

Inside: NEXT LEVEL COUGAR

Piedmont Academy football star inks NLI with UAB Blazers

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informed on
local issues at
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Inside: Data: Overdose deaths rise across Georgia

See A2

His Word

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2 Corinthians 9:8, KJV

Newton County

Two teens shot at Denny Dobbs Park



Special to The Covington News

Two teenagers were reportedly shot —one in the arm, the other in the foot, Friday night at Denny Dobbs Park.

Witness recounts being ‘trapped’ at Newton County facility

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A pair of teenagers were shot Friday night at Denny Dobbs Park. A spokesperson from the Newton County Sheriff’s Office said a 16- and 17-year-old were shot Friday evening at the park, located at 6252 Georgia Hwy. 212 in Covington.

One of the victims was shot in the arm and the other was shot in the foot. Both were reportedly taken to a local hospital for treatment.

The spokesperson said the investigation was still underway at the time of this publication. No suspected shooters had been

See SHOT, A3

GRAD-ELATION

Newton County seniors celebrate
culmination of high school journey



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside graduate Fletcher Raines throws his arms up in celebration following Friday night’s commencement. See more photos of Eastside and Alcovy high schools’ graduation ceremonies held Friday and Saturday, starting on B1.

City of Covington

Henderson resigns from county job amid election law allegations Newton government placed Covington councilman on administrative leave in February

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — City councilman Anthony Henderson recently resigned from his position as code enforcement officer for Newton County amid voter fraud allegations.

In February, *The Covington News* first reported Henderson was bound over by the State Election Board to the state Attorney General’s Office for criminal prose-

cution for election law violations in 2017.

Investigators alleged Henderson committed two counts of violating OCGA 21-2-562 (fraudulent entries; unlawful alteration or destruction of entries; unlawful removal of documents;



Anthony Henderson

neglect or refusal to deliver documents) and a single count of violating OCGA 21-2-604 (criminal solicitation to commit election fraud; penalties). The violations are considered felonies and guilty parties are subject to significant penalties including jail time.

According to investigators, Henderson allegedly violated the laws when helping a handful of people register to vote in Covington’s mu-

nicipal election, despite not being residents of the city.

Shortly after the case against Henderson was made public, the Newton County government placed Henderson on administrative leave from his position as code enforcement officer, pending the outcome of the case.

The Covington News recently filed an Open Records Request with the county government to confirm Henderson voluntarily resigned

from his position May 18.

When *The Covington News* tried to reach Henderson for comments, he responded by quoting Bible verse Matthew 12:36 (NAB), “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will render an account for every careless word they speak.” He then directed questions related to the allegations and his resignation to his attorney, who did not

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Up Next

Local contractors take pride
in helping power new EHS

Inside this weekend’s edition

Weather Forecast



Wednesday, June 9
High: 88° Low: 68°
• 50% chance of storms



Thursday, June 10
High: 89° Low: 69°
• 40% chance of storms

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SINCE 1865

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COVID affects Fourth of July plans across Newton



File | The Covington News

A local band plays in the city of Oxford's annual Independence Day parade in 2019. The city has opted to cancel the parade for a second straight year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Cities opt to forego festivals, parade; continue with fireworks show plans

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

Continued concerns about distancing for COVID-19 prompted two local cities to host Independence Day fireworks shows without accompanying festivals while a third will postpone its annual parade and picnic for a second consecutive year.

Covington, Oxford and Porterdale have finalized plans for celebrating the patriotic holiday, officials said. The plans included:

- **PORTERDALE:** Porterdale is set to host a July 3 fireworks show in the city's historic downtown area after canceling it last year due to COVID-19.

City officials will begin the event around dusk and only feature a fireworks show of about 15 minutes over the historic downtown area, said Police Chief Jason Cripps.

No vendors or festivals are planned because of safety concerns around the pandemic, Cripps said. Attendees are encouraged to buy refreshments from city businesses, he said.

No specific designated parking areas and no street closings are planned, he said.

"As long as they park in a legal manner, they'll be fine," Cripps said.

He said parking was on a first-come, first served basis. Attendees can park on the side of the streets leading into downtown. The railroad depot near the Yellow River also is a good spot but the city's riverside park does not offer a clear view, Cripps

said.

"Have a little bit of common sense and a little bit of empathy for the people who live here," Cripps said.

- **OXFORD:** The city of Oxford will not host an Independence Day parade for a second consecutive year after officials were forced to decide in January whether the pandemic would have subsided enough by July 4 to allow the event to safely proceed.

City Manager Matt Pepper said the city council "at that point was just not comfortable" in late January with allowing parade participants and attendees to gather without social distancing needed for safety.

He said council members did not know enough about the COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness to begin the myriad preparations needed for the event by the dates required to organize it.

"It's the kind of event where it can't be a 'game time decision,'" Pepper said.

Officials needed months before the event for such tasks as contacting and registering vendors and securing needed permits, including one from GDOT, to allow the use of Georgia Hwy. 81, he said. According to minutes from the Oxford City Council's Jan. 25 work session, members discussed the possibility of a "socially distanced" parade.

Laura McCanless "liked

See **PLANS, A5**



Metro Creative Service

Of the nearly 2,000 overdose deaths recorded across Georgia last year, 1,237 (20%) of those deaths were considered opioid related.

Between 4 to 5 Georgians died from overdose each day in 2020

Data shows 21 Newton residents died from drug overdose

By **TAYLOR BECK**
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Four to five Georgians died each day from drug overdose in 2020.

Data shows nearly 2,000 people across the state died from overdose last year, and according to the Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments, 21 were from Newton County.

Opioid Surveillance and Prevention Specialist Tom Branch Jr. recently unveiled drug overdose statistics for GNRC's district. Drugs included "any over the counter, prescription or illicit drugs." It was also noted that statistics are "preliminary and subject to change."

From January to December 2020, there were 1,839 overdose deaths across the state, and 1,237 (60%) were opioid related. According to data from the CDC, this was an increase from the 1,408 overdose deaths in 2019. There were 1,404 overdose deaths recorded in 2018.

Branch reported 152 people within the three-county area died as result of overdose, and 80% of those deaths were opioid related.

Thirteen of the 21 overdose deaths (62%) in Newton County were opioid related, he said.

