



Jaylen Lelie-Johnson

SPORTS:

Eagles fall in OT thriller

Rival Walnut Grove hands Eastside loss in Region 8-AAAAA opener

See A7

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FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Hearty soup makes the meal



INSIDE:

A hearty soup recipe to keep you warm, see **FOOD A9**
Preventive care and the pandemic, see **HEALTH A8**

HEALTH & FITNESS

Preventive care and the pandemic



His Word

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5, KJV

General Election Runoffs

39% vote early, absentee before Election Day

Newton elections chairman says turnout tied to Senate races' national prominence



File | The Covington News
39% of Newton's registered voters cast ballots early for the hotly contested runoffs.

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

COVINGTON, Ga.

— Two of every five Newton County registered voters already cast ballots another way before the rest went to the polls using the traditional method Tuesday, Jan. 5, in the highly-publicized runoff election for Georgia's two U.S.

Senate seats.

The runoff was required after neither of the top two vote-getters in each of the U.S. Senate races and the Public Service Commission race won majorities of votes cast in their elections statewide Nov. 3.

About 31,000 — or 39% of all registered and active Newton County

voters — had cast ballots through the final day of advance voting Dec. 31, according to election records.

That total included 12,000 absentee voters and 19,000 who cast ballots during the three-week, in-person advance voting period at four

See VOTE, A3

Newton County

Newton chairman reflects on 2020 positives

Banes: Relationship with state leaders helped county face pandemic

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Despite a year in which a pandemic led the county government to close its doors to the public for months and the community lost some long-time leaders, the county chairman says he saw numerous positive things that came out of 2020.

The county's economic development efforts produced dividends that included a new regional distribution center and planned expansions of existing industries that promise hundreds of new jobs.

Newton County government also never stopped operating despite the challenges the pandemic posed, said Marcello Banes, chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

"Our county government hasn't missed a beat," he said.

He said the leadership of the various department heads and County Manager Lloyd Kerr resulted in little disruption in its operation.

"We have great people in place," he said. "We have really great leadership."

Banes said he was glad the county government could help directly fund the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce's economic development office after the Chamber chose to stop offering the service.



File | Tom Spigolon | The Covington News
County Chairman Marcello Banes speaks during a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 15 for a renovation project to upgrade the county's main water treatment plant at Lake Varner in north Newton County.

The county formerly had paid the Chamber for its industrial recruitment operation before the organization voted in December 2019 to focus more on its membership.

"We were able to step in and provide funding for that team," Banes said. "To be able to keep that team in place ... was great for our community."

The Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Newton County Industrial Development Authority then forged an intergovernmental agreement early in 2020

which moved the economic development operation to county control.

The year then brought announcements of new industries and expansions by existing employers that will add new jobs for county residents, he said.

It also will provide tax revenue that will remove some of the burden for funding basic services off the backs of existing homeowners, Banes said.

The county celebrated the announcement of German grocer Lidl planning a \$100 million regional distribution

center that will employ 270 in western Newton County. Facebook also announced it was planning more buildings for its massive data center near Social Circle that will bring its total investment in Newton County to \$1 billion, he said.

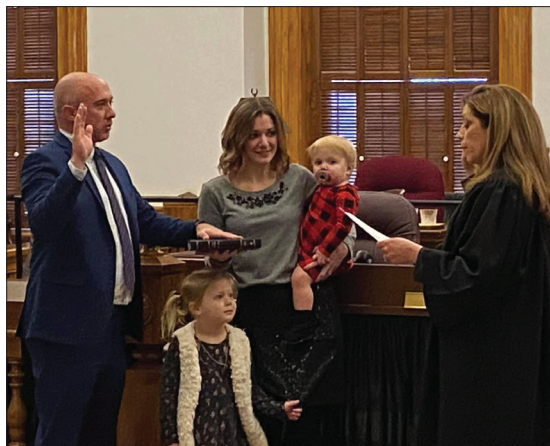
Existing industries like FiberVision and General Mills also planned increased production capacity for its products.

"Those are things that our citizens can be proud of," Banes said.

Banes said he was

See POSITIVES, A3

Alcovy Judicial Circuit



Special to The Covington News

Randy McGinley is joined by wife Charly and their daughters as he is sworn in to office as district attorney by Superior Court Judge Layla Zon Thursday, Dec. 31.

McGinley sworn in as District Attorney

Walton Co. resident took office Jan. 1

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

MONROE, Ga. — The district attorney for Newton County began his first full term in the position Jan. 1 after his election in November.

Randy McGinley has served as the acting district attorney since June 2 after working as chief assistant district attorney for more than three years.

Under state law, he moved up to replace former DA Layla Zon on an interim basis after Gov. Brian Kemp named Zon as a Superior Court judge in May.

McGinley now takes office as the district attorney for a four-year term after winning the job outright in the Nov. 3 General Election.

He began his career in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit district attorney's office after Zon, who served as DA from 2010 until May 2020, hired McGinley as an assistant DA in 2011.

Zon swore in McGinley at the Walton County Historic Courthouse in Monroe. McGinley's wife, Charly, and their two daughters joined him for the event.

Superior Court Judges John Ott, Eugene Benton, Ken Wynne, Cheveda McCamy and Jeff Foster, as well as family members, members of local law enforcement and friends also attended, stated a posting on the Alcovy District Attorney's office's Facebook page.

McGinley said in the posting, "I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Newton and Walton counties as I have for almost 10 years.

"Our offices are full of wonderful individuals that work day in and day out to achieve justice and help victims of crimes in our communities. I assure you that we will continue to be DA's Office that always strives to do the right thing and works harder than anyone to achieve that," he said.

"I remain committed to working with the community to ensure that Newton and Walton Counties are a place where we want to raise our families," McGinley said.

He thanked his wife and family "for their love and support" in seeking the office.

See MCGINLEY, A6

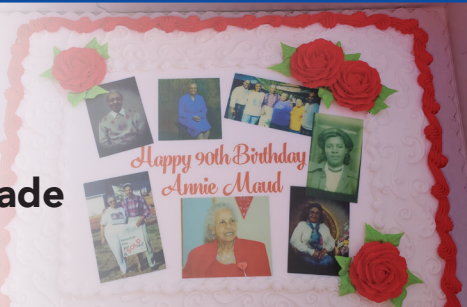


Randy McGinley

Inside

Newton resident celebrates 90th birthday with parade

See A2



Weather

Wednesday, Jan. 6
High: 54°; Low: 34°
Sunny, clear skies.



Thursday, Jan. 7
High: 50°; Low: 37°

Mostly cloudy, 50% chance of rain.



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OBITUARY

Donald Leach

Donald Leach, of Covington, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2021, at the age of 77. Mr. Leach was a longtime resident of Newton County, a 1961 graduate of Social Circle High School, and a proud veteran. After graduating high school, he answered the call to serve his country as a corpsman in both the United States Navy and the Marine Corps. Mr. Leach went on to work as a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service, retiring after a remarkable 30 plus years. Steadfast in his faith, he was a constant presence in the life of his church at Calvary Baptist where he was a deacon and a Sunday School teacher. Things that brought him pleasure were family, fishing, hunting, and golf outings with his sons and brother. He also enjoyed being a “regular” at Mamie’s Kitchen, sharing the latest news while catching up with his close friends. Mr. Leach was preceded in death by his parents, Johnnie and Mary Ruth (Ivey) Leach; and sister, Hazel Womac.

Memories created by Mr. Leach will forever remain with his wife of 54 years, Linda Leach; sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Luci Leach of Good Hope, Dexter and Kerri Leach of Oxford; grandchildren, Parker and Leslie Leach, Andrew Leach, Emma Kate Leach, Erickson Leach, Anna Leach; brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Sandra Leach of Mansfield; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as additional family, the Crawley’s.

A graveside service honoring Mr. Leach was held Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 2 p.m., at Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington, with Pastor Ron Swann officiating. Flowers are accepted, or memorial donations may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 4228 Mill Street NE, Covington, GA 30014.

Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.



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For the 15th consecutive year, Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, Covington, has been named a recipient of the National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Award. This Award is presented by NFDA annually to firms that have demonstrated a commitment to raising the bar on funeral service excellence by adhering to strict ethical and professional standards and providing outstanding service to families and communities.

Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!

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Newton resident celebrates 90th birthday with parade

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Before ringing in the new year, the city of Covington helped Newton County’s Annie Maud Belcher Roby celebrate her 90th birthday Sunday, Dec. 27, with a “COVID-style” birthday parade.

Roby’s granddaughter, Nichelle Banks, coordinated with the city’s police, fire and street departments to put on the event to honor Roby.

“On a visit to see her doctor a few (weeks) ago, she was reminded that she was about to have a milestone birthday and she said to the doctor ‘Yeah, and somebody needs to do something,’” she told The Covington News. “So the family had to put together a ‘COVID style drive by’ birthday celebration. Everybody social distancing, wearing masks at her house on Puckett Street in Covington in the front yard. Colorful balloons in an arch decorating a table for a cake with pictures and flowers, and a big box for gifts and cards could be seen as well wishers passed by blowing horns and waving and some stopped to say hello and leave gifts.”

Roby was born Dec. 27, 1930, to Stoney



Special to The Covington News
Annie Maud Roby looks at the cake and box of gifts left for her 90th birthday Sunday, Dec. 27. Roby’s family organized a “COVID-style” birthday parade with the help of Covington’s first responders.

Belcher and Mary Thomas Belcher; she was one of seven children. A lifelong resident of Newton County, Roby grew up with little education but learned to cook and sew and worked on her family’s farm.

On Dec. 1, 1946, Roby married Charlie D. “CD” Roby on the back porch of the old house at the corner of Dixie Road and Georgia Hwy. 213. They were married for 58 years until he died in August 2005. They had six children: Leotha, Charlie, Dianne, Curtis,

Anita and Karen. Curtis died of Pneumonia at age 7 and Anita died at birth.

She has 11 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Roby spent time working at Bibb Manufacturing Company and Lithonia Lighting before retiring. Soon after, she began volunteering for the Newton County Head Start Program but was later put on staff because “she was there everyday to make sure they were taking good care of

one of her great granddaughters,” according to Banks.

After her husband died, she started going to Turner Lake Senior Services Center and has found joy in quilting and playing bingo, Banks said.

Until 2018, Roby made lye soap and sold it out of a red barn in her backyard.

“Her husband used to tease her and say that selling soap was her ‘hustle,’” Banks said. “For years she had a regular group of clients who loved her soap. It was used for

any number of skin irritations and if you used it as soon as you started to itch, it would keep you from having poison ivy. In the olden days, it was used for anything from scrubbing floors to washing clothes.”

Banks said Roby was featured in *The Covington News* a few years ago as the “Soap Lady.”

Banks and the Roby family were thankful to Kim’s Kustoms for special T-shirts made and also grateful to the city’s departments for their role in the event.

Newton County Sheriff’s Office



Special to The Covington News
Sheriff Ezell Brown attended a conference in Pine Mountain hosted by the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association for newly-elected sheriffs Dec. 8. Brown spoke to the 36 newly-elected sheriffs about the duties and responsibilities of the office of sheriff as well as the importance of upholding the U.S. and Georgia constitutions. The Newton County sheriff is Region Two vice president of the statewide organization.

‘Legacies’ film crews head back to Covington

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Film crews with hit television drama “Legacies” are getting back into action to tape the show throughout the city of Covington.

A spokesperson for the city of Covington announced the crews would start their “large scale,” three-day work Wednesday, Jan. 6, on Emory and Washington streets.

Specific filming locations are set to include the vacant bank located

at 2131 Washington Street and the Covington Town Square.

Traffic delays within the area are expected Jan. 6-8 and local motorists should plan accordingly.

“Legacies” is an American fantasy drama TV series created by Julie Plec the premiered Oct. 25, 2018. It is a spin-off of “The Originals” and features characters from the “The Originals” and “The Vampire Diaries,” another popular series filmed in the area.

“Legacies” is the first of many projects expected to be filmed in the Covington, Newton County area this year.

Producers of Netflix series “Sweet Magnolias” announced July 23 that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, film crews would return to Covington and begin shooting a second season in “early 2021.” Since the pandemic began, several film productions across the world have been delayed or put on hold due to the novel virus’ spread.

The first season of “Sweet Magnolias” featured 10 episodes and was dubbed one of the hottest shows on the international streaming service in 2020, according to ratings numbers reported by industry publications.

The show is based on a book series by Sherry Woods and centers on the lives of three women, including a restaurant owner, attorney and a recently-divorced woman, in the fictional town of Serenity, South Carolina.

Porterdale officials recently announced during a city council meeting that film crews were supposed to be in town beginning Jan. 5. It was unclear if the project is related to any mentioned above.

Known as “Hollywood of the South,” the city of Covington and Newton County is home to more than 120 television and film productions. “The Dukes of Hazzard” and “In the Heat of the Night” rank among the most notable projects.



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Newton Democrats agree to be part of vote review panel required for runoff

Had objected for weeks about GOP member’s refusal to wear mask during process state law mandates for certification

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton’s Democratic chairman agreed to serve on a vote review committee after other party members’ refusal because Republican members were not wearing masks threatened to halt the county’s certification of its votes in the runoff election.

The agreement came just hours before the Newton County Board of Elections voted Thursday, Dec. 31, to approve a resolution allowing Chairman Phil Johnson to ask a judge to order either county political party to participate in the review process.

State law required the bipartisan vote review be completed before any county’s final vote totals can be certified in the Tuesday, Jan. 5, election of Georgia’s two U.S. senators and a Public Service Commission member.

The panel determines the voter’s intent when ovals on an absentee ballot are not completely filled in, or on ballots damaged in the mail.

Both parties are required to provide members but a refusal to participate by either would stop any county

from completing its count.

Johnson said he worked unsuccessfully for hours Wednesday, Dec. 30, trying to broker a compromise between Newton County Democrats and Republicans on what face coverings should be worn during the process of adjudicating ballots.

He said Democratic Chairman Ryan Barrett agreed to participate if given a mask that covered his face and if plexiglass dividers are used to divide the panel’s members.

Democrats, led by Barrett, had refused to serve as monitors and vote review panel members because they objected to Republican member Leesha Jay wearing a plastic face shield they said did not comply with CDC guidelines for providing protection from exposure to COVID-19.

