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**SOCCER STARS
SIGN NLI**

Eastside's Beam picks GSU; Shelton off to USC Upstate

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local issues at
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Inside:
**38th annual
Fuzz Run to honor
9/11 heroes**

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His Word

He that dwelleth in
the secret place of the
most High shall abide
under the shadow of the
Almighty. I will say of the
Lord, He is my refuge
and my fortress: my God;
in him will I trust.

Psalm 91:1-2, KJV

Celebrate freedom

Covington parade, pageant, festival to highlight local Juneteenth observance

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County will celebrate Juneteenth 2021 this year with pageants, music and vendors added to the traditional parade.

Longtime organizer Terri James said this year's event on Saturday, June 19, also will move to a new location at Legion Field in Covington after years at other locations.

Juneteenth is the name given to the celebration of the date

June 19, 1865.

The date is when Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas, to tell those still enslaved there that the Civil War had ended and President Abraham Lincoln had freed them with the Emancipation Proclamation a year and a half earlier.

Newton County's Saturday celebration of the event is set to begin at 9 a.m. with a parade beginning at Legion Field at 3173 Mill St. in Covington.

The parade grand marshals

will be T.K. and Louise Adams.

T.K. Adams served as band director at Cousins Middle School for 36 years. He founded the Newton County Community Band in 1993 and served as its director.

Mrs. Adams retired as principal of Ficquett Elementary School after serving as a teacher at Cousins Middle and the old and new Porterdale schools. Both were very active

See CELEBRATE, A5



File | The Covington News

Singers perform during the 2019 Juneteenth celebration on the Covington Square.

Sparks fly over fireworks show donation

Commissioner blasts county's uneven treatment of nonprofits' funds requests

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — One commissioner recently criticized the county's practice of quietly including

fund-
ing for
one
non-
profit
in the
2022
county
budget
while
telling
others
they
would
need
to
apply
for
their
fund-
ing.



Alana Sanders

The Newton County and Covington governments are among the sponsors of the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration in the city and officials included \$10,000 in the 2022 county budget for the event under a line item named Event Supplies.

A nonprofit called Friends of Covington Fireworks Inc. organizes the annual event and about half the funding for the estimated \$65,000 show comes from the two governments, said Friends President Robert Foxworth.

District 3 County Commissioner Alana Sanders said during a recent public hearing on the 2022 budget

she believed the county's participation violated some ethics and conflict of interest rules.

"It's a conflict ... because we have individuals on the board that sit on your board and it's money from the county and giving to a nonprofit organization," Sanders told Foxworth.

Sanders' reference was to Chairman Marcello Banes, who is a Friends board member along with Covington Mayor Steve Horton. Banes declined comment.

However, Sanders said her concern was about the "policy" of giving a donation without public disclosure and not a criticism of "any individuals" involved in the process.

The county has given money to the event since at least 2014. It budgeted \$10,000 last year but did not use the money for fireworks after the event was canceled twice because of safety concerns around the pandemic.

In previous years, it paid a combined total of \$7,500 to the Friends organization in the 2019 and 2018 budgets; \$2,500 each to the city of

See SPARKS, A5



Special to The Covington News

Volunteers check in with Keep Newton Beautiful director Laurie Riley before the District 3 cleanup Saturday at the Newton County Sheriff's Office Westside Precinct on Salem Road.

Clean up day held in District 3

Community service act doubles as Newton County bicentennial celebration

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

County Commissioner Alana Sanders, the Newton County Bicentennial Committee and Keep Newton Beautiful hosted a community cleanup in commission District 3 Saturday, June 12, beginning at the Newton County Sheriff's Office Westside Precinct on Salem Road.

The cleanup for District 3 targeted the sides of Brown Bridge, Kirkland, Jack Neely, Airport and Alcovy roads.

Throughout the year, each district commissioner is hosting a cleanup as an act of service in honor of the county being chartered 200 years ago in 1821.



Special to The Covington News

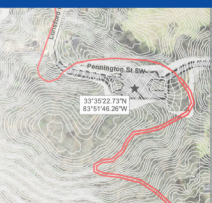
County leaders and volunteers pose for a group photo during the District 3 Community Cleanup as part of Newton County's Bicentennial Service Days.



Inside

**City buys flashing
beacons for trail**

See A3



Weather Forecast



Wednesday, June 16
High: 88° Low: 63°
• Sunny and clear



Thursday, June 17
High: 90° Low: 65°
• Sunny and clear

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38th annual Covington Fuzz Run to honor 9/11 first responders

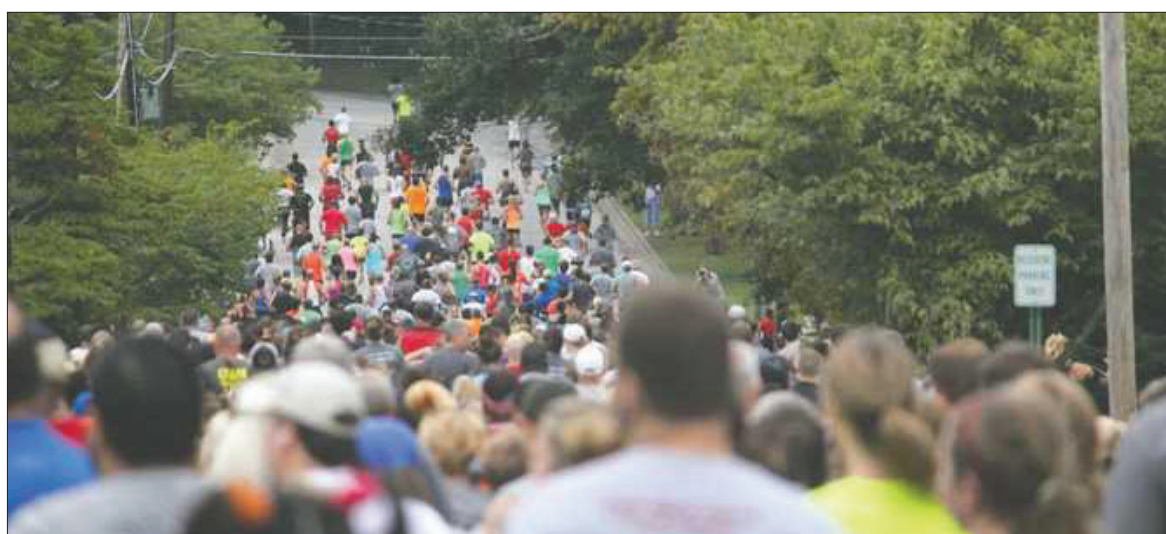
By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Every second Saturday in September, thousands gather for the city police's annual Fuzz Run to celebrate local officers and raise money for the Police Who Care Fund.

Because this year's event falls on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Covington Police Sgt. Allen Martin said organizers are hoping to add a wrinkle to the 38th annual Covington Fuzz Run.

"Since the race is going to fall on the same day, we want to try and honor our first responders who were there and working on that day," Martin said. "It doesn't matter if they're retired, and it really doesn't matter if they were actually working that day, so long as they were employed during that time, we'd still love to honor them for their efforts on that tragic day and the days after."

Saturday, Sept. 11, will mark 20 years since the devastating attacks in 2001 by Islamist terrorist group Al-Qaeda. Four planes were hijacked by members of the group. Two of the planes were crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. The third plane was crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth



File | The Covington News

Covington's annual Fuzz Run, which is a local fundraising event, typically draws between 2,500-3,000 participants.

plane was reportedly crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after a struggle between passengers and hijackers. Investigators believed the plane was planned to crash into the Capitol Building or the White House in Washington, D.C.

A total of 2,977 were killed as result of the attacks, including 19 members of the terrorist group.

Martin and race organizers put out a call on the Fuzz Run's Facebook page encouraging the public to help spread the word about their plans.

"If you are a retired New York City first responder living in the Covington/Newton

County area and you were employed at your agency on 09/11/2001, PLEASE contact Sgt. Allen Martin at the Covington Police Department regarding the Covington Fuzz Run occurring September 11, 2021," the post stated. "This request is also for surrounding jurisdictions, including New Jersey and federal agencies, in and around the New York City area that were employed during this same time."

The public was asked to contact Martin at allen.martin@covingtonpolice.com to share any information on potential honorees.

This year's Covington Fuzz Run is slated for Sept.

11 with races beginning at 8 a.m. Last year's event was limited to a virtual setting due to the pandemic; however, race organizers said 2021's event will be in-person with a virtual option.

As always, there will be a one mile fun run, a 5K race and Mary Beth's Red Bird Run — an event specifically for ages 5 and under named in honor of Mary Beth Malcom, who is the late daughter of Capt. Ken Malcom and Cindi Malcom.

Participants may register for the event now at covingtonfuzzrun.com.

The Fuzz Run has drawn about 3,000 runners, walkers and spectators for nearly

the last 20 years. The race has won the "Best Race in Georgia" award four times, which is voted on by runners participating in the "Run and See Georgia Grand Prix Series."

The race was initially formed in 1983 by Capt. Willie Davis, reportedly under the direction of former Chief Bobby Moody. It was started as a way to raise money for officers who were injured or families of officers killed in the line of duty through the Police Who Care Fund, which was established in 1974. Today, the fund annually contributes to nonprofits such as American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Special Olympics, YMCA, Project Renewal, Miracle League and Shop with a Cop, among others. The fund also makes a \$1,000 contribution to the beneficiaries of every Georgia law enforcement officer who dies in the line of duty. The fund is also tapped to help Covington city employees when disaster strikes in their lives.

Learn more about the Covington Fuzz Run or the Police Who Care Fund at covingtonfuzzrun.com.

Work begins in Covington to install I-20 cable median barriers

Officials say project could lead to lane closures in Newton, five other counties into 2022

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

A project to install cable median barriers that could periodically lead to lane closures on I-20 between Newton County and Augusta for the next year was set to begin this week in Covington.

Nationwide Construction Group was to begin work on the \$8.048 million project that covers median locations currently lacking the barrier in Newton, Taliaferro, Warren, McDuffie, Columbia and Richmond counties.

Crews were set to kick off daytime shifts Monday and Tuesday, weather permitting, on shoulder grading work in Covington around Exit

93 and going east, a GDOT news release stated.

By midweek, contractors were to begin inside lane traffic impacts to pour concrete footings from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Most of this early work requires a shoulder closure, but at times the total inside lane may be shut down for a distance, the release stated.

The barriers are designed to reduce highway crossover crashes that typically result in fatalities or severe injuries.

This will ensure safety barrier presence throughout the entire corridor and add the structures on I-520, also known as Bobby Jones Expressway, near Augusta.

The Federal Highway Administration said cable median barriers are "cost-effective means of reducing the severity of median crossover crashes," the release stated.

The cable barrier system going along I-20 is four-cable longitudinal, designed to contain and redirect errant vehicles. This will match systems installed the last three years on I-16 and I-20 in east central Georgia.

Cable barrier, as a median barrier, is softer, resulting in less impact force and redirection, are more adaptable to slopes typically found in medians, and can be installed through less invasive construction methods.



Special to The Covington News

Work was to begin this week in Covington on a project to install a cable median barrier between I-20 in Newton County and the Augusta area by mid-2022.

OBITUARY

Betty Stapp
Caldwell & Cowan
Funeral Home

Betty Stapp, of
Covington, passed

away Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the age of 76. A beautician for 44 years, Mrs. Stapp was sweet and caring,

and always had a smile on her face. She loved spending time with her family — especially her grandchildren who were the light of her life. In addition, Mrs. Stapp enjoyed spending her vacations at Panama City Beach with her family whenever she could. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lisha Michelle; parents, Charles Demus and Hazel Virginia Mason; sisters, Beverly Diane White,

Brenda Hutchins; and brother, Charles Demus Mason, Jr.

Survivors include her loving husband of 50 years, Benjamin Stapp; Son, Paul Stapp (Kristen); grandchildren, Caleb Stapp, Madelyn Stapp; Sister, Bennie Gail Brock; brother, Rodney Mason; as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service for Mrs. Stapp will be held Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 1 p.m., at the

Chapel of Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, 1215 Access Road, in Covington, with Pastor Darrell Allen officiating and interment following in Lawnwood Memorial Park. Friends are invited to visit with the family at the funeral home, two hours prior to her service, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gov. Brian Kemp's latest executive order has eliminated restrictions on large gatherings; however, CDC

guidelines recommend social distancing (6 feet apart) and wearing of masks while in public. Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home requests that you observe these recommendations while in our funeral home attending visitations and/or services.

Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

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THE NEWS' FIRST RESPONDER OF THE WEEK



Teresa Cleary

Cleary manages the Network Infrastructure of the Public Safety Records Management System for the Covington-Newton County 911 Center, along with providing technical support to the surrounding public safety agencies. She has worked in public safety for more than a decade.