Overdose deaths in Gwinnett County rose to 114 in 2020; 94 (82%) were opioid related.

Rockdale County saw the fewest total overdose deaths

— 17 — but 14 (82%) were related to opioids.

Per month, Georgia averaged nearly 154 overdose deaths. July was considered the deadliest month with 188 overdoses.

County-by-county data for 2019 was not readily available at the time of this publication.

As the drug overdose death toll seems to rise each year, Branch said the health departments are working with state organizations to combat the epidemic.

"Our partner, Georgia Overdose Prevention gave out 4,000 Narcan Rescue Kits in Georgia for the month of May," Branch said. "The largest previous month was 1,200 kits. Georgia Overdose Prevention also has had 100 overdose reversals in May, [meaning] 100 lives saved!"

Health Departments Communications Director Chad Wasdin said there are other things being done to fight the problem.

"The health department has staffed a position to collaboratively work with our communities to address the opioid epidemic," he said. "We are working directly with local and federal law enforcement agencies by promoting the use of [an overdose mapping tool], collecting relevant public health data to share with partner agencies, and building collaborative relationships between local, state and federal partners."

"We have developed a

partnership and work with local High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) intelligence officers and the DEA community outreach coordinators," Wasdin added. "We also have partnered with our community drug-free coalitions to help promote their messaging in the community, including providing Narcan training and distribution."

Strides have also been made statewide, specifically in the battle against opioid abuse.

The Georgia Department of Public Health houses the Opioid and Substance Misuse Response Unit, which "is responsible for leading statewide strategic planning efforts to respond to the opioid epidemic and other emerging substance misuse."

In recent years, lawmakers have worked to expand the availability of medication-assisted treatment to help people break their opioid addictions and try to reduce the overdose rate.

However, Gov. Brian Kemp wants to continue increasing the state's efforts against the opioid crisis. In an opinion-editorial published by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in January 2018, Kemp stated, "Together, we can stop the opioid epidemic from destroying lives, ruining communities, and tarnishing the sterling reputation of our great state. With a comprehensive, common-sense approach, we can remain a state of success — not one in need of on-camera intervention."

THE NEWS' FIRST RESPONDER OF THE WEEK



Brian Shockley

Shockley has more than 11 years of experience in law enforcement. He and his wife moved to the Atlanta area in June of 2018, and, soon after, he joined the Covington Police Department. He serves as a patrol officer, range master and member of the Emergency Services Unit.

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City of Porterdale

Boom or bust?

Council takes no vote but hearing reveals split on The Oaks development

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

PORTERDALE, Ga. — Porterdale City Council members were told Monday a planned multi-million-dollar development could become a major economic contributor or strain already overburdened area roads and schools.

Covington-based Infinity Homes and Development LLC is seeking to replace the historic The Oaks golf course at the corner of Crowell and Brown Bridge roads with a 230-acre mix of single- and multi-family residences and retail development.

Council members heard from residents of both the city and unincorporated county and the developer Monday during a public hearing about a requested series of zoning changes for the estimated \$215 million development.

However, state law prevented the city council from taking a vote Monday on the rezoning requests until the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission completes its review of the Development of Regional Impact that Porterdale filed with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the development.

After the review is complete — estimated at June 26 — the city “should consider” the regional planning agency’s “comments and findings



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

Crowell Road resident Greg Jackson speaks during a public hearing before the Porterdale City Council Monday night.

in making its decisions related to the project,” according to information from the DCA.

Developer Brad Mitchell’s request is for a change in its current mix of single-family residential and light retail zoning to zoning allowing single-family, multi-family and Commercial-General (CG) that would allow a supermarket.

It would replace The Oaks golf course with 142 single-family homes, 190 townhomes, 360 apartments and a 143,000-square-foot area for retail development clustered

along the site’s south and west sides.

About 60% of the site would be left as open space or part of a planned nine-hole, par-3 golf course because of the existence of a 108-acre floodplain on the east side of the site nearest Brown Bridge Road and the Yellow River.

Residents living near the site but outside the city said it would worsen traffic on already-congested Crowell Road — a major commuter link between central Newton

See OAKS, A5

SHOT:

Continued from A1

identified or taken into custody at the time of publication, and no motive had been confirmed.

A Covington resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said she was at the park with her family of four when shots were fired.

She said they were inside the basketball court, and she had just returned to check on her son when chaos ensued.

“I had just [come] into the basketball court to check on my son from walking around the park, and next thing I know I hear multiple shots fired and my boyfriend yelling at me and my sons to get down, so we dropped to the ground,” the witness told *The Covington News*.

She said she wasn’t able to see anyone’s face, but could see one man standing out of the sunroof of a car and shooting; a second man standing outside the car shooting; and a third man standing on the back of a truck shooting from behind the car.

“All I could think was, ‘Are they going to get out of their vehicles and shoot us all, or were they going to take off?’” she said. “I felt trapped inside the basketball court and [hoped] to God that they didn’t get out and come inside.”

The witness didn’t know what the motive was but said she saw the two teens reportedly shot were females. The sheriff’s office has not confirmed.

The witness said the shooting happened around

8:15 p.m. According to the Newton County government website, Denny Dobbs Park is open to the public from “daylight until dusk, seven days a week.” Sunset typically occurs between 8:30 and 9 p.m. this time of year. Sunset was reportedly at 8:42 p.m. on the day of the shooting.

After the shooting, the witness said one of her sons told her “there was a teenager that came into the basketball court and told everyone that they needed to either get ready to get down or leave the basketball court as if he was trying to warn everyone,” but this also remains unconfirmed.

No law enforcement presence was on hand at the time of the shooting, according to the witness, but there was one officer at the park around 6 p.m. when her family arrived.

“There was a police officer there earlier in the day ... that had came to open up a car that keys got locked in,” she said. “Around that time, all of the teenagers were just celebrating the last day of school for graduation and going around squirting each other with squirt guns and throwing water balloons at each other having a good time.”

The sheriff’s office encourages anyone else with information regarding the shooting to call its lead investigator at 678-625-1465, or simply contact the sheriff’s office crime tip hotline at 678-625-5007. Callers can remain anonymous.

RESIGNS:

Continued from A1

immediately respond to an inquiry from *The Covington News*.

It remains unclear if Henderson’s decision to resign was related to the ongoing allegations or if he accepted a new job elsewhere.

Henderson was elected to West Ward Post 3 on the Covington City Council in 2017. He has remained active in his council position despite the election law violations case against him.

Removing Henderson from his council position would only happen by way of the governor’s office — not the city council — and only if indicted.

Henderson has not been indicted.

City Attorney Frank Turner Jr. confirmed that, according to state law, the process to remove any public official only begins if indicted for a felony by a grand jury. At that point Gov. Brian Kemp

would appoint a review commission comprised of the state Attorney General and two city council members from somewhere in Georgia, not tied to the public official in question.

If the Attorney General were to bring the indictment against the public official, the governor would appoint a retired state Supreme Court Justice or a retired Court of Appeals judge to serve in his place.

Once assembled, Turner said the commission would write a report to the governor within 14 days, recommending to remove or suspend the public official from office.

Before a commission is appointed, the public official is allotted 14 days to, in writing, authorize the governor to suspend him or her from office. After suspended, the public official could petition the governor for a

review. At that point, a commission would review the suspension and give the governor a report within 14 days to determine if the public official should be reinstated.

If suspension is recommended, the public official would be suspended until the case concludes or until the expiration of his or her term of office, whichever comes first.

If the public official is acquitted, or if after conviction it is later overturned, state law requires the public official be immediately reinstated.

Suspended public officials may continue receiving compensation from his or her office until initial conviction by the trial court. After the initial conviction, the public official is no longer entitled to compensation. If reinstated to office, the public official is entitled to received any compen-

sation withheld.

The city council may appoint a temporary replacement if a public official is suspended. If the council chooses not to do so, the governor may appoint a replacement.

Upon final conviction, the office of the public official must be vacated immediately without further action. This may also result in an appointment to to serve the remaining term and/or result in holding a special election.

Henderson was believed to be one of the youngest candidates ever to run for city council four years ago. Henderson handily defeated Jeffrey Johnson and incumbent Ocie Franklin for the seat. Henderson finished

with 273 votes; Johnson garnered 108; and Franklin with 92.

Henderson’s seat is

up for election this fall.

He has not publicly announced if he intends to pursue a second term.

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOCIAL CIRCLE

Notice is given that the Mayor and City Council of Social Circle, Georgia, will consider adopting an ordinance to increase the salaries paid to the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and Members of the City Council, during the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council to be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 15, 2021 at the Middle School Activity Center at 154 Alcova Drive. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4, the proposed ordinance, if passed, would not go into effect until after the date of the taking of office of those elected at the next regular municipal election which is held immediately following the date on which the action to increase the compensation was taken.



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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Tom Spigolon news editor

How far will the Republican split go in Georgia?

The state Republican convention last weekend on Jeckyll Island laid bare the enormous split the party now has in Georgia in the wake of former President Donald Trump’s lambasting of the governor and secretary of state for not doing more to overturn his loss to Joe Biden in Georgia in November.



The convention and, apparently, the party is now divided between Trump loyalists who believe Democrats “stole” the election, and those realistic Republicans who believe it’s time to move on from the results and the former president’s still powerful hold on national party leadership. The convention voted to censure Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who defended the election results that withstood three counts and recounts in 2020 and lawsuits alleging voter fraud in Georgia and other states this year.

Raffensperger supported tightening of election ID laws as he defended the results. As a result he earned the wrath of Trump by not doing something

to find enough votes to give him Georgia’s 16 electoral votes.

He also took the initiative to send out absentee voting applications in the early spring of 2020 just as the then-little known pandemic was beginning to hit the state hard.

He took this action so Georgia voters could cast their ballots without risking their safety because of COVID-19. Reaction to that move from Trump and, ultimately, his seemingly blindly obeying followers, has haunted the secretary of state ever since.

Raffensperger now is in position not to even win his own party’s nomination for his job in the 2022 election. U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Greensboro, is Trump’s endorsed candidate for the position and appears to be the front-runner at this point — though former Alpharetta mayor David Belle Isle is running a strong race as well.

Hice appears to be using the Trump playbook in running for the seat.

Raffensperger responded that, “Few have done more to cynically undermine faith in our election system than Jody Hice ... Georgia Republicans seeking a candidate who’s accomplished



AP | Jeff Amy

Gov. Brian Kemp speaks to Republicans at the 6th Congressional District convention in Alpharetta on May 15. Republicans gathered in congressional district conventions across the state.

nothing on election reform or anything else, now have one.”

Raffensperger followed state law, just as Gov. Brian Kemp did in not moving to use whatever power he had to overturn the results.

The governor has taken a number of steps in recent weeks to build support inside the GOP, according to the Capitol News Service.

“He got behind controversial legislation

overhauling Georgia’s election laws that is popular among Republicans, opposed a proposed Biden administration education plan to emphasize the existence of systemic racism throughout America’s history and banned state agencies from requiring COVID-19 ‘vaccine passports.’”

Still, the state’s first lifelong Republican governor in its histo-

ry (governors Sonny Perdue and Nathan Deal were Democrats turned Republicans) was booed at the state Republican Convention for following state law.

Kemp seems to be in a better position to win reelection at this early stage.

But this infighting within the party has already prompted Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan not to seek reelection next year.

It will be interesting to see just how far to the Trump right the state’s Republicans will go before they figure out Democrats are now formidable adversaries in Georgia.

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

David Carroll columnist

Life in 2021 isn’t terribly unlike it was one generation ago

Oh, how our lives have changed during the past 30 years. We’ve had great medical advances. Once-fatal diseases are being cured, and hope exists where once there was none.



For those who like to stay connected, life has changed considerably. The brick-like mobile phones of the early 1990s have been replaced by tiny smartphones that take pictures, send messages, play music, pay bills, and oh yes, make phone calls.

Social media sites connect us with long-lost friends, and allow us to communicate with relatives we once saw only at funerals. Online shopping has taken a bite out of traditional retail stores, and we are far more likely to buy something with the click of a mouse than we used to.

Beyond that, life in 2021 is not terribly unlike it was a generation ago. We drive on the same highways, we attend the same churches, read the same newspapers, watch and listen to the same TV and radio stations, and attend

the same schools.

