, more than the combined total from the nine years before the virus hit.

The job sector accounting for the most initial unemployment claims in Georgia last week was manufacturing with 8,582 claims. The accommodation and food services job sector was next with 6,682 claims, followed by administrative and support services with 4,595.

More than 169,000 jobs are listed online at EmployGeorgia.com for Georgians to access. The labor department offers online resources for finding a job, building a resume, and assisting with other reemployment needs.

MOURNS:

Continued from A1

his behalf, the Tribune reported.

“He used to cross the old bridge here every day to take a lunch to his father down at the mill,” Mrs. Howard said at the ceremony that was streamed live. “Then he later crossed it every day to go work at the mill himself.”

A 2006 Associated Press article noted Howard’s mother’s home was firebombed because of his involvement in the Moore’s Ford committee.

The 1946 incident brought national attention to the area after a white mob killed four Black area residents at the Moore’s Ford Bridge over the Apalachee River in Walton County.

President Harry S. Truman sent FBI agents to investigate the murders and issued an executive order establishing the President’s Committee on Civil Rights, which release a series of recommendations including federal anti-lynching legislation and helped lead to the Civil Rights Era, according to news reports.

Federal attorneys were unable to gain indictments and closed the case. Former Gov. Roy Barnes and the FBI ordered the case reopened in the 2000s but state and federal officials closed the case in December 2017.

Howard, who was called “the spiritual head of the movement,” said he received numerous death threats because of his work to find the killers of the four, which included a World War II veteran.

SET:

Continued from A1

elected to a second term and interim mayor Mark Vandervoet resigned after moving outside the town limits. The town did not hold a special election at the time because Ellwanger was the only qualifying candidate.

The qualifying period for prospective candidates in this year’s election will be held Aug. 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at Newborn Town Hall, located at 4224 Hwy. 142. The qualifying fee for mayor is \$30 and \$25 for the council posts.

OXFORD

Council Posts 4, 5 and 6 will be on the ballot in Oxford. Avis Williams currently holds Post 4, Jim Windham holds Post 5 and Jeff Wearing holds Post 6.

The qualifying period for candidates will be held Aug. 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

For Oxford, the city council set the qualifying fees Jan. 11 at \$144. Oxford candidates must qualify at Oxford City Hall, located at 110 West Clark Street. The election will take place at the community center, also located at 110 West Clark St.

PORTERDALE

The city of Porterdale will host its general election Nov. 2, according to Election Superintendent Kathy Boutry.

The election will feature council posts 3, 4 and 5. Qualifying will be \$72 and take place at city hall, located at 2800 Main Street, Aug. 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Before the general election, the city will hold a special election March 16 to fill council Post 1, left vacant by former councilwoman Niki Wescott, who was forced to resign her seat because she moved to Florida. Wescott was elected in November 2019 for a four-year term. Winner of the special election will serve the remainder of her term, which expires December 2023.

Qualifying for the special election will be Feb. 16-18, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day at city hall.

Early voting for the special election will be Feb. 22 through March 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day at city hall. Residents must be registered to vote by Feb. 15 in order to participate in the election.

A runoff will be held April 13, if needed.

CITY OF PORTERDALE

MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a) (1)(A), notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 2nd day of November 2021, a General Election will be held at Porterdale City Hall at 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia, for elections to fill City Council Posts 3,4, and 5 for 4 – year terms.

Qualifying fees were set on January 11, 2021 by the Mayor and City Council at their Work Session Meeting. Qualifying fees have been set at \$72.00 for each Council Post.

Qualifying will be held at Porterdale City Hall, 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia. Qualifying dates and times are Monday, August 16, 2021 through Friday, August 20, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. each day

Kathy Boutry
Election Superintendent

CITY OF PORTERDALE

MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-540, a special election shall be held in the City of Porterdale to fill the vacancy in the office of Post 1, caused by the resignation of the Honorable Nicki Westcott. The special election will be held on March 16, 2021.

