

# The Covington News

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021



TELLING

\$1



## SPORTS: TECH ON TOP

Yellow Jackets take down FSU  
for ACC Men's Basketball  
Tournament crown

See A8

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## His Word

Blessed is the man that  
endureth temptation: for  
when he is tried, he shall  
receive the crown of life,  
which the Lord hath prom-  
ised to them that love him.

James 1:12, KJV

COVID-19 vaccine now available for more Georgians >> [SEE A2](#) Morgan County court approves \$42B bond issue for new Stanton Springs data center >> [SEE A3](#)



Drew Parker is Newton County's

# RISING STAR

Special | Warner Music Group

Newton County native Drew Parker recently signed as a recording artist with Warner Music Nashville.

## Stewart Community native talks music dreams coming true

By TOM SPIGOLON  
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Drew Parker is not one to sit around and wait for “dreams” to materialize.

He's been working toward a certain goal from age 12 when he began traveling to area churches and performing as a Southern gospel singer, or sought to hone his skills as a young baseball player.

Ultimately, he used the money he made performing around the Covington area and working as an X-ray technician to move to Nashville, Tennessee, to try to make a living in the country music industry.

“I dreamed of writing songs and writing hit songs,” Parker said. “The odds of that happening are so slim.”

But with help from friends like Luke Combs — whom he

met in Rome, Georgia, before Combs became a country music phenomenon — Parker worked his way in a relatively short time to become a hit songwriter and now, among Warner Nashville's newest signed artists.

Parker's aunt, Covington resident Debbie Gober, said she believes Parker will be successful because he is “one of the most

See STAR, A6

## Weekend crash kills 2 on I-20

Incident between Covington,  
Social Circle caused major delays



Special to The Covington News

This was among the damage after a fatal wreck took place on I-20 Sunday.

By TOM SPIGOLON  
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Georgia State Patrol began an investigation this week into a Sunday, March 14, wreck in which two died on I-20 between Covington and Social Circle.

Kuan Zheng, 63, was the driver of a vehicle that crossed the center median and struck another vehicle Sunday, March 14, at about 4:30 p.m. on eastbound I-20 between the exits for state highways 11 and 142, said GSP spokesman Lt. Mark Riley.

Identities of the two victims were not being released before the newspaper's deadline because next of kin had not been notified, Riley said.

GSP's Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team was assisting in the investigation that was not complete, Riley said.

Preliminary results of the investigation showed the incident occurred after a silver Toyota RAV4 driven by Zheng was traveling

See CRASH, A2

## Construction underway for Residence Inn, Home2 Suites

By TAYLOR BECK  
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Construction crews recently broke ground on two different hotel developments to be located in Newton County.

Workers officially began the construction of a Residence Inn by Marriott on Thursday, March 11, at the site of the Covington Town Center.

David Bernd, of the



Special to The Covington News

Crews break ground on the Residence Inn by Marriott on Thursday, March 11, to be located within the Covington Town Center.

Newton County Industrial Development Authority, said

the Residence Inn was one of two hotels to be featured

within the Town Center project.

Topaz Hotel Group, a division of Starlight Hotel Group LLC, announced in 2020 that it would be investing more than \$32 million to build a 123-room Residence Inn, followed by a 99-room Courtyard by Marriott, which is also expected to break ground later this year.

“We are thrilled to bring the Marriott Brands to

Covington with the upscale Courtyard by Marriott and Extended Stay Residence Inn by Marriott,” said Aziz Dhanani, who is one of the managing members of the Topaz Hotel Group. “Muhammad, my partner, and I are extremely excited to be here in the city of Covington and Newton County.”

Royal Hotel Investments

See CONSTRUCTION, A2

Volume 156, No. 22



## Up Next

Covington council eyes  
establishment of citizen  
review board for CPD

Inside this weekend's edition

## Weather

Wednesday, March 17  
High: 66°; Low: 59°  
Severe thunderstorms.

Thursday, March 18  
High: 73°; Low: 46°  
Severe thunderstorms.

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# COVID-19 vaccines now available for more Georgians

**By BEAU EVANS**  
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgians ages 55 and older, as well as those with a variety of health issues, are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines amid a recent boost in supplies, Gov. Brian Kemp announced recently.

Vaccines could also potentially be available for all Georgia adults starting next month if the current number of shots that federal officials are sending weekly to the state continues to increase as it has in recent weeks, Kemp said at a news conference.

“Provided we continue to see increasing vaccine supply, it is our intent to open up vaccination to all adults the first part of next month,” Kemp said.

Along with adults age 55 and older, vaccines were made available to Georgians with health conditions including cancer, moderate-to-severe asthma, heart conditions, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, hypertension, liver disease, COPD, chronic kidney disease,



Metro Creative Services

**As more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are shipped to Georgia, more people are now able to receive the vaccine.**

cerebrovascular disease and compromised immune systems, starting Monday, March 15.

Kemp said he was expanding eligibility to keep pace with the increasing supply of vaccines Georgia is receiving from the federal government and to avoid seeing lagging demand among currently eligible people. Georgia is currently receiving weekly shipments of 223,000 vaccine doses.

“Adding these addi-

tional high-risk Georgians will mean that vaccination will be available to categories that have accounted for 92% of our deaths due to COVID-19 in Georgia,” Kemp said.

“As we have from the beginning, we will protect the most vulnerable to severe illness, hospitalization or death, and enable Georgians to get back to normal.”

The newly eligible Georgians add to a growing list of vaccine-eligible people in-

cluding school teachers and staff, health-care workers, nursing home residents and staff, first responders, those with mental and behavioral health issues, parents of children with medical conditions and people ages 65 and older.

Nearly 2.5 million vaccines have been given so far in Georgia, including to roughly two-thirds of all people 65-years and older in the state, according to Kemp’s office. Vaccination rates have climbed as the state receives more doses of the Pfizer, Moderna and recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Kemp, who said he will get the vaccine soon, urged teachers and others who are already eligible for vaccines to sign up for appointments now with demand about to spike from the newly eligible group of Georgians starting next week.

“This is your opportunity, these days ahead, to get in the queue and get your vaccines,” Kemp said. “This is going to move

rapidly, especially in certain parts of the state, and what we want is for people to get vaccinated.”

Georgians can pre-register for a vaccine appointment at myvaccinegeorgia.com even if they do not yet qualify under the governor’s eligibility criteria. They will be notified once they qualify and scheduled for an appointment.

The governor also said his administration is aiming to quickly expand eligibility further to Georgians who have been hit hard by the pandemic including restaurant, agriculture and grocery workers. How soon those groups will be able to get the vaccine depends on supplies holding steady.

“We want to move that population as quickly as we can and try to protect them and keep our economy going,” Kemp said. “All of this helps get us back to normal.”

Georgia has been ratcheting up to distribute vaccines since the first Pfizer and Moder-

na doses started arriving in mid-December, particularly through moves to open several mass vaccination sites in different regions throughout the state.

So far, state officials have opened four mass vaccination sites in metro Atlanta, Macon, Albany and Habersham County, and are set to open another five sites next week in Savannah, Columbus, Waycross and Bartow and Washington counties.

The vaccine ramp-up comes as COVID-19 positive case rates and hospitalizations continue falling after a surging outbreak that swept over the Georgia around the winter holiday season. Hospitals have seen a fall in COVID-19 patients from around 5,700 during the winter to 1,500 currently, Kemp said. Deaths traced to the virus are also starting to decline, he added.

“Every metric in the COVID-19 pandemic is headed in the right direction,” Kemp said.

## CRASH:

Continued from A1

west on I-20 in the left lane, two miles west of Ga. Highway 11 at mile marker 96, Riley said.

The RAV4 failed to maintain its lane, struck a silver Chrysler 200 traveling beside it in the right lane, and the RAV4 driver steered left, a report stated.

Riley said the RAV4 traveled into the grass median, turned onto its side and traveled into the eastbound lanes

of I-20.

It entered the right east lane, struck a Toyota Tacoma traveling east on I-20 and both vehicles came to rest on the south shoulder, he said.

The Toyota Tacoma’s driver and front seat passenger died, while the driver of the RAV4, identified as Zheng, sustained serious injuries and was transported to Atlanta Medical Center, Riley said.

Investigators closed both lanes after the 4:30 p.m. incident, which tied up traffic for hours on I-20 before all lanes were opened by 8:40 p.m., according to GDOT.

No charges had been placed in the incident Tuesday, Riley said.

A Social Circle resident who identified herself as the driver of the Chrysler 200 said she and her daughters, ages 2 and 9, were not physical-

ly hurt but were shaken by what they saw.

“I somehow managed to maintain control of my vehicle while seeing all of this in my peripheral vision,” she said. “We pulled safely to the side of the road.

“I knew we got lucky.”

She asked for prayers for those who died and their families.



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*Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!*



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NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Pursuit of Excellence



Special to The Covington News

**Pictured is a rendering of Home2 Suites to be located off Georgia Highway 142 near Interstate 20 in Covington.**

## CONSTRUCTION:

Continued from A1

announced Thursday that it, too, had begun construction on a new Covington hotel: Home2 Suites by Hilton.

“This hotel emphasizes our company’s long-term commitment to the community,” RHI Chairman Navin Shah said in a recent statement. “When our country comes back from the current COVID crisis, we will offer a safe, comfortable place for people to come together – a trusted site to collect their thoughts, rest their bodies, and gather with friends and family.”

Home2 Suites will have 100 rooms, including eight one-bedroom suites. It is expected to open July 2022. The hotel will be located in Covington, just off Georgia Highway 142 near

Interstate 20. The site is adjacent to two other hotels currently operated by the investment group — a 110-room Holiday Inn Express and a 105-room Hampton Inn & Suites.

“We are creating a hotel campus that allows travelers to choose the type of accommodations that best meet their needs,” Shah said. “Our new hotel will be an all-suites property, which appeals to guests who like larger rooms and extra space to work or to relax.”

Home2 Suites will combine signature features of a hotel and a home, with every guest room featuring a bedroom, living room and kitchen, which includes a microwave, dishwasher and full-size refrigerator. Other

notable amenities will be a business center, fitness center, boardroom-style meeting space, seasonal outdoor swimming pool and gazebo.

RHI also operates a 99-room Hampton Inn & Suites in Conyers, plus a 20,000-square-foot shopping center in Covington. Shah said the investment group was excited to be part of an area primed for economic growth.

“We are proudly part of a vibrant, thriving community that is growing as a business and tourist destination,” Shah said. “I firmly believe that our country and our community will not just bounce back – we will bounce forward, stronger than ever and sooner than expected.”



# Court approves bond issue for new Stanton Springs data center

**By DAVID CLEMONS**  
The Walton Tribune

MADISON, Ga. — A judge gave her approval for the \$42 billion bond deal that will bring a data center to Stanton Springs.

Judge Amanda S. Petty signed off on the project in a validation hearing Monday morning in Morgan County Superior Court. No one spoke against the deal, nor had any objections been filed with the court or the Ocmulgee Circuit district attorney beforehand.

The Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton and Walton Counties and Baymare LLC asked the court to validate the bond agreement, which was reached last month.

The agreement showed a data center is coming to the Stanton Springs development near the junction of I-20 and U.S. Highway 278, and will sit in unincorporated Social Circle in parts of Morgan, Newton and Walton counties.

According to the agreement pre-

pared by JDA attorney Andrea Gray of Monroe and approved by Petty, the bonds will be used to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping and installing a “capital project, in one or more phases.”

The bond agreement shows the project will be a data center, similar to the one the JDA also issued \$42 billion in bonds for in 2018 to Morning Hornet LLC. That was the key financing component in the deal that a couple of months later was announced as the Facebook Newton

Data Center.

Gray said the JDA and its member counties will not be liable for the debt. The bonds will be issued at an annual interest rate of 6% and reach final maturity no later than Dec. 31, 2046.

Baymare will pay rent to the JDA and make payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs, to the four counties. Newton and Walton counties each receive 37.5%, Morgan County 15% and Jasper County 10%.

# County Road 213 bridge closing Monday for 120-day replacement project

**STAFF REPORTS**  
news@covnews.com

MANSFIELD — The West Bear Creek bridge 2.5

miles west of Mansfield will close Monday, March 22, for four months to allow for replacement by Williams

Contracting.

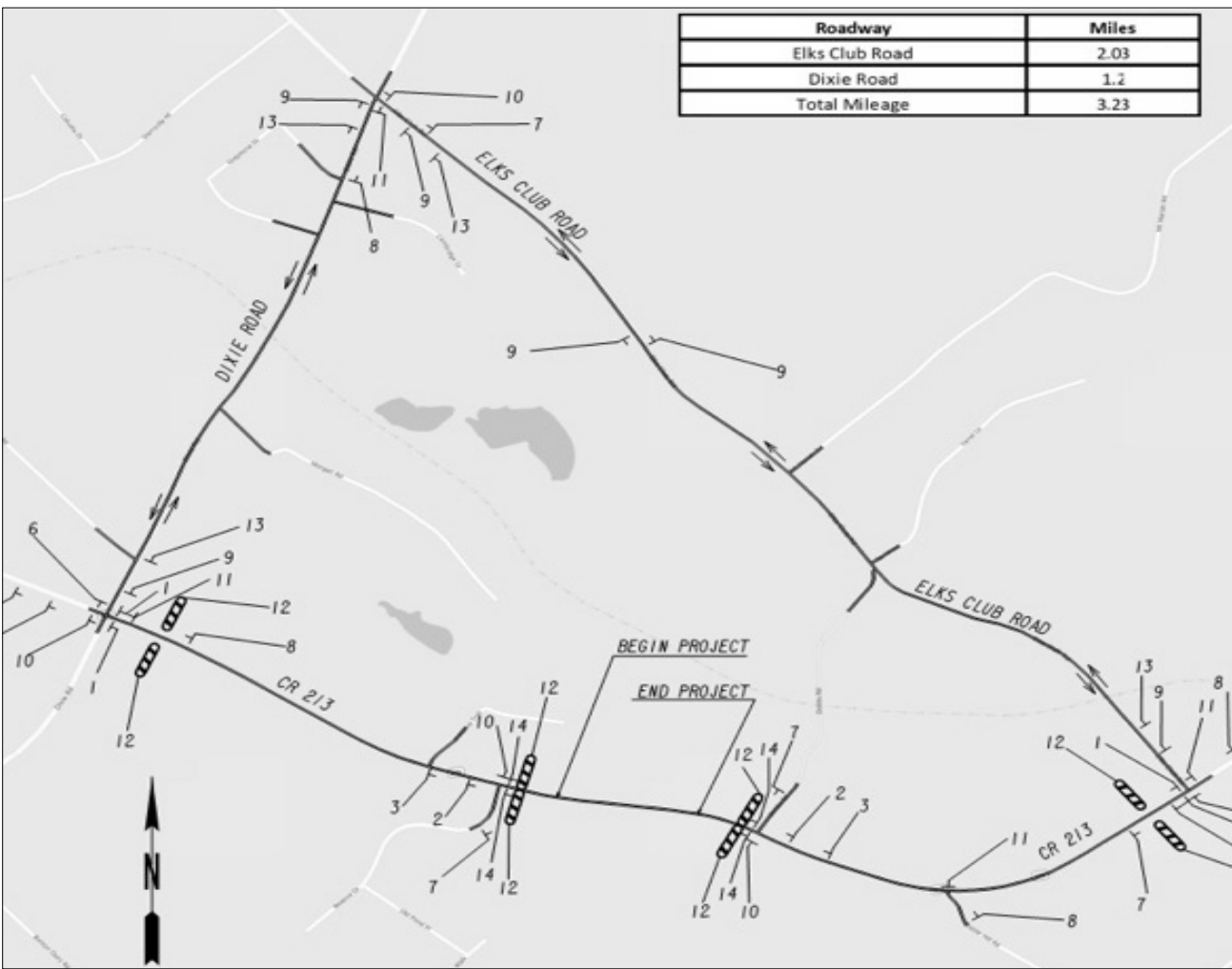
Crews must close the County Road 213 structure near Dobbs Road in Newton

County requiring an off-site detour. The \$1.27 million contract is part of the Georgia Department of Transpor-

tation’s Low Impact Bridge Program (LIBP).

Projects within the LIBP must meet low impact criteria such as no geometry or grade changes, and low environmental impacts. All detours must be off-site and approved by local entities.

LIBP bridges are completed with expedited delivery using prefabricated bridge components, a news release stated.



**The West Bear Creek Bridge on County Road 213 will be closed for four months starting Monday. The planned detour is pictured left.**  
Special to The Covington News

# McGinley appointed to Child Fatality Review board

**STAFF REPORTS**  
news@covnews.com

ATLANTA — Randy McGinley has been named to the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel.

Gov. Brian Kemp appointed McGinley, the governor’s office said Monday.

McGinley is the district attorney of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of Newton and Walton counties. He took over the position on an interim basis last year and was

elected to a full term in November.

Each county has its own child fatality review panel, to meet within 30 days of a child’s death and submit findings to the state.

The Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel, a 17-member board, meets quarterly to oversee the county child fatal-

ity review process and report annually to the governor on the incidence of child deaths and recommend prevention measures based on the data.

McGinley is a faculty member of the Georgia Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council’s Basic Litigation Course, which teaches new prosecutors throughout the state.

McGinley and his wife, Charly, live in Walton County with their two young daughters. He is a member of the Loganville Rotary Club.