I have often joked that my parents had some great “when I was your age” stories, usually in an attempt to educate me about how easy I had it, compared to them. They told me about walking to school, chopping wood for heat, and milking the cow. Me? I told my kids about growing up with only three TV channels, and no remote control.

I was reminded of this recently when my 90-year-old uncle Owen Norris, whom I have written about in my “Volunteer Bama Dawg” book, passed away. Before he died, he self-published a book, and gave it to all his nieces and nephews. It is easily one of the best gifts I have ever received.

He wrote about growing up in poverty on Sand Mountain, in Bryant, Alabama. Owen was born in Chattanooga in 1930, and his family was among many who took a chance during the Depression. Land was plentiful and cheap on the mountain, about thirty miles southwest of the big city. The soil was fertile, and big families had plenty of farm hands. Although there was no electricity, and the roads were

unpaved, they were counting on a brighter future.

As Owen told me, World War II changed everything. The soldiers who survived the war returned to a better world. The postwar economic boom encouraged new businesses and industries, creating a new batch of jobs. Women who had once tended the home or helped with the farm had entered the workforce out of necessity during the war, and many families now had two paychecks coming in each week.

People were building houses, buying appliances, and installing indoor plumbing. During the Depression, it was a struggle to survive. But by the 1950s, anything was possible, even in rural America.

Uncle Owen experienced both of these worlds. Those of us who came along a generation later only saw the better one. We would hear about the hard-times era, but for many of us it sounded like a fairy tale. We saw that world in black-and-white, like an old movie. For Owen, and others of his era, it was real.

They picked cotton until their fingers ached. They slept with multiple siblings in

small beds in crowded rooms, with snow blowing in through the cracks in the walls. They walked a few miles to get a gallon of buttermilk, and crossed a dangerous creek going to and from their destination. If they broke a leg, they would have to find some generous soul with a car to drive them to the city for medical treatment.

Throughout Owen’s childhood, this was his world. And you know what? He was perfectly happy. To his dying day, he talked about missing the closeness of his tight-knit family. Each depended on the other to get chores done. People sat on the porch, appreciated the little things, and listened to each other.

Still, when he returned from serving in Korea while in his twenties, opportunities awaited that he had never imagined. He got a job, bought a car, and drove on smooth, paved roads. The dreaded day-long journey to the city was now a quick one-hour round trip.

He was able to build a house with indoor plumbing, and thanks to the Tennessee Valley Authority, it was fully connected to electricity, heat and

air. He could start his own business to better provide for his family. He built a long life and career and prospered beyond his wildest dreams. He was able to see his parents, in their twilight years, enjoy comfortable living at last.

Owen’s book was not just a refresher course in history for me, but a reminder of the gratitude we all should have. Those who came before us made great sacrifices, in many ways, to provide the

luxuries we enjoy today. They rebuilt the nation during an amazing period of growth in the 1940s and 1950s. From my generation to yours, thank you!

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.

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Around the Capitol

Judicial emergency ending in Ga.

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — In another sign that the coronavirus pandemic is waning, Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton announced Friday the statewide judicial emergency he first declared in March of last year is about to end.



Harold Melton

Following a meeting with members of the state’s Judicial Council, Melton told judges across the state he does not expect the emergency to extend beyond June 30.

On Monday, when the last of a series of emergency orders Melton has issued expires, he said he plans to issue a formal notice terminating the state of emergency effective at the end of the month.

“We’ve been looking at the trend lines in the governor’s public health emergency orders based

on revised CDC guidelines and the decline in COVID-19 rates across the state,” Melton said.

“Because I am doubtful that the governor will continue the public health emergency beyond June 30, 2021, I do not expect to issue another order extending beyond June 30 the statewide judicial emergency that has been in place for nearly 15 months already.”

Melton reiterated previous advice that courts and lawyers across Georgia prepare to operate without a statewide judicial emergency in place.

“It will take hard work, creativity, and cooperation to get our courts back to full operations and to resolve the large backlogs of cases that have accumulated due to the restrictions the pandemic required,” he said.

With the statewide emergency order expiring, the chief judges of Georgia’s 49 superior court judicial circuits will have statutory authority to issue local orders to suspend certain legal deadlines and designate

alternative court facilities.

Also, under legislation the General Assembly passed this year, the chief judges of superior and state courts will have authority to grant relief from statutory speedy trial requirements in criminal cases for a limited time based on the circumstances in a particular county.

For their part, judges will control the management and operations of their courts, including access to courthouses and courtrooms, which proceedings will be conducted remotely and which will be in-person, and public health precautions for in-person proceedings such as wearing masks and social distancing.

“I am very proud of how nimble and committed our courts have been throughout the entire pandemic to ensure the public health of all those who come to our courts, while safeguarding the rights of Georgia’s citizens,” Melton said. “Our local courts are equipped and ready to carry the load the rest of the way.”

Redistricting kicks off next week

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The once-a-decade process of redrawing Georgia’s congressional and legislative district lines is about to begin.

The state House and Senate committees in charge of redistricting will hold a joint virtual town hall meeting next week to start gathering feedback from Georgia residents.

The June 15 meeting, which will run from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., will be the first chance for citizens to weigh in on the results they would like to see from the process. The committees are expected to hold additional hearings during the next few months across the state.

By law, states must redraw their congressional and legislative district boundaries every 10 years following the U.S. Census. The process is legally necessary only to accommodate population shifts that have occurred within each state since the last census, so that districts remain as nearly equal in population as possible.

But in reality, redistricting is “the most political activity” in America, said Charles Bullock, a political science professor at the University of Georgia who has written extensively on the subject.

“The majority party invariably comes up with maps to try to maintain its majority status for the next decade,” Bullock said.

In Georgia’s case, it’s the Republicans who will be looking to retain control of the state House and Senate. It promises to be a challenging task, with demographic changes in the Atlanta suburbs having led to gains by Democrats during the last decade.

The GOP also will have to figure out a way to minimize population losses in rural counties where Republicans dominate.

Democrats also have made progress in Georgia’s congressional delegation since the last census, capturing the 6th Congressional District seat north of Atlanta in 2018 and winning the 7th District seat in Atlanta’s northeastern suburbs last year.

For the first time since the 1980s, Georgia will not be allocated an additional congressional seat. Although the state experienced population growth during the last decade, it wasn’t enough to warrant a 15th U.S. House district. Republicans currently hold eight of Georgia’s 14 congressional seats to six for the Democrats.