Qualifying will be held at Porterdale City Hall, 2800 Main Street, Porterdale, Newton County, Georgia. Qualifying dates and times are Tuesday, February 16, 2021 through Thursday, February 18, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. each day.

The qualifying fee shall be \$72.00.

All persons who are not registered to vote and who desire to register to vote in the special election may register to vote through the close of business on February 15, 2021.

Early voting will be held February 22, 2021 through March 12, 2021 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30p.m. each day.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Should a runoff election be required, such runoff will be held on April 13, 2021. This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Kathy Boutry
Election Superintendent

Newton delegation to help craft education, public safety legislation

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

ATLANTA — Georgia House of Representatives members representing Newton County could play key roles in crafting legislation on issues ranging from education and public safety to the creative arts. House Speaker David Ralston released his committee assignments and officers for the 2021-2022 legislative session on Wednesday, Jan. 20. District 112 State Rep. Dave Belton, R-Buckhead, will serve as secretary of the Education Committee and return as chairman of the Special Rules committee after serving in the same position in the 2019-2020 session. Special Rules deals with legislation on establishment of study committees, among other issues. Belton, who is serving his fourth term, also will be a member of five other committees, including Public Safety Appropriations; Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications; Creative Arts & Entertainment; Economic Development and Tourism;

and Interstate Cooperation. Committee assignments for the other three Newton delegation members, who are all serving their inaugural terms, include:

- District 110 State Rep. Clint Crowe, R-Jackson, will serve as a member of Public Safety & Homeland Security; State Planning & Community Affairs; and Banks & Banking committees.
- District 113 State Rep. Sharon Henderson, D-Covington, was named as a member of the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight; Retirement; and Game, Fish & Parks committees.
- District 109 State Rep. Regina Lewis-Ward, D-McDonough, was appointed as a member of the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs; Banks & Banking; and Interstate Cooperation committees.

Belton, who is a Delta Airlines pilot and Air Force veteran, said he is working to gain approval for a number of bills that will pass through



Clint Crowe



Sharon Henderson



Regina Lewis-Ward



Dave Belton

tion would select 100 of the most needy and local school boards would select the teacher they most need. That teacher would receive \$3,000 a year for a maximum of five years maximum for a total of \$15,000, he said. Belton said he also is working on a bill to encourage retired teachers in high-need subjects to return to work. Henderson, a minister and retired banker, is the only Newton County resident in the delegation. She said she had “a vast array of experience in all of these categories assigned.” “I look forward to monitoring, reviewing and evaluating legislation for Newton County,” Henderson said. She noted she worked in banking for 30 years and looked forward to using the experience on the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee. In addition, she said she

his committees, including two education-related bills. One is a teacher tax credit that would “encourage teachers to teach at very rural or poorly performing schools,” he said. The House passed the measure unanimously last year but the Senate did not consider it amid the chaotic work around completing the 2020 session due to COVID, Belton said. “As workforce development is the No. 1 challenge to our community, education is the best way to tackle that problem,” he said. “The teacher pipeline is decreasing drastically, while the number of our children in Georgia is at record levels.” The tax credit would apply to teachers at about 325 possible schools — of which the state Department of Educa-

hopes to use her time on the Game, Fish & Parks Committee to encourage development of a park for special needs children in Newton County. Crowe, who owns a real estate agency and is a former police officer, said he was grateful to Ralston and others for his committee assignments. “I believe my professional experience and education will allow me to add to the discussion regarding matters that come before us,” he said. Lewis-Ward’s lengthy experience includes working as a manager for the New York City Transit Authority and serving as a Stockbridge City Council member. “It is an honor to be selected to serve on these three committees,” Lewis-Ward said. “From engaging in Georgia’s largest economic industry to overseeing state-wide financial institutions and maintaining state relationships, I am sure that my work with the other committee members will enrich the lives of the people of Georgia,” she said.

Newton Co. awarded \$12 million loan for water system infrastructure

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

ATLANTA – Newton County was the recipient of a \$12 million Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan recently by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) board of directors. The loan will finance the rehabilitation of the Alcovy River pump stations and the Williams Street water treatment plant. Deficiencies within the Williams Street water treatment system pre-

vent it from consistently producing its permitted maximum daily treatment capacity. This project will increase capacity to the permitted limits. The city will pay 0.86% interest on the 30-year loan, which is eligible for a reduced interest rate because Newton County is a WaterFirst Community. The DWSRF provides low-interest loans for infrastructure projects that deliver safe, affordable drinking water. These projects conserve and improve water resources and facilitate economic

development. The program is jointly funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Georgia. The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), headquartered in Atlanta, provides financing for a variety of energy, land, and water projects. Since 1985, GEFA has approved financial commitments totaling more than \$4.5 billion to local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Learn more at gefa.georgia.gov.

EXPANSION:

Continued from A2

The council voted 4-2 to approve the motion. Council members Kenneth Morgan and Hawnethia Williams opposed. “I have no problem with adding two people to it if that’s what staff recommends, but I won’t agree with term limits,” Morgan said prior to the vote. “I think the purpose of the term limits anyway was to get people off of there that somehow, somewhere along the line, they may look biased as we move forward with certain things, and I don’t think we need to go down that road. I think it needs to be left like it was.” “I feel the same,” Williams echoed. “It kind of concerns me as well.” Horton emphasized that there would be another chance for the council to vote on the issue. Before any changes can officially take place, Horton said the amendment request would be presented to the Planning Commission first. There, a public hearing would be held and the commission would vote on the issue as a recommendation to the city council. Then, the amendment would return to the council for a second public hearing and final vote to approve or deny the action. Before the meeting adjourned, the council unanimously voted in three Covington residents — Heather Birkhead King, John Conklin, Jessica Bauer — to fill current vacant positions on the Historic Preservation Commission. The two seats to open by way of expansion would not be filled until the amendment is approved, Horton said.

PARK:

Continued from A2

Park. As for designated parking areas, which means “only the parking lots within any park designated for automobile parking and such future areas as may be cleared and provided by the city of Covington and designated as a parking area,” would remain open “from 8 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. from March 1 to Oct. 31, and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Nov. 1 until April 30, except that designated parking area hours as to City Pond Park shall mean from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. March 1 until October 31 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 1 through April 30” under the amended ordinance. As it stands currently, there are no clear-cut limitations on parking. Owners of any motorized vehicle left unattended or abandoned in areas not designated for parking are subject to penalties. If passed, violators of the new ordinance would be subject to a penalty fine up to \$1,000 and/or up to 30 days in jail. Horton he had spoken with City Manager Scott Andrews about placing signage at the area parks to better inform residents of the new changes. He also wanted to see lighting increased in various areas needed. As result of their conversation, Horton said, Andrews and Assistant City Manager Freddy Morgan are working to make it happen. Horton said he also called on the city’s police department to continue increasing its presence and patrol the more problematic areas. In previous meetings, the council had discussed the possibility of putting a uniformed officer in the Welcome Center Park and downtown areas to constantly patrol and further curb “undesirable activities” from taking place. Councilman Kenneth Morgan asked where the city staff stood on the issue. Andrews said staff was still working on it. He hoped to present a solution for the council’s approval soon, but he said it would require analyzing the budget and figuring out how to fit the position into the upcoming fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Oxford is considering reapplying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$750,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held via a video conference on February 1st, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. A link will be posted on the city’s website for those interested in joining the public hearing via the internet. To join via telephone, please call 1-646-558-8656. The Meeting ID is 927 9337 6349 and the passcode is 819119.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input for the development of the application and to answer any questions attendees may have about the CDBG grant. The City of Oxford is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Marcia Brooks, City Clerk at (770) 786-7004 prior to February 1st, 2021. This person can be located at City Hall 110 West Clark Street, Oxford, GA 30054 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the Georgia Relay Service at (TDD) (800) 255-0056 or (voice) (800) 255-0135.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF QUALIFYING FEES

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a) (1), the following qualifying fees were set by the City of Porterdale City Council in their January 11, 2021 meeting:

Council Seat Post 3	\$72.00
Council Seat Post 4	\$72.00
Council Seat Post 5	\$72.00

Qualifying for the offices listed above will begin at 9am on August 16 and will end at 4:30 pm on August 20, 2021. The General Election will be held on November 2, 2021.