Randy McGinley

# Calendar of Events

- Newton County Commissioner Alana Sanders will host her monthly District 3 Community Meeting March 22 at 7 p.m. virtually by Zoom.
  - Register for the meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/4140404040>
  - The agenda will cover the topics of trash, community beautification, HOA Alliance, rezoning, traffic, and neighborhood watch, according to Sanders’ Facebook page.
  - For more information, visit [www.commissionersanders.com](http://www.commissionersanders.com) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Commissioner-Sanders>.
  - Covington/Newton County Chamber of Commerce will present its Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration virtually March 25 at 4 p.m. to celebrate its honorees for 2020.
  - Awards to be given include the prestigious R.O. Arnold Award for community service and achievement; as well as awards for Spirit of Excellence, Small Business of the Year, Deal of the Year, and Hope of the Community.
  - The event is set for and can be accessed free on YouTube by visiting [www.youtube.com/newtonchamber](https://www.youtube.com/newtonchamber). For more information, email [amcdaniel@newtonchamber.com](mailto:amcdaniel@newtonchamber.com).
  - An Easter Egg Hunt for ages

- 1 to 10 is set for March 27 at 11 a.m. at Wolverine Football Field at 8134 Geiger St. NW. Newton County Parks & Recreation will host the event. Prize eggs will be given in each age group.
  - For more information, visit [www.newtonrecreation.com](http://www.newtonrecreation.com).
  - The Newton County Board of Commissioners will host a groundbreaking ceremony for a new SPLOST-funded skate park March 29 at 2 p.m. at Denny Dobbs Park.
  - The park is at 6244 Ga. Highway 212 in Covington.
  - For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/784438338874313/>.
  - Snapping Shoals EMC’s offices will be closed April 2 in observance of Good Friday.
  - Those experiencing outages can report tem with the myS-SEMC app, on the website [www.ssemc.com](http://www.ssemc.com), or by calling 678-814-4961.
  - You can report other service issues at 770-786-3484. Please do not use social media to report outages or service issues.
  - A paper shredding event free for Newton County residents is set for April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon (or until the shred truck is full) at the Newton County Library parking lot at 7116 Floyd St. in Covington.
  - Keep Newton Beautiful will

- host the event. Each person is limited to five standard-sized moving boxes.
  - Because of COVID-19, all participants are asked to remain inside their vehicles and have volunteers remove cardboard boxes with paper from their car trunks or truck beds.
  - For more information, visit [keepnewtonbeautiful.org](http://keepnewtonbeautiful.org).
  - April 30 is the deadline for applications for Snapping Shoals EMC’s SSEMC Leadership Experience.
  - Each applicant must be a high school sophomore or junior and be at least 16 years old by June 16.
  - Three students chosen will receive a \$2,000 scholarship when they begin college.
  - Snapping Shoals has chosen to host its own leadership program in 2021 in place of the annual Washington Youth Tour, which was canceled due to COVID-19.
  - The winners will tour SSEMC and learn more about the co-op in a one-day program held at its headquarters at 14750 Brown Bridge Road in Covington.
  - Participants also will hear presentations from SSEMC employees about the history of the co-op and its day-to-day operations.
  - Visit the Our Community page at <https://www.ssemc.com/Community.aspx> for more details and to download an application.

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Dorothy Piedrahita guest columnist

# Coffee versus tea

I drink both. I add many flavors to my preferred morning or afternoon healthy beverages. My additions depend on the time of the day. In my research, I’ve learned coffee is good for you.



Coffee contains antioxidants and other active substances that may protect against diseases, says Diane Vizthum, M.S., R.D. research nutritionist for Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Coffee is a brew which has benefits for our health. Researchers have also found coffee drinkers are less likely to die from the leading causes of death in women: coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

Do coffee drinkers live longer? I can’t say. Your body may process glucose. That’s the theory behind studies that found that people who drink coffee are less likely to get type 2 diabetes.

Drinking one to two cups

of coffee a day may help ward off heart failure. A weakened heart has difficulty pumping blood to our bodies. You are less likely to develop Parkinson’s disease. Your DNA will be stronger. Dark roast coffee decreases breakage in our DNA.

In my research I read your odds of getting colon cancer will decrease. One in 23 women develop colon cancer. But researchers have found that coffee decaf or regular were 26% less likely to develop colorectal cancer.

After I read this, I was’t completely sold. My mother developed colorectal cancer. This study also stated you may decrease your risk of getting Alzheimer’s disease. Both my mother and two of her siblings were diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

So, how much coffee should a person drink each day?

Of course I can’t say. It is said too much of a good thing may or may not be good for you. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding check with your obstetrician before adding caffeine in your diet. Should children drink coffee? The Ameri-

can Academy of Pediatrics recommends caffeine consumption is not appropriate for children and adolescents. Coffee is a stimulant drug.

Tea! I must. I drink more teas than coffee. My teas are kept in their own special wooden container; rectangular with a lid. Teas are special to me. I love their aromas. Their aromas are distinctive. Tea is a healthier choice. The history of teas go back centuries.

Are teas healthier? I believe so. Green tea is one of my favorites. My doctor recommended. I drink it. Since I have been a researcher for two major universities, it is natural I research everything.

There are so many teas in the world, I haven’t drank them all. Take, for instance, maitake mushroom (grifola fondosa) “Maitake” means “dancing mushroom” in Japanese. For thousands of years, this mushroom has been prized by Japanese herbologists for its ability to beef up the immune system and strengthen overall health.

I have brewed peppermint

leaves (mentha piperita) as well as rose hip, senna, Vitamin C and sugar cane just to name a few.

Teas have been used in ceremonies, unlike coffee. It was been said green tea is a medicine. “Anywhere a person cultivates tea, long life will follow” — Eisai.

This article isn’t to provide medical advice, but to impart a bit of information.

There is no question these beverages are consumed and enjoyed by billions of people.

As a little girl, I can remember my tea sets. It was pretend tea. But I felt like I was drinking real tea. Four cups and four saucers. Setting on the floor or setting around my small table. With friends or not. It was tea time.

Still today, I have a lovely bone china tea set on my kitchen table. Even in churches they have tea programs.

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

Dave Belton guest columnist

# House Bill 479 passes in rare form

This week was mostly spent doing committee work as the House looks at Senate Bills and the Senate looks at House bills. Because the House is three times the size of the Senate, the week after Crossover is especially busy for the Senators.



The most important bill we accomplished last week was the governor’s initiative to overhaul the Civil War era citizen’s arrest law in Georgia. This was in response to the horrific murder of Ahmaud Arbery last year. Current state law allows any citizen who believes they have seen a crime to arrest the suspected offender, essentially taking the law into their own hands. HB 479 will repeal that law, leaving the authority to arrest to law enforcement. It has nothing to do with stand-your-ground provisions, and it does not curtail Second Amendment rights. The bill passed unanimously with a standing ovation — one of the few important bills to do so this year.

I wanted to highlight some good news in the budget regarding behavioral health, which received an additional \$58 million this year. \$2.7 million of additional monies went to addictive diseases, \$6.5 million went to mental health services, \$12 million will go to a pay increase for these providers, and \$4.6 million for family support. \$7million will go to a first-in-the-nation crisis center and \$2 million to expand our APEX Program for schools.

There is also some good news with the COVID-19 vaccine. Many of you know that the governor is now allowing anyone older than 55 to get the vaccine. Also, most people with disabilities are eligible, as well as people above the age of 16 with certain high-risk medical conditions. These include asthma, cancer, COPD, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, liver disease, hypertension, obesity, and sickle cell amongst others. Also, healthcare workers, teachers, residents of long term facilities, law enforcement and fire fighters, and parents with high-risk children are eligible, amongst others.

I realize that the vaccine rollout has been difficult. I hope that everyone is grateful that we have a vaccine at all. Most vaccines take years to create. No one had ever created a vaccine for the 18 prior versions of COVID. Operation Warp Speed beat everyone’s expectations, when it created a vaccine for COVID-19 in less than a year.

On a completely different subject, it appears that the latest \$1.9 trillion Federal CARES package will block a small income tax cut Georgia passed this year. While we are grateful for the additional \$4.25 billion that K12 Education will receive, it is unfortunate that Washington has included this provision to hurt economically sound states. The enormous debt that this bailout will incur is also very troubling. 91% of this budget-breaking package did NOT go to COVID relief.

*Dave Belton represents District 112 in the state House.*

David Carroll columnist

# ‘Future’s so bright, I gotta wear shades’

I woke up today with a much brighter outlook than I had a year ago.

I remember the fear, the uncertainty, and the eerie quiet in my neighborhood. The sounds of school buses chugging by, and folks going to work had been replaced by stillness. The era of masks, distancing, and elbow bumps had begun.



My daily journey to the TV station came to a screeching halt. A production crew transformed my den into a home studio, with intimidating technical gear. I’ve never been good at changing a light bulb, and suddenly I was asked to transmit a broadcast signal. It took only one snafu to keep me off the air, and I created a new one each day. A writer for the Los

Angeles Times summed it up: “We are not working from home. We are living at work.”