Republicans, led by Jay’s husband and party Chairman Scott Jay, said the face shield complied with a county mask ordinance in part because she experienced breathing problems while wearing a face covering.

Newton County’s mask ordinance requires face coverings

in public areas outside the cities and in county-owned buildings but allows numerous exemptions, including in voting precincts and for objections on medical, religious or other grounds.

The elections and registration office is located in the Newton County Administration Building which also serves as a location for in-person advance voting.

Barrett will join Johnson and Leesha Jay as vote review panel members.

The Democratic chairman agreed to replace Theresa Hesterley after she refused to participate because of the face shield objection.

Barrett, who is an emergency room technician, said Jan. 1, that, “Unsurprisingly, (Scott Jay) refused to budge and do as he was requested from the beginning — appoint an individual who did not have any objections to wearing a mask for this process.”

“As I stated to the Board of Elections (Dec. 31), I have agreed to serve as the Democratic appointee as long as safeguards are met to protect those of us in that room due to the unwillingness of the

GOP to do what is right for the overall good.”

He said the “process is far too sacred to allow it to fall through the cracks.”

“People have gone through a lot to make sure that their votes are cast and their voices are heard. I would not want it weighing upon my conscience that I had a part in disrupting a free and fair election,” Barrett said.

“What is not surprising is that it is the Democrats, yet again, having to further accommodate a stagnant and bullheaded opposition party — all for the simple fact that they feel the need to politicize a public health crisis.

“It is truly reprehensible that we are having to deal with something like this, but we are determined to do what is right to save our democracy,” Barrett said.

Scott Jay said that “whatever Ryan needs to do to help him feel comfortable to finish this task is fine with me.”

Jay has said county Democrats are using the issue of which face coverings are acceptable “to score political points.”

Democrat monitors began complaining to

Republican monitors about use of masks after absentee vote processing began Dec. 21.

“We were not the ones obstructing this process and quite frankly we’re the ones getting the most heat and scrutiny,” Scott Jay said.

“Our choice (Leesha Jay) is simply the best choice to represent the Republican Party and its voters,” he said.

He said three sheriff’s deputies assigned to enforce the mask ordinance in the administration building had inspected Mrs. Jay’s face shield and found it complied with the county ordinance.

“She is competent, respectful, socially distances when not adjudicating (ballots) and takes her temperature before leaving for the Election Board,” Scott Jay said.

Marcello Banes, chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, said a sign on the administration building’s front door encourages wearing of masks and the government wants those entering to follow CDC guidelines on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

However, the county government cannot legally mandate the use of masks by everyone, he said.

Georgia Department of Public Health statistics showed Newton County had 562 confirmed cases per 100,000 population between Dec. 12 and 25 — lower than the statewide rate of 672 per 100,000.

Newton had recorded 4,409 confirmed cases through Dec. 25, the department reported.

VOTE:

Continued from A1

locations between Dec. 14 and Dec. 31, records show.

With about 3,200 absentee ballots still not turned in by Dec. 31, the total of absentee and advance voters could equal the 36,000 votes cast in the same ways for the General Election, said Phil Johnson, chairman of the Newton County Board of Elections.

Of those who participated in the Nov. 3 election, 15,585 (29%) voted absentee, and 20,867 (38%) voted in-person during the three-week advance voting period.

Another 18,015 — 33% of all who voted — cast ballots in the traditional way at their designated precincts in-person on Election Day.

That brought the total in the General Election to about 54,000 who cast ballots — or 69% of Newton County’s 79,000 active registered voters.

In Tuesday’s runoff election,

Democrat Jon Ossoff challenged incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., who was seeking a second six-year term.

Democrat Raphael Warnock challenged incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., for the right to complete the last two years of the Senate term of Johnny Isakson, who resigned in late 2019 for health reasons. Gov. Brian Kemp appointed Loeffler to serve in the seat until this year’s election.

The Public Service Commission runoff featured Democrat Daniel Blackman of Cumming challenging three-term incumbent Republican Lauren “Bubba” McDonald of Clarkesville.

Johnson said he believed the Senate election’s national prominence, combined with voter enthusiasm that carried over from the General Election, helped drive the relatively heavy turnout for a runoff.

This year’s turnout already

had far exceeded the 24% turnout in Newton County for the Georgia Secretary of State runoff in 2018. A runoff for county-level offices in 2016 only brought 8% of Newton’s registered voters back to the polls.

Tuesday’s election received significant national attention because victories by Ossoff and Warnock would have given Democrats 50 seats in the U.S. Senate and shifted the balance of power from Republicans because Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris would be able to break any ties.

The four candidates had raised a combined total of about \$340 million for the Nov. 3 election and Jan. 5 runoff, the Capitol Beat News Service reported. All spending on advertising and other campaigning in the two races reportedly has exceeded \$400 million.

POSITIVES:

Continued from A1

glad the county and its Emergency Management Agency were able to work so closely with District Health Director Dr. Audrey Arona of the Gwinnett Rockdale Newton Health Departments to develop plans for dealing with the pandemic throughout the year.

The county closed the Newton County Administration Building, Historic Courthouse, Animal Services and Turner Lake Complex to the public in March and did not reopen fully until late summer and early fall because of concerns about the spread of the virus.

He said he was happy the county government in 2020 was able to move toward expanding services such as fire protection for homeowners and businesses,

and make key additions to its senior services and animal service facilities.

“We didn’t allow COVID to stop us from moving forward,” he said.

The county government used Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds to complete expansions to its senior services building near Turner Lake, and its animal shelter facility near Porterdale late in the year.

The county government also began construction of a new fire station on Gum Creek Road to serve the north Oxford area; renovated a former volunteer fire station on Georgia Hwy. 162 in the Rocky Plains area to create a new station to serve part of south Newton;

and bought land for construction of a new station on Big Woods Road in the Starrsville community to serve part of eastern Newton.

The new stations will decrease county fire department response times and, ultimately, lower insurance rates for property owners, Banes said.

Banes said a number of non-governmental developments occurred in 2020 which gave him hope that the county’s quality of life will continue to improve in the future.

He noted it was almost impossible to “fill their shoes” after leaders like businessman and former Covington mayor Sam Ramsey and Superior Court Judge Horace Johnson Jr. died in 2020 — both of whom were heavily

active in the community as well as their professions.

However, Banes said he was glad “a new group” of community leaders “stepped up” in 2020 to seek positions in state and local governments and business — resulting in new judges and a district attorney, new county elected officials and new members of the county’s Georgia General Assembly delegation, among others.

In addition, the county continues to see tourists spend their money here as they travel to Newton to see sites made famous in movies and TV — which helps keep Covington’s historic downtown area a bustling retail and dining area, Banes said.

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Tom Spigolon news editor

Political ads came in droves

A lady from Lubbock, Texas, just sent a postcard to my house. We’ve never met but she wrote that she prayed for my wife and me — which was nice because I often need prayer.



But then she threw in the reason she probably sent out the same postcard to thousands of potential voters in Georgia: “Please vote to elect Senate candidates with Biblical values.”

It was organized by a Plano, Texas-based initiative led by staunch conservative TV talk show host Mike Huckabee called MyFaithVotes®.