Speakers at next week’s meeting will be limited to two to five minutes each. Time limits within that range will be subject to how many people sign up to speak.

Following the public hearings, lawmakers will design and vote on new maps during a special session of the General Assembly later this year. The session isn’t expected to begin until October.

OAKS:

Continued from A3

County and I-20.

Mayor Arline Chapman said rumors originally spread through the community that the entire site would be an apartment complex.

“This information was incorrect,” she said.

Crowell Road resident Greg Jackson said he believed developer Brad Mitchell should have completed traffic studies before bringing it to the council.

Jackson said that past county plans had never resulted in a widening of Crowell Road — and may not in the future.

Architect Adam Kirk of Thomas & Hutton said he planned to add needed deceleration lanes to The Oaks site after the county completes its plans for improving both Crow-

ell and Brown Bridge roads.

Cat Hutchinson said the project could be “an opportunity” to create a “fun thing” to attract residents.

“If you made it a fun thing, people wouldn’t be so upset about it,” she said.

Lynn Pynckels said she believed the site — already zoned for residential development — would be developed in the future. A local developer like Mitchell would be better than one from outside the county, she said.

“This property owner is going to sell sooner or later,” she said.

A golf course has operated in various forms and decades on the 230-acre site near the Yellow River since the 1930s, with records

indicating legendary golfer Bobby Jones helped design the original course for Porterdale Mills.

Golfers have played the course in its current form since 1990. It has been a Porterdale business since the city annexed it in 2005.

Kirk estimated about 1,700 people may reside in The Oaks after its 692 housing units of all types are built and occupied.

Its only three entrances would be on Crowell Road because the part of the site along Brown Bridge Road is mostly in a floodplain, Kirk said.

City Manager Frank Etheridge said the city would address the need for more Porterdale police protection by budgeting for it as the

population increases.

He said Mitchell’s plan was consistent with residential and commercial development patterns in the area. It also is one of the largest undeveloped sites in the county, he said.

Etheridge also said the city staff recommended approval of the rezonings and would address the entrance points to the site in a later review.

The developer will be required to meet a lengthy series of con-

ditions on everything from roof designs and building materials for residential structures, to limitations on noise levels from speakers at restaurant drive-through windows.

PLANS:

Continued from A2

the idea of a socially distanced picnic because it would allow the City to ‘walk the walk,’ in terms of the need to socially distance in public,” according to the meeting minutes.

“She does not believe the city can conscientiously have a parade that is effectively distanced. She does not have faith that everyone will be vaccinated by then.”

Pepper said the parade usually includes such typical Independence Day parade features as floats, Boy Scout troops and political candidates.

An accompanying picnic often attracts 300 to 400 people and features live music and other events at the Old Church — where the parade ends, Pepper said.

Oxford Lions Club members traditionally provide manpower and

“woman power” for the event, one member said.

“Hopefully, next year,” Pepper said.

• COVINGTON: In April, the Covington City Council opted to host the city’s annual Independence Day event at its traditional Town Square location on July 4 at dusk rather than an alternate site.

Officials considered the show at the Covington Town Center site at Alcovy and City Pond roads before settling on the Square but without the usual festival and food vendors.

A nonprofit agency, Friends of Covington Fireworks Inc., organizes the show annually. Chief organizer Robert Foxworth said a \$65,000 show was planned.

A GoFundMe appeal for donations for the show stated, “Covington, Georgia, is a special community that


aspires to represent everything good that America stands for.

“Last year’s show was cancelled due to COVID and this past year has been tough on everyone, but together we can show the world that we’re not beat; our spirit and humanity will make us an even greater nation!”



“We feel fortunate to help give back and hope that you too will be inspired by Robert’s faithful dedication and patriotism. Please join us in helping the Friends of Covington Fireworks raise the money needed to reignite the American dream and inspire everyone... especially all the children looking forward to experiencing live fireworks this July 4th.”

Publisher and Editor Taylor Beck contributed to this report.

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The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

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TURN AT the Red Light on East Soule Street in Oxford
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Jobs

Help Wanted

LOOKING FOR A P/T HOUSEKEEPER ALONG WITH OTHER DUTIES IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL 770-788-7601 ASK FOR DIANE ROBERTS

LEGALS

Public Notices

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 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

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 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, 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**

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!

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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

Level: Intermediate



CITY OF OXFORD
POSITION AVAILABLE:
Public Works and Utilities
Maintenance Worker I

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Public Works and Utilities Maintenance Worker I.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Lineman certification preferred. If no Lineman certification upon employment, employee may be expected to earn the certification within a reasonable period of time.
- Possession of a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia, with a 3-year clean record. CDL preferred; if no CDL upon employment, employee may be expected to qualify for CDL within a reasonable period of time.
- Must have a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia, with a 3-year clean record.

Top candidates will possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities at a minimum:

- Knowledge of the methods and practices involved in the design, operation, construction, maintenance, and repair of electrical utilities and water distribution systems.
- Knowledge of water distribution operations.
- Knowledge of municipal electrical distribution system operations and practices.
- Knowledge of safety regulations related to utilities systems.
- Skill in using a variety of hand and power tools and heavy equipment.

The city requires a pre-employment drug screen, background investigation, and a 3-year Motor Vehicle Report. Entry salary for this position is \$28,727.92. Actual salary will be determined based on qualifications and experience.

For a complete list of job responsibilities and application, visit our website at <https://www.oxfordgeorgia.org/> or contact Jody Reid at jreid@oxfordgeorgia.org.

Completed job applications may be dropped off in person or mailed to:

Oxford City Hall
Attn: Jody Reid
110 West Clark Street
Oxford, GA 30054

Resumes submitted without completed applications will not be considered. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The City of Oxford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY VIRTUE of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from **Richard E. Johnston** to Homestar Mortgage Services, LLC DBA Elite Home Mortgage Services, dated November 21, 2001 and recorded on November 28, 2001 in Deed Book 1134, Page 280, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Sixty-Three Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$63,000.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded in

Deed Book 4053, Page 483, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2021, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 84 OF THE 9TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 23, IDLEWOOD SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 211, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.