Kathy Boutry
Election Superintendent



Metro Creative Services

The American Red Cross notes that only a handful of factors may affect prospective donors' eligibility to donate blood.

Safe to donate blood?

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Blood donations are vital to many people's survival. Whether someone has lost blood after a car accident or as the result of a chronic disease, without the selfless decision by millions of blood donors to donate blood, people in need may not be able to overcome their injuries and illnesses.

The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute notes that it conducted 15,699 red blood cell transfusions and 11,621 platelet transfusions in 2019. Cancer patients may need transfusions for a variety of reasons. Some may have lost a significant amount of blood during surgery, while others may experience a low blood count due to their treatments. Cancers in the blood and bone marrow do not allow the body to produce normal blood-making cells, thereby creating the need for transfusions.

Prospective donors recognize the need for blood, which may be even greater as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that it's safe to donate blood during the pandemic, social distancing guidelines and nervousness about donating adversely affected the blood supply in the United States and other nations in 2020. However, the Amer-

ican Red Cross notes that only a handful of factors may affect prospective donors' eligibility to donate blood.

Cold, flu and other illnesses

The Red Cross urges prospective donors to wait to donate blood if they:

- have a fever or a productive cough (one that brings up phlegm)
- do not feel well on the day of their scheduled donation

Donors also are urged to wait to donate until they have completed antibiotic treatment for sinus, throat or lung infections.

Additional requirements regarding donors' height and weight as well as donation intervals can be found at www.redcross-blood.org.

Medications

The Red Cross says that most medications will not disqualify prospective donors from being able to donate. However, the Red Cross also notes that some medications may require a waiting period after patients take their final dose before they are eligible to donate. Donors can contact their local blood donation center as well as their physicians to determine if any medications they're currently taking or have taken recently will affect their eligibility to donate.

Low iron

Some donors are ineligible to donate because of low iron. Donation center staff conduct screening tests to measure the amount of hemoglobin present in potential donors' blood. Hemoglobin is a protein in the body that contains iron and carries oxygen to the tissues in the body. If the hemoglobin count is too low, donors will be asked to wait to donate. The body needs iron to make new red blood cells and can help to replace those lost through blood donations. Thankfully, donors whose hemoglobin levels are low can take steps, such as eating foods that are rich in iron, to improve their hemoglobin levels so they can donate blood in the future.

Travel

Potential donors may be ineligible to donate blood if they lived in or traveled to a malaria-risk country in the past three years. Travel destinations will be reviewed at the time of donation, so donors should be ready to answer questions about their travels during their donation appointment.

Donating blood saves lives. To ensure the safety of donors and donation recipients, prospective donors may need to wait to donate until they meet certain eligibility requirements.

Guidance on glaucoma



Metro Creative Services

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Eyesight is important but easily taken for granted. Few people can imagine life without their eyesight, but hundreds of millions of people across the globe experience compromised vision every year.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide. In fact, estimates from the World Glaucoma Association indicated that 79.6 million individuals would experience glaucoma in 2020. By 2040, that figure is expected to rise to 111.8 million people.

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a disease that damages the optic nerve. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology®, glaucoma usually results from the buildup of fluid in the front part of the eye. As that fluid builds up, it increases the pressure in the eye, ultimately damaging the optic nerve.

Are all glaucomas the same?

All glaucomas are not the same, and the AAO notes that there are two major types of the disease: primary open-angle glaucoma and angle-closure glaucoma.

- Primary open-angle glaucoma: The most common type of the disease, primary open-angle glaucoma develops gradually. Eyes affected by primary open-angle glaucoma do not drain fluid as well as they should, resulting in the buildup of pressure that slowly starts to damage the optic nerve.
- Angle-closure glaucoma: Angle-closure glaucoma occurs when a person's iris is very close to the drainage angle in his or her eye. The AAO says that this proximity can block the drainage angle, causing pressure to build up very quick-

ly. However, the AAO also notes that many people with angle-closure glaucoma develop it very slowly and have no idea they have it until they've suffered severe damage.

What are the symptoms of glaucoma?

The symptoms of glaucoma differ depending on which type a person has.

According to the AAO, there are no obvious symptoms in the early stages of open-angle glaucoma. Blind spots develop in patients' peripheral vision as the disease progresses. Because people often do not experience symptoms until the damage from open-angle glaucoma has become severe, the AAO urges adults to schedule routine eye exams with an ophthalmologist so the disease can be found before any significant damage has occurred.

Blurred vision, halos, mild headaches, or eye pain are some early symptoms of an angle-closure glaucoma attack. However, the AAO notes that people with angle-closure glaucoma do not typically notice any symptoms until the attack has started. As a result, the AAO urges anyone experiencing any of the aforementioned symptoms to contact their ophthalmologist immediately. Once an angle-closure glaucoma attack has begun, symptoms may include:

- severe pain in the eye or forehead
- redness of the eye
- decreased vision or blurred vision
- nausea
- vomiting

No one is immune to glaucoma, which can quickly rob otherwise healthy individuals of their vision. Learning to recognize the early signs of glaucoma and seeking prompt treatment can reduce the likelihood of substantial vision loss.

YMCA announces reduced membership rates through February

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

ATLANTA — The YMCA of Metro Atlanta recently announced it is offering prospective members reduced pricing through February. New members can save up to \$100 on a Y membership, and for a limited time, current members that refer a friend, can save 20% on fees.

YMCA membership includes access to all 18 Metro Atlanta YMCA locations, state-of-the-art fitness centers, free group exercise classes, free personal coaching, free weight loss management, reduced rates on Y programs and rewarding volunteer opportunities. Additionally, Y members receive free childcare while exercising if children are included in the membership.

"After a challenging year, we know the community needs to reset and reconnect," said Lauren Koontz, president and CEO of YMCA of Metro Atlanta. "We created membership promotions and interactive opportunities to ensure members and nonmembers can reach their goals. The Y is much more than a gym, it's a place to better yourself and enjoy new experiences."

Beginning January 15, members and nonmembers can opt-in to a free six-week wellness challenge by texting RESET to 888.903.9622. The free program, which will begin February 1, is

designed to help transform the mind, body and spirit. The interactive experience is open to both Y members and nonmembers. Non-

member participants will be offered a free weekly visit to the Y with their family for six weeks as a way to get to know all their local Y has to offer and get a jump start on wellness. Those interested in obtaining a membership can do so at <https://ymcaatlanta.org/> membership/. For the complete list of YMCA of Metro Atlanta locations, please visit <https://www.ymcaatlanta.org/locations/>.

CITY OF MANSFIELD, GEORGIA SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020				
Project	2005 SPLOST Total Original Estimated Project Costs	Expenditures		Total
		Prior Years	Current Years	
Road and bridge improvements	\$ 125,384	\$ 125,384	\$ -	\$ 125,384
2011 SPLOST				
Project	Total Original Estimated Project Costs	Expenditures		Total
		Prior Years	Current Years	
Road and bridge improvements	\$ 252,630	\$ 248,765	\$ 3,865	\$ 252,630
2017 SPLOST				
Project	Total Original Estimated Project Costs	Expenditures		Total
		Prior Years	Current Years	
Road and bridge improvements	\$ 385,560	\$ 2,500	\$ 76,619	\$ 79,119

Prep Basketball

Eagles looking to soar into postseason

Eastside hitting stride at right time

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Don't look now, but the Eastside boys' basketball team is getting hot.

And they've shown no signs of cooling down anytime soon.