One year later: Like flowers blooming in the spring, our smiles are gradually returning. Day by day, the masks will disappear. The vaccines are working. Many people who were misled by misinformation spreaders finally came around. My friend Matt Haase put it this way: “I’m amazed that people I know from high school that couldn’t pass algebra suddenly became experts in viral medicine.”

It isn’t completely over, and the new variant strains could still wreak havoc. Still, we are moving forward with a positive attitude. Our post-COVID world will be different, but in some ways it might be better.

When I asked readers how the lessons of the pandemic would change their lives,

one woman wrote, “I will always use curbside grocery pick-up. I have never liked strangers breathing down my neck while I’m standing in line.”

Others added the joys of porch sitting, outdoor dining, cleaner hotel rooms, and improved personal hygiene habits. One mentioned a new landscape. “Why would anyone build a multi-story office complex?” he asked. “We’ve proven we can get just as much work done at home.” He makes a good point.

A woman added, “I’m glad I won’t have to wear a mask ALL the time, but at least I will have that option without being stared at. I like to hide behind mine. It’s nice not to have to wear makeup when I leave the house. Plus they feel good on cold days.” I totally get that, but I hope eye contact makes a comeback. I miss making a connection with new people.

I can also relate to this person’s opinion: “My challenge will be keeping my home as uncluttered as it is now. It has never been cleaner. I have used the pandemic as an excuse to weed out clothing and other items that have gone untouched for years, or even decades. Yes, I really was that bored, but it has paid off. My home seems bigger now, because I have created more space.”

Opinions are mixed on Zoom gatherings and conversations that have largely replaced office meetings and family visits. One reader said, “I hope we continue to have them. I hate in-person meetings, and I hope people continue to stay six feet away from me.” Of course, not everyone feels that way. Here’s a polar opposite point of view: “As soon as it is permissible, I will smother my family and

friends with hugs, and they had better get ready, because it’s gonna be big!”

Many readers say they are looking forward to the spontaneous moments that disappeared in 2020. “I feel like I have been in prison,” one man wrote. “I can’t wait to go to a live music concert again.”

Another person said, “I have really missed last-minute invitations. I love it when a friend calls and says, hey let’s go downtown and get some dessert and see a show. I used to take things like that for granted. Never again!”

A female reader wrote, “I should be ashamed to say this, but I miss trying on clothes in stores. It may sound silly to some people, but it’s important to me.”

I am in full agreement with this comment. “I look forward to driving more. I’m paying an outrageous amount for car insurance, and the odometer is about where it was a year ago. I might as well get my money’s worth.”

And this one: “I used to think I wanted peace and quiet. Well, I’ve had enough of that. I need some noise and fun.”

Maybe the best words of all come from Samantha Dmochowski, a registered nurse: “Surround yourself with those you love and make your home a place you love to be. That way if you’re ever ‘stuck’ with them again, it’s the best place to be.”

This renewed optimism is why I’m singing along to one of my favorite oldies. “The future’s so bright, I gotta wear shades.” I wish the same for you.

*David Carroll, a Chattanooga news anchor and author. Email him at rادیoty2020@yahoo.com.*

The Covington News

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CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate

For Rent

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
**CONYERS- IN-LAW** apartment, completely furnished, 1BR, 1BA, kitchen & living room area, Cable & Utilities included. Very Nice neighborhood. \$725/month, \$100/ deposit. No Pets **678-558-5478**

LEGALS

Public Notices

Bids

**NEWTON COUNTY** School System

Current Solicitations

**REPLACEMENT EASTSIDE** High School – Kitchen Equipment (IFB C-165-14)

**THE NEWTON** County School System is soliciting sealed bids to obtain the services of a qualified vendor to provide kitchen equipment for the replacement Eastside High School facility.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**ALL SOLICITATION** documents are located on the School System's e-procurement website at the following link:

**HTTPS://NCSSBID.IONWAVE.NET**

**NOTE: YOU** must be a registered supplier to obtain solicitation documents and participate in the solicitation. New suppliers must first complete the online registration process by selecting "Supplier Registration" at the link above to register your company, and obtain a username and password. All responses must be submitted electronically utilizing the Newton County School System's e-procurement system.

**IF YOU** have any questions, please contact the Newton County School System's procurement department at 770-385-6874.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200068**  
**3/3/17**

**THE CITY** of Covington accepting bids for the purchase of an Underground Distribution Three-phase Switchgear as specified in exhibit "A" of the bid packet

**SEALED BIDS** must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Tuesday, March 30, 2021. If using USPS, please mail to P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015.

**REQUEST FOR** Bids and additional information may be obtained at City Hall or by accessing the request for proposals on the City's website at https://www.cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=business-opportunities

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200069**  
**3/17,24**

**THE CITY** of Covington is soliciting sealed bids to furnish all labor, material and equipment for a pipe lining project located near Ashley Drive in Covington Georgia. The projected work includes lining approximately 575 linear foot of corrugated metal pipe using the cured in place method, pre and post repair CCTV inspection, cleaning and haul away of waste materials. The contractor will also be responsible for traffic control, and proper disposal of any environmentally sensitive waste materials as well as any fees associated for water usage for the City of Covington.

**A MANDATORY** pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 am Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at City Hall located at 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

**SEALED BIDS** must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: SCOTT Cromer no later than 10:00 am Wednesday, April 28th, 2021. Bids will be opened and read aloud at that time.

**REQUEST FOR** Bids and additional information may be obtained at City Hall or by accessing the request for proposals on the City's website at https://www.cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=business-opportunities

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200041**  
**3/10,17**

**Corporations**

**CORPORATIONS & Business** Organizations Notice is given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate:

**DAUGHTERS NOW** Arise, Inc

**THE INITIAL** registered office of the

Fun by the Numbers

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Level: Intermediate

corporation is located:

**2600 MAIN** St. Unit 575 Porterdale, GA 30070

**THE INITIAL** registered agent at such address is: Pearlana Thompson.

**PUB LIC NOTICE #200040**  
**3/10,17**

**DISSOLVE A CORPORATION**

**NOTICE IS** given that a notice of intent to dissolve EAST METRO TENNIS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation with its registered office at 242 Griffin Mtn. Trl, Conyers, GA 30013, will be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. Persons with claims against the corporation are requested to present the name of the claimant and amount of the claim to the corporation by mail to 1118 Conyers Street, SW, Covington, GA, 30014. Except for claims that arise after the date of filing of the notice of intent to dissolve with the Secretary of State, a claim against the corporation not otherwise barred will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two years after last publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE 200030**  
**3/10,17**

**NOTICE IS** given that Articles of Incorporation that will incorporate. She Serves, Inc will be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code (O.C.G.A.14-3-202) The initial registered office of the corporation will be located at 75 Drummond PL, Covington, GA 30014 and it's initial registered agent at such address is Adriane King.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #119981**  
**2/24-3/3,10,17**

**Debtors Creditors**

**NOTICE IS** given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Lexquisite Looks Company have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 600 Creekview Blvd, Covington, GA, 30016 and its initial registered agent at such address is Alexus Ayuanna Woods.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200032**  
**3/10,17**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of MAE EPPINGER HARDY deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

**THIS 17TH** day of February, 2021

**SUSAN H.** Aiken  
**EXECUTOR OF** the Estate  
**OF MAE Eppinger Hardy**  
**C/O ROBERT** Stansfield, Esq.  
**GREER, STANSFIELD & Turner, LLP**  
**P.O. BOX** 1617  
**COVINGTON, GEORGIA** 30015-1617  
**(770) 786-4390**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #119973**  
**2/23-3/3,10,17**

**Divorces**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**

**NEWTON COUNTY**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**MICHAEL LIVERS,**  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
**V.**  
**DEBORAH CELESTE LIVERS,**  
**Defendant.**

**NOTICE**  
**TO: DEBORAH CELESTE LIVERS**  
**BY ORDER** of the Court for service by publication dated March 4, 2021, you are hereby notified that on February 9, 2021, the Plaintiff, MICHAEL LIVERS, filed suit against you for divorce. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve upon Plaintiffs attorney, Stephen L. Coxen, The Coxen Firm, LLC, P.O. Box 467, Covington, Georgia 30015-0467, an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of March 4, 2021.