SAID PROPERTY may more commonly be known as **700 Lazy Lane, Covington, GA 30014.**

THE DEBT secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

THE INDIVIDUAL or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is New Rez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 55 Beattie Place, Suite 100 MS 561, Greenville, SC 29601, 1-800-365-7107.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Richard E. Johnston and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted

PUBLIC NOTICE #200404
6/9,16,23,30

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of
DANIEL EDWARD NONE
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File # 2021-CV-1083-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

DANIEL EDWARD NONE filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on MAY 6 2021 to change the name from **DANIEL EDWARD NONE** to **IRIKETEKANA DANIEL EDWARD ANACE**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed
DATE: 3-22-21

DANIEL E. NONE
330 RIVER RIDGE
SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025

PUBLIC NOTICE #200347
5/19,26-6/2,9

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the name change of
JUSTICE JOHNSON AKPAN
PETITIONER

CIVIL ACTION File # 2021-CV-1076-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

JUSTICE JOHNSON AKPAN filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on MAY 7 2021 to change the name from **JUSTICE JOHNSON AKPAN** to **JUSTICE JOHNSON JOHNSON**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed
DATE: 05/07/21

JUSTICE JOHNSON AKPAN
25 TEMPLETON WAY

COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #200348
5/19,23-6/2,9

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

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 14th day of June, 2021, at 9:30 A.M., at the Newton County Courthouse in Covington, Georgia, the Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia will hear the case of the STATE OF GEORGIA, Plaintiff, v. NEWTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY and COVINGTON MEDIA HOLDINGS, LLC, Defendants, Civil Action File No. 2021-CV-1250-1, in the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, the same being a proceeding to confirm and validate the Newton County Industrial Development Authority Taxable Revenue Bond (Covington Media Holdings, LLC Project), Series 2021, in the principal amount of \$136,700,000 (the "Bond"). The Bond shall be issued for the purpose of financing or refinancing the acquisition and construction of a movie studio, including sound stages, exterior filming facilities, video production facilities, and vendor/support facilities (the "Project") and the costs of issuing the Bond. The Project will be leased by the Issuer to Covington Media Holdings, LLC (the "Company") pursuant to a Lease Agreement. In said proceeding, the Court will also pass upon the validity of (a) a Guaranty Agreement guaranteeing the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bond and (b) an Amended and Restated Project Agreement providing for, among other things, the valuation of the Company's leasehold interest for ad valorem tax purposes.

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. Section 36-82 100, the Issuer hereby notifies all interested parties that no independent performance audit or performance review will be conducted with respect to the bond issue.

ANY CITIZEN of the State of Georgia residing in Newton County, Georgia, or any other person wherever residing who has a right to object, may intervene and become a party to this proceeding.

THIS 27TH day of May 2021.
LINDA D. Hays

PUBLIC NOTICE #200406
6/2,9

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Baseball

Seven Rams named to All-Region Team



File | Mason Wittner | The Covington News
Newton senior Zion Ross was recently named to the All-Region 4-AAAAAAA First Team as a position player.

By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton resided in one of the toughest regions in the state this spring.

Region 4-AAAAAAA is home to three perennial top-10 teams in Grayson, Brookwood and Parkview, the latter of which put together a remarkable run to win its third consecutive state title and ninth in program history. Needless to say, nothing came easy for the Rams in region play.

But despite going through a gauntlet each week of the season, several Newton players stood out with their exceptional play on the diamond. Consequently, seven Rams earned recognition on the All-Region 4-AAAAAAA Team last week.

Senior Wil Standard was named an All-Region First Team

pitcher, while fellow senior Zion Ross was named All-Region First Team as a position player.

Standard was a reliable workhorse for the Rams this spring. The veteran left-hander tossed 53.1 innings and posted a 4.46 ERA, compiling 39 strikeouts in the process.

Ross, who split time in the outfield and at second base, was undoubtedly the most consistent bat in Newton's lineup. He batted at a .370 clip with a .525 on-base percentage, totaling 27 hits with three doubles, three triples, and 28 runs. He was also a menace on the base paths, swiping his way to a team-high 25 steals.

Junior Jevarra Martin Jr. and senior Kaleel King represented the Rams as All-Region Second Team pitchers. Senior Justin Brown (.318 AVG; .394 OBP;

25 RBI), sophomore Anthony Bynum (.294 AVG; .368 OBP; 10 RBI) and freshman Lucas Ballard (.323 AVG; .440 OBP; 11 RBI) each earned All-Region Second Team nods as position players.

Parkview was unsurprisingly named All-Region Team of the Year for its state title run. The Panthers' Chan Brown was named Coach of the Year, while first baseman Cade Sadler was voted Player of the Year.

Pitcher of the Year honors were split between Grayson's Bodie Eilertson and Brookwood's Dylan Lonergan.

The Rams finished the season at 9-20. Thanks in large part to a three-game sweep of South Gwinnett early in the year, the club ultimately earned a No. 4 seed for the Class AAAAAA state playoffs.

Prep Football

Piedmont's Pittman eager for collegiate opportunity



Special to The Covington News
Surrounded by his friends and family, Piedmont Academy senior Chris Pittman recently signed with the University of Alabama-Birmingham as a preferred walk-on. Pittman posted more than 1,000 yards of total offense from the quarterback position in 2020, accounting for 30 touchdowns for the Cougars.

By CHRIS BRIDGES
news@covnews.com

Chris Pittman displayed plenty of athletic ability on the football field for the Piedmont Academy Cougars.

Perhaps the toughest thing for the senior to show was patience off the field. It took a while, but in the end, that patience paid off as Pittman will have a chance to compete the highest level of college football.

Pittman signed as a preferred walk-on at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and is eager to show what he can do at that level.

For the player and his coach, it was a tough waiting game.

"I have lost a lot of

sleep over this," said coach Will Johnson.

"Chris is too good of a player not to be going anywhere. We are thankful UAB gave him the opportunity to play football. It is a very prestigious Division I school. They play ACC and SEC teams so Chris will be playing teams like Georgia and LSU."

The past two years show Pittman became arguably the top player in the GISA. As a junior he compiled more than 2,500 yards and 30 touchdowns. In his senior season he passed and rushed for more than 1,000 yards with 30 scores.

Pittman helped lead Piedmont to back-to-

back state runner-up seasons.

"The only word to describe him is irreplaceable," Johnson said.

"You can't replace him on the football field. You can only try to get by without him. We felt that way about him on offense and defense. He made myself and Coach [Matt] Britt look smarter than we are."

Comparing his star player's stats to "video game numbers," Johnson said it took Pittman longer to find a place at the next level due to a recent NCAA ruling which gave players an extra year of eligibility.

Johnson himself was a collegiate player at Division II Valdosta State for coach David

Dean, who is now the head coach at West Georgia.

"I was in constant communication with Coach Dean but not many players at Division II leave early for the NFL," Johnson said.

"Schools just didn't have any extra spots. In the end, UAB is really the best fit for him. The only good thing about me leaving Piedmont is that I won't have to call plays without Chris on the field."

Pittman said he is eager to contribute any way he can at the next level.

"In talking with them I told them I could play wide receiver, defensive back and special teams," Pittman said.

"I think I can go in and contribute immediately on special teams."

Pittman was one of

Piedmont's top defensive players, and he was an All-Region and All-State performer.

COLDWELL BANKER
GMR

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Covington, GA
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Caldwell & Cowan

FUNERAL HOME
DOGWOOD HILL CREMATORY

15 YEARS

Pursuit of Excellence Award

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!

NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Pursuit of Excellence

Freshway Market

1261 North Cherokee Road • Social Circle, GA • 770-464-0040

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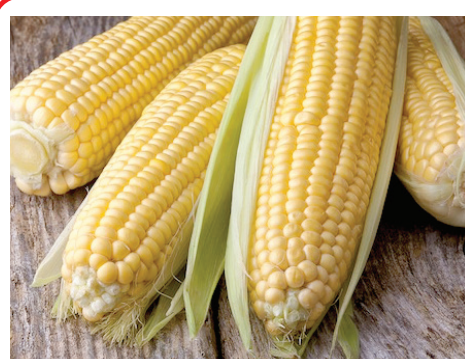
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*Ask Cashier for
Details



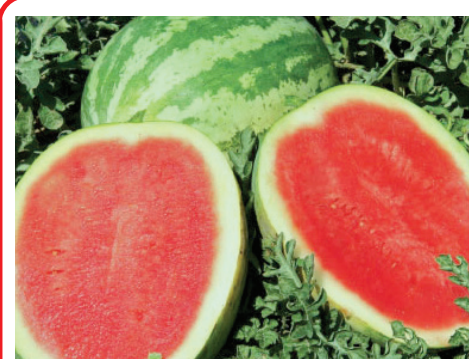
Family Pack
**Whole
Chicken Wings**
\$2.49 LB.



**White, Bi-Color or
Yellow Corn**
3/\$1.00



Family Pack
**Sirloin End Cut
Pork Chops**
\$1.29 LB.



60 Count Size
**Seedless
Watermelons**
\$3.99



6 Pack, 1/2 Liters, Assorted
**Coca-Cola
Products**
4/\$10.00



24 Pack
**Niagara
Water**
4/\$10.00



Family Pack
**Sirloin
End Cut
Pork Roast**
\$1.19 LB.



CAB Choice, Boneless
**Eye of
Round
Roast**
\$3.99 LB.



CAB Choice, Boneless
**London
Broil**
\$3.99 LB.



CAB Choice, Boneless
**Top Round
Roast**
\$3.99 LB.



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



8 Pack
**Food Club
Hamburger or
Hot Dog Buns**
99¢



1/2 Gallon
**Blue Bell
Ice Cream**
2/\$11.00



12 Pack, Banana,
Chocolate or Sour
**Mayfield
Dairy Farms
Stix**
2/\$5.00



5 Ounce,
Oil or Water Packed
**Chicken of
the Sea Chunk
Light Tuna**
79¢



64 Ounce
**Food Club
Ketchup**
2/\$5.00



1 Pound
**Sunnyland
Hot Dogs**
99¢



CAB Choice, Boneless
**Top Sirloin
Steak**
\$6.99 LB.



Boneless
**Whole
Pork Loin**
\$2.29 LB.



Boneless
**Pork
Stir Fry**
\$2.99 LB.



Boneless
**Cubed
Pork Chops**
\$3.99 LB.



CAB Choice, Family Pack
**Cube
Steak**
\$5.99 LB.



CAB Choice
**Stew,
Diet Lean or
Stir Fry**
\$5.99 LB.



CAB Choice,
Family Pack, Boneless
**Top Round
Steak**
\$5.99 LB.



CAB Choice, Boneless
**Eye of
Round
Steak**
\$5.99 LB.



1 Pound, Sliced,
Assorted Variety
**Buddig
Premium
Lunchmeat**
\$1.99



20 Ounce
**Food Club
Sandwich
Bread**
99¢



**Western
Cantaloupe**
\$2.99



**Jumbo
Vidalia
Onions**
69¢ LB.



1 Pound, 30 Count
**Baby
Peeled
Carrots**
\$1.29



**Georgia
Peaches**
\$1.69 LB.



**Blue Ribbon
Honey Dew
Melons**
\$4.99



4 Pound Bag
**Navel
Oranges**
\$4.99



Pint
Blueberries
2/\$7.00



1 Pound Bunch
Asparagus
\$2.99



**Super Select
Cucumbers**
2/\$1.00



**Georgia
Grown
Green Beans**
99¢ LB.



**California
Celery**
2/\$3.00



**Broccoli
Crowns**
\$1.49 LB.



Romaine, Green or Red
**Leaf
Lettuce**
\$1.29 EA.



Honey Smoked or
Oven Roasted
**Kretschmar
Turkey Breast**
\$5.99 LB.



Mesquite Smoked or
Low Sodium
Oven Roasted
**Sara Lee
Turkey Breast**
\$4.99 LB.



**Farmland
Cooked Ham**
\$2.99 LB.



White or Yellow
**Kretschmar
American
Cheese**
\$5.99 LB.

Store Hours: 7 Days 8am-10pm • No Rainchecks

This Ad Good Wednesday, June 9th thru Tuesday, June 15th, 2021

We Accept EBT Cards, Debit Cards and Credit Cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover).

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CORRECT ANY TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES. NONE SOLD TO DEALERS.

**Wed
9**

**Thur
10**

**Fri
11**

**Sat
12**

**Sun
13**

**Mon
14**

**Tues
15**

EDUCATION

The Covington News



CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2021 TIGERS!

Newton County Schools

A commencement ceremony for Alcovy High School's Class of 2021 was held Saturday night at Homer Sharp Stadium in Covington. The 250-plus graduates have accumulated more than \$8.5 million in scholarship funding.



Why Choose United Bank?

7-Day Banking

Customer Service Agents
and Video Tellers

 **UnitedBank**
Equal Housing Lender 

This is Community Banking

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Food Depot

OUR COST INCLUDES FREIGHT, STOCKING FEES AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

**OUR COST PLUS 10%
ADDED AT REGISTER!**

Please visit our website at www.fooddepot.com
Download the Food Depot App for digital
coupons and in-store promotions!

COVINGTON: 6169 Highway 278
Covington Crossing Shopping Center
CONYERS: 2300 Salem Road
CONYERS: 3530 GA 20
Honey Creek Village Shopping Center
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! MONDAY-SUNDAY 7am-10pm



Fresh,
Any Size Package
**Ground
Beef**
\$2.77
LB.



USDA Inspected
**Lean Ground
Beef Patties**
\$3.78
LB.



USDA Inspected,
Fresh
**Pork
Picnic**
\$1.68
LB.



Fresh,
Boneless, Skinless
**Claxton Fryer
Breast**
\$1.98
LB.

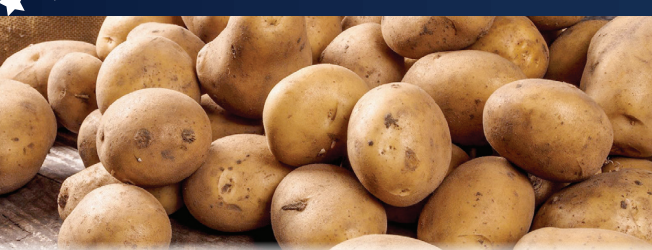


USDA Inspected,
Fresh, 12-14 Chops
Per Package
**Rib Half Pork
Loin Chops**
\$2.48
LB.



USDA Select Beef,
Boneless
**London
Broil**
\$3.98
LB.

Farm Fresh Produce



8 Pound Bag
Food Depot Russet Potatoes
\$4.29
BG.



1 Pound Bag
Green Giant Mini Carrots
\$1.29
BG.



2 Pack
Slicing Tomatoes
\$1.29
LB.



Yellow, White or Bi-Color Corn
5/\$2.49
EA.



Southern Peaches
69¢
LB.



Zucchini Squash
\$1.39
LB.



Chayote Squash
\$1.19
EA.



Green Bell Peppers
69¢
EA.



Red Seedless Grapes
\$2.49
LB.

From Our Dairy Case!



7-8 Ounce
**Kraft Chunk or
Shredded Cheese**
\$2.22



16 Ounce
**Imperial Spread
Quarters**
80¢



4-6 Ounce
Yoplait Yogurt
43¢



59 Ounce
**Minute Maid Plus
Vitamins Orange Juice**
\$1.72



56 Ounce
**Mayfield Classic
Ice Cream**
\$2.41



10-14 Ounce
**PictSweet Farms
Southern Classic
Vegetables**
\$1.22



7 Ounce
Banquet Pot Pies
75¢



5.2 Ounce, Assorted
Mr. P's Pizza
76¢

Food Depot

Watch Your Savings Grow!

OUR COST PLUS 10% ADDED AT REGISTER!

OUR COST INCLUDES FREIGHT, STOCKING FEES AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

OFFERS GOOD JUNE 7TH-JUNE 13TH, 2021

QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS.

Great Quality Brands!



750ML, Assorted
**Duplin
Wine**
\$5.99



6 Pack,
.5 Liter or Mini Cans
**Coca-Cola
Products**
\$3.00



1 Liter
SmartWater
\$1.00



8 Pack, Select Varieties
Gatorade
\$4.58



9.5-10 Ounce
**Frito-Lay's
Doritos**
\$2.58



11-14.75 Ounce,
Select Varieties
Post Cereals
\$1.78



6.25 Ounce
**Good Health
Veggie Chips**
2/\$4.00



13-20 Ounce, Regular or
Thins, Family Size
Nabisco Oreo
\$3.00



31 Ounce
**Simply
Tide**
\$2.38



5-6 Ounce
**Golden Flake
Cheese Curls
or Puffs**
99¢



30 Ounce
**Kraft
Mayonnaise**
\$1.86



8.27-11 Ounce,
Assorted
**Sunbelt
Bars**
\$1.75



10 Pack
**Kool-Aid
Jammers**
\$1.37

Low Prices — Name Brand Meats



15 Ounce, Jumbo
or Bun Length
**Carolina Pride
All Meat
Hot Dogs**
98¢
EA.



12 Ounce, Thin,
Regular or Thick
**Oscar Mayer
Sliced
Bologna**
98¢
EA.



6.4 Ounce,
Original
**Banquet
Sausage
Links**
96¢
EA.



24 Ounce
**Georgia Special
Smoked
Sausage**
\$1.45
EA.



12 Ounce
**Jennie O
Turkey
Bacon**
\$1.98
EA.



4 Pound
**Holtz
Extra
Value
Beef
Patties**
\$5.98
EA.

Stock Up On Freezer Favorites!



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside High School sent off the Class of 2021 with a commencement ceremony at Homer Sharp Stadium on Friday night.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Abigail Mendoza shares a smile during Eastside High's graduation ceremony.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Cade Mitchell (left) and Tanner Middlebrooks (right) wait to hear their names called at Eastside's graduation.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside principal Jeff Cher (left) greets graduate Victoria Bailey (right) with a fist bump.

CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2021 EAGLES!



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside graduates listen to their principal, Jeff Cher, as he gives a speech to the Class of 2021.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Zykia Gilbert lets out a laugh before crossing the field and being recognized during the graduation ceremony.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Sambo Button poses for a photo before the start of Eastside's commencement ceremony.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Hannah Gaston welcomes the audience to Eastside's graduation and introduces the event's speakers.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside Valedictorian Joyce Li addresses the Class of 2021.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside graduates rejoice following the graduation festivities.