On Friday, Jan. 8, the Eagles traveled to Athens to square off against Region 8-AAAAA-leading Clarke Central. They were overmatched by the Gladiators and suffered a 63-46 defeat, falling to 4-5.

That's when Eastside's season changed on a dime.

Since coming up short against Clarke Central, the Eagles have reeled off five wins in their past six games — all of which have come against region opponents. Their latest blemish was a 69-68 loss to Loganville on the road on Jan. 12, which has since been followed by a five-game winning streak that's included a pair of victories over Greenbrier and wins over Apalachee and Jackson County.

As the Eagles (9-6, 7-3) enter the final two-week stretch of the regular season, they're in a three-way tie for



Eastside enters Week 10 of the prep basketball season riding a four-game winning streak. They're tied with Greenbrier and Loganville for the No. 2 spot in Region 8-AAAAA and appear poised to return to the postseason for the first time since the winter of 2017.

second place in the region and appear poised to return to the state playoffs for the first time since the 2016-2017 season.

First-year head coach Dorrian Randolph has made his expectations for his club clear from the day he stepped on campus. He wants to send his senior class off with their first trip to the postseason in their varsity careers.

"I want to get to state my first year. That was my No. 1 goal," Randolph reiterated following the Eagles' win over Jackson County last week. "This is a tough region. That four and five spot, man, I don't really want to be in that. I'm shooting for a one, two, or three seed. This is working us toward that goal."

When asked about the recent surge his club has had, Randolph noted that it's taken time for his team to gel cohesively. He pointed to the acclimation of football

players such as Jaylen Woods and Montarious Reed — both of whom were held out through mid-December while the Eagles make a play-off run — as being key to their turnaround.

"Now they're building, they're gelling and they're starting to come together as one," Randolph said. "That's really, really good to see."

Eastside hit the court Tuesday night for a road game against Walnut Grove (8-9, 7-3).

Region 8-AAAAA Standings

Updated as of Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Team	Region	Overall
Clarke Central	7-1	8-6
Eastside	7-3	9-6
Walnut Grove	7-3	8-9
Greenbrier	7-3	11-7
Loganville	5-4	12-6
Jackson County	3-7	8-7
Johnson	1-7	3-11
Apalachee	0-9	1-13

Prep Baseball



Eastside and Social Circle hit the diamond last week as high school baseball kicked off across the state. Alcovy, Eastside, Newton and Social Circle have each made their final cuts and formed their clubs for the 2021 campaign. A photo gallery with art from all four programs' opening week of tryouts and practice can be found at CovNews.com. Opening Day for the GHSA baseball season is Monday, Feb. 15, so look for in-depth season previews for all four local baseball programs in future issues of The Covington News.

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

The Covington News

Fresh take on spaghetti

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Spaghetti is a staple of many family dinner tables. But home cooks who want to veer away from traditional pasta without giving up their love of marinara can try the following, zucchini-inspired alternative to traditional spaghetti, “Z’paghetti Marinara with Shrimp,” courtesy of Lisa Lillien’s “Hungry Girl Clean & Hungry” (St. Martin’s Press).

Z’paghetti Marinara with Shrimp

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:
28 ounces (about four medium) zucchini
8 ounces (about 16) raw large shrimp, peeled, tails removed and deveined
1/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup Clean & Hungry Marinara Sauce (see below)
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Lay a large piece of heavy-duty foil on a baking sheet and spray with nonstick spray.
2. Using a spiral vegetable slicer, cut zucchini into spaghetti-like noodles. (If you don’t have a spiral veggie slicer, peel zucchini into super-thin strips, rotating the zucchini after each strip.) Roughly chop for shorter noodles.
3. Place zucchini noodles in the center of the foil and top with shrimp. Sprinkle with seasonings. Top with marinara sauce and Parmesan.
4. Cover with another large piece of foil. Fold together and seal all four edges of the



Metro Creative Services

home cooks who want to veer away from traditional pasta without giving up their love of marinara can try this zucchini-inspired alternative to traditional spaghetti.

Clean & Hungry Marinara Sauce

Makes 6 servings

Ingredients:
3 cups canned crushed tomatoes
1/4 cup tomato paste
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon black pepper

Directions:
1. Combine ingredients in a large sealable container. Mix until uniform.
2. Seal, and refrigerate until ready to use.



Wikimedia Commons

Even though chocolate may be expected on Valentine’s Day, tiramisu can be a welcome and delicious alternative. Tiramisu is an Italian layered dessert, and the name translates to “pick me up” or “cheer me up.”

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Romantic sentiments are expressed in many ways come Valentine’s Day. Gifts may include sparkling jewels or personalized prose, but a homemade dessert from the kitchen can win over some hearts as well.

Even though chocolate may be expected on Valentine’s Day, tiramisu can be a welcome and delicious alternative. Tiramisu is an Italian layered dessert, and the name translates to “pick me up” or “cheer me up.” It is made from spongy cookies soaked

in coffee and liqueur, nestled among dollops of rich mascarpone cheese. Requiring no baking at all, it is an easy treat to offer a sweetheart. Enjoy this recipe for “Tiramisu” courtesy of the American Dairy Association.

Tiramisu
Yield: 9 servings
Ingredients:
6 egg yolks
1 cup sugar
1 1/4 cup mascarpone cheese
1 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
Two 12 oz packages Sa-

voradi Lady Fingers
1/2 cup cold espresso or strong coffee
1/4 cup coffee flavored liqueur (optional)
1 tablespoon cocoa for dusting
Directions:
Combine egg yolks and sugar in the top of a double boiler, over boiling water. Reduce heat to low and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring constantly. This is your sabayon. Remove from the heat and whip yolks until thick and lemon colored. Add mascarpone to whipped yolks, and beat until combined.

In a separate bowl, whip cream to stiff peaks. Gently fold the whipped cream in the mascarpone-sabayon mixture and set aside.
Mix the cold espresso with the coffee liquor, and dip the lady fingers into the mixture just long enough to get them wet; do not soak them! Arrange the lady fingers in the bottom of a 8-inch square baking dish (or 6X9). Spoon half the mascarpone cream filling over the lady fingers.
Repeat the process with another layer. Refrigerate four hours or overnight. Dust with cocoa before serving.

3 tips for planning to eat in

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

A few generations ago, dining out was an experience reserved for special occasions. However, until recently, when restaurants were shuttered in the wake of the public health crisis prompted by the spread of COVID-19, many people were dining out multiple times a week. Hospitality solutions provider Fourth surveyed 1,000 American adults in 2019 and 56% reported dining out at least two to three times per week. Ten percent said they ate out four to six times each week, while 6% said they dined out everyday. People accustomed to relying on restaurant for meals multiple times per week may be unaccustomed to cooking many meals at home, which has become the norm thanks to restrictions placed on restaurants and other food-related businesses as part of COVID-19 social distancing precautions.

1. Plan meals

Meal planning and shopping lists are vital tools for people preparing meals at home. Without doing so, individuals can be left floundering in the supermarket, spending more money than necessary and making impulse purchases. Build a week’s worth of meals off of sale items, then fill in any extra ingredients or staples needed on a shopping list. Leave a day or two for leftovers. Try organizing the list to follow the natural layout where items are arranged in the store.

2. Shop smart

With paper and pen in hand or a digital list compiled on your phone, go aisle by aisle and check off items as they are added to the cart. If you are shopping for food to last a week or more, consider substituting canned and frozen foods and other nonperishables for fresh items because they can be stored longer. “Family size” packages of foods may cost less per volume and can be sub-divided and stored for later use.

3. Minimize waste

Cook only as much as is needed for the household. Generally speaking, a meat or poultry serving of three to four ounces per person is adequate. That means a roast or steak of 1 1/2 to two pounds is fine for a family of four. Use up older frozen or perishable foods first. Store foods properly and use them before the use-by date. Wrap up leftovers and turn them into new meals.

With proper planning, homecooking can be more efficient and less wasteful.

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