**WITNESS, THE** Honorable Layla H. Zon, Judge of Newton County Superior Court.

**THIS 4TH** day of March , 2021.  
**LINDA HAYS**  
**CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT**  
**NEWTON COUNTY, GEROGIA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200035**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: VALERIE JOHNSON**  
**8287 SUSSEY**  
**DETROIT, MI 48228**

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated **FEBRUARY 22, 2021**you are hereby notified that on October 28, 2020 (date of filing) **LEO JOHNSON** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

**WITNESS THE** Honorable LAYLA H. ZON , Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

**THIS, THE 22ND** day of **FEBRUARY 2021.**  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF Superior Court**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200004**  
**3/3,10,17,24**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**

**JESSE JONES IV**  
**PLAINTIFF,**

**KEYANA JONES**  
**DEFENDANT,**

**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2020-CV-2109-3**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: KEYANA JONES**  
**9393 HICKORY** Nut Cir  
**FISHERS IN** 46038

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated **MARCH 2, 2021** you are hereby notified that on 10/14/20201 (date of filing) **JESSE**

**JONES IV** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

**WITNESS THE** Honorable LAYLA H. ZON , Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

**THIS, THE 2nd** day of **MARCH 2021**  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF Superior**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200038**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**

**MILOGRO PORTER**  
**PLAINTIFF**

**ANTWANNA GENT**  
**DEFENDANT**

**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2021-CV-321-1**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: ANTWANNA GENT**  
**1733 BOB** White Ln  
**CONYERS, GA** 30013

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated **MARCH 2 2021**you are hereby notified that on February 12, 2021 (date of filing) **MILAGRO PORTER** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

**WITNESS THE** Honorable **JEFFREY L. FOSTER,** Judge Superior Court of Newton County.

**THIS, THE 2nd** day of **MARCH 2021.**  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF Superior**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200038**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: DANIELLE LEAKS**  
**4311 TILLY** MILL RD  
**ATLANTA, GA** 30360

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated **FEBRUARY 18, 2021**you are hereby notified that on February 3, 2021 (date of filing) **CASEY JONES** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

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

**THIS, THE 18TH** day of **FEBRUARY**

**2021.**

**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF Superior**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200006**  
**3/3,10,17,24**

**Foreclosures**

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER**

**NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

**UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Tyrone C Wyatt and Erica Wyatt to First Financial Funding Group dated June 24, 1999 and recorded on July 15, 1999 in Deed Book 843, Page 612, Newton County, Georgia Records, and later assigned to Premium Capital LLC by Assignment of Security Deed recorded on March 17, 2006 in Deed Book 2141, Page 107, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Twenty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve And 00/100 Dollars (\$21,912.00), 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 April 6, 2021 the following described property:

**ALL THAT** tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lots 72 and 73 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, and being shown as Lot 12, Country Woods Subdivision, Phase VII on a plat of survey of same recorded in Plat Book 26, Page 308, public records of Newton County, Georgia records, which plat is reference thereto incorporated herein and made a part hereof for a more particular and complete description.

**TAX ID #:** 0015000000413000

**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).

**YOUR MORTGAGE** servicer, FCI Lender Services, Inc., as servicer for Premium Capital LLC, can be contacted at 1-800-931-2424 or by writing to P.O. Box 27370, Anaheim Hills, CA 92809, 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 parties in possession of the property are Tyrone Wyatt and Erica Smith or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **150 Branchwood Dr, Covington, GA 30016.**

**THE SALE** will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

**PREMIUM CAPITAL LLC** as Attorney in Fact for Tyrone C Wyatt and Erica Wyatt

**MCMICHAEL TAYLOR** Gray, LLC  
**3550 ENGINEERING** Drive, Suite 260  
**PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA** 30092  
**404-474-7149**  
**MTG FILE NO.:** GA2021-00067

**PUBLIC NOTICE #119989**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**Juvenile Court**

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MORGAN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN THE INTEREST OF:**

**K.J.C. SEX: F AGE: 13**  
**DOB: 09/09/2007 C A S E #:**  
**2021-104J-011**

**S.B.C. SEX: F AGE: 13**  
**DOB: 09/09/2007 C A S E #:**  
**2021-104J-012**

**CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS FOR THE PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP HEARING**

**TO DALLAS** Criswell:  
**THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED** matter is scheduled for a hearing on the Georgia Department of Human Services Petition for Permanent Guardianship on March 29, 2021 at

9:30 a.m. via Zoom and any interested parties should be present in Court to show cause, if any, why said petition should not be granted.

**IF YOU** do not appear for the hearing, the Permanent Guardianship may be granted in your absence. You are entitled to object to the establishment of the permanent guardian or the proposed guardian, or both. Such objections should be filed with the Court within 14 days of the last date of publication.

**IF YOU** have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone of the clerk's office which is (706) 342-3605.

**WITNESS THE HONORABLE KELLI C. RUTHERFORD,** Judge of said Juvenile Court.

**THIS 17TH** day of February, 2021.

**Jody M. Higdon** CLERK,  
**JUVENILE COURT OF MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**PREPARED BY:**  
**LEE R. Moss**  
**SPECIAL ASSISTANT** Attorney General

**288 SOUTH** Main Street  
**MADISON, GEORGIA** 30650  
**TEL: (706)** 707-8500  
**FAX: (706)** 342-0447

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200034**  
**3/10,17**

**Name Changes**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE the Name Change of:**  
**EMMA MARIE Burleson**

**CIVIL ACTION Case Number**  
**2021-CV-387-5**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

**EMMA MARIE BURLESON,** filed a petition in the NEWTON County Superior Court on 2/17, 2021 to change name from : Emma Marie Burleson to Emmaline Jo Arter.

**ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

**EMMA MARIE** Burleson  
**810 WHATCOAST** St  
**OXFORD, GA** 30054

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200005**  
**3/3,10,17,24,31**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME(S) OF CHILD(REN)**

**SHANIQUE FFRENCH** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on January 21 , 2021 to change the name(s) of the following minor child(ren) from: LUKE AVERE CARSON LEWIS to: AVERY LUKE LEWIS

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200033**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**Trade Names**

**TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT**  
**GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:

**PLEASE BE** advised that **MARCO VARGAS & ASSOCIATES LLC.,** whose address isPO BOX 2338 KIRKLAND, WA 98083 owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: MVA that the nature of said business is: RIGHT OF WAY REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.

**THIS THE 22nd** day of February 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200036**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

**TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT**  
**GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:

**PLEASE BE** advised that **RESTORATION316 LLC.,** whose address is120 DIANNE TRAIL, COVINGTON, GA 30016the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: REST N 316 that the nature of said business is: . RENTAL-RENTING, LEASING OR SELLING REAL ESTATE

**THIS STATEMENT** is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.

**THIS THE 5th** day of February 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200037**  
**3/10,17,24,31**

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# STAR:

Continued from A1

dedicated people I know.”

“This has always been his dream and Drew has never give up on going after this dream,” she said.

Parker is set to perform shows on March 26 at 7 p.m. at Peaches in Rome, and March 27 at 7 p.m. at The Warehouse in Athens, before embarking on a nationwide tour with Combs and Ashley McBryde. Tickets are available at [drewparkermusic.com](http://drewparkermusic.com).

His self-deprecating video for his new single, “While You’re Gone” combines his self-penned song about drowning his sorrows for a lost love with familiar visuals like a pickup truck bed filled with beer cans and fishing gear.

The song also may coin a new catchphrase with “BP PBR” — combining two familiar brands to which anyone who ran out of adult refreshment in the



**Drew Parker performs at Johnny’s Pizza in Covington during his years performing around the area.**

Special to The Covington News

summertime at the lake in the rural South can relate.

“While You’re Gone” has taken Parker to the top of the Hot 30 Week-end Countdown on SiriusXM satellite radio’s The Highway country music channel.

It soon also will land him on traditional radio stations, he said.

Another of his songs, “The Runway” from his “While You’re Gone” EP, also is in heavy rotation on The Highway.

He now lives in Nashville after moving there in 2016. He and wife Mallory Sauls Parker, an Eastside High School graduate, are parents of a 9-month-old daughter

who was born in mid-2020.

“She was definitely a highlight of my life,” Parker said of his daughter.

A native of the Stewart community in south Newton near Jackson Lake, Parker attended Heard-Mixon Elementary and Indian Creek Middle schools before graduating in 2010 from Alcovy High School.

Parker got his start as a live performer singing at age 3 in front of church crowds.

Stewart Baptist Church was “where the passion for music and the whole thing started for me,” he said.

Along the way, Parker gained confidence as a performer through playing Southern Gospel music in churches beginning at age 12 and learning to play guitar and piano.

He released a number of CDs as a high school Gospel musician, and the Georgia Country and Gospel Music Association awarded him its Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year awards in the male new Gospel category, as well as CD of the year, in 2008.

He later changed the kind of music he wanted to perform — country — after being inspired by musicians like the late Keith Whitley and his classic hit, “Don’t Close Your Eyes.”

However, in Parker’s younger days he also had a passion for baseball.

One of his “earliest dreams” was playing professionally and he grew up in leagues at City Pond Park and elsewhere in Newton County.

He then went on to play for Alcovy High School before an injury ended his playing career his senior year, Parker recalled.