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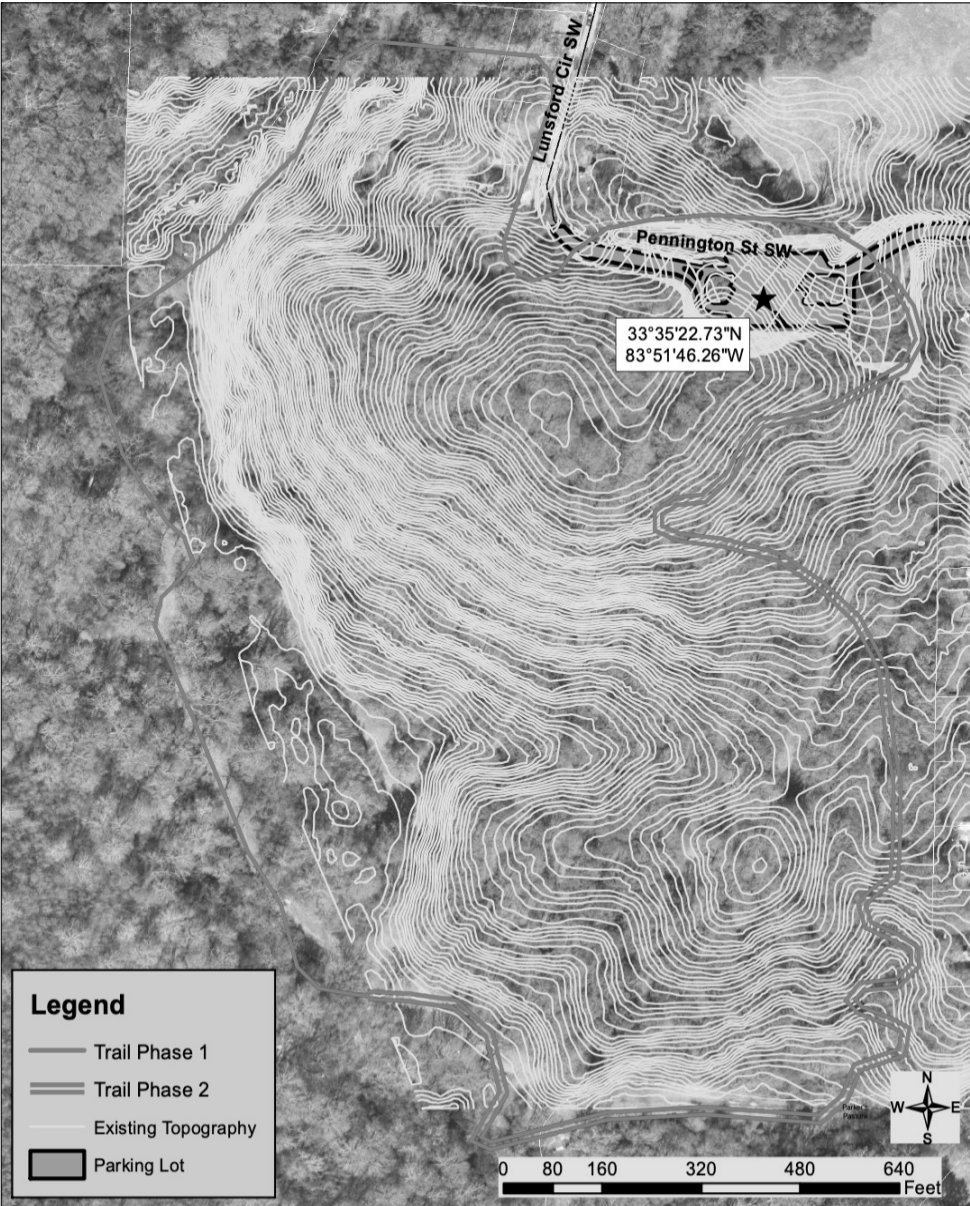


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Flashing beacons for trail system to ‘ensure pedestrian safety’

City receives \$200,000 grant for Central Park trail construction



By TAYLOR BECK
atbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Officials took another step to ensure a safe experience for users of the city’s trail system. During its latest meeting, the Covington City Council unanimously approved the purchase of 10 rapid flashing beacons to install at various Cricket Frog Trail crossings that intersect with the city’s highways. The beacons will serve as a way to warn motorists of potential pedestrians as they approach trail crossings, Special Projects Coordinator Randy Conner said. He said the beacons would be solar powered and automatically flash as motorists began to approach. “Engineering plans for the Cricket Frog Trail and the anticipated requirements of future trail crossings of city streets require and will require flashing beacons for traffic control and pedestrian safety,” Conner told the council. The purchase of 10 beacons from Reedwick LLC in the amount of \$39,775 is the first order of many, Conner said. As the trail system continues to grow and be constructed, more will need to be added, though another order for beacons would not be placed any time soon, he said. Beacons purchased Monday, June 7, will be placed at trail crossings on Clark Street, Pace Street, Floyd Street and Conyers Street. Conner said there were also plans to place beacons at the crossing on Emory Street, but because it is a state highway (Georgia Hwy. 81), it must be approved by GDOT. Funding for the beacons was budgeted and will be paid for with SPLOST monies, Conner confirmed. The Cricket Frog Trail runs through Newton County and intersects the city of Covington at Eagle Drive, moves past

Legion Field towards the Downtown Square, across Turner Lake Road and eventually terminates on Spillers Drive in close proximity to Washington Street. The city has invested more than \$1.6 million into the trail’s construction. In other business, the council approved the reception of a \$200,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to help fund construction of the Central Park Red Trail. As part of the grant, the city was required to provide a \$68,000 match. Conner said it was a couple years in the making, but was glad to see it finally be awarded to the city. The trail’s construction would be relatively simple, Conner said, and expected work to begin within the coming month, nearing completion by fall. Plans for Central Park’s Red Trail is part of a master plan to build a complex trail system that would connect more than 11 neighborhoods, Conner said. “Essentially, you’ll be able to walk to anywhere within the city,” he said. The Red Trail will encircle a major portion of the park, reaching the Harristown community. Conner said the trail construction was split into two phases for funding purposes. Phase 1, which includes a position of the trail that would run parallel to a creek near and the “championship caliber” disc golf course, was to be primarily funded in house and “required a little more work.” For Phase 2, Conner said, there were supposed to be fewer hurdles and be funded through grants. Central Park is a 210-acre area that could soon be flooded with numerous amenities including a mountain bike trail, skate park, playgrounds, multi-purpose fields and gardens; however, what exactly

the park will feature is up to the community. For the last several weeks, the public has been able to voice its opinion on how the park should be utilized through a survey at <http://bit.ly/Central-ParkSurvey> before the master plan is finalized. Community members had until June 11 to take the survey.

Special | City of Covington
Pictured is a rough sketch of the Red Trail within Central Park in Covington. It is part of a master plan to build a complex trail system that would connect more than 11 neighborhoods within the city. Central Park is a 210-acre area that could soon be flooded with numerous amenities including a mountain bike trail, skate park, playgrounds, multi-purpose fields and gardens; however, what exactly the park will feature is up to the community.

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Accepting Applications

Starting July 5, 2021, at 12:00 am, Covington Housing Authority will be accepting pre-applications for 0,1,2,3, 4, and 5 bedroom units until further notice.

You must apply online. No hand-delivered hard copies, faxed, emailed, or mailed applications will be accepted. To apply, please go to www.covha.com and select apply for housing. Each family may only submit one pre-application, duplicates will not be accepted. Please note that we may suspend accepting applications at any time.

Applicant must be at least 18 years of age at the time of submission of the pre-application.

Selected applicants will be placed on the waiting list by date and time the application is received, weighed by order of preferences.

Request for reasonable accommodation: Applicants requiring special accommodation may contact COVHA by phone (770)786-7739 or you may email ejones@covha.com.

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The Covington News

Tom Spigolon news editor

Leadership needed for drawing district lines

In the midst of approving a budget and other controversies, on the horizon are decisions that could have far-reaching consequences for Newton County tax-payers through 2030. Newton County leaders will have the chance to show their leadership in including all the various political and cultural viewpoints in the county in the governing of the government and schools for the next decade.

They also could show they are only about ramming through political agendas on a county tired of squabbling.

State lawmakers recently discussed how to begin the process of reapportionment of state House and Senate districts to account for population shifts found in the 2020 federal census.

All states are required by law to redraw their congressional and legislative district boundaries every decade to accommodate population shifts that occurred since the previous U.S. Census and make sure districts remain as nearly equal in population as possible, according

to the news service.

The state House and Senate committees in charge of redistricting were set to host a joint virtual town hall meeting this week to start gathering feedback from Georgia residents, according to the Capitol Beat News Service.

County leaders will be tasked with doing the same thing with Board of Commissioners and Board of Education districts this year.

The 2020 election made it clear that, while Democrats are the dominant party in Newton County, a large section of the county still is majority Republican.

Who knows how skewed the 2020 election results were because of lightning rod candidates on the ballots in former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden?

Some Republicans likely were not happy with former President Donald Trump's leadership and temperament. Some Democrats probably were not satisfied with their chosen candidate being a man who had been in federal office off and on for half a century.

Nevertheless, the more rural northern and eastern areas of Newton County went solidly for Trump while the more densely populated and



Legislators celebrate the end of the 2021 legislative session, in the Senate chamber at the State Capitol late Wednesday, March 31.

suburbanized western part of the county went solidly for Biden.

If commissioners want to follow Chairman Marcello Banes' stated goal of creating a #OneNewton — which they would be wise to do — they should continue to make sure at least two of their districts are majority Republican.

This action leaves the other three districts in majority Democrats' hands and does not ignore the fact that 55% of Newton voters chose Democratic party's nominees for president and all countywide races.

It also does not ignore the fact 10 of the county's 22 voting precincts voted solidly for Republicans, including as much as 70% to 80% for the GOP candidate in some precincts.

County election leaders earlier this year were looking at ways to better balance the number of voters in each precinct. Changes need to be made when more than 6,000 voters are assigned to a west Newton precinct and about 800 registered voters are assigned to the Newborn precinct.

I have no vote in this, but there are shifts I think should be made to provide representation more county residents can agree with.

Move the Gum Creek and Oxford precincts in north Newton — which voted majority Republican — to District 5. Move the Livingston, Covington Mills and Cedar Shoals precincts — all Democratic strongholds in central Newton — to Districts 3 and 4 to compensate.

This shouldn't be this

hard. But old political alliances and agreements always seem to get in the way.

Though not a perfect comparison, parents usually don't want to see their children reassigned to new schools and many voters usually don't want to get reassigned to new representatives.

In 2011, one commissioner reportedly was the lone holdout on the reapportionment of Newton County's districts after saying he wanted the inclusion of specific neighborhoods in his district.

Commissioners and school board members share the same district lines. Both had to give their approval before the end of the year so that state lawmakers could give final approvals so the new districts could take effect.

Elected officials were told redistricting maps don't need unanimous approval but such approval gives the maps much better chances of being approved by the Georgia General Assembly.

I hope county commissioners and school board members will be wise in their decisions on future representation.

If they're not, it could have the effect of driving an even larger wedge between Newton Countians already divided by numerous cultural and political issues.

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

David Carroll columnist

Massive disruptions have changed country's landscape

My 110-year-old friend Halie Forstner was reminiscing about the two pandemics she has survived. (How many people do you know who can say that?)

She lost family members to the Spanish flu of 1918-19, "and life was never the same," she said. Certainly, the loss of lives was catastrophic. The Spanish flu infected 500 million people (one in three worldwide), and killed some 675,000 people in the United States.

USA Today recently reported on the ways in which that pandemic affects our lives more than a century later. The next time you see a tiled bathroom floor, linoleum in the kitchen, or metal bed frames, you can trace it back to the Spanish flu, and soldiers coming home to America from World War I.

The newspaper quoted historian Gary Darden of Fairleigh Dickinson University, who said, "The trenches they fought in were filthy, full of lice and rot. When the soldiers returned home, they

were obsessed with cleanliness."

Wood surfaces were difficult to clean, and newly opened theaters and radio stations were advertising cleaning products like Bon Ami, Lysol, and Brillo Soap Pads.

Amid all the tragedy of a global pandemic and a world war, we learned painful lessons that made our world cleaner and healthier.

So when some journalist, many years into the future, attempts to document how American lives changed after the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21, what will be written?

It is too soon to know for sure, but it may likely be remarkable for the nation's lack of unity in battling an invisible enemy. Will our children and grandchildren be horrified to learn that around half of America laughed off the virus, scoffed at wearing masks, and avoided vaccinations? Or will that merely be considered "standard operating procedure?"

Will Americans of the year 2060, watch old movies and TV shows from a hundred years earlier, and shake their heads in sorrow, or laugh uncontrollably?

I can hear them now. "Seriously, there was some sheriff in May-

berry, North Carolina, who didn't even carry a gun? You could just walk into his office, without passing through a metal detector? People could just enter his home through an unlocked door? That aunt of his was always handing out fruits and vegetables to people. What if she was trying to poison the whole town? Was there any way of knowing what she was up to?"

I've got a long way to go to catch up to my 110-year-old friend, but I have been around long enough to remember when you could board an airplane without surrendering your driver's license, your shoes, your belt, and your dignity. 9/11 was the disruptive event that set those changes in motion.

You could walk into your neighborhood school (through an unlocked front door) and offer to make a donation or volunteer without being considered a potential predator. A series of school shootings were disruptive events that transformed our schools from neighborhood centers to fort-like safe havens.

I remember when you could attend a college or professional sporting event and bring along a picnic lunch. Now your

hat must undergo a thorough search, along with your coat, your bag, and your person. There are any number of items that could "set off" an alarm, from nail clippers, to keys, to coins, to implanted medical devices. Meanwhile, those in line behind you must wait until you unload and reload your belongings before they endure the same strip-down. Tell your children that before all the recent disruptive events, you just showed a ticket and walked through the gate, and they will look at you in stunned disbelief.

We are optimistically moving forward in a post-pandemic frame of mind, hopeful for a fresh start. The summer of 2021 should signal a return to wide-open ball games, concerts, and retail and dining establishments.

But make no mistake. We have just endured a life-changing, disruptive event like few others in our nation's history.

I am wearing a mask much less than I did a year ago, but I won't be the least bit shy about wearing it in doctors' offices or in church, during flu season for example. I never did that before

the pandemic, but I will now.

When I am showing signs of a cold, my mask will be on. For your sake.

My workplace, and many others are gradually allowing employees to return, but some will choose not to do so. They have proven they can be productive from home, and likely much healthier. That was beginning to be a trend anyway, and the pandemic put it in fast-forward.

And of course, hand

sanitizer and better hygiene will always be with us. It took a massive, historic disruption to make that happen, but just like tiled floors and linoleum, it is a change for the better.

David Carroll is a Chattanooga TV news anchor and radio host, and is online at ChattanoogaRadioTV.com. You may contact him at RadioTV2020@yahoo.com, or at 900 Whitehall Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

The Covington News

Newton Newspapers Inc.

OWNER

Patrick Graham
pgraham@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR

Taylor Beck
tbeck@covnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Tom Spigolon
tspigolon@covnews.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Cynthia Warren
cbwarren@covnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Mason Wittner
mwittner@covnews.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Amanda Ellington
aellington@covnews.com

LEGALS CLERK

Alicia Goolsby
agoolsby@covnews.com

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

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Covington to lock up cemeteries daily to increase security

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — To better secure area cemeteries, city leaders are resorting back to simply locking them up.

The Covington City Council voted unanimously Monday night to reinstate the city’s former protocol and lock its cemeteries’ gates daily from dusk til dawn.

Mayor Steve Horton said the decision was to further protect gravesites and markers from being defaced.

“I do recall various incidents of vandalism of gravesites/markers in the past,” Horton told *The Covington News*.

“Though I do not recall when the city stopped locking the cemeteries, nor why they stopped, I do recall that, for some number of years, the police department did lock the cemeteries at dark and open them up at first light.

“As a [former] patrol officer myself, I recall locking and unlocking the cemeteries,” the mayor said.

“We did not have any large scale problems like gravesites being tampered with,” City Manager Scott Andrews said. “However, we did find some mysterious

SPARKS:

Continued from A1

Covington and Covington Main Street in the 2017 budget; \$2,000 to the city and \$500 to Main Street in the 2016 budget; and \$1,000 in each of the 2015 and 2014 budgets to the city, all for the fireworks show, according to information from the county finance department.

The county’s 2022 budget prior to Tuesday’s scheduled final approval included \$25,000 for a line item called Event Supplies, which included the \$10,000 for the fireworks show as well as events both for the public and county employees.

Examples of uses of the money include supplies for the Board of Commissioners’ annual budget retreat, as well as building dedications, ribbon cutting ceremonies, parade supplies, and a tent for the annual Covington Police Department Fuzz Run, county officials said.

The Board of Commissioners on May 4 voted to approve a \$1,500 donation to the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation to help organize the nonprofit’s annual Juneteenth celebration Saturday, June 19, at Legion Field.

Two weeks later, the Board narrowly voted to rescind the donation — with Sanders and Commissioner J.C. Henderson voting no — after some commissioners said they were concerned a direct donation would violate a state constitutional ban on gratuities.

They then approved

candles and eerie items that made loved ones of the grave site that they were found near worry a bit.

“Out of an abundance of caution we decided to simply start locking the gates again during dark hours,” he added.

Cemeteries affected by the rule change include Southview Cemetery, located on Conyers Street, and Westview Cemetery, located off West Street, as they are the only cemeteries formally maintained by the city.

Cemeteries would be locked by city police each day, as they were before, Horton said, and prior to closing the gates, officers would search the cemeteries to make sure no one gets locked in.

Andrews said the public would likely be given a two-week notice before the new measure is instituted.

In other business, the council:

- Elected to offer Juneteenth celebration/parade organizers the city’s nonprofit rate to utilize Legion Field rather than waiving fees.
- Approved a license to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption only for Blockers Soul Food,

located at 6129 Hwy. 278 NW.

- Voted 4-2 to deny a special-use permit application to allow an unnamed auto & truck repair facility to be located at 9126 A Industrial Blvd. (Councilman Kenneth Morgan and Councilwoman Hawnethia Williams opposed.)
- Voted 4-3 to approve a special-use permit to allow an automotive parts and accessories store to be located at 6166 Washington St. Horton voted in favor of approval to break a 3-3 split. (Councilman Don Floyd, Morgan and Williams opposed.)
- Voted 5-1 (Morgan opposed) to table a vote to approve an updated Urban Redevelopment Plan for the city to July 6. After discussion of the proposed plan, council members urged city staff involved with producing the plan to schedule a work session and/or special meeting to go over the plan in-depth and tackle various issues found within the plan.
- Reappointed Billy Fortson, owner of Ginn Motors, to the 278 CID.

Read about more council business at covnews.com.

county was contributing to the nonprofit hosting the fireworks show until he told her about it when he asked for a contribution.

“Why I was kind of shocked was we had commissioners who rescinded giving \$1,500 to a nonprofit organization,” she said. “They only asked for \$1,500 and we’re giving you \$10,000, which was never mentioned in our budget hearings or mentioned anywhere in regards to us giving funds (for) fireworks.”

Kerr did not publicly respond to Sanders’ charges June 8.

She said after the meeting her concern was about the county’s “policy” of giving to a nonprofit without it being disclosed for public discussion.

“My only concern was why this particular company did not present their request like all the organizations or why was it not placed on the agenda to discuss to approve funds like other organizations and department,” she said.

“It was not listed on the budget as a line item during the preliminary hearing on the documents I received.”

She said it was “about being fair and not giving special privileges to certain entities without justification.”

“It had nothing to do with Mr. Foxworth’s business but the process and not informing the taxpayers of these funds. Also, I wanted to know what viable process we use when denying other entities when a process was not put in place.”



File | The Covington News
Father of the Year winner Rex Norman Smith waves during the 2019 Juneteenth parade.

CELEBRATE:

Continued from A1

in community and civic organizations.

Those interested in being in the parade can email GeorgiaJuneteenth@gmail.com.

Other events are set to include:

- Live music, vendors, car games, poetry and more is set to begin at 1:30 p.m. at Legion Field.
- “Bad Hatters” and “Senior King and Queen Walk” is scheduled for 3 p.m.
- Miss Juneteenth Pageant for ages 7 to 18 is set for 5 p.m. at Legion Field. The deadline for entries has already passed.
- Free Moderna, Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines from Care-4All Community Care Inc.

Many of the hats featured in the “Bad

Hatters” competition — for which the winning hats will be judged on beauty, style and creativity — will come from the collection of fellow organizer Constance Marks, she said.

Marks is a Washington, D.C.-area resident who has returned to her Covington hometown to visit family periodically since moving in the early 1970s.

“I love Covington,” Marks said. “If I didn’t, I wouldn’t come back so much.”

She said she became involved in the event after James sought her assistance after James helped Marks with a fundraiser for Marks’ mother.

James has organized the local celebration since 2012 at such locations as Nelson

Heights Community Center.

She credited County Commissioner Alana Sanders with helping organize a pageant and encouraging more volunteers to participate in Juneteenth after James spent years being a primary organizer of the event in Covington.

She noted that her nonprofit organization, the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation, was formed in 2012 and organizes other events.

Its signature fundraiser is its Black History Scholarship Gala in February.

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/JuneteenthofGeorgia> or email juneteenthgeorgia@gmail.com, or call (404) 889-6941.

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The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

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LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GEORGIA LAW 40-11-2: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AT INSURANCE AUTO Auction 125 Old Hwy 138 Loganville, GA 30052-4814 AND ARE PRESENTLY STORED AT SAID LOCATION. IF NOT CLAIMED, THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON 07/09/21 10:00 AM

YEAR MAKE Model Color

VIN No

2001 PONTIAC Grand Prix 1G2WK52J61F264799

2005 INFINITI G35 JNKCV54E85M425921

2015 CHEVROLET Impala 2G1115SL0F9248147

2004 CHEVROLET Avalanche 3GNEC12T44G252062

2003 FORD Expedition 1FMFU18L43LC30691

2006 HYUNDAI Santa Fe KM8SC73DX6U035780

2001 TOYOTA Camry 4T1BG22K51U787953

1995 FORD F-150 1FTFX14N7SKA03787

2005 NISSAN Altima 1N4BL11D65C283121

2011 DODGE Avenger 1B3BD4FB4BN620726

2004 SATURN VUE 5GZCZ53434S890727

2011 CHEVROLET Impala 2G1WC5EM9B1198958

2005 FORD Mustang 1ZVFT80N055132811

PUBLIC NOTICE #200456
6/16,23

Citations

THE PETITION of **WALTER S. HINTON, JR** widow of **JEAN T. HINTON** deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before July

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,

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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

12. 2021, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE By:
Marcia Wynne, Clerk
PROBATE COURT
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
1132 USHER STREET- RM 148
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #200390
6/9,16,23,30

Debtors Creditors

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **JOHN MICHAEL OLEXA**, late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to:

NAME OF Administrator:
SUSAN ELAINE OLEXA
SANDRA LEE EVANS

ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS:
SUSAN ELAINE OLEXA
SANDRA LEE EVANS
C/O SHANNON D. Sneed Attorney at Law P.O.Box 1245
COVINGTON, GA 30015

THIS 8TH day of June, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200460
6/16,23,30-7/7

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **HELEN FREEMAN HULL**, deceased, a resident of Newton County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 14111 day of June, 2021.

EDWIN LEWIS Hull Executor of the

Estate of Helen Freeman Hull
C/O **MICHELLE** Chaudhuri, Esq.
Talley & Associates, P.C.
1892 GA Hwy 138, SE
CONYERS, GA 30013
770-483-1431

PUBLIC NOTICE #200459
6/16,23,30-7/7

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of **Robin Curry Fitzgerald**, late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 4TH day of June, 2021.

ESTATE OF Robin Curry Fitzgerald
DAWN CURRY Mueller, Administrator with Will Annexed
C/ O Yost Law, LLC Post Office Box 1598
LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA 30046

PUBLIC NOTICE #200429
6/9,16,23,30

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Howard Abbott, Jr.** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Homeowners Loan Corp., dated February 9, 2005, and recorded in Deed Book 1848, Page 520, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-KS11 by assignment recorded on February 1, 2021 in Book 4136 Page 519 in the Office of the Clerk

of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Thirty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred and 0/100 dollars (\$37,400.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on July 6, 2021, the following described property:

THE LEND referred to in this Commitment is described as follows: **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN ROCKY PLAINS DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AS LOTS 27 AND 28 OF RIVERSIDE PARK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SAME PREPARED BY ROBERT M. BUHLER, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 1966, REVISED MAY 27, 1966 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 56, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.**

TAX NO - 0033A 24B

MOBILE/MANUFACTURED HOME DESCRIPTION: MOBILE HOME YR 1983 MODEL NAME PARKWOOD MANUF NAME: FAIRLANE SERIAL# MHMACCA A 119-1
BORROWER DECLARES THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MOBILE HOME WILL REMAIN PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE PROPERTY AND WILL BE TREATED AS A FIXTURE. BORROWER ALSO DECLARES THAT THE WHEELS, AXLES AND HITCHES HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND THAT THE MOBILE HOME IS CONNECTED TO THE UTILITIES. BORROWER AND LENDER INTEND THAT THE MOBILE HOME LOSE ITS NATURE AS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND BECOME REAL PROPERTY. IN ADDITION, BORROWER

DECLARES THAT THE MOBILE HOME HAS BEEN ASSESSED AS REAL PROPERTY FOR TAXES. LENDER WILL RESERVE AN IN THE MOBILE HOME BOTH UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY LAWS AND THE LAWS RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

THE DEBT secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

THE ENTITY having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: PHH Mortgage Corporation they can be contacted at 1-800-750-2518 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to One Mortgage Way, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Howard Abbott, Jr. or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **189 Helen Rd, Covington, GA 30016.**

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure.

U.S. BANK National Association, as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-KS11 as Attorney in Fact for Howard Abbott, Jr.,

BROCK & Scott, PLLC
4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road
SUITE 310
ATLANTA, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S FILE no.: 21-02186

PUBLIC NOTICE #200345
6/9,16,23,30

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of **CHRISTINE ANN MESSERE**
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File # 2021-CV-1310-1

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

CHRISTINE ANN MESSERE filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on JUNE 4 2021 to

change the name from **CHRISTINE ANN MESSERE** to **CHRISTINE ANN FRICKER** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed
DATE: 06/04/21

CHRISTINE MESSERE
130 CYPRESS DRIVE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200453
6/16,23,30-7/7

Public Notice

NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL
P. I. 0013860
NEWTON COUNTY

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

THE DATE of location and design approval is: May 14, 2021

THE PROPOSED project is to construct a roundabout at the intersection of SR 162 at SR 212. The project begins on SR 162 at MP 4.62 and ends at MP 4.32. The total length of the project is approximately 0.303 mile. The project is located in Newton County approximately 10 miles south of Covington and is located in Land District 8 Land Lots 94 and 99.

EACH LEG of the roundabout will have raised medians (splitter islands) and curb and gutter. The proposed lane widths are 12 ft on SR 162 and SR 212. The project will also include crosswalks and ADA ramps on each approach for ADA compliance. Traffic will be maintained on the existing roadway along with temporary widening where required during construction activities.

DRAWINGS OR maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation:

ROBERT ROWLAND, Area Engineer
DISTRICT 2, Area 5
RROWLAND@DOT.GA.GOV
1570 BETHANY Road
MADISON, GA 30650
(706) 343-5837

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

KIMBERLY W. Nesbitt
OFFICE OF Program Delivery
ATTN: KEVIN Savaliya
KSAVALIYA@DOT.GA.GOV
600 WEST Peachtree St NW
ATLANTA, GA 30308
(470) 231-7490

ANY WRITTEN request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P. I. Number as noted at the top of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE #200364
5/26,-6/2,9,16

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The Covington News

Brunson named Newton County Theme School principal, Neely tapped secondary schools director

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

The Newton County Board of Education has approved the appointment of LaMoyne Brunson as principal of Newton County Theme School (NCTS) and Shundreia Neely as Newton County School System (NCSS) director of Secondary Schools and Professional Learning.

Brunson is transferring from the principal's position at Fairview Elementary School. He will replace Ashante Everett, who was recently named Newton County School System's director of Student Services.

Brunson earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Liberty University in 2015. He earned his Education Specialist in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in education in Early Childhood Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, all from Georgia College & State University.

Brunson began his career as a second-grade teacher in Butts County Schools before joining the Newton County School System team in 2002. During his time with NCSS, Brunson has served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal.

"When my staff and I moved into the Fairview campus in 2011, we had many opportunities for professional and also personal growth," said Brunson. "Lots of success is in our history now through these 10 wonderful years together, and we built a great community school at Fairview."

"I am so grateful for the parents and families who have encouraged us and been involved, especially during this complex year which just ended. I am so thankful for my Fairview staff. Their commitment is beyond anything I could have hoped for. I will miss them."

He added, "Now I'm entering this new season to serve my community through Newton County Theme School leadership. I am energized to continue the work of involving families and community in our schools, which NCTS has been doing very well. With students and families from all across Newton County at NCTS, there are so many great opportunities ahead for all of us at the Newton County Theme School. I feel so optimistic about leading this team!"

NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey said, "With his extensive experience, I am confident that Dr. Brunson will continue the culture of high expectations at Newton County Theme School and I am sure that his knowledge, care, and commitment will lead to continued student and staff success at the school."

Neely currently serves as the NCSS secondary coordinator for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, a position she has held since 2019.

She is currently working on her doctorate at Kennesaw State University. She earned her Education Specialist Degree from the University of West Georgia in 2011 and her master's degree in Public Policy Administration from Mississippi State University in 1998.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tougaloo College in 1996, and also holds Leadership Add-on Certification from the University of West Georgia.

Neely began her career in the DeKalb County School System as a middle school teacher in 1999. Two years later she joined Newton County Schools as a teacher at Clements Middle School.

After working at Clements for eight years, Neely transferred to the Central Office, where she worked as a Federal Programs Instructional Specialist and a Secondary Instructional Coach before accepting the assistant principal position at Alcovy High School.

In 2013, Neely moved back to the DeKalb County School district to serve as an assistant principal at The Champion Theme Middle School, a position she held until 2019 when she rejoined the Newton County School System team. She has worked in the Central Office ever since.

Neely is a member of the Georgia Association of Educational Leadership, the Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Her professional development activities are extensive, as are her technology skills.

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude to have been selected as the Secondary Education Director," said Neely. "I want to assure you that with the support and cooperation of hardworking, dedicated and experienced principals and colleagues, I'll work tirelessly to uplift the system and each secondary school's progress. I will continue to lead with our core beliefs as my guide. Once again I thank everyone for providing the opportunity to lead the secondary department."

Fuhrey said, "I have no doubt that Ms. Neely will excel in her new position as director of Secondary Schools and Professional Learning."

"Her vast experience in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership will serve her well as she leads our secondary schools to even greater accomplishments."



LaMoyne Brunson



Shundreia Neely

Georgia ordered to revise health insurance waiver application

By DAVID WILLIAMS

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The Biden administration is sending a key component of Gov. Brian Kemp's health-insurance reform plan back to the drawing board.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is directing the state to revisit the data supporting a waiver Georgia is seeking from the Affordable Care Act that would substitute a private-sector alternative to the federal government's healthcare.gov insurance exchange.

The waiver won approval from then-President Donald Trump's HHS last November. But in a letter to Kemp dated Thursday, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of HHS' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, pointed to changes in both policy and federal law that have altered the landscape.

Among other things, the American Rescue Plan Congress passed in March will strengthen the Affordable Care Act by expanding access to health insurance coverage and lowering the costs of health care, she wrote.

The letter set a deadline of July 3 for Georgia to submit an updated waiver plan reflecting the various changes the Biden administration and Congress have made.

In announcing last October his plan to scrap healthcare.gov in Georgia, Kemp criticized the government-run website as cumbersome and responsible for a 22% enrollment decrease since 2016.

"For me, healthcare.gov is a four-letter word," the governor said at the time. "The enrollment process has been nothing short of disappointing."

But Brooks-LaSure wrote that Georgia's waiver application pointed to a significant need for health coverage in the state despite the enrollment drop. Specifically, she cited an unsubsidized enrollment rate decrease of 72% between 2016 and 2019 and Georgia's 13.4% uninsured rate, one of the nation's highest.

Brooks-LaSure expressed a lack of confidence that Georgia's private-sector approach would get better results than the federal exchange.

"Georgia neither quantified the size of the expected investment by the private sector nor indicated any specific commitments by the private sector to engage in outreach and marketing," she wrote. "It is unclear if the private market's outreach efforts in Georgia ... would be comparable to [the federal exchange's] investments."

Laura Harker, health policy analyst for the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, praised the CMS letter.

"The state's proposal for taking away the most popular option for selecting a health care plan – healthcare.gov – could exacerbate our state's already high rates of uninsured Georgians and inadequate health-care infrastructure," she said. "This letter from CMS is a step in the right direction to ensure no one loses access to care."

When asked for comment Friday, Kemp spokesman Cody Hall wrote in an email that the governor's office is reviewing the letter.

The waiver from using healthcare.gov is one of two the state has been seeking from the feds. The other waiver, which seeks a more limited expansion of Medicaid than provided for in the Affordable Care Act, was also approved by the Trump administration but was put back on hold after Biden took office.



Covington
Newton County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR MAY:

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- Astro Plastics
- Project ReNeWal Domestic Violence Intervention Program
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- Unforgettable Designz
- Quadrant Protection Group LLC

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SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Soccer

Pair of Eagles take flight to next level



Special to The Covington News

Eastside's Jordan Beam (left photo, second from right) and Anna Shelton (right photo, middle) recently signed their National Letters of Intent to extend their soccer careers to the next level for Division I programs. Beam will be playing for Georgia State, while Shelton is taking her talents to the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

By MIKE HARRISON
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A pair of Eastside soccer stars recently penned their National Letters of Intent to continue their careers at the next level.

Jordan Beam, a member of the Eagles squad, signed with Georgia State University.

The 16th Eagle to play soccer in college, Beam will become just the second player in the 25-year history of Eastside's varsity

team to go on to play in NCAA Division I. He joins 2009 graduate Caleb Kernan, who also played at Georgia State.

Playing center mid-field at Eastside, Beam helped lead the Eagles to a three-way tie for first place in Region 4-AAAA and an all-time program record No. 2 ranking in the state during the 2019 campaign. The 2019 Eagles set the record for scoring with 84 goals while recording the second-best regular

season record at 12-3-1, and second-best overall record, 12-4-1, in program history.

Eastside head coach Champ Young shared a wonderful memory from 2017 of Beam crushing the Eagles' difficult fitness test as an eighth grade JV player. Passing all the returning varsity players while smiling, Beam was clapping and laughing as he finished the test as the only player to finish all eight stages under the

required time.

Young said he told his JV coach: "You better not lose a single JV game... I just watched an eighth grader giggle his way through the eight stages!"

Eastside's Anna Shelton will become the 16th Lady Eagle to go on to play collegiate soccer and the first to sign at the NCAA Division I level in the Lady Eagles' 25-year varsity program history after signing an NLI with the University of South

Carolina - Upstate.

As their goalkeeper, Shelton helped lead the Lady Eagles to a program-best ranking of No. 5 in state during the 2021 season.

The Lady Eagle defense allowed only 1.27 goals per game during the last three seasons, setting an all-time three-year record low for the program. The 2019 squad set numerous program records, finishing 15-4-1 overall, while scoring 104 goals and allowing

only 23. They became the first Eastside soccer team, boys or girls, to reach the Elite Eight.

Lady Eagles head coach Joel Singleton praised Shelton: "We're proud of Anna and excited she has this opportunity for her future. She's spent a lot of time and hard work on being an excellent player. With her drive and determination she'll continue to see success on the field at the next level!"

Prep Basketball

Cougars hoops coach settling in

By CHRIS BRIDGES
newsr@covnews.com

Jimmy Link has jumped in with both feet as the new Piedmont Academy varsity boys' basketball coach.

After a lengthy career at the collegiate level, Link was recently hired to direct the Cougars and the coach said he has already been impressed with the work ethic and attitude of the players. Link was most recently the boys basketball coach at Clayton State.

New Piedmont athletic director Clint Satterfield knew about Link and asked if he would consider coaching at the high school level.

"I have always told my players to go where you are wanted," Link

said. "Piedmont wanted me and once I visited the school, I could sense the enthusiasm."

Link also was also head coach at Paine College as well as a collegiate assistant at several other schools. He was being pursued as a coaching candidate by other high school programs as well. Satterfield said it was a huge accomplishment to bring Link on board at Piedmont.

"Right now, we are still looking to see who all we will have," Link



Jimmy Link

said of the upcoming basketball season. "Most of our players compete in multiple sports. This is definitely different but it is going to be fun."

Scheme-wise, the Cougars will run Link's motion offense and employ an up-tempo brand of play.

"It will be new for them," the coach said. "We are also going to use a pressure man-to-man defense along with some zone."

The Cougars have made positive strides in recent season with the basketball program reaching the Elite Eight on two occasions. Link said he hopes to take the program to the next level.

College Basketball

Dobbs announces transfer to Truett

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

Former Eastside Lady Eagle standout Alysee Dobbs is on the move.

Dobbs took to social media Saturday to announce her intent to transfer to Truett-McConnell University in Cleveland, Ga., to continue her basketball career.

She previously attended Georgia Highlands College, appearing in just two games for the Chargers during

the 2020-21 campaign.

One season removed from being named *The Covington News'* Girls' Basketball Player of the Year in 2019,

Dobbs became the first Lady Eagle to cross the 1,000-point threshold in program history as a senior in January 2020.

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GMR

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FOOD

The Covington News

Cooking with *Southern flair*

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Country cooking elicits visions of straight-from-the-garden vegetables and farm-fresh meats and dairy. For many, country cooking and Southern cooking may be thought of as interchangeable, as so many homespun meals are made that much more delicious with some southern influence.

Buttermilk-infused recipes are part of any country cook's repertoire, as are crispy, fried foods. That's the pairing in this delicious side dish or appetizer for "Buttermilk-Battered Okra Fries With Comeback Sauce" from "Southern Appetizers: 60 Delectables for Gracious Get-Togethers" (Chronicle Books) by Denise Gee.

Buttermilk-Battered Okra Fries with Comeback Sauce

Serves 6

(About six fries each; makes 2 cups sauce)

Comeback Sauce:
1 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup ketchup
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 garlic cloves, minced, or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
2 tablespoons finely grated sweet or white onion or 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 teaspoon Dijon or yellow mustard
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 teaspoon hot sauce
1/4 teaspoon hot or smoked paprika
Salt (optional)

Okra Fries:
Canola or corn oil for frying
8 ounces small to medium okra pods, stemmed and halved lengthwise
1 cup buttermilk (or



Metro Creative Service

Buttermilk-infused recipes are part of any country cook's repertoire, as are crispy, fried foods.

enough to cover okra)
1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup cornstarch
Salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)

To make the sauce:
In a food processor, purée the mayonnaise, chili sauce, ketchup, olive oil, garlic, onion, Worcestershire, lemon juice, mustard, black pepper, hot sauce, and paprika. (Or use a medium bowl and whisk to combine all the ingredients.) Season with salt, if needed, cover tightly, and let the sauce sit overnight in

the refrigerator before serving.

To make the okra:
Place several layers of paper towels atop a paper bag or platter. Keep it close to where you'll be frying.

In an electric fryer, Dutch oven, or heavy cast-iron skillet, add canola oil to a depth of 2 to 4 inches. Heat to 350 degrees. (If you're not using an electric fryer, use a fry/candy thermometer to ensure the temperature stays consistent.)

In a medium bowl, soak the sliced okra in the buttermilk and set aside.

In a large paper bag or large plastic zip-top bag, combine the flour,

cornstarch, 1/2 teaspoon salt, black pepper, garlic powder, and cayenne (if using).

Drain the buttermilk-soaked okra and dredge it in the flour mixture. Carefully shake off any excess flour. Fry in batches of seven or eight pieces for 2 to 3 minutes or until crispy and light golden brown, turning them carefully midway through.

Use a fry basket or slotted spoon to remove the okra to drain on the paper towels. While still hot, season the okra with additional salt, if desired.

Serve the okra fries immediately with the sauce.



Metro Creative Service

When the end goal is simply looking good, it may be easy to forget about the other benefits of nutritious diets, including their link to overall health.

Food plays vital role in health

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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Nutrition is a popular topic of conversation, particularly among those embarking on a weight loss or maintenance plan. Individuals carefully study food macros and pore over various diets to get the most out of the foods they eat. When the end goal is simply looking good, it may be easy to forget about the other benefits of nutritious diets, including their link to overall health.

A close relationship exists between nutritional status and health. Experts at Tufts Health Plan recognize that good nutrition can help reduce the risk of developing many diseases, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers. The notion of "you are what you eat" still rings true.

The World Health Organization indicates better nutrition means stronger immune systems, fewer illnesses and better overall health. However, according to the National Resource Center on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Aging, one in four older Americans suffers from poor nutrition. And this situation is not exclusive to the elderly. A report examining the global burden of chronic disease published in The Lancet found poor diet contributed to 11 million deaths worldwide — roughly 22% of deaths among adults — and poor quality of life. Low intake of fruits and whole grains and high intake of

sodium are the leading risk factors for illness in many countries. Common nutrition problems can arise when one favors convenience and routine over balanced meals that truly fuel the body.

Improving nutrition

Guidelines regarding how many servings of each food group a person should have each day may vary slightly by country, but they share many similarities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture once followed a "food pyramid" guide, but has since switched to the MyPlate resource, which emphasizes how much of each food group should cover a standard 9-inch dinner plate. Food groups include fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy. The USDA dietary guidelines were updated for its for 2020-2025 guide.

Recommendations vary based on age and activity levels, but a person eating 2,000 calories a day should eat 2 cups of whole fruits; 2 1/2 cups of colorful vegetables; 6 ounces of grains, with half of them being whole grains; 5 1/2 ounces of protein, with a focus on lean proteins; and 3 cups of low-fat dairy. People should limit their intake of sodium, added sugars and saturated fats. As a person ages he or she generally needs fewer calories because of less activity. Children may need more calories because they are still growing and tend to be active.

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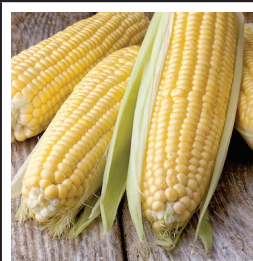
CAB Choice, Family Pack
**Premium
Ground Round**
\$3.99 LB.



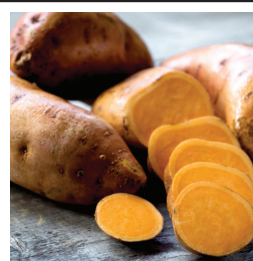
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**Center Cut
Pork Chops**
\$2.49 LB.



48 Ounce
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White, Yellow or Bi-Color
**Corn On The
Cob**
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#1 Mississippi
**Sweet
Potatoes**
49¢ LB.



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**Bottom
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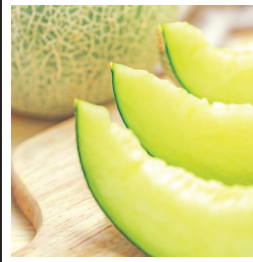
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Peaches**
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**Fresh
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Onions**
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