Among the group’s requests was to “oppose socialism,” which told me which side of the ballot they favored even without me knowing who Huckabee was.

However, it was not alone in stuffing my physical mailbox, email inbox, and messages on my cellphone with appeals for candidates from both parties.

There is Vote for Respect, which apparently is connected to the left-leaning group United for Respect that seeks “a world with fair pay, a fair workweek, and respect at work.”

It wanted me to “elect Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock and put working families first” — implying

the two Democrats would help save Georgians from evictions and help them pay their bills while the nation deals with the pandemic.

My vote has been cast for this election for weeks without touching one of those Dominion voting machines whose manufacturer, I will just say, has kind of been in the news lately.

So, if I’ve already voted and it can be verified publicly, why am I still getting three or four direct-mail campaign pieces every day since the runoff campaigns began after the General Election votes were counted?

I’ve been getting at least four a day in the mail for weeks. They are flowing in from both sides — both from the candidates and their many supporters who believe the world is going to end if their person is not elected.

Many of them are beautiful, four-color print pieces featuring high-resolution photos of the smiling, attractive candidates they favor.

They also feature low-resolution, grainy, black and white photos of their opponents — taken from bad angles — which make at least one of them appear to be Dracula on meth.

Some are more gracious than others and deal solely with the candidates’ stands on the issues vs. their opponent’s — all while not using the old trick of attractive person in color

vs. unattractive person in black and white that some ad executive somewhere believes still works.

Like two-thirds of Newton County voters in the last election, I voted without going to the polls on Election Day in the U.S. Senate runoff.

I commute from a neighboring county and, because of my work hours, it’s not convenient for me to travel to my home precinct to vote on Election Day and then travel to work.

I know polls open at 7 a.m. and stay open until 7 p.m. I’m glad county election boards in Georgia allow those hours.

Nevertheless, I’ve either utilized the in-person advance voting or mail-in voting options in recent years to cast my ballot.

Mail-in voting is a whole other debate for another time. Changes are coming for that option, and quickly, in the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

Suffice it to say I was using that option long before COVID struck and it became a source of friction nationwide.

I saw both methods of voting as ways to give me a more flexible time schedule to vote than on Election Day.

As such, my votes was in. What we were getting in the mail could not change our votes.

Did it come out in the final days that one candidate plies young men with special beverages which changes the into donkeys,

just like in the classic Disney cartoon “Pinocchio”?

That would be pretty strange. But advertising I don’t want in my mail or phone could not change my vote, no matter how much I liked “Pinocchio” when I was a kid.

So why are these obvious opinion pieces still among the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of campaign spending by the candidates and their surrogates?

Because they often work and because they are an efficient way to target specific groups of voters compared to the much more expensive TV ads cannot, experts say.

It’s also considered the most credible and persuasive forms of campaign advertising and has the most impact, they said.

So they cost less and can have more impact for a candidate or organization, which is why they’re still piling up at my house.

I guess that’s why I saw a grainy, black and white photo of a scary-looking Kelly Loeffler. Or the nice Christmas card that, on the inside, wanted me to vote against the Democrats?

Oh boy. I can’t wait until the governor’s election in 2022 to see what everybody comes up with.

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

Letters to the Editor

Reader wants more vaccine information from health department

Dear Editor:

The availability of vaccines to persons included in the Tier-1 group for COVID-19 is significantly limited for Newton County. This program is being administered by the Newton County Health Department in Covington and all available appointments are taken for the next two weeks. My family qualifies for the vaccine based on our age and following numerous phone calls to different governmental health department offices, we have determined there is no information to determine what county’s in Georgia have the vaccine available. In addition, there is no stand-by program for qualified recipients to be called to get the vaccine when persons no-show their appointments. It is possible for any citizen of Newton County that is in the Tier-1 group to visit any county in Georgia that has the vaccine available, but the problem is that this information is not available and no one knows how to get it. Newton County Health Department needs to provide this information on their website as it would literally save the lives of our citizens.

*Jay Munro
Covington*



David Carroll columnist

Columnist says 2020 put his life on pause

As you may have noticed by now, I’m “old school,” which is a way of saying you’re old, but by adding the word “school” it softens the blow.



Unlike my younger (new school?) colleagues, I keep an old-timey paper calendar, and I write in my appointments with an ancient liquid called “ink.”

This makes my skinny-jeans friends smirk and giggle as they refer to their pocket device for guidance on when to sleep, when to wake up, and how many bags of organic carrots to order from curbside pickup. (I’m old school about that too. Safety or no, I don’t want a teenager who rushed to work straight out of

gym class squeezing my produce.)

As I was looking over my 2020 calendar on New Year’s Eve, the proof was on the pages. I was stunned to realize the empty year I had just experienced. I compared each month to 2019, which now seems like twenty years ago.

During the year “Before COVID,” I had visited more than one hundred schools, which is part of my daily TV news job. Since March 2020, I have visited one, and that was with one foot in the door, to drop off a donation.

I looked back on all the 2019 lunch dates with friends, a vacation or two, a couple of Braves games, a few concerts, a haircut done by an actual barber every three weeks, and an annual holiday family gathering that became a tradition long before I was born.

My 2020 calendar, after March 13, included no vacation trips, no Braves games, no concerts, haircuts only at home (thank you dear wife), and no family gatherings. Even my own sons stayed

away. They looked at my particular zip code, and thought it would be a bad idea to visit the nation’s number one coronavirus hotspot.

I then reviewed my online photo albums, where my pictures have been stored for the past several years. During a random month in pretty much any year prior to 2020, I was all over the place, snapping pics for work or pleasure.

My 2020 photo albums are non-existent, as if someone hit the “pause” button on my life. For the first time, I didn’t see my sister on Thanksgiving, either of our birthdays, or at Christmas. If my future grandchildren someday ask me what the pandemic was like, they’ll just have to take my word for it. I have no photographic evidence. I guess I could have taken some pics of myself on the sofa looking out the window, but why bother?

I did take time to read a book about classic TV anchorman Walter Cronkite. I learned that once he had achieved “legend” status, and the power that comes with it, he would take the entire summer off each year to go sailing.

Since I have neither

the status, the boat, or the cash to do that, my summers are spent on dry land. But it made me realize that some folks do go on safari, or take a sabbatical to get away from it all. I have read about adventurous people who take a backpack, and nothing else. No phone, no technology. Their goal is simply to commune with nature for a year or so.

I’d be willing to bet that someone did that in early 2020, and they’re just now arriving back in the USA. They’ve been disconnected from reality, living off the land, with no access to information.

I can only imagine the conversation that takes place when they reacquaint themselves with America.

“Ah, home at last! I can’t wait to sit down and enjoy a meal here at my favorite restaurant!”

“Um, sorry sir, but we can’t serve people inside any more. And where’s your mask?”

“What is this mask you speak of? And if I can’t eat here, I’ll just go to the football game and grab a hot dog!”

“Too bad pal, but the team has tested positive, and even if they

were playing, no fans are allowed inside the stadium.”

“Tested positive...for what? Wait, I thought I was back in America! What about my freedom?”

“Relax, dude. Your turn is coming. Be patient, and you can get vaccinated soon.”

“There’s no need for any vaccination! I’ve had all my shots. I’m wasting my time here. I’ll run to the supermarket and restock my pantry. I just need some toilet paper, Clorox wipes, and paper towels.”

“Umm ... yeah, about that ...”

“Well, I’m not sure what happened while I was gone, but at least I can count on one thing. I stayed away long enough to miss the election. I cannot stand the negative campaigning, and the annoying commercials. Thank goodness that’s over!”

“On second thought, sit down, friend. You may need a drink.”

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

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CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

LEGALS

Public Notices

Citations

CITATION
TO: ANGELICA Nolley & all interested parties

RICHARD GRIFFIN has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) **Trinarion Griffin** minor(s). All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on January 21st 2021 at ten o' clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117723
01/03,10,17,24

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

WILLIE HENDON
PLAINTIFF,

-VS-
VIVIAN HERNDON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2020-CV2476-Z

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

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

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

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

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

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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

Newton County.

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

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

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF 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

CITY OF Covington
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Committee

JANUARY 6, 2021 | 6:00 p.m.
ZOOMLINK: HTTPS://ZOOM.
US/J/93561907506
DIAL IN Number: 1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 935 6190 7506

1.	OPENING	Remarks/ Roll
Call		
2.	APPROVAL	of the
Agenda		
3.	APPROVAL	of the

December 2, 2020 Minutes
4. OLD Business:
5. NEW Business
ITEM 1: COA# - PCA20-0031
LOCATION: 2196 Conyers Street
TAX PARCEL Number: C019-03-06
PROPERTY OWNER/APPLICANT: Joe Waters
REQUEST: INSTALLATION of a black chain link fence

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE # 117718
01/06

Public Sales Auctions

NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property Georgia Self Storage Act (210-215) Extra Storage Rental Spaces is hereby given that the under- signed self storage units will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, in their entirety to the highest bidder, on or after January 15, 2021 to satisfy the lien of the Lessor, Extra Storage Rental Spaces Terrell Management LLC, for rental and other charges. The auction will be held at 11471 Brown Bridge Road Covington, GA 30016 and will begin on January 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM for the following units: unit 28 Orlando Durden, unit 27 Joannes Williams, unit 46 Chelsea Withrow, unit 509 Donna Garrett, unit 88 Tashanna Williams, unit 605 Beverly Hull, unit 57 Tamara Hinson, unit 45 Darryl Bailey. The contents consist of general household goods, furniture, boxes, and miscellaneous items. The terms of the sale will be cash only and must be paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is. Extra Storage Rental Spaces reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner of auction completion.

PUBLIC NOTICE # 117734
12/30,01/6

Valentine's Date Night

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

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

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

Drawing will be held on February 4, 2021.

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

Valid for new and renewal subscriptions.

(Non-refundable)

This offer is valid January 5, 2021 –February 3, 2021.



The Covington News

Subscription Form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Method:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Credit Card # _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Expiration Date _____

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

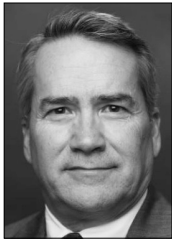
Local congressmen react to Trump phone call to Secretary of State

Johnson introduces cenure resolution, calls for president's resignation; Hice takes president's side

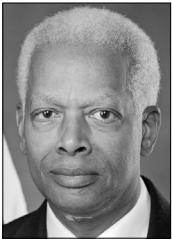
By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

Newton County's two congressmen not surprisingly were far apart in their reactions to President Donald Trump's weekend call to Georgia's Secretary of State. Trump asked Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger Saturday, Jan. 2, in an hour-long call to overturn the Nov. 3 election results in which challenger Joe Biden won Georgia by almost 12,000 votes. U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Lithonia, on Monday called on Trump to resign because he violated the law with his request for Raffensperger to "recalculate" the vote to find enough votes in the General Election to allow the president to win the state and gain its 16 electoral votes. U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Greensboro, defended

Trump for the call and said he "had every right to be angry" about alleged voter fraud in Georgia. Hice, whose 10th Congressional District includes eastern Newton County, said fraud was rooted in Raffensperger's move to send out absentee ballot applications in March to protect voters from COVID-19. "The president is absolutely right. There are abundant votes out there that are fraudulent votes," Hice said. "There's no doubt it was a disaster in Georgia," he said. "I believe the election can be turned around if an authentic investigation is taking place." Johnson, whose 4th Congressional District includes western Newton, was joined by more than 90 other House members in supporting a resolution seeking to censure and condemn Trump



Jody Hice



Hank Johnson

"for attempting to overturn the results of the November 2020 presidential election in the state of Georgia." He tweeted that that president's call to Raffensperger was "a violation of state and federal law." "Tomorrow, I will introduce a resolution of Censure. Trump should resign NOW!" Johnson wrote on Twitter Monday. A news release from Johnson's office stated that Trump called Raffensperger Saturday, Jan. 2, "and asked him to illegally fabricate the votes needed for him to win

the Georgia vote count." "Rep. Johnson moved quickly to condemn President Trump's criminal actions and denounce his flagrant attempts to defraud a legal, fair, and free election," the release stated. "The resolution also calls on President Trump to retract and disavow this unlawful and unconstitutional behavior and acknowledge President-elect Joseph R. Biden as the victor of the November 2020 presidential election." The president and his supporters have shown no visible proof backing his allegations. However, Hice said in an interview on the Fox News Channel Sunday, "There is zero question in my mind that the election in Georgia was filled with fraud and it all started with the Secretary of State unilaterally making the decision to send applica-


tions for absentee ballots to everyone in the voter registration file." "He had zero authority to do so. The General Assembly is the only one who can make that decision but he did it himself," said Hice, who has been a regular guest on conservative TV news channels like NewsMax in recent months. "And in so doing literally hundreds of thousands of applications for ballots went out to people who were illegal voters in Georgia," Hice said. Hice said both parties should be supportive of ways to ensure the General Election vote count was accurate. "The heart of our republic is free and fair elections," he said.

COVID-19

Vaccines headed for Georgians 65-years and up, first responders

By BEAU EVANS
Capitol Beat News Service

COVID-19 vaccines are set to roll out for Georgians ages 65-years and older, police officers and firefighters in the coming weeks as hospitals, health clinics and nursing homes continue divvying up a limited supply of early doses, Gov. Brian Kemp said Thursday, Jan. 1. The expansion comes as vaccine providers administer shots more quickly in rural parts of Georgia than in metro areas, giving some places capacity to offer vaccines for vulnerable people besides just health-care workers and nursing home residents, said state Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey. Officials are now aiming to open drive-thru clinics in metro Atlanta sometime next week to administer vaccines by the thousands of doses for health-care workers at a given location, rather than the lesser amounts seen at local provider clinics where storing vaccines at cold temperatures is challenging.



Metro Creative Services

Gov. Brian Kemp announced Jan. 1 that the COVID-19 vaccine would now be available to Georgians 65-years and up, as well as first responders.

Nearly 62,000 vaccine doses had been administered in Georgia as of late Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 31, according to state Department of Public Health data, which tends to lag by a day or two. Around 432,000 doses had been shipped and more than 1,000 providers are on hand to administer them. "We will use every available resource to get the vaccine out as quickly as possible [and] to be part of the existing logistical infrastructure that we have," Kemp said at a news conference Thursday. The ability of some rural areas to vaccinate local health-care workers has recently left doses "sitting in freezers" while hundreds of health-care workers in more urban parts of the state are still on waiting lists for the tightly limited supply of vaccines currently available, Toomey said. "That is unacceptable," Toomey said. "We have lives to save. ... It really made sense for us to move into this additional category for such vulnerable persons." The governor said it's likely more efficient for providers in rural areas to use all their vaccines rather than send surplus doses to metro areas since fresh shipments would have already arrived by then. He said state officials are constantly tweaking distribution plans amid uncertainty over how many vaccines Georgia will get in the early stages of the nation-


wide rollout. Meanwhile, Georgia heads into the New Year's holiday with positive cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 continuing to spike. The state has been averaging around 5,000 new positive cases daily in recent days after logging a high of nearly 8,000 cases on Christmas Eve. Kemp urged Georgians to avoid gathering in large groups for New Year's Eve celebrations and for young people to quarantine themselves from more vulnerable family members for a couple weeks if they plan on attending any parties. "The virus is still here and presents as big a threat as ever," Kemp said. "We need all Georgians to continue to act responsibly in the best interest of their loved ones and fellow citizens to limit the spread over the holiday weekend." More than 550,000 people in Georgia have tested positive for COVID-19 so far. As of Wednesday, Dec. 31, the virus had killed 9,808 Georgians.

MCGINLEY:

Continued from A1

"I also want to thank everyone that came (Dec. 31) and all those that could not but have supported and helped me along the way," he said.

"Thank you to the people of Newton and Walton County who have entrusted me in this job. And finally, I want to thank everyone in the Newton and Walton DA's Offices for their hard work and dedication in serving our communities." McGinley will manage the day-to-day operations of both the Newton and Walton County DA offices with about 60 total employees and almost 25 attorneys. He also will prosecute the most serious cases in both counties such as murders, rapes and child molestations and complex racketeering cases involving white collar crimes and drug distribution rings, he said. McGinley earned an undergraduate degree in business management from Georgia Tech and his law degree from Mercer University. He was named as the chief assistant district attorney in January 2017. McGinley is the first Walton County resident to serve as district attorney since Ott left the job upon his appointment as a judge in 1990.



CITY OF COVINGTON
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for the position of **Equipment Operator I** in the **Gas Department** with an hourly entry-level rate of \$15.54 to an hourly maximum rate of \$22.82 depending upon qualifications. This position requires the abilities and skills to operate and maintain heavy equipment used in the installation and repairs of the natural gas system, as well as transporting equipment and crews to the job-site. Required training and experience include graduation from high school or GED equivalent, the ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations at a level commonly associated with the completion of high school or equivalent, and possession of a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. **CDL Class A preferred. Must be able to obtain CDL within the first six months of employment.** Qualified applicants may apply by downloading an application via our website at www.cityofcovington.org or may apply in person (**Drive-thru only**) at the City of Covington, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. The position will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday January 14, 2021. *The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

WAYSIDE AUCTION

Wayside Auction will be having a Miscellaneous sale Friday Jan. 8th 6:00 PM AND Saturday Jan. 9th at 3:00 PM at 22660 Main Street, Shadydale, GA 31085. Sellers need to be signed in 15 minutes before the auction starts. All sellers will draw for there selling spots. Sellers are allowed to sell any merchandise new or used as long as it falls under state guide lines. No guns, no alcohol, no tobacco and no taxidermy mounts. This will be our regular schedule for miscellaneous sales on Friday nights and Saturday afternoon. Any questions please call Billy or Valerie hope to see you there!!

Billy 678-972-4886 | Valerie 762-435-1026
Larry Kelley | Auctioneer | GAL License AV000614

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Basketball – GHSA Rankings, Wk. 7

Girls' Basketball

Class AAAAAA

1. Collins Hill (11-0)
2. McEachern (6-3)
3. Campbell (6-1)
4. Parkview (9-3)
5. Cherokee (13-3)
6. North Forsyth (9-1)
7. Brookwood (6-2)
8. Marietta (5-4)
9. Woodstock (7-5)
10. North Paulding (9-3)

Class AAAAA

1. Westlake (6-0)
2. Carrollton (10-1)
3. Langston Hughes (10-1)
4. Lovejoy (8-4)
5. Kell (8-2)
6. Buford (5-0)
7. Sprayberry (7-2)
8. Rockdale County (8-2)
9. Statesboro (9-0)
10. Heritage-Conyers (6-2)

Class AAAAA

1. Forest Park (6-2)
2. Woodward Academy (5-1)
3. Maynard Jackson (8-2)
4. St. Pius X (9-0)
5. Southwest DeKalb (5-2)
6. Cass (12-0)
7. Loganville (10-2)
8. Hiram (7-1)
9. Griffin (6-4)
10. Warner Robins (7-2)

Class AAAA

1. Jefferson (7-2)
2. Troup County (4-3)
3. Luella (11-2)
4. Carver-Columbus (4-2)
5. Marist (8-1)
6. McDonough (6-0)
7. Baldwin (5-0)
8. Spalding (9-3)
9. Arabia Mountain (2-0)
10. Cedar Shoals (5-2)

Class AAA

1. Johnson-Savannah (5-0)
2. Lumpkin County (8-3)
3. Coahulla Creek (11-1)
4. Cross Creek (4-2)
5. Sonorville (7-2)
6. GAC (3-3)
7. Upson-Lee (6-0)
8. Stephens County (7-2)
9. Beach (5-2)
10. Cedar Grove (1-0)

Class AA

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

Class A-Private

1. St. Francis (9-2)
2. Mt. Paran (12-2)
3. Holy Innocents' (2-2)
4. ELCA (8-0)
5. Hebron Christian (8-2)
6. Galloway (11-0)
7. Wesleyan (4-1)
8. Greenforest (4-3)
9. Calvary Day (6-1)
10. Tallulah Falls (7-3)

Class A-Public

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

Boys' Basketball

Class AAAAAA

1. Milton (12-2)
2. Grayson (12-3)
3. McEachern (11-3)
4. Pebblebrook (13-2)
5. Berkmar (10-4)
6. Cherokee (13-3)
7. **Newton (7-5)**
8. Discovery (11-2)
9. Archer (8-4)
10. Gainesville (10-5)

Class AAAAA

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

Class AAAAA

1. St. Pius X (10-1)
2. Eagle's Landing (11-1)
3. Tri-Cities (8-4)
4. Woodward Academy (7-1)
5. Veterans (7-0)
6. Lithonia (6-1)
7. Forest Park (4-0)
8. Jonesboro (7-0)
9. Blessed Trinity (9-3)
10. Loganville (7-3)

Class AAAA

1. Spencer (4-0)
2. Baldwin (4-0)
3. Monroe (7-1)
4. Westover (4-1)
5. Stephenson (3-1)
6. Luella (12-2)
7. Miller Grove (2-2)
8. Cedar Shoals (6-4)
9. Jenkins (6-4)
10. North Oconee (9-2)

Class AAA

1. Sandy Creek (7-4)
2. Hart County (9-1)
3. Johnson-Savannah (6-0)
4. Salem (5-1)
5. Windsor Forest (2-0)
6. LaFayette (6-0)
7. Cross Creek (7-3)
8. Cherokee Bluff (8-5)
9. Thomson (4-2)
10. Carver-Atlanta (5-3)

Class AA

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

Prep Basketball



Garrett Pitts | Special to The Covington News

Eastside senior Jaylen Lelie-Johnson (0) and the Eagles opened Region 8-AAAAA play with an overtime loss to Walnut Grove on Saturday night.

Eagles drop overtime thriller versus Walnut Grove

BY GARRETT PITTS

Correspondent

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Eastside boys' basketball team lost its Region 8-AAAAA opener to Walnut Grove in overtime Saturday night as both defenses put on a show from the opening tipoff to the final buzzer.

The Eagles fell to the Warriors by a score of 62-53, letting the game go as it went into overtime.

Saturday marked the first time Eastside took the court in almost a month due to difficulties with COVID-19 that kept the team from playing.

The first two quarters saw both teams step up on the defensive side of the ball as they were limited to minimal points early on.

Junior Jacquez Williams led what little offense the Eagles had early on as the guard connected from the perimeter twice in the opening quarter to go with his four points in the second.

Going into the half leading 25-19, head coach Dorrian

Randolph knew the Eagles had their work cut out for them.

"We had a defensive plan, and that was to account for [Camren Lee], he is [good] player," Randolph said.

Throughout the rest of the game, and especially in overtime, Lee would prove to be a thorn in the Eagles' side.

Eastside had a 47-36 lead with 2:30 left in the fourth quarter, but that's when the Warriors began to go on a run. Walnut Grove would tie the game with just more than 10 seconds left in regulation.

"At halftime, we had already missed six layups, four free throws, and you [cannot do that] if you want to be a region championship team like we aspire to be," Randolph said. "Offensively we definitely go to work on ball movement and be being able to knock down the open shots against any zone."

With 11 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Lee drew the shooting foul and gave Walnut Grove the one-point lead.

Williams took the ball down the court for the Eagles on the next possession and ran through the lane only to get denied at the basket by Shawn Walker II. However, Eastside's Oliver Dean snagged the rebound and drew a shooting foul on the put-back shot with just three seconds left.

Dean made one of his two layups to tie the game at 50 and force overtime.

The Warriors quickly went up 55-50 in overtime and never let go of the lead as Lee continued to add on the Walnut Grove lead. His efforts helped the Warriors close out the game and secure a nine-point victory.

Williams led the scoring for the Eagles with 13 points, while senior Jaylen Lelie-Johnson followed with 12.

With the tough overtime loss, the Eagles fell to 2-4 on the year. They aimed to get back in the win column when they played host to region foe Johnson on Tuesday evening.

College Football

Georgia skirts past Cincinnati in Peach Bowl

By CHARLES ODUM

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jack Podlesny told Georgia coaches before Friday's Peach Bowl that he felt confident attempting field goals from as long as 55 yards — a full 4 yards past his career best.

Podlesny made good on his claim, kicking a 53-yard field goal with three seconds remaining, and No. 11 Georgia handed No. 6 Cincinnati its only loss of the season with a dramatic 24-21 victory in the Peach Bowl.

Podlesny dropped to one knee following the career-long kick as his teammates surged onto the field. Asked what he was thinking while he was kneeling, Podlesny said he wanted to "try to remember why I'm here. ... God is good and it's amazing to be here."

Georgia trailed 21-10 in the fourth quarter, but its defense clamped down on Desmond Ridder and Cincinnati and JT Daniels helped rally the Bulldogs with his arm. Daniels, a Southern California transfer, passed for 392 yards while improving to a perfect 4-0 in four starts for Georgia.

Podlesny's winning kick tied a Peach Bowl record for longest field goal and gave Georgia a 22-21 lead. Azeez Ojulari sacked Ridder for a safety on the final play. It was



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Georgia kicker Jack Podlesny (96) celebrates after kicking a game-winning 53-yard field goal with three seconds remaining to hand Cincinnati a 24-21 loss in the Peach Bowl on Friday.

Ojulari's third sack. Georgia tied a school record with eight sacks.

Ridder completed 24 of 37 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns. Jerome Ford added a career-long 79-yard touchdown run early in the second half but it wasn't enough for the Bearcats.

Cincinnati (9-1, No. 8 CFP) was motivated to use the Peach Bowl to gain national respect. Coach Luke Fickell said the game was a measuring stick for his team.

"We're not there yet," Fic-

kell said. "That's what keeps motivating you, and I think that, you know, there's a lot of things we're going to take from this that we know we can do."

Georgia (8-2, No. 9 CFP) won despite running for only 45 yards.

"I would feel much better if we just played our best game," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "I don't think we played our best game. I want to give Cincinnati credit for that. They created some of that."

Georgia receiver George Pickens (1) makes a leaping catch against Cincinnati in the Peach Bowl on Friday.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

The Covington News

Preventive care and the pandemic

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Procrastination is not typically considered a good thing. But as the world spent much of 2020 confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, putting certain things on hold became part of the new normal.

In an effort to reduce infection rates, public health officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization urged people to limit their in person interactions with people outside of their own households. As a result, many of the things people do on a regular basis, including seeing their physicians for wellness visits, were rescheduled.

It's understandable that many people postponed preventive care and wellness visits during the pandemic, but it's also potentially dangerous. For example, researchers with the Health Care Cost Institute found that childhood vaccinations declined by roughly 60 percent in mid-April 2020 compared with 2019. Other screenings and preventive exams, including mammograms, pap smears and colonoscopies, also declined by significant percentages during the pandemic compared to the previous year.

The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion notes the power of preventive care is undeniable. In fact, the NCCDPHP points out that, while chronic diseases are among the most common and costly of all health problems, they're also among the most preventable. Annual wellness visits and early



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Annual wellness visits and early detection efforts like routine screenings for at-risk populations can uncover problems before they escalate into something more serious. In addition, annual physicals, which are provided free of charge through many health insurance policies, provide great opportunities for doctors to advise patients on their overall health and how to improve it if exams and blood work turn up any red flags.

detection efforts like routine screenings for at-risk populations can uncover problems before they escalate into something more serious. In addition, annual physicals, which are provided free of charge through many health insurance policies, provide great opportunities for doctors to advise patients on their overall health and how to improve it if exams and blood work turn up any red flags.

Visiting a doctor during the pandemic

As vital as preventive care can be, it's understandable

if people are hesitant to visit their doctors during the pandemic. But patients can take certain steps to calm their nerves about booking preventive care appointments during the pandemic.

- Schedule telemedicine appointments. The number of telemedicine appointments has skyrocketed during the pandemic. While the transition from predominantly in-person appointments to telemedicine might have been a reluctant and rocky one at the start of the pandemic, many doctors' offices have since firmly es-

tablished their telemedicine protocols. The Mayo Clinic advises patients who have not yet tried telemedicine to contact their doctors' offices to arrange an appointment.

- Inquire about office procedures. Doctors try to keep patients healthy, not get them sick. Various medical organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, have provided thorough checklists to help physicians prepare their offices to welcome patients during the pandemic. Patients can ease their concerns by contacting their doctors'

offices and asking them about their pandemic-related protocols.

- Don't hesitate to make requests. There's no such thing as being too safe from COVID-19, so patients can work with their doctors to calm their fears even further. Ask to pay copays over the phone and request that the front desk call you when the doctor is ready so you don't have to sit in the waiting room.

Preventive care is an important component of health care, even during a pandemic.

Why are food allergies on the rise?

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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Hosting a party or a special event where food will be served has become a bit more complicated over the last several years, as hosts must now contend with food allergies when planning party menus.

According to Food Allergy Research and Education, a group that works on behalf of the millions of people who have food allergies, a food allergy is a medical condition in which exposure to a food triggers a harmful immune system response. Allergies can range from mild reactions to death. Life-threatening reactions can be initiated even by small traces of the trigger foods. In August 2018, a 6-year-old girl in western Australia died as a result of a dairy allergy. In 2016, Natasha Ednan-Laperouse collapsed on a flight from London to Nice after eating a baguette in which sesame seeds were not listed on the food label.

Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the prevalence of food allergies in children increased by 50% between 1997 and 2011,

and it continues to rise. The CDC estimates that one in 13 children in the United States now has a food allergy. Food allergies also affect roughly 7% of children in the United Kingdom and 9% of children in Australia.

While no one can answer why food allergy rates are increasing, researchers have been working hard to figure that out. A number of agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, are looking into the "hygiene hypothesis." This is a link to western society's obsession with preventing and fighting germs. Researchers surmise that a lack of exposure to infectious agents early in childhood could create a situation in which a child's immune system mistakes a food protein as an invading germ, launching an attack. According to Dr. Leigh Vinocour of the American College of Emergency Physicians, being too clean may be leading to a rise in allergic reactions.

Another theory is that the overuse of antibiotics and acid-reducing medications could change the microbiome of the stomach and digestive system,



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Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the prevalence of food allergies in children increased by 50% between 1997 and 2011, and it continues to rise.

potentially resulting in health-related problems like allergies.

Some other health experts say that failure to introduce common food allergens to children early in life could set them up for a lifetime of food allergies later. Dr. Adam Fox, a consultant pediatric allergist at Guy's and St. Thomas' hospitals in

Great Britain, suggests that if parents introduce something into a young child's diet, then the child is less likely to become allergic to it. For example, Dr. Fox cites a 2008 study of the prevalence of peanut allergies in Jewish children in the UK, where the advice had been to avoid peanuts, was 10 times higher

than that of children in Israel, where babies are often given peanut snacks and peanut allergy rates are low.

Many other doctors believe food allergies are still a mystery. Dr. R. Sharon Chinthrajah of the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University believes the cause of

allergies will ultimately come down to a combination of many factors. Environmental exposure and even what mothers ate during pregnancy could have implications. Until more is learned, people must remain careful of the foods they eat and serve.

FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

The Covington News

Hearty soup makes the meal

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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Every home chef should have a rich and filling soup recipe in his or her repertoire. These hearty meals are perfect for cold days spent shoveling snow or after coasting downhill on a sled.

Baked potato soup is a creamy soup that is reminiscent of a loaded baked potato. For those who are avoiding inflammatory foods, such as those in the nightshade variety, of which white potatoes are included, a potato soup may be harder to come by. This version of “Loaded Baked Potato Soup” from “Eat What You Love” (Ten Speed Press) by Danielle Walker is a delicious alternative that can satisfy potato soup cravings.

Loaded Baked Potato Soup

Serves 6

Ingredients:
6 slices thick bacon, coarsely chopped
1 yellow onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 pounds Hannah sweet potatoes, peeled and diced
10 ounces cauliflower-



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Baked potato soup is a creamy soup that is reminiscent of a loaded baked potato.

er, cut into florets
4 1/2 cups chicken bone broth
1 cup cashew milk
3 1/2 teaspoons fine sea salt
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/2 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
1/2 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

Chopped fresh chives, for serving (optional)
Dairy-free sour cream (optional)

Directions:
Line a plate with paper towels. In a stockpot, cook the bacon over medium heat until the fat is rendered

and the bacon is crisp, about eight minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the bacon from the pot and set it on the prepared plate to drain. Pour off most of the grease, reserving about two tablespoons in the pot.
Return the pot to medium-high heat, add the

onion and garlic, and sauté for two minutes, until fragrant. Add half of the sweet potatoes and all of the cauliflower and cook for five minutes, stirring frequently. Add the bone broth, bring it to a gentle boil, and cook for 10 minutes, until the potatoes and cauliflower-

er are tender.

Using an immersion blender, or working in batches in a blender, blend the soup until smooth. (If using a blender, remove the cap in the blender top and place a kitchen towel over the top to allow steam from the hot liquid to release while you blend.) Return the purée to the stockpot. Add the remaining sweet potatoes, the cashew milk, salt, paprika, vinegar, and lemon juice. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, then turn the heat to low and simmer for 12 to 15 minutes, stirring frequently, until the sweet potatoes are tender and the cashew milk has thickened the soup.

Ladle the soup into bowls and top with the reserved bacon, chives, and dollop of sour cream. Serve immediately.

Store leftover soup in an airtight container in the refrigerator for five days, or in the freezer for six months. Defrost overnight in the refrigerator. Reheat in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 10 minutes.

Take a dip in a tasty, healthy treat

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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Diet and health go hand in hand. Perhaps that’s why there’s a growing interest in foods that are purportedly curative. Some people even choose foods in the hopes that they can help to reduce symptoms of allergies and inflammation.

As concerns about cognitive decline and diseases that attack the brain and memory grow, some people are seeking critical nutrients that can reduce their risk for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. While there’s no quick fix, consuming a wide variety of fresh, nutritiously diverse and not overly processed ingredients, like those found in this recipe for “Garden Vegetable Hummus” from “The Brain Boosting Diet” (Whitecap) by Norene Gilletz and Edward Wein, Ph.D.

Garden Vegetable Hummus

Makes 2 1/2 cups

Ingredients:
1 19-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed (preferably no-salt

added)
3 to 4 cloves garlic
1/2 green bell pepper, cut into chunks
1/2 red bell pepper, cut into chunks
4 green onions (or 1 medium onion, cut into chunks)
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil or Italian parsley
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice (preferably fresh)
2 to 3 tablespoons tahini
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Chopped fresh parsley for garnish

Directions:
1. Combine all ingredients except parsley in a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Process with quick on/off to start, then let the motor run until the mixture is very smooth, about two minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.
2. Transfer the hummus to a serving bowl and sprinkle with parsley. Cover and chill for one to two hours before serving. (Hummus will thicken when refrigerated.)
Note: The tahini in the hummus is a



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Diet and health go hand in hand. Perhaps that’s why there’s a growing interest in foods that are purportedly curative. Some people even choose foods in the hopes that they can help to reduce symptoms of allergies and inflammation.

very nutrient-dense ingredient because it has a very low moisture content. It is an

excellent source of mono- and polyunsaturated fats, which are good fats, as well as

an excellent source of protein, magnesium, zinc, manganese fiber, and potassium. Chick-

peas are legumes that are also high in protein and fiber.



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