That was a turning point because he then turned his focus solely to becoming a professional musician, he said.

“It’s funny that a moment like that — something as small as getting injured — can change what you had planned for your life,” Parker said.

He knew he needed some way to support himself while earning enough to make the move that any serious country music artist must make to the heart of the country music industry — Nashville.

Parker earned certification as an X-ray technician from the School of Radiologic Technology at Grady Hospital in Atlanta. He then worked part-time for two years at what is now Piedmont Newton Hospital while working on his music and performing around the area.

In 2014, he was invited to audition for “The Voice” and ultimately traveled to Los Angeles to perform for the NBC-TV music competition show but was not chosen to move on.

The encouragement from fellow performers, however, gave him the

push he needed to make the move to Nashville — which he did in September 2015, he said.

At one point he was performing for a crowd of about 50 in Rome, Georgia, and was on the same bill in 2015 with another up-and-coming musician from Asheville, North Carolina, named Luke Combs.

The two hit it off and led to Parker finding success as a songwriter and a songwriting deal with River House/Warner Chappell in September 2017.

Parker was co-writer on Combs’ platinum-selling debut album “This One’s for You,” and Combs’ hit “1, 2 Many,” as well as Jake Owens’ No. 1 single “Homemade.”

He also continued his quest to become a performer in his own right and continued to support himself with live shows at venues like the legendary Ryman Auditorium — until they stopped in March 2020 because of safety concerns surrounding COVID-19.

The songwriting deal, though, helped him get through the past year because it allowed him to earn money without performing — which has become the main source of income for most musicians in the digital age, Parker said.

He said he was looking forward to performing in Rome and Athens this month and Texas in April, before embarking on a series of festival shows and as part of Combs’ national summer tour.

“I’m excited to get out there,” Parker said.

Those who want to have their songs played on country radio stations nationwide need to move to Nashville, Parker said.

He said “anybody can share this dream” of being a country star but it requires hard work and sacrifice.

“It’s the hardest work I’ve ever done in my life,” he said.

Musicians seeking to make a career out of country music could make a “good living” performing in nightclubs and street festivals, he said.

“It depends on your plan,” he said. “I want to share my story with the world.”

The support of his family — many of whom still live in the Newton County area — and owners of local businesses like Jimbo’s Grill at the Mill in Porterdale provided the encouragement he needed to keep working toward his goal of making a career in music, Parker said.

He wrote on a Facebook post in February that he thanked his wife and family for helping him gain his record deal he announced in February.

“Thanks for pushing me all these years, and for not telling me I was crazy to chase this dream,” Parker wrote. “Thanks for the sacrifices that you’ve made so that I could run this dream down.”

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Prep Baseball

# Eagles bested by Greenbrier in region opener

Long balls, lack of timely hits cost Eastside

By **MASON WITTNER**  
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Greenbrier was saved by the Bell. Hosting the Wolfpack in the opening game of their Region 8-AAAAA slate on Monday, the Eastside Eagles had no answer for junior David Bell. The Greenbrier right-hander went seven innings on the mound and allowed just one run while striking out six. He also wreaked havoc at the plate, going 2-for-2 with a pair of towering home runs and an intentional walk. Bell's dominant performance paved the way for the Wolfpack to collect a 4-1 victory at the Eagle's Nest.

"We just couldn't get a timely hit. Their guy pitched well, and he got two pitches to hit and he hit them out of the ballpark," Eastside head coach Brandon Crumbley said. "When you leave good hitters good pitches that are over the plate, they're going to going to hit it and they're going to do damage with it."

The Wolfpack wasted little time before inflicting damage on the Eagles. Eastside left-hander Holden Hall opened the game with a strikeout and fly out before hitting the third batter he faced with a pitch. In the ensuing at-bat, Bell connected on a 2-2 pitch and belted it to right-center field for a



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

**Greenbrier junior David Bell produced a dominant performance for the Wolfpack in Monday night's Region 8-AAAAA opener at Eastside. Bell pitched a complete game, striking out six while allowing only one earned run in the seventh inning. He also went 2-for-2 at the plate with a pair of moonshot home runs to help lift his team to a 4-1 victory.**

two-run blast. Bell came back to the plate to lead off the fourth inning. He produced another similar result, this time sending a 2-2 pitch over the fence in straightaway center field to give Greenbrier a 3-0 advantage.

The Eagles settled in defensively and worked through the remainder of the fourth and fifth innings unscathed. But after Greenbrier junior Jackson Smith led off the sixth inning with a double, and senior Carson Murray laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Smith to third, senior Dalton Wesley was able to lift a sacrifice fly

### Newton County Baseball Roundup

- Newton (6-5) opened Region 8-AAAAAAA play with an 8-3 win over South Gwinnett on Monday. The Rams will face the Comets again Wednesday (away) and Friday (home).
- Alcovy (5-9) was looking to snap a five-game losing skid when it traveled to Evans for its Region 3-AAAAAAA opener on Tuesday. This will be followed up by a home-and-home series against Rockdale County on Thursday (home) and Friday (away).
- Social Circle (5-6) is off and running in Region 8-A Public after sweeping a three-game set with Lake Oconee Academy last week. The Redskins will try to stay hot against Towns County on Wednesday (home) and Friday (away).

deep enough to drive in the Wolfpack's fourth run of the night. Despite the four-run deficient, Eastside continued to apply steady pressure. A fielding error and a pair of singles from juniors Kyle Shivers and Cole Shannon filled the bases with Eagles with two outs in the sixth inning. Bell worked his way out of the jam, however, by inducing a fly out to end the frame. Eastside junior Slade Holloway fired up the Eagle dugout with a one-out triple in seventh inning. He later scored his club's only run on a groundout, but the Eagles were unable

to claw their way back into the contest. "The biggest take-away for us is this region ain't over with. It's anybody's race," Crumbley said. "We've got to regroup, refocus and get back to work. The biggest thing we've got to work on is just gettin that timely hit and pushing runs across."

Eastside will get another crack at Greenbrier on Wednesday when the clubs meet again in Evans at 5:55 p.m. The Eagles will then continue region play with a two-game series against Clarke Central on Friday, March 19, and Monday, March 22.

Prep Soccer

# Lady Eagles outlast rival Loganville in thriller

By **MIKE HARRISON**  
Correspondent

LOGANVILLE, Ga. — Two excellent Region 8-AAAAA soccer teams met on the pitch at Loganville's Red Devil Stadium Friday evening. The Eastside Lady Eagles and the Loganville Lady Red Devils played an end-to-end match that showcased two talented squads from the beginning. In the end, however, it was the girls in green and white who prevailed. Eastside's Bailey Love made a short pass to her right to Lily Oftedal on the sideline who passed the ball forward to Aralyn Everett. Everett proceeded to dribble thru no less than six Loganville defenders before shooting the ball past the Red Devils' charging keeper to net the game's first goal only two and one-half minutes into the match. Although the Lady Eagles took the early lead, Loganville kept pressure on Eastside the entire half. Lady Eagle goalkeep-

er Anna Shelton was outstanding in the first half, notching 11 saves, none bigger than two back-to-back saves on Lady Red Devil corner kicks with just under 17 minutes left in the half. The first corner was from the left side. Shelton blocked a hard shot from close range off her face that left her laying on the pitch. After recovering, Shelton got up and caught the followup corner kick in the air when it came in from the right side. With 14:13 remaining in the first half, the Lady Red Devils finally got one past Shelton. Shelton managed to get a hand on Elizabeth Barnhart's shot but it careened up and into the Eastside goal to tie the game at 1-1. With 10:03 on the clock, a header off a Loganville corner kick glanced off the crossbar resulting in a goal kick for Eastside. Loganville's swarming defense broke up an Everett breakaway before she could get a shot off and later their keeper saved a shot by Everett on another breakaway with only



File | Mason Wittner | The Covington News

**Eastside came out on the right end of a 2-1 decision against Region 8-AAAAA adversary Loganville on Friday night. With the win, the Lady Eagles improved to 8-2-1 overall.**

3:30 left in the half. The play of the Lady Red Devil defense made it where their keeper only had to make three saves in the first half. Early in the second half it was the Lady Eagle defense that was swarming and limiting scoring opportunities. With 33 minutes left in the match, Eastside's Kylie Greer sent a short pass to Karissa Aldridge who sent a long-flighted ball to Lizzie Teasley. Teasley's shot was blocked down by the Loganville keeper, who managed to dive on the ball and control it before Lauren Davis could get a followup shot off from close range. With 23:24 on the game clock, Love sent a corner kick in that Everett headed into the Loganville goal to put the Lady Eagles up, 2-1. But this match was in doubt right to the end.

With 6:25 left to play, Loganville gained control of a loose ball and fired a shot from near the 6-yard box. Shelton made a sliding save to reject the shot on what was the Lady Red Devil's best chance of the 2nd half. The 2-1 win improved the Lady Eagles to 8-2-1 overall and 3-1-0 in Region 8-AAAAA. The loss was the third straight for the Lady Red Devils (4-5-0, 0-3-0) in Re-

gion 8-AAAAA. Their two previous defeats were to Clarke Central and to Walnut Grove, both in penalty kicks. Following the match Eastside coach Joel Singleton said: "I'm so proud of our team. We had several girls playing hurt and were missing two due to sickness. We played hard, together, and really did some things well in regard to possession and ball movement when we needed to. Aralyn came up big for us and kept the pressure on LHS. We didn't get many shot opportunities like we're used to but we made the most of what we got."

With only six regular season games left to play, the Lady Eagles are scheduled to travel to Morgan County Tuesday before returning home to Sharp Stadium for a region matchup against Apalachee next Friday. After a break in their schedule, the Eastside boys (6-2-1, 2-1-0) are scheduled to return to action next week.



College Basketball

# ALL THE BUZZ

## Georgia Tech men's basketball team wins first ACC title since 1993

**By AARON BEARD**  
mwittner@covnews.com

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Jose Alvarado couldn't contain his emotions as the horn sounded, collapsing in disbelief as his Georgia Tech teammates mobbed each other near midcourt. He quickly ran to the celebration that included coach Josh Pastner — still sporting that can't-miss-it clear face shield.

"Coach, you're a champion, man!" Alvarado yelled as he joined him for a post-game TV interview amid fallen-from-the-rafters balloons and confetti.

The Yellow Jackets have their first Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament title in nearly three decades after beating No. 15 Florida State 80-75 in Saturday night's championship game. Just as importantly, they've secured an automatic NCAA Tournament berth to end an 11-year drought.

"A lot of emotions: joy, happiness, everything," said Michael Devoe, the tournament MVP. "I mean, this goes down in history for us."

Devoe scored 20 points for the fourth-seeded Yellow Jackets (17-8), who shot 52% after halftime and repeatedly capitalized on mistakes by the Seminoles to win their first ACC Tournament crown since 1993 and fourth overall.

ACC player of the year Moses Wright and Jordan Usher each had 11 of their 15 points after halftime for Georgia Tech, which got off to an 0-2 start this season with home losses to Georgia State and Mercer. The Yellow Jackets stood 9-8 after a loss at Clemson on a last-second shot Feb. 12 to find themselves facing bubble uncertainty.

But they haven't lost since. And there's no doubt about the NCAA tourney now after a remarkable climb, not after a strong finish against the second-seeded Seminoles (16-6).

"Our guys have just scrapped, fought, kicked, clawed — whatever they had to do to find a way to get wins this year," Pastner said. "And I'm just so darn proud of these young men."

Scottie Barnes had 21 points on 8-for-10



Courtesy of Georgia Tech Athletics

**Georgia Tech took down No. 15 Florida State, 80-75, on Saturday to claim their first Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Championship since 1993. With the win, the Yellow jackets also punched their ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 11 years.**

shooting for Florida State, which shot 56% but committed 25 turnovers that led to 31 points for the Yellow Jackets.

They came in all kinds of ways, from the Seminoles bobbling catches and having passes deflected to just throwing balls straight out of bounds. The 25 turnovers fell one shy of tying a tournament title-game record since the league began tracking the number in 1961, while Georgia Tech's 15 steals — five by Alvarado — was a title-game record since the league began charting it in 1976.

"We did turn the ball over a couple of times ourselves, what we call self-inflicted turnovers," FSU coach Leonard Hamilton said. "But for the most part, I think that they forced us into turnovers. ... I want to give them credit because they did an unbelievable job of just stripping us from the ball, and their defense created a mindset with us where we were unsure as to what we were supposed to do."

The Yellow Jackets avoided such trouble with just seven turnovers. But they were particularly steady down the stretch, making six of eight shots over the final eight minutes as well as 11 of 12 free throws in the



Courtesy of Georgia Tech Athletics

**Senior Jordan Usher (4) dunks over a defender en route to an ACC title victory over Florida State. The Yellow Jackets will enter the NCAA Tournament as a No. 9 seed and are scheduled to face No. 8 Loyola Chicago on Friday, March 19, at 4 p.m.**

final 90 seconds.

That included Alvarado knocking down a pair with nine seconds left after shaking off a hard fall, which had come right after Barnes' 3 pulled the Seminoles to 76-73.

The only thing that didn't go according to plan was the Yellow Jackets' celebration. Alvarado stripped RayQuan Evans and fed Devoe for a layup with 0.6 seconds left, but the Georgia Tech players began spilling onto the court early to celebrate. That led to a technical foul and two free throws for FSU, though the outcome was decided and the Georgia Tech party had begun.

Pastner kept that face shield in place, too, even as he stood atop a ladder — socially distanced from his team below — and cut down the final strands of net.

It was an unusual final pairing in a tournament altered by the coronavirus pandemic. No. 16 Virginia and Duke withdrew after positive COVID-19 tests within their programs. The title matchup marked the second finale without a North Carolina-based team, the other being Georgia Tech's win against Virginia in 1990.

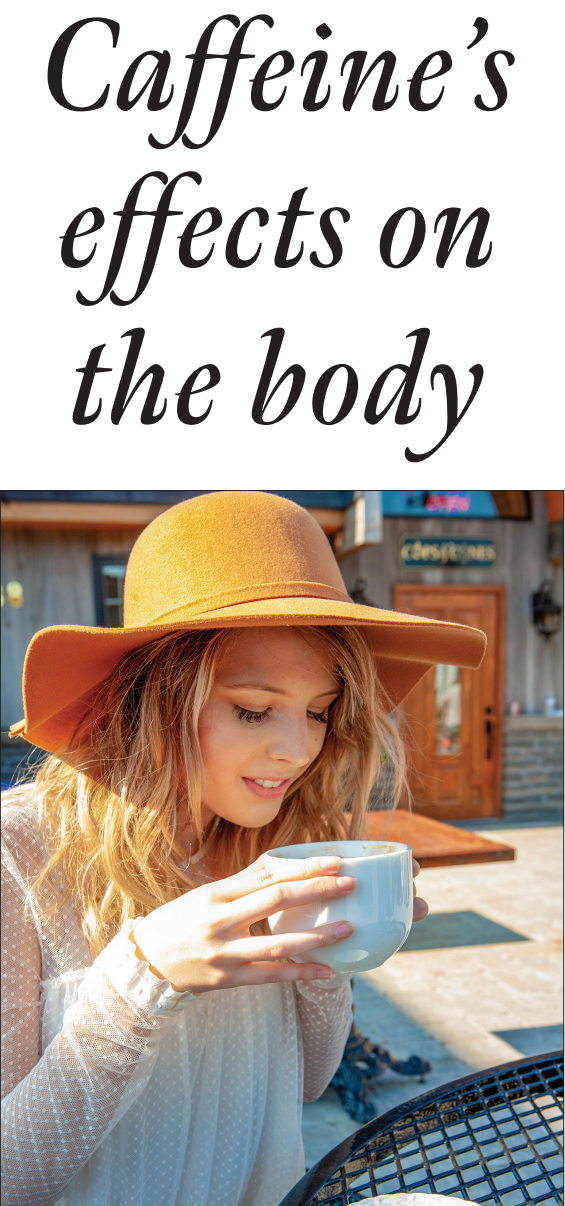
Now the Yellow Jackets finally have another.

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Caffeine, which can be found in coffee, has various effects on the body, some of which are beneficial.

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Caffeine is a vital component of many people’s daily routines. A morning cup of caffeinated coffee provides the boost people need to get out the door and on their way each morning.

The history of caffeine and its use in beverages is mired in mystery and myth, though the U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that the historical origins of caffeinated tea and coffee are relatively recent. The US-NLM indicates that coffee did not become widespread in Europe until the 18th and 19th centuries, remaining something of a luxury until somewhat recently. And while England’s love of tea is widely known, caffeinated tea did not become common in Britain until the 18th century.

While it might have taken its time to take root in many cultures across the globe, there’s no denying the prevalence of caffeine in the 21st century. A bitter substance that occurs naturally in more than 60 plants, caffeine can be found in coffee beans; tea leaves; kola nuts, which are used to flavor sodas; and cacao pods, which are vital to the creation of many chocolate products.

Many people get their caffeine from beverages, and the amount of caffeine such people consume may depend on which beverages they choose. For example, the USNLM says that an eight-ounce cup of coffee typically contains anywhere from 95 to 200 milligrams of caffeine. A 12-ounce can of soda is considerably less caffeinated, containing about 35 to 45 milligrams of caffeine on average. The extra boost people get from sodas might be due to sugar, as sodas are notoriously high in sugar.

Caffeine has various effects on the body, some of which are beneficial. For example, the USNLM notes that caffeine is a diuretic, which means it can help the body get rid of extra salt and water by increasing the need to urinate. Caffeine also stimulates the central nervous system, providing that morning boost of energy that so many coffee drinkers rely on every day.

But not all side effects of caffeine consumption are beneficial. Because it increases the release of acid in the stomach, caffeine can sometimes contribute to upset stomach or heartburn. In addition, caffeine can interfere with the absorption of calcium in the body, though the organization American Bone Health notes that such interference may only occur among heavy coffee drinkers who consume upwards of four cups of coffee per day.

The USNLM notes that most people can consume up to 400 milligrams of caffeine per day without suffering any ill effects. But exceeding that amount may contribute to a number of unwanted side effects, including restlessness, insomnia, headaches, dizziness, dehydration, anxiety, and rapid or abnormal heart rhythm. It’s also important to recognize that some people are more sensitive to caffeine than others, so what’s good for the goose is not necessarily good for the gander.

Caffeine plays a vital role in many people’s lives, and understanding its effects can help people make smart decisions regarding their caffeine consumption.



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Many St. Patrick’s Day traditions have been passed down through generations. This includes various foods and recipes that are native to Ireland that have spread around the globe thanks to the vast Irish diaspora.

# Taste of Ireland

Try cooking traditional Irish cuisine to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS  
news@covnews.com

St. Patrick’s Day is an opportunity for the world to celebrate Ireland’s patron saint and Irish culture with family, friends, food, and fun. Many St. Patrick’s Day traditions have been passed down through generations. This includes various foods and recipes that are native to Ireland that have spread around the globe thanks to the vast Irish diaspora.

When dishing up new traditions at home, try this recipe for “Traditional Irish Colcannon”

courtesy of Kerrygold, producers of Irish butters and cheeses. Colcannon is a mashed potato recipe made even more savory with the inclusion of cabbage and other ingredients. Serve with corned beef, Irish bacon or Irish stew.

**Traditional Irish Colcannon**  
*Serves 8*

Ingredients:  
2 pounds red potatoes, cut into large chunks  
3/4 cup milk  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
6 tablespoons Kerry-

gold Salted Butter, plus additional melted butter, if desired

1 cup chopped onion  
6 cups finely shredded green cabbage (or one 10-ounce package)  
1 cup (about four ounces) shredded Kerrygold Dubliner® Cheese or Blarney Castle Dubliner® Cheese  
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions:  
Cook potatoes in boiling water about 20 minutes or until very tender; drain well and mash with skins on, add-

ing milk and salt.

While potatoes are cooking, melt butter in a large skillet.

Add onion; cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until very soft.

Add cabbage; cook and stir for five minutes more or until very soft.

Stir cabbage mixture and Kerrygold cheese into hot potatoes and season with pepper.

Mound onto serving plates and make a well in the center of each. Pour a little melted butter into each well, if desired. Garnish to taste.

# Dessert gets healthy makeover

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Peanut butter is used in a multitude of recipes, from savory dishes to desserts. Peanuts are a strong source of protein, fiber and heart-healthy fats, and they’re also rich in potassium and B vitamins. Even though they can be high in calories, peanuts are nutrient-dense, so they can make great additions to most diets.

When peanuts are included in desserts, people may want to find healthy adaptations so that it’s possible to indulge without all of the guilt. Consider this lightened-up version of “Peanut Butter Bars” from “Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Cookbook” (RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC) by the Taste of Home Kitchens.

**Peanut Butter Bars**  
*Makes 3 dozen*

Ingredients:  
1 3/4 cups reduced-fat creamy peanut butter, divided  
1/3 cup butter, softened  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 cups quick-cooking oats  
1 teaspoon baking soda

Frosting  
4 1/2 cups confectioners’ sugar  
1/3 cup fat-free milk



Metro Creative Services  
These Peanut Butter Bars are lower in sugar and fat than traditional recipes.

1/4 cup baking cocoa  
1/4 cup butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Directions:  
In a large bowl, cream one cup peanut butter, butter, brown sugar, and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the applesauce and vanilla. Combine the flour, oats and baking soda; gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well

(batter will be thick.)

Spread into a 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 22 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes; spread with the remaining peanut butter. Cool to room temperature, then refrigerate for 30 minutes.

In a large bowl, beat frosting ingredients until light and fluffy. Spread over the peanut butter layer. Cut into bars.



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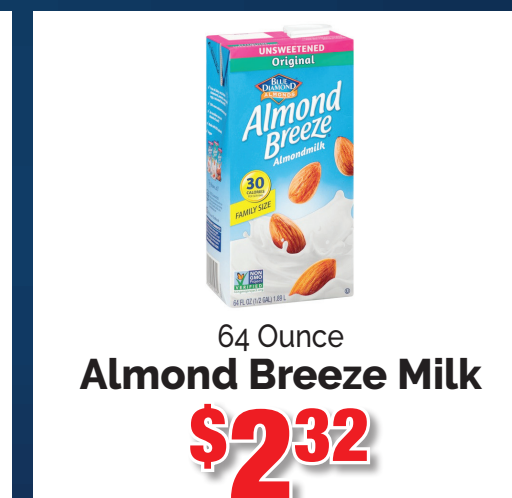
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**\$8.99 LB.**



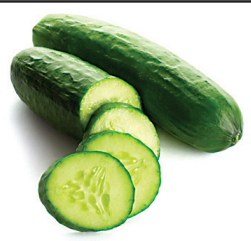
Family Pack, Boneless  
**Center Cut  
Pork Chops**  
**\$2.49 LB.**



Family Pack, Boneless  
**Wafer Thin  
Pork Chops**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



1 Pound  
**Florida  
Strawberries**  
**2/\$5.00**



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



**Yellow or  
Zucchini  
Squash**  
**\$1.19 LB.**



Fresh  
**Broccoli  
Florets**  
**\$2.49 LB.**



Fresh  
**Deli Made  
Cole Slaw**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



Boneless  
**Country  
Style  
Pork Ribs**  
**\$2.49 LB.**



Boneless  
**Thick Cut  
Pork Chops**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



CAB Choice  
**Stew,  
Diet Lean or  
Stir Fry**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



CAB Choice, Family Pack  
**Cubed  
Steak**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



CAB Choice, Family Pack  
**T-Bone  
Steak**  
**\$10.99 LB.**



5 Pound Bag  
**Sliced  
Smoked  
Sausage**  
**\$5.00**



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



12 Ounce,  
Regular or Thick  
**Gwaltney  
Sliced Bacon**  
**2/\$7.00**



16 Ounce  
**Sheboygan  
Brats or Italian  
Sausage**  
**2/\$6.00**



27 Ounce  
**Smoky Farms  
Sausage  
Patties**  
**\$3.99**



Vacuum Pack  
**Baby Back  
Pork Ribs**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



Regular or Italian  
**Market  
Made  
Sausage**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



**Hormel Pork  
Tenderloin  
Tips**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



14.1-15.6 Ounce  
**Oscar Mayer  
Uploaded  
Lunchables**  
**2/\$6.00**



1 Pound, Mild or Hot  
**Tennessee Pride  
Sausage Roll**  
**2/\$6.00**



**Red, Orange  
or Yellow  
Bell Peppers**  
**2/\$3.00**



Green, Red or Romaine  
**Leaf  
Lettuce**  
**\$1.19 EA.**



**Dole  
Pineapples**  
**2/\$5.00**



6 Pack, 1/2 Liters,  
Assorted  
**Pepsi  
Products**  
**4/\$9.00**



14-18 Ounce  
**Sweet Baby Ray's  
BBQ Sauce**  
**2/\$3.00**



16 Ounce  
**Ken's  
Salad  
Dressing**  
**2/\$4.00**



10 Ounce  
**Sweet Sue  
Premium Chunk  
White Chicken**  
**2/\$5.00**



4.25 Ounce  
**Underwood  
Chicken  
Spread**  
**2/\$4.00**



10 Ounce  
**Heinz  
57 Sauce**  
**2/\$7.00**



6 Pack  
**Kool-Aid  
Bursts**  
**5/\$5.00**



16 Pound  
**Kingsford  
Charcoal**  
**\$9.99**



Cracked Pepper, Smoked  
Mesquite or Low Sodium  
**Sara Lee  
Turkey Breast**  
**\$5.99 LB.**



Hickory Smoked Honey  
or Cajun  
**Kretschmar  
Turkey Breast**  
**\$6.99 LB.**



**Kretschmar  
Pepper Jack  
Cheese**  
**\$6.99 LB.**



1 Pound, IQF  
**Nature's  
Best Catfish  
Fillets**  
**\$7.99**

**Store Hours: 7 Days 8am-9pm • No Rainchecks**

**This Ad Good Wednesday, March 17th thru Tuesday, March 23rd, 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  
17

Thur  
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Fri  
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Sat  
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Sun  
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Mon  
22

Tues  
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