



# The Covington News

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021



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## Inside:

### 'ANIMAL WAX MUSEUM'

Piedmont Academy second grade class gets creative in learning  
**See EDUCATION, B4**



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## Inside:

### SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

When school's out, make the most of your summer break! **See C1**



## His Word

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 20:21, KJV



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

From left, father Scott Woodall and mother Brooke Woodall surround Trent Woodall after his pinning ceremony Saturday at American Legion Post 233 in Loganville.

# 'Something important in my life'

Newton teen earns highest rank attainable in military-styled leadership organization

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

LOGANVILLE, Ga. — He has worked toward this day since age 11. Now, Eastside High School junior Trent Woodall has moved up to the rank of chief petty officer — the highest rank attainable — in a national youth leadership development organization called the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC). Woodall's parents, Scott and Brooke Woodall, pinned his new rank on his uniform during a Saturday ceremony at American Legion Post 233 in Loganville. It was only the 10th pinning ceremony in the national program's 63-year history, said Commanding Officer Lt. Carol Smith of the 233rd Seabee Battalion. "I couldn't have done

it without all the cadets here," Trent Woodall said. The new rank designates more authority for Woodall in the organization after his promotion from petty officer first class (PO1). Officials in the organization's National Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, approved Woodall's new rank upon a recommendation from Smith. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) is for ages 13 to 17 and includes a junior program, the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC), for ages 10 through 13. It is sponsored by the Navy League of the United States, which is a national association that advocates "for a strong, credible United States Navy, United States

**See LIFE, A3**

# KICKING OFF SUMMER



Denise Etheridge | The Walton Tribune

Porterdale residents flocked to B.C. Crowell Park on Friday for a spirited kickball game, organized by Police Chief Jason Cripps.

## Porterdale celebrates local effort to revitalize parks, communal areas

**By DENISE ETHERIDGE**  
The Walton Tribune

PORTERDALE, Ga. — Children swarmed Porterdale's ball field at B.C. Crowell Park on Friday for a spirited kickball game against first responders and other adult volunteers. Porterdale Police Chief Jason Cripps organized the free community event to showcase local volunteers' ongoing efforts to revitalize Porterdale's parks and communal areas. "It's all about the kids," Cripps said. Providing children, teens and their families a

**See KICKING, A3**



Denise Etheridge | The Walton Tribune

Scoops Ice Cream brought in a food truck and gave away free ice cream for the event in downtown Porterdale.

Volume 156, No. 42

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**Inside**

Discover a crowd-pleasing chicken dish recipe

**See FOOD, B1**

**Weather Forecast**

Wednesday, May 26  
High: 92° Low: 66°  
• Sunny and clear.

Thursday, May 27  
High: 93° Low: 70°  
• Sunny and clear.

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# Ga. Supreme Court overturns ruling to suppress suspect statements

## Woman believed she was in custody when initially speaking to investigators; wasn't read Miranda rights

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Georgia Supreme Court has ruled Newton County sheriff's deputies did not have a murder suspect in custody in 2019 when she made statements about the shooting death of her mother. Justices wrote in a unanimous decision that a Newton County Superior Court judge wrongly ruled in 2020 that murder suspect Carly Walden's statements to an investigator could be suppressed because she believed she already was in custody on the charges before she was read her Miranda rights in April 2019. Justices concluded that "considering the totality of the circumstances" evidence in the record from the Superior Court hearing did not warrant the Newton County judge's ruling that a "reasonable person in Walden's situation would believe that she was in custody" before being read her Miranda rights. "We thus conclude that the trial court erred in concluding that Walden's pre-Miranda statements to (sheriff's Investigator Clinton) French were due to be suppressed," the ruling stated. The Miranda rule mandates that a suspect taken into police custody must be told about their rights — such as the right to having an attorney present — before they may be



File | The Covington News  
**The late Superior Court Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. sits on the bench in 2020. The state Supreme Court recently overturned his ruling to suppress statements of a Newton County murder suspect.**

interrogated. But the Supreme Court ruling also stated Superior Court Judge Horace Johnson Jr. was correct in declining to suppress other statements Walden made to a deputy at the scene and during a ride in the deputy's vehicle to the sheriff's office. Walden is awaiting trial on charges of Malice Murder and other crimes related to the April 28, 2019, shooting death of her mother, Andrea Walker, at the home they shared on Alcovy Way in Covington. The Supreme Court's May 3 ruling stated that a court must consider the "totality of the circumstances" without "regard for the subjective views of the suspect or the interrogating officer" to determine if a suspect is in custody. "Whether a defendant was in custody for purposes of Miranda is a mixed question of fact and law," the ruling stated. It stated the "proper inquiry" in the case was "how a reasonable person in [Walden]'s shoes would have perceived [her] situation." "Although there is no one dispositive factor, important considerations include 'the location of the questioning, its duration, statements made during the interview, the presence or absence of physical restraints during the questioning, and the release of the interviewee at the end of the questioning,'" the ruling stated. "GOING TO TAKE A RIDE" A summary of the case in the ruling said that justices were able to see firsthand what occurred because it was recorded on video. It said Walden called police, reported a shooting and claimed an unidentified man was responsible for her mother's murder. Sheriff's Deputy Davon Sydnor followed other officers in arriving at the victim's home at about 7:26 a.m. on the morning of the shooting, in response to a 7:10 a.m. call to 911. A few minutes after Sydnor's arrival, Walden carried a cell phone as she followed him toward his vehicle. She sat in the back seat of the vehicle and talked to Sydnor, while he stood by the open door of the car. "Highly agitated, she claimed that some men she had brought home from a party that night had tried to rape her and her mother.

"Deputy Sydnor asked her a number of questions about the men, their descriptions, their vehicle, and which way they may have escaped, although his interest on that point faded somewhat when she mentioned that female companions of the men had danced on top of the ceiling fan." Shortly thereafter, Sydnor was told by radio to "detain" Walden, stop talking to her, and transport her to the sheriff's office. "It does not appear from the video recording that Walden noticed the instruction that she be 'detained,' however, because she was talking in a focused and intense manner when that message came across the radio and continued her intense talking even after the message had been transmitted. "In contrast, a short time later another radio message came through that mentioned taking Walden to an interview room at the sheriff's office so she could compose herself (but made no mention of detaining her). During this message, Walden leaned forward to listen. "Deputy Sydnor eventually motioned for Walden to stop talking, visually checked her for weapons, and asked her to fasten her seat belt. He also told her that she was 'not in any type of trouble' 'right now.'" Sydnor then asked Walden twice, "We're going to take a ride to the sheriff's office, OK?" Walden nodded both times and agreed, the summary stated. "Walden was not handcuffed as they proceeded to the sheriff's office, and she retained the cell phone that she had been carrying. "Deputy Sydnor asked her no questions about what happened as he drove, although he told her to put her seat belt back on when she removed it and to stop moving around. "Upon arrival at the sheriff's office, Deputy Sydnor helped Walden look for the cell phone, which had briefly gone missing, at times turning his back to her as she stood in the parking lot. "At one point, he told her not to touch him and to stop moving around. Walden remained unhandcuffed as she and Deputy Sydnor moved around the sheriff's complex, seeking access to an interview room. After finding a room, "As they waited, with the door open, Deputy Sydnor did not question Walden about the circumstances surrounding her mother's death. "When Walden volunteered information or asked questions, Deputy Sydnor largely did not respond or told her to wait for investigators. "Walden did not physically attempt to leave the room while waiting for the investigator, she cannot be heard on the video recordings asking if she could leave, and

See OVERTURNS, A3

### CLARIFICATION

In a caption for a photo that accompanied a story titled "BOC rescinds Juneteenth contribution" on page A1 of the May 22-23 edition, Timothy Birt was an organizer of a June 19, 2020, event that included a presentation about the Juneteenth observance. He was not an organizer of the annual Juneteenth celebration in Newton County, said two leaders of the group that organizes the event.

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Congratulations to the  
Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!

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Pursuit of Excellence

### OBITUARY

**Donald Wayne "Don" Thomas**  
*Evans Funeral Home*

Evans Funeral Home of Jefferson announces the death of Mr. Donald Wayne "Don" Thomas, age 70 of Covington. Mr. Thomas was born in Atlanta, a son of the late David Thomas, Jr. and the late Margie Jean Cook Thomas. Mr. Thomas was a retired heavy equipment operator with the

Hanson Co. In addition to his parents, Mr. Thomas is preceded by a brother, Steve Thomas. Survivors include three brothers, Rick Thomas and his wife Melanie of Commerce; Bobby Thomas and his wife Selena of Adolphus, Kentucky; and John Thomas of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Sister, Beth Morris and her husband Rodney of Fernandina Beach, Florida. A life-long friend, John Martin "J.W." also survives along with several nieces and nephews. Graveside services will be held 2 p.m. Friday, May 21,

2021, from Melwood Cemetery, 5170 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stone Mountain, Georgia. The family will receive friends 10 a.m. to noon at the funeral home prior to the service. Memorials in memory of Mr. Thomas may be made to the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org Evans Funeral Home, Inc, 1350 Winder Highway, Jefferson, Georgia. Online condolences may be made at [evansfuneralhomeinc.com](http://evansfuneralhomeinc.com).

## THE NEWS' FIRST RESPONDER OF THE WEEK

**Sgt. Matt Davis**

Davis has been a member of the Covington Fire Dept since 2002, and currently serves as the C-shift Engineer for Squad 21. He is also one of department's pilots certified to operate the tactical drone.

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# GBI arrests two Covington men on charges related to child exploitation

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Two Newton County men are facing charges related to the possession and distribution of child pornography following their recent arrests by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Covington residents Cesar Valenzuela, 19, and Jeremy Mimbs, 40, were arrested in separate cases by the GBI’s Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit Thursday, May 20, and charged with Sexual Exploitation of Children, including the possession of child pornography.

A news release about one arrest stated, “The GBI CEACC Unit began an investigation into Valenzuela’s online activity after receiving multiple cyber tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) indicating Valenzuela was uploading child sexual abuse material using popular online platforms.”

It stated that the CEACC Unit, with help from the Newton County Sheriff’s Office, executed a search warrant at Valenzuela’s residence Thursday, May 20.

“A search of Valenzuela’s residence and the preview of electronic devices produced evidence that led to the arrest of Valenzuela on the same date,” the GBI stated in its release.

Valenzuela was taken into custody and booked into the Newton County Jail Thursday, May 20, according to jail records.

Mimbs was charged with four counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children and remained in the Newton County Jail

Monday, May 24.

The unit began an investigation into Mimbs’ online activity after receiving a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) indicating Mimbs was uploading child sexual abuse material using a popular online platform, the GBI stated last week.

GBI agents, with assistance from the Covington Police Department, executed a search warrant at Mimbs’ residence and used the same methods as in the alleged case against Valenzuela to gather evidence, a GBI release stated.

Mimbs was taken into custody and booked into the Newton County Jail. A bond was set at \$40,000.

The investigations were part of an ongoing GBI task force effort to identify suspects in the child pornography trade.

It is part of a program developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, called Internet Crimes against Children, that was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teens using the Internet, the proliferation of child pornography, and the heightened online activity by predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims, according to the GBI.

Anyone with information about other cases of child exploitation is asked to contact the GBI Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit at 404-270-8870. Tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS(8477), online at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online>, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

## OVERTURNS:

Continued from A2

Deputy Sydnor cannot be heard telling her that she could not leave.”

French then entered the interview room and, “At no time prior to beginning the interview can Investigator French be heard on the video recording of their interaction telling Walden that she could not leave.”

“Investigator French asked some preliminary questions, but did not provide Miranda warnings, before asking Walden to tell him what happened. She then spoke for less than six minutes, during which time she said that she had accidentally shot her mother.

“Investigator French stopped the interview and stepped out of the room. Walden never asked or attempted to leave the interview room during the time she was speaking with Investigator French.

“Deputy Sydnor returned to the interview room a few minutes later to sit with Walden; he did not ask her questions about the shooting and left the door open. During this time, Walden attempted to get up from her chair at several points, and Deputy Sydnor told her not to get up.

“Left alone for a while, she opened the door and attempted to walk out; Deputy Sydnor asked her what she was doing and she said she was ‘getting away from you.’ Deputy Sydnor directed her back in the room and told her to sit down and stay in the room.”

French returned to the interview room more than three hours later and read Miranda warnings to her before attempting to interview her a second time. Walden promptly asked for an attorney, and French ended the interview, according to the summary.

### MOTION TO SUPPRESS

After being arrested, she was indicted and filed a motion to suppress the statements that she made to officers on the date of her arrest.

At the hearing on her motion, Walden’s attorney changed the motion to narrow it to the statements Walden gave in the interview room — all of which preceded the Miranda warnings — and agreed that the only issue was whether she was in custody during that interview, the summary stated.

“Walden testified at the hearing that she had not wanted to sit in the backseat of Deputy Sydnor’s vehicle or walk to the interview room with him, but she believed that she was in custody and had no choice.”

Assistant District Attorney Jillian Hall, who prosecuted the case, said Judge Horace Johnson’s ruling “implicitly” said it was “reasonable for her to believe that she was in custody while she was in the interview room before or at the time that she gave her initial statement” to a sheriff’s investigator.

The Supreme Court rul-

ing said the state appealed after the judge ordered that statements she made in the interview room be suppressed without giving any findings or explanation for the ruling.

“We agree with the state that the record does not support a conclusion that Walden was in custody at the time in question.”

It said Walden emphasized she was never told she was free to leave, “a factor that may support a determination that a defendant was in custody.”

Also, the video showed Sydnor told Walden that she was “not in any type of trouble” which “may indicate to a defendant that he or she is not in custody for purposes of Miranda.”

“But the video evidence contradicts her testimony, clearly showing that Walden never physically attempted to walk out of the interview room before she gave the statements in question to Investigator French. At no time prior to the statements at issue can Deputy Sydnor or Investigator French be heard on the recordings telling Walden that she was not free to leave.

“And although Walden emphasized that she was interviewed in an interrogation room, by an investigator, without any family members present, these factors by themselves would not support a finding that she was in custody.”

The ruling was unanimous.

## KICKING:

Continued from A1

place to recreate in their hometown benefits residents and helps keep kids out of trouble, the chief said.

An estimated 300 people enjoyed grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, snacks and soft drinks. Scoops Ice Cream in Covington brought in a food truck and gave away free ice cream and flavored ice to the delight of young and old. Kids received free T-shirts to take home as a memento of the day.

Cripps refereed the kickball game and facilitated activities for younger children — like a water balloon version of dodgeball and toy giveaways.

Music poured from the loudspeakers, and prior to the game attendees stood for the National Anthem and a rededication of the rejuvenated field where lifelong residents’ parents, grandparents and great-grandparents once played.

The field has recently been graded, new bases added and after more than 10 years the lights are back on, said Porterdale City Manager Frank Etheridge. Etheridge said volunteers worked for weeks to ready the field and last week Critical Power Partners completed their portion of the project. Groups can now play on the ball

field at night, under the safety and security of LED lights, according to Etheridge.

Etheridge said the kickball event was supported by the city council, several of whom donated to the celebration. Councilwoman Kay Piper provided toys to be given away, and Councilwoman Linda Finger assisted financially and in-kind.

Local businesses and individuals stepped up, donating time and money as well. One dedicated group of volunteers asked to remain anonymous. Much like the fairytale shoemakers’ elves that bettered the lives of an

old shoemaker and his wife, these folks don’t want recognition for their hard work. They say their reward is seeing the smiling faces of Porterdale residents.

“This park will be the catalyst that the residents will notice,” Finger said. “Especially the old timers. They remember using this ball field.”

“It’s an ongoing effort,” Councilman Michael Harper said. “Jason (Cripps) has been doing this for years. He just needs to say he’s having an event and they come. The community makes it successful. You probably won’t find another police chief that does as


much as Jason does for the community.”

If interested in volunteering on other ongoing community projects

or to donate, contact Chief Cripps at 770-786-2217.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Tom Spigolon news editor

# Good idea coming to life in west Newton

Newton County’s newest public recreational feature is designed to serve the youngest among us and was the brainchild of a motivated teen who wanted to improve the quality of life in his community. It is an example of what happens when a good idea meets a way to bring it to life.



The splash pad covers about half an acre and is designed to get its users wet without dunking their heads under water. It’s designed for youngsters and is going to be popular, I predict — especially since admission will be free.

In fact, I hope county recreation department officials assigned to supervise the facility will enforce a rule of a maximum age limit so older kids won’t be muscling younger users out of the way to cool off during the upcoming Georgia summer heat.

Recreation money from proceeds of the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax was combined with \$2,000 raised by Harrison Kirkham. The project cost an estimated total of \$260,000.

The Splash Pad should have opened in 2020 but a number of factors, including COVID, delayed it, said county recreation director Dwayne Mask.

Kirkham is a former Eastside High School student and member of Boy Scout Troop 93 when he originated the design for the splash pad in 2016 as a public service project required to earn his Eagle Scout rank.

Multiple speakers at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and demonstration last week recounted how Kirkham did most of the talking as his parents listened during presentations to Chairman Marcello Banes and recreation department officials.

Harrison had a plan for a water park that could be used by all young people, regardless of any physical disabilities, rather than a swimming pool to avoid the con-

stant danger of drowning for very young children.

The future engineering student, who is nearing the end of a two-year mission trip for his church, then went about the task of designing it and raising funds.

“He made our job very easy,” said Lanier Sims, the former District 2 county commissioner.

Harrison’s mother, Amanda Kirkham, told the crowd of county and state officials and community members about having to sometimes “poke and prod” her son to “make sure he stayed on the timeline” of the project amid his other responsibilities.

She said afterward that county officials used her son’s design. Harrison also did a small portion of the fundraising for bricks that contained donor names. He and his troop members and volunteers built benches to be placed at the park.

Several teachers at Eastside High School and the Newton County Theme School also contributed money, Mrs. Kirkham said.

She said he recorded his work on social media, including a Facebook page called Newton County Splash Park where his past posts recorded his progress.

Harrison was able to meet the leadership requirements for the Eagle rank by “leading up” the Board of Commissioners members with project ideas, plans, finding vendors and other tasks, she said.

“He also led his peers and volunteers in fundraising efforts and the construction of the benches, including securing the materials to the delivery ...,” Mrs. Kirkham said.

Harrison, by phone from Seattle, Washington, credited his mom with playing a key part in making it all happen during its more than four years of evolution.

A good idea has come to life, and the community is about to benefit.

*Tom Spigolon is news editor of The Covington News. He may be reached at [tspigolon@covnews.com](mailto:tspigolon@covnews.com).*

David Carroll columnist

# Let’s flip the switch

“It was like someone flipped a switch.”

That was my son in Washington, reporting on what he saw last weekend as he walked the streets.



“One day, everyone was wearing a mask, with no eye contact or small talk, and the next day, it was like everything was back to normal.”

Similar scenes have been reported around the nation, and in our region, as mask mandates are being lifted, and more people are now fully vaccinated. We are not out of the woods yet, and epidemiologists are sounding alarms about the need for children to be vaccinated when health officials approve. But it appears likely that this summer and fall, we can ease back into our schools, jobs, and social life.

Soon, those eerie days of no traffic, and cardboard fans at sporting events will be a distant memory.

For the most part, I am thrilled about that. Why wouldn’t I be?

Yes, I did say “for the most part.” True confession: I have some issues.

Oh, I’m totally comfortable without the mask, especially outdoors, and even inside around other vaccinated people. But now, I have to make good on all the empty promises I have made.

There are about 40 people with whom I am supposed to have lunch. During the past year, I have ended many a phone conversation by saying, “Hey, when this

is all over, we need to get together.” The reply, each time, has been, “Absolutely! As soon as it’s safe again.”

So when am I going to schedule 40 lunches? I have also postponed news stories, interviews, speeches, meetings, family gatherings, and anything else that requires face-to-face contact. Now those bills are coming due, all at once.

Now about the mask. I’ll probably wear one in doctors’ offices, hospitals and crowded indoor events for a while longer just to be on the safe side. I never thought I would say this, but I will miss it in the winter, because it kept my nose warm. And my shopping trips have been faster and more efficient. By wearing a mask (and a ball cap), I’ve been “hiding out” during the past year. Acquaintances from 30 years ago haven’t stopped me to reminisce about that softball game we played, or if I still live in that house we moved into in 1984. In the pre-mask world, these awkward conversations would begin in the produce department, where we would seemingly exhaust all conversation possibilities. Inevitably, we would link up again in the checkout line for more random banter. So my undercover days are nearing an end.

Meanwhile, many politicians and social media trolls continue to fan the flames of division, even in what should be a celebratory time. Unlike our past victories over enemies both seen and unseen, this one seems bittersweet.

When the soldiers and sailors of World War II returned home, we had parades. We honored the first responders of 9/11 as heroes, and rightfully so. When will we show our appreciation for the scientists and medical workers who worked nonstop, at great personal risk, to save our lives?

Instead, many Americans would rather shout at store employees, use the virus as a political football, and berate those who choose to be cautious. It has gotten so bad, that the President himself is pleading with Americans to be kind, much like a new middle school teacher whose classroom is overrun with bullies.

He said, “If you’re fully vaccinated, you can now go mask-less in most settings. But remember: it’s going to take time for everyone who wants to get vaccinated to get their shots, and some vaccinated people prefer masks. So please, if you see someone with a mask, treat them with kindness.”

I can assure you that his plea changed absolutely zero minds among those who display their poor manners like a badge of pride.

I plan to pick and choose my spots when wearing a mask. It looks I will have plenty of opportunities to do so, as all those events that were erased from my 2020 calendar are starting to reappear. Yes, I’m grumbling about ditching the sweat pants and sneakers, but it’s a small price to pay. Let’s flip the switch.

*David Carroll is a Chattanooga TV news anchor and radio host.*

Denise Etheridge columnist

# Being involved within community, helping just feels good

Finally my husband and I can take the wheels off our gypsy wagon and set down deep roots.



Denise Etheridge

We moved around a lot when Frank was in the Air Force. Over the past decade, we made numerous moves around the state of Georgia due to my husband’s job obligations or mine.

Now we’re both determined to claim a little corner of Newton County as our enduring homestead.

We bought what we consider our retirement home about six months ago and now seem to be emulating our parents when they reached this stage of mature life.

Frank and I are busy on the weekends with projects inside and outside our new home. Lowe’s and Home Depot, along with Ace Hardware,

are our go-to places. I never thought I would get as excited about mulch and edging as I would potted plants and flowers.

Frank and I are also socializing more now that we’re vaccinated and pandemic restrictions are easing. We’re chatting with neighbors over the fence and have had new friends over for several informal dinners at our house. Before this week, the weather wasn’t too hot and we’ve been able to grill and eat out on our patio. Small pleasures feel like heaven in this tumultuous world.

What Frank and I are discovering is a sense of community.

We experienced a sense of community with the Air Force, but it involved Frank’s job description and unit, not the place we were assigned. Unlike many young military spouses today who don’t always take advantage of the support network offered them, I certainly did. Frank was gone a lot so I took advan-

tage of the military’s support network for family members. By helping other young parents with a deployed spouse, I eased my own loneliness and stress of separation.

I volunteered for clubs and activities on every base we were assigned. Frank did, too, when he wasn’t on a temporary assignment. In other words, we got involved in “the community,” no matter the geographical location.

Even after the military, Frank and I would try to get involved. Frank was active in Rotary Club and I was a member of Lions Club. The kids and I helped organize the angel tree at Christmas when I worked for the Walton Sun. Frank assisted with distributing back packs filled with school supplies to at-risk kids in Cuthbert. And the list goes on.

On Friday, Frank and I attended a kickball event held in the historic mill town of Porterdale. Local volunteers spruced up the play-

ground and ball field at B.C. Crowell Park. A kickball event was held to launch the revitalized park and bring Porterdale’s children and their families out to play. Along with games and activities, there was music and grilled food. The whole shebang was organized by local volunteers and supported by generous donations from individual Porterdale residents and businesses.

I think Walton County and its cities have that community spirit, too, among their residents. Monroe, Loganville and Social Circle all have events planned this summer, like concerts and festivals. When storms have come through, or people are going through a hard time financially — this Walton community has stepped up.

I’ve browsed through Tribune articles in our archive newspapers that reflect residents’ love for their community.

It really doesn’t take a lot of effort, and you get back so much in return. There are scores of civic organizations, churches or other groups one can join to help improve life for one’s neighbors.

And to be honest,

helping just feels good

*Denise Etheridge is a staff writer for The Walton Tribune and Newton County resident. Her email address is [denise.etheridge@waltontribune.com](mailto:denise.etheridge@waltontribune.com).*

## The Covington News

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



# Social Circle senior earns Coca-Cola scholarship



Special to The Covington News

**Riley Martin, a senior at Social Circle High School, was recently announced the recipient of a \$3,000 scholarship on behalf of Coca-Cola Bottling Co.**

## SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Senior Riley Martin of Social Circle High School is a recipient of a \$3,000 Crawford Johnson III and Walker Johnson Jones Scholarship on behalf of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United Inc.

Martin is the granddaughter of Harold Day who is employed at Atlanta South Metro Coca-Cola Bottling Co., a sales center of Coca-Cola United.

"Coca-Cola United has been a family-focused company for nearly 120 years," said

Steve Futral, Atlanta South Metro Coca-Cola Sales Center manager. "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to provide college scholarships to the children and grandchildren of our associates."

Coca-Cola United established the Crawford Johnson III and Walker Johnson Jones Scholarship in 1995 in honor of former CEO Crawford Johnson III's retirement and his 45 years of service to the company.

The scholarship expanded in 2014, when Johnson's daughter, for-

mer United Community Relations Director and current Board of Directors member Walker Johnson Jones, retired after 34 of years of service. The program is a testament to the company's commitment to education and its focus on associates and their families across its six-state bottling territory.

This year, 20 children, stepchildren, grandchildren or step-grandchildren of Coca-Cola United associates throughout the Southeast were selected from 95 applicants – the most applicants

since the program's inception – to receive either a \$5,000 or \$3,000 scholarship, renewable over four years.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance, leadership, extracurricular activities and service.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company United Inc., founded in 1902 and headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, is the second largest privately held Coca-Cola bottler in North America and the third largest bottler of Coca-Cola products in the U.S.

# Local residents earn degrees from colleges inside, outside Georgia

## SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Area resident Kane Wilson Mills received two Bachelor of Arts degrees with honors from Guilford College recently.

Mills graduated with majors in both History in the Honors Program and Political Science from the college in Greensboro, North Carolina.

While at Guilford he played for the Guilford Men's Tennis Team and received the Algie I. Newlin Book Award for the first-year student who demonstrates outstanding potential in the field of History.

Mills graduated high school using Georgia Perimeter College courses in Covington in 2017. He is the son of John and Tamela Mills.

Some other local residents who received college degrees recently included:

- Berry College — Audrey McNew of Mansfield; and Dalton Smith of Covington.

- University of Tampa — Clell Carnes of Oxford graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science-Biology.

- Georgia State University — Dnette Thomas of Covington, Psychology; and Rachel Johnston of Social Circle, Marketing. Both received General Honors Distinction from the university.

- Piedmont University — Daniil Kyrilov of Newborn; and Erin Meadows and Kara Paulk, both of Social Circle.

- University of Scranton — Brian Randall Hendricks of Covington earned a Master of Health Administration degree in health administration from the university in Scranton, Pennsylvania.



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

**The weekly Live at Lunch concerts hosted by The Arts Association of Newton County featured Atlanta-based musician Myke Johns performing in the park on the Covington Square amid 80-degree temperatures and sunshine Thursday, May 20. The free event is set to feature JJ Hardge on Thursday, May 27. Sponsors include Newton Federal, Longleaf Hospice and Discover Covington.**

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# The Covington News



# CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

## 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!

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

Level: Intermediate

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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

## LEGALS

### Public Notices

#### Corporations

##### NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

**NOTICE IS** given that articles of incorporation which incorporate FRIENDS OF TROOP 222, INC. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 1118 Conyers Street, SW, Covington, Georgia 30014 and its initial registered agent at such address is Frank B. Turner, Jr.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200377**  
5/26-6/2

#### Debtors Creditors

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON**

**RE LINDA JEANNETTE SHIRLEY,** deceased  
**ESTATE#2021-P-214**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of **LINDA JEANNETTE SHIRLEY,** deceased, late of Newton County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

**SUSAN SHIRLEY** Willingham  
**EXECUTOR OF** the Estate of **LINDA JEANNETTE SHIRLEY,** deceased  
**C/O BAKER & Summy, PC**  
**6340 SUGARLOAF** Parkway, Suite 200  
**DULUTH, GA 30097**  
**TELEPHONE 404-566-4535**  
**FAX 404-566-4536**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200329**  
5/12,19,26-6/2

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JEFF H. HIOTT, JR**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of **JEFF H. HIOTT, JR,** late of Newton County, Georgia, 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 26TH** day of April, 2021.

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON**  
**PATRICIA H. Carter, Executor**  
**THE ESTATE** of Lorene R. Hiott deceased  
**971 JUNE** Drive SW Conyers, GA 30094

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200289**  
5/5,12,19,26

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**IN RE: ESTATE OF LORENE R. HIOTT**

**ALL CREDITORS** of the estate of **Lorene R. Hiott,** late of Newton County, Georgia, 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 26TH** day of April, 2021.

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON**  
**PATRICIA H. Carter, Executor**  
**THE ESTATE** of Lorene R. Hiott deceased  
**971 JUNE** Drive SW Conyers, GA 30094

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200288**  
5/5,12,19,26

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**NOTICE IS** hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **WAYNE ANDREW SHELNUTT** deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.  
**THIS THE** 16th day of March , 2021.

**TERESA E. GAEHLE**  
**150 ELLIS TRAIL**  
**COVINGTON, GA. 30016**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200342**  
5/16,23,30,6/6

#### Divorces

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

**MANUEL GALVAN,**  
**PETITIONER.**  
**V.**  
**RUTH AMANDA DANIEL,**  
Respondent.

**CIVIL ACTION** File No.

2020-CV-2426-4

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

**TO: RUTH AMANDA DANIEL**

**BY ORDER** for service by publication dated the 29th day April of 2021, you are hereby notified that on the 1st day of December 2020, the above styled Complaint for Divorce was filed. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Newton County Superior Court, and serve upon the Petitioner's Attorney, whose address is 3775 Venture Drive, Suite C-202, Duluth, Georgia  
**30096, AN** answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for Publication.

**WITNESS, THE** Honorable Cheveda D. McCamy , Judge of Newton Superior Court.

**THIS DAY** of 29th April 2021.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200328**  
5/12,19,26-6/2

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

**ANTHONY E. FRANCIS**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
**V.**  
**SANDRA J. FRANCIS**  
**DEFENDANT**

**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2020-CV-1985-3**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

**TO: SANDRA J. FRANCIS**  
**UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated APRIL 22 2021 you are hereby notified that on SEPT. 30, 2020 (date of filing) ANTHONY E. FRANCIS (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** 28TH day of APRIL 2021.  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF** Superior

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200294**  
5/5,12,19,26

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

**JOYANN ROSS**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
**V.**  
**TEJON STEWART**  
**DEFENDANT**

**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2021-CV-5-3**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

**TO: TEJON STEWART**  
**80 AVONLEA DRIVE**  
**COVINGTON, GA 30016**

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated APRIL 26 2021 you are hereby notified that on 03-18-2021(date of filing) JOYANN ROSS(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** 27TH day of APRIL 2021.  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF** Superior

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200296**  
5/5,12,19,26

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

**KRISTA WEATHERS**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
**V.**  
**CHRISTOPHER WEATHERS**  
**DEFENDANT**

**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2021-CV-883-1**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

**TO: CHRISTOPHER WEATHERS**  
**2741 PINE GROVE RD**  
**LOGANVILLE, GA**

**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated APRIL 26 2021 you are hereby notified that on APRIL 19, 2021 (date of filing) KRISTA WEATHERS(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** 26TH day of APRIL 2021.  
**LINDA D. Hays**  
**CLERK OF** Superior

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200295**  
5/5,12,19,26

#### Foreclosures

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF NEWTON**

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Robert A Fagan, Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC dated October 30, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 3765, Page 565, as last modified in Deed Book 4162, Page 27, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$220,000.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, June 1, 2021, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 231, 9TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 9, THE SOUTH LINKS AT COVINGTON, PHASE ONE, PER PLAT AT PLAT BOOK 37, PAGES 248-256, NEWTON COUNTY RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE. THIS PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS 105 S LINKS DRIVE, COVINGTON, GA 30014.  
Said property is known as 105 S Links Drive, Covington, GA 30014, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.  
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of

### ISONOVA TECHNOLOGIES in Social Circle, GA has an opening for an Industrial Maintenance Associate.

12 hour rotating shifts / One wk M-T-S-SU—next wk W-Th-F—Hours 7–7  
Qualified candidates must have initiative, be a self-starter, a minimum of 2 years' experience, in industrial mechanical, electrical, maintenance, welding, and PLC. Must be willing to work weekends.

#### COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

• Competitive wages \$25.89–\$29.68/hr • \$0.50 an hour shift differential  
• Paid vacation • Quarterly Bonus • Deferred Profit Sharing • Paid Vacations  
• Medical, Dental and Life Insurance offered  
Interested individuals should apply on our Web site.  
<http://www.isonovatech.com/careers> • EOA

#### NAME OF ADULT

**LILLIAN JOANN** Case filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on April 30, 2021, to change the name from: **LILLIAN JOANN CASE** to **JOANN H. CASE**  
**ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

4/30/2021

**EUGENE M. Benton**  
**BENTON & Benton, LLC**  
**218 ALCOVY Street**  
**MONROE, GA 30655**  
**BAR NO. 053425**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200330**  
5/12,19,26-6/2

**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

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

**IN RE:** the Name Change of **Antonio Marquis Heard**

**CIVIL ACTION** No. SUCV2021001023

**ANTONIO MARQUIS Heard,**

**PETITIONER**

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

**ANTONIO MARQUIS Heard** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on April 30, 2021, to change the name of **Antonio Marquis Heard** to **Antonio Marquis Whitlock**. **ANY INTERESTED** party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A. §19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).  
**THIS 30TH** day of April, 2021.

**S/HARGER W. Hoyt**  
**HARGER W. Hoyt**  
**ATTORNEY FOR** Petitioner  
**STATE BAR** No. 373125

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200297**  
5/5,12,19,26

#### 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

#### Public Sales Auctions

**NOTICE IS** Hereby Given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to the Georgia Self-Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code Section 10-4-210 to 10-4-215. The undersigned will sell by competitive online bidding beginning Monday, May 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). Online bidding will end on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 3:30PM.

**UNIT 124,** Luisa Fuentes: Totes Shelving, trash can, Christmas décor, ladders, blower, toolboxes, wheelchair, walker, bedframe, trunks, boxes, file cabinet, multipurpose sprayer, coolers, gas cans, curtain rods, inflatable mattress.  
**UNIT 160,** Ridley Ingram: televisions, couch, t.v. stand, tables, chairs, ladder, gas can, wheelchair, walker, art works, furniture set  
**UNIT 232,** Tasheena Cabell: Day bed, totes, dining table, couch, mattress, plants, dresser, boxes, tables.

**UNIT 407,** Jennifer Christian: Clothing, hand vacuum, totes, luggage, tires, toys, iron board, speaker, shoes, pogo stick, bags  
**UNIT 461,** Jennifer Clark: Grill, headboard, clothing, saw cutter, foreman grill

**PURCHASE MUST** be paid for on the day of the auction with cash and valid ID at the location of the unit. All items are sold as is and must be removed from the property within 72 hours, unless otherwise approved by the Manager, after the time of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of a settlement between the owner and the obligated party.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200362**  
5/23-5/26

#### Trade Names

**TRADE NAME**  
**REGISTRATION**  
**AFFIDAVIT**

**GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**

**TO WHOM** It may Concern:  
**PLEASE BE** advised that **MARCHERYL EVANS** whose address is 200 FAIRWAY TRAIL COVINGTON, GA 30014 and the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 200 FAIRWAY TRAIL COVINGTON, GA 30014 in the following trade name, to-wit: NOW YOUR REALLY COOKING INC.; and that the nature of said business is: INFORMATION PURPOSES 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** 14th day of MAY , 2021.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #200358**  
5/19,26

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## Prep Baseball

# McNealy named Newton High's next head coach

By MASON WITTNER  
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — For the third time in four years, there will be a new face in Newton's dugout when the 2022 season rolls around. The school



Derwin McNealy

announced Monday that Derwin McNealy has been named the next head baseball coach for the Rams. McNealy's hiring comes after former head coach Darrell Helm stepped down April 15, with five games remaining in the regular season, citing personal reasons for his departure. Helm coached the club for two seasons after James Jackson resigned in 2019 following just one year in the position.

McNealy's coaching career began in 2005. He spent two years as an assistant baseball coach at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff before serving as head coach for Clark Atlanta University for six seasons. Family health concerns ultimately led to him leaving the college ranks for a career in education, which he coupled with coaching baseball at the high school level.

"I love working with the youth," McNealy said. "It gave me the flexibility to make time for my son, as well as pouring into the kids using the game of baseball as a vessel to do that."

Following stops at MLK High in Lithonia and Redan High in Stone Mountain, McNealy most recently worked as an assistant varsity coach and head JV coach at Dutchtown High in Hampton.

Newton Athletic Director Vincent Byams has known McNealy for several years, and has long lauded his

abilities as both a coach and communicator.

"It was only a matter of time for him to get that role as a [head] coach and have his own program," Byams said. "When the job opened up and he expressed interest in being here, I just knew right away that it was going to be a good fit for our program."

McNealy will be tasked with leading a team that's coming off a 9-20 season and playing in one of the toughest regions in the state alongside the likes of national powerhouses Parkview, Grayson and Brookwood.

He expressed his desire to implement a training program and work with his kids on the diamond. But, above all else, he emphasized that his main goal as head coach will be to develop a strong community for the baseball program that has its roots planted in Newton County.

"When you look at some of our competition, some of the teams in our region, when you benchmark those teams, it's not [just about] the baseball. It's the community that's surrounding the game," McNealy explained.

"It's having the 8u and 9u and 10u teams from the local parks at all of the ball games wearing the blue and white.

"That's where we turn the program around — by getting everybody involved and giving the kids that are playing on the field that sense of community. I think it starts right there."

McNealy noted that personnel and strategy are vital components of establishing a successful program, but stated his belief that it should stem from the backing of a community.

"You have to have players," he said. "And you have to have people surrounding those players that are committed. It starts with the community."

## Prep Football

# Tigers rout Vikings in spring game



Anthony Banks | The Covington News

Senior running back Tristan Mayweather (5) and the Alcovy Tigers closed out their spring football program with a 27-0 dismantling of Lakeside-DeKalb on Friday night.

By MASON WITTNER  
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Alcovy put a bow on its 2021 spring football program Friday night.

One year after being forced to cancel spring practice due to COVID-19, the Tigers welcomed Lakeside-DeKalb to the practice field on their home campus for a four-quarter scrimmage.

Spring games are designed to highlight progress made throughout weeks of practices and shine a light on areas in which the team will aim to continue improving throughout the summer. They're scrimmages in which the mechanics of plays and safety of players involved far outweighs the final score.

But that doesn't mean a team can't still relish a victory.

Alcovy's performance wasn't perfect. Head coach Jason Dukes isn't afraid to admit there were some adjustments that his team will need to make as they continue preparing for the 2021 season this fall.

Even still, no amount of blemishes could wipe the smile from Dukes' face after the Tigers closed out spring practice by collecting a 27-0 victory over the Vikings.

"I feel our whole program is blessed right now. We didn't have spring football last year. And to be out here on the field, underneath the lights on a warm May night, you can't beat this," Dukes said. "Our kids, they've been through a lot this last year. They really committed to this in the offseason. Some of our younger players have really grown up and become leaders."

"They went out and played. It wasn't perfect, but we got some really good things accomplished and we took a really, really big step in the right direction for our kids and for our program. I'm super happy."

Alcovy came up one win shy of claiming its first region title in program history last fall. An 0-5 start to the year was succeeded by back-to-back Region 3-AAAAA victories over

Grovetown and Lakeside-Evans, setting up a de facto region title game against Evans.

While the Tigers gave the Knights a fight for four quarters, a late interception sealed their fate in a narrow loss. Their consolation prize: hosting a state playoff game for the first time since 2011.

Dukes and his staff will now try to build off that late-season success and carry it over into the upcoming campaign. With spring practice in the rearview, Alcovy's focus will shift to its summer lifting and conditioning program.

"We know that our commitment to getting better and our growth in the program starts in that weight room," Dukes said. "We've seen a lot of growth of our players just in the offseason. Now, with the feeling of coming out of COVID, it feels kind of like a rebirth. Our coaches and our kids are excited to get after it. We can't wait."

## COUGARS:

Continued from A8

Friday in Macon. Mobley had another outstanding performance on the pitcher's mound with 15 strikeouts. For his senior season, Mobley threw 49 innings and allowed just two earned runs while striking out 99 batters.

Runs were tough to come by for both teams in the series opener. Gatewood looked for an early lead, but from center field Bishop threw out a runner who was trying to reach home.

The lone run of Game 1 came in the bottom of fourth. Locklear was hit by a pitch and advanced to second on a passed ball. Mobley then advanced the runner on a groundout to second base. Gavin Mask delivered an RBI

single to score Locklear and make it 1-0.

That slim lead would hold up as Mobley was untouchable on the mound.

The Cougars hoped to close out the series in Game 2 Saturday morning but the Gators had other ideas. Gatewood never trailed in the contest.

Mask went the distance for Piedmont scattering six hits and striking out three. Bryce Johnson had an effective outing for the Gators with 13 strikeouts.

"Our pitchers have carried us all season and it did again in the championship series," Britt said. "Cameron really threw incredible in Game 1. They had one opportunity

to score off him and David made the play from center field. Gavin kept us in Game 2. We just couldn't get it going against their best pitcher."

Despite some success at the plate at certain times in the series, the Cougars did not have the offensive output typically seen by a winning team in a three-game series.

"Overall, it was not a good offensive weekend at the plate," Britt said. "We walked a lot and we earned those. We were in some 1-2 counts or even 0-2 and fought pitches off and earned walks. We also had some batters who were hit by a pitch. All base runners are important. We did just enough with sac flies as

well."

Each of the three Piedmont seniors (Mobley, Locklear and Satterfield) were

chosen as All-Stars by GISA. The association decided against having an actual All-Star game, however, so Saturday's

games concluded the high school careers for the trio.

## 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 Alcovia 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.



# SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Baseball

## COUGARS CROWNED AGAIN



Special to The Covington News

Piedmont Academy reached the pinnacle once again over the weekend by edging out long-time rival Gatewood in a best-of-three series to claim the GISA Class AA state championship. Following a 1-0 victory in Game 1, the Cougars suffered a 5-2 loss in Game 2 before clinching the title with a 9-2 victory in Game 3.

## Piedmont Academy captures sixth GISA state title in seven seasons

By CHRIS BRIDGES  
Correspondent

MACON, Ga. — It wasn't easy, but then again championships aren't supposed to be. The Piedmont Academy baseball team found itself on top of the mountain once again Saturday winning a deciding third game against long-time rival Gatewood, 9-2. The GISA Class AA championship series, played at Mercer University in Macon, was a tale of two storied programs which both wanted the championship trophy, but it was the Cougars who showed they wanted it a little more even as their backs were against

the wall at times.

"It was a great way to finish the season," said Piedmont's John Reasoner. "We knew if we kept playing our game then everything would turn out fine."

Piedmont (19-6 overall) took a 1-0 win the series opener on Friday behind another pitching gem from senior Cameron Mobley. Gatewood rebounded for a 5-2 win in the second game on Saturday morning.

The Gators took an early lead in the third and deciding game but Piedmont finally came alive offensively and powered its way to a victory behind a solid pitching performance

by David Bishop and homers from Mobley and Jeb Satterfield.

As nervous as Piedmont fans were, the final out on Saturday afternoon meant more hardware for the trophy case.

The third game saw Gatewood take a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. It wasn't until the bottom of the third that the Cougars took a 3-1 advantage. Piedmont was struggling at the plate but used some walks and hit batters and some Gator defensive miscues to manufacture runs.

Brody Anderson's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fourth inning pushed the advantage to

4-1. That's when Gatewood looked to make one final push.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Gators loaded the bases with no outs. Bishop pitched out of the jam, however, with two strikeouts and a flyout to center field. The lead was preserved and would never be relinquished.

Monster two-run homers by Mobley and Satterfield in the bottom of the sixth inning sealed the deal for the Cougars.

"We got what we were after," Mobley said about the championship. "We made it interesting for a while but we were determined."

Senior Tanner Lock-

lear said after losing the second game of the series the team just needed to grind out a win in game three.

"We did that and it was a great way to go out by defeating Gatewood," Locklear said.

It was the first state championship as a coach for Piedmont's Matt Britt.

"It has been a great

ride," Britt said. "I have talked to many people I haven't spoken to in a while. It has been awesome reconnecting with people. The actual baseball feelings are also great. The way we played I couldn't have been prouder."

Piedmont opened the series with a 1-0 win on

See COUGARS, A7

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# FOOD

The Covington News



Metro Creative Service

Cooking and serving chicken with certain foods can pack a flavorful punch, turning an otherwise bland chicken breast into a dish families won't soon forget.

## No cluckin' around

### Chicken dish to keep guests strutting back for more

#### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Chicken is a versatile food that can be prepared and cooked in various ways and is capable of being combined with a host of tasty ingredients. In fact, cooking and serving chicken with certain foods can pack a flavorful punch, turning an otherwise bland chicken breast into a dish families won't soon forget. Such is the case with the following recipe for "Roasted Red Pepper, Sun-Dried Tomato and Feta Topped Chicken" from Laurie McNamara's "Simply Scratch: 120 Whole Homemade Recipes Made Easy" (Avery).

#### Roasted Red Pepper, Sun-Dried Tomato & Feta Topped Chicken

*Serves 4*

**Ingredients:**  
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (6 to 8 ounces each)  
1/2 cup My Grandma's Greek Dressing (see below)  
1/3 cup diced charred red bell pepper (see below)

1 tablespoon minced sun-dried tomatoes  
1 tablespoon brined capers, rinsed and drained  
1 tablespoon minced fresh flat-leaf parsley  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
**Directions:**  
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Place the chicken in a medium bowl or large resealable bag and pour the Greek dressing over the top. Marinate the chicken on the countertop for 20 minutes. (Any longer and the lemon juice will start to break down, or "cook," the chicken.)

In a medium bowl, combine the bell pepper, tomatoes, capers, parsley, salt, black pepper and feta.

In a 12-inch cast-iron or other oven-safe skillet, melt the butter with the olive oil over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the

marinade and let any excess marinade drip back into the bag. Place the chicken top-side down in the skillet and sear for 4 to 6 minutes. Turn the chicken over and divide the pepper and feta mixture over the top. Slide the skillet into the oven. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Carefully transfer the chicken to a platter and let it rest for 5 to 6 minutes before serving.

#### My Grandma's Greek Dressing

*Makes 3/4 cup*

**Ingredients:**  
1 large clove garlic  
1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed in your palm  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper  
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, strained of pulp and seeds  
1/2 cup olive oil  
**Directions:**  
Pass the garlic through a garlic press into a glass jar or resealable storage container. Add the oregano,

salt and pepper. Pour in the lemon juice and olive oil.

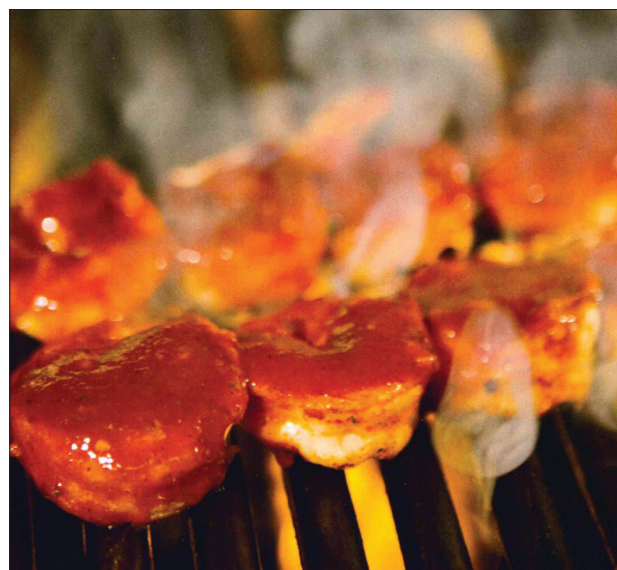
Shake. Pour. Swoon. Store the salad dressing in the refrigerator, but pull it out 10 to 15 minutes prior to using to warm up the solidified oil, or run the jar under warm tap water. Store in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 months.

**Charred peppers:**  
Grill: Heat a grill to medium-high. Place a pepper (or peppers) on the grates, close the lid and let it char for 5 minutes. Rotate and repeat this process until all sides are charred. After 12 to 15 minutes, the skin should be black and blistered.

**Gas stovetop:** Using metal tongs, hold the pepper over a medium-high flame, rotating it to create an even char.

**Oven:** Preheat the broiler to high and crack the oven door. Place a washed pepper on a foil-lined, rimmed baking sheet and slide it under the broiler, rotating it every few minutes until it is charred.

## Quality backyard barbecue



Metro Creative Service

Barbecue aficionados will travel far and wide to try a new barbecue joint, but those who can handle a grill need not leave their properties to whip up a delicious meal. The following recipe for "Barbecued Shrimp" from Neal Corman's "Virgil's Barbecue Road Trip Cookbook" (St. Martin's Press) is flavorful and simple, making it an ideal meal for barbecue fans who enjoy making their own meals.

#### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Few cuisines are as beloved as barbecue. Barbecue aficionados will travel far and wide to try a new barbecue joint, but those who can handle a grill need not leave their properties to whip up a delicious meal. The following recipe for "Barbecued Shrimp" from Neal Corman's "Virgil's Barbecue Road Trip Cookbook" (St. Martin's Press) is flavorful and simple, making it an ideal meal for barbecue fans who enjoy making their own meals.

#### Barbecued Shrimp

*Serves 4 to 6*

**Ingredients:**  
*Garlic Barbecue Sauce*  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided  
1 teaspoon chopped garlic  
1 cup mild barbecue sauce  
2 tablespoons Virgil's Dry Rub (see below)

#### Shrimp

8 6-inch bamboo skewers  
2 pounds fresh jumbo shrimp  
1/2 cup olive oil  
4 tablespoons Virgil's Dry Rub (see below)  
2 lemons, cut into wedges

**Directions:**  
In a small pot over medium-high heat, combine 1 tablespoon of butter and the garlic for the garlic sauce. Sauté the garlic for 1 minute, add the mild barbecue sauce and Virgil's Dry Rub, and heat to a boil. Remove from the heat, whisk in the remaining butter, and set aside to use as needed.

Soak the skewers in water overnight.

Peel and devein the shrimp, leaving the tails on. Lay 4 shrimp

out on a flat surface.

Align them so that they are coiled with the tails on the same side, facing in the same direction.

Slide a skewer through the shrimp. Run another skewer through the shrimp, parallel to the first and about 1/2 inch apart. (This will prevent the shrimp from spinning on a skewer.) Repeat this process until all of the shrimp are skewered.

Brush one side of the shrimp on the skewers with olive oil, then dust with the dry rub. Flip the skewers over the repeat the process.

Place the seasoned skewered shrimp in a container, cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the grill to high heat.

Reduce to medium heat and position the skewers over direct heat. Grill for 2 minutes, then flip and grill for 1 to 2 minutes more.

Remove the skewers from the grill and brush each with 2 tablespoons of the garlic sauce. Serve with lemon wedges.

#### Virgil's Dry Rub

*Makes 5 to 5 1/2 cups*

**Ingredients:**  
2 1/2 cups sweet paprika  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup Texas-style chili powder  
1/2 cup minced onion  
1/2 cup granulated garlic  
1/4 cup dried parsley flakes  
6 tablespoons kosher salt

**Directions:**  
Combine all of the ingredients in a medium bowl and whisk together until completely incorporated. Transfer to a covered bowl with a tight-fitting lid. Store in a cool, dry place.

## Simply satisfy with a delicious, spicy appetizer

#### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Hosting often involves serving food, and the following recipe for "Spicy Cheese Balls" from A.J. Rathbun's "Party Snacks!" (Harvard Common Press) is sure to please hosts who want to serve their guests an hors d'oeuvre that's simple but spicy.

#### Spicy Cheese Balls

*Makes 35 to 40*

**Ingredients:**  
1 8-ounce package cream cheese, at room temperature  
1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley  
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 cup finely chopped walnuts

**Directions:**  
Put the cream cheese, cheddar, garlic, parsley, cayenne, black pepper, and salt in a food processor. Process for 5 to 10 seconds, until well blended. Scrape the mixture into a bowl, cover, and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Spread the chopped walnuts on a plate. Shape the cheese mixture into 35 to 40 small cheese balls, each about the size of a large marble. Roll each cheese ball in the walnuts, coating the outside (you may to press a little to ensure sticking).

Serve and enjoy.



Metro Creative Service

This Spicy Cheese Balls recipe is sure to please hosts who want to serve their guests an hors d'oeuvre that's simple but spicy.



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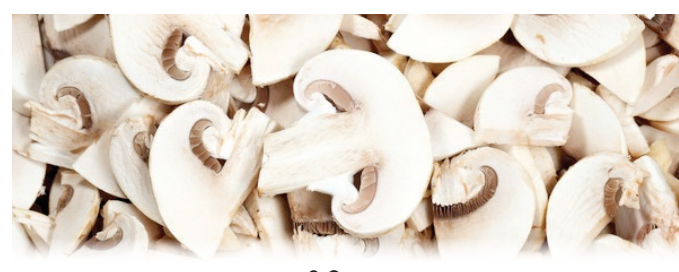
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# EDUCATION

The Covington News

## Quick earns spot in UGA business program

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS**  
news@covnews.com

MONTICELLO, Ga. — Piedmont Academy alumnus Noah Quick was recently accepted into the MBA program at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business.

Quick, who is a 2016 graduate of Piedmont Academy, attended Southern Union Community College in Wadley, Alabama, where he played baseball. In 2018, he transferred to UGA.



Noah Quick

“From day one, Noah has been a student with focus, drive and determination and since graduating from Piedmont, he hasn’t slowed down,” a spokesperson from Piedmont Academy stated.

In his first semester as a Bulldog, Quick was accepted into the J.M. Tull School of Accounting, a department within the Terry College of Business. Accounting is considered the most competitive major inside the UGA business program.

Last summer, Noah participated in an accounting internship for Caterpillar Inc. and has plans to spend this summer working at Cherry Bekaert LLC, a public accounting firm in Atlanta.

On May 13, Quick graduated with a bachelor of business administration in accounting degree. Prior to graduation, Noah was accepted into UGA’s graduate school where he will begin his master of accountancy with a track in audit.

The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program is ranked top 10 in the nation.

During his time spent achieving his MAcc degree, he will simultaneously study to pass all four CPA exams before finishing graduate school. While a student at UGA, he was a founding father of the fraternity Beta Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

In December of 2020, he was voted by members of this new fraternity to sit on their executive board as Treasurer of the Beta Delta Chapter. He is the son of Phillip and Tammy Quick of Covington.



Signature sponsor Facebook provided additional funds in April to help ensure NCSS students can stay engaged with robotics even with the uncertainty COVID-19 has caused.

Special | Newton County School System

## \$68,000 Facebook grant to fund competitive VEX robotics in Newton County schools

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS**  
news@covnews.com

A well-known company has given a \$68,000 financial boost to the VEX and VEX IQ competitive robotics programs within the Newton County School System.

Facebook, which is the programs’ signature sponsor, began supporting the district-wide robotics initiative in the fall of 2019 and provided additional funds in April to help ensure students can stay engaged with robotics even with the uncertainty COVID-19 has caused, a news release stated.

“We are grateful to have partners like Facebook in our community,” said Newton

County Schools System Superintendent, Samantha Fuhrey. “Their generosity towards our robotics programs benefits students across all grade levels and we are thrilled to be able to continue this partnership.”

The Newton County School System has more than 50 VEX and VEXIQ robotics teams, representing nearly every elementary, middle, and high school in the county.

NCSS has been unable to host in-person robotics events in which students would typically participate in multiple competitions this school year.

Facebook’s support will help the school system ensure students

have the tools necessary to compete virtually should the virus continue to impact the competitions and events next school year.

The district’s involvement with VEX connects students with the world’s largest and fastest-growing competitive robotics programs around the world.

More than 24,000 VEX teams from more than 60 countries are involved in the program.

CTAE and Workforce Innovation Director Tim Schmitt said, “Facebook’s most recent contribution will ensure our teams have what they need to compete in the 2021-2022 robotics season.

“Those funds will not

only cover regular costs such as team season registrations, new game elements, and competition fees, but will also pay for digital equipment like laptops and webcams needed for virtual-remote competitions that have developed as a result of the pandemic,” Schmitt said.

The ability to continue building momentum in the area of STEM education is very important to Newton County Schools.

Competitive robotics provides a hook for students to engage in STEM areas and Facebook’s support plays an important role in the school system’s ability to provide that opportunity.

Katie Comer, community development regional manager for Facebook, said, “Newton County Schools has raised the bar when it comes to STEM investment.”

“It’s our honor to support that work to help ensure that students have access to the tools and resources they need to continue sparking their creativity and imagination through the VEX and VEX IQ robotics programs. I’m excited by what the future holds for these students.”

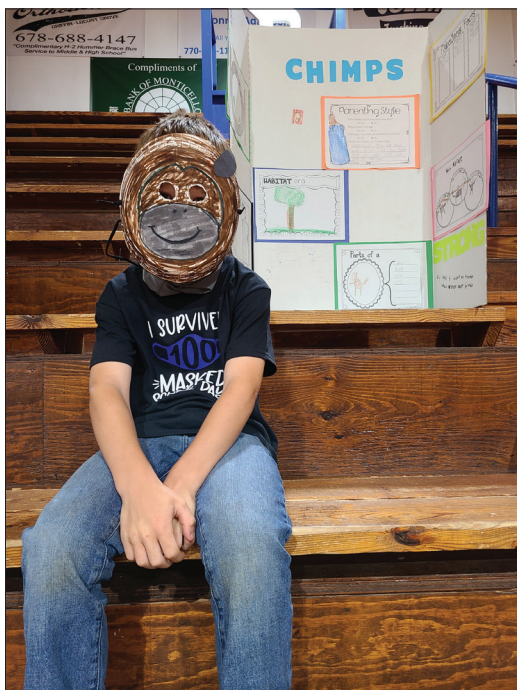
Facebook has been part of the greater Newton County community since breaking ground on its data center in northeast Newton in 2018.

## Second graders at Piedmont Academy host ‘Animal Wax Museum’



Pictured are six students from Parrish Swann’s second grade class, who recently hosted an “Animal Wax Museum.” The students picked an animal to research and learned how to tackle a research project from start to finish. They learned how to write a five-paragraph essay and put together a project board. Students demonstrated knowledge of their topic, dressed as their chosen animal and talked with other parents and students about their animal’s habitat, eating habits, fun facts and characteristics.

Special to The Covington News







193rd annual Salem Campmeeting slated for July; see C2



Variety of camps for youth across Newton County; see C2



Preparing for camp in the pandemic era; see C3

# Summer Camp Guide

When school's out, get the most out of your summer break!



Special | Salem Campmeeting  
A camper slips down a water slide during the 2019 Salem Campmeeting in Newton County. Read what to expect from this year's event inside.

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# 193rd annual Salem Campmeeting slated for July



Special | Salem Campmeeting

Dozens of children participate in a singing event as part of the 2019 Salem Campmeeting held at the historic campground in Newton County. The camp meeting was reduced to a virtual event in 2020, but is expected to be back in full swing for 2021. A schedule for the July event was not finalized at the time of this publication.

By TAYLOR BECK

tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — One of the nation's longest running summer campmeetings is expected to be back in full swing this year.

The 193rd annual Salem Campmeeting is scheduled to run Friday, July 9, through Friday, July 16, this year.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the weeklong event was held virtually.

The camp meeting in Salem is one of the nation's oldest — it has been held every year since 1828, except during the Civil War.

According to the Salem Campmeeting's website, Salem is a Methodist institution for 100 years, although never officially part of the church. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Salvation Army had an active role in the program. Now interdenominational, Salem features

a Methodist preacher each year and rotates between Baptist and Presbyterian preachers.

The Tabernacle at Salem is on the National Building Survey of the Library of Congress, and still features wood shavings on the floor. The entire campground was put on the National Historic Register in 1998.

Each day there are worship services held in the tabernacle at the historic Salem Camp Ground, located at 3940 Salem Road in Covington, at 10:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The preaching and guest choir schedule had not been finalized at the time of publication.

Daily Bible classes are open to the community Monday through Friday for all ages from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. that meet in Salem United Methodist Church.

Throughout the week,

there are many daily activities for adults, students and children including crafts and games.

Many people who stay for the entire week often stay in one of the tents on the campground, but there is also the historic Salem Hotel available with a limited number of rooms available, as well as RV hookups for camping. RV spaces are \$35 per night. Call 770-786-6841 to learn more about hotel and RV hookup availability.

Participants of the camp meeting are welcomed to the hotel for a buffet style breakfast at 8 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m., or dinner at 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Meals prices are as follows: \$10 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch, \$14 for dinner.

Reservations may be made by calling 770-786-6841 but are not required.

This year's camp meeting leaders include Rev. Don

Martin, Rev. Steven Barnes and Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas, according to the camp meeting website.

Barnes has been serving as the Interim Pastor at Oconee Presbyterian Church in Watkinsville since late March of 2020. Prior to that he served as the interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Covington, from September 2018 to February 2020.

Thomas is a native of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he earned a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

In 2016, Thomas graduated from the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) program

with a Doctor of Ministry in preaching through McCormick Theological Seminary. Thomas has served as senior pastor of Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta since June 2013 and was recently appointed to serve as district superintendent of the Central South District, which includes DeKalb, Henry, Newton and Rockdale counties beginning July 1.

Thomas R. Roberts will serve as platform director and music leader, a position he's held since 1989 for the campmeeting.

Becky Ramsey and Alice Walker are dual-pianists for the event.

Visit [salemcampmeeting.org](http://salemcampmeeting.org) to learn more about the event and to see this year's event schedule once finalized.



arts association

exposure.education.engagement.entertainment.

## Registration NOW OPEN!

### MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP - DISNEY!

July 6th -16th  
at Porter Performing Arts Center  
Rising 3rd-12th Grade  
Tuition: \$275  
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm (3rd-7th)  
12:30pm-3:30pm (8th-12th)

### COVINGTON REGIONAL BALLET SUMMER CLASSES!

Classes will be offered on a monthly basis throughout the summer! There are a wide variety of options for ages 3 to 18. Classes offered include Ballet/Jazz/Tap Combo, Intro to Dance, Creative Movement, and more!



## Variety of summer camps upcoming for area youth

### STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — When school's out, the kids need a place to go, so why not send them to a summer camp?

From area schools to local organizations, there are many different programs to choose from:

### ARTS ASSOCIATION

Registration is now open for camps presented by the Arts Association in Newton County.

Running July 6-16 will be a Musical Theatre Camp - Disney at Porter Performing Arts Center for rising students grade 3-12. Tuition is \$275.

For grades 3-7, the camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For grades 8-12, the camp will run from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Arts Association will also host Covington Regional Ballet summer classes. Classes will be offered on a monthly basis throughout the summer with a wide variety of options for ages 3-18, including Ballet/Jazz/Tap combo; Intro to Dance; Creative Movement; and more.

Learn more at [newtoncountyarts.org](http://newtoncountyarts.org).

### EASTSIDE SPORTS CAMPS

Eastside High School will be hosting a series of camps for its students and athletes.

The school will host a community cheer camp June 7-8 from 8 a.m. to noon each day at the high school. Students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to register. More information can be found here: [https://ehs.newtoncountyschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_1585540/File/Activities/SummerCamps/2021EastsideCommunityCheerCampInformationRegistration.docx](https://ehs.newtoncountyschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1585540/File/Activities/SummerCamps/2021EastsideCommunityCheerCampInformationRegistration.docx).

A youth volleyball camp will be held June 7-9 at Eastside High

School Gym from 6-8 p.m. each night. Participants are asked to arrive at 5:30 p.m. June 7.

The camp is open to bow a girls entering kindergarten through eighth grade who have Neve played volleyball on an organized team. It costs \$50 to register. Call 770-784-2920 or email [johnston.maggie@newtonk12.ga.us](mailto:johnston.maggie@newtonk12.ga.us) to learn more.

For boys and girls in grades 3-8, a basketball skills camp will be held June 21-24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. The registration fee is \$75. Participants will be given a T-shirt at the end of the camp. Campers may bring their own basketball. Concessions will be available for purchase at the camp.

To learn more about the camp, contact "Coach Randolph" at 470-782-1722.

A soccer camp will be June 21-23 for boys and girls ages 5-12 at the high school. The camp will be held from 6-8 p.m. each night. The cost to register is \$50 — all payments should be made via Venmo to @EastsideSoccer-Boys. Put the camper's name and shirt size in the description. Campers are encouraged to bring a water bottle, cleats, shin guards and a ball. Each camper will receive a T-shirt on the last day.

For students in grades K-8, Eastside will host a youth football camp July 19-21. Campers are required to register by July 14. Cost is \$50. The camp will be from 5-7 p.m. each night. Learn more at <https://forms.gle/t8WtV1JwEguRwP1g6> or email [cawthon.jay@newton.k12.ga.us](mailto:cawthon.jay@newton.k12.ga.us).

### SUMMER CAMP AT THE OAKS

PGA professionals will be on hand at The Oaks this summer to teach the game of golf, as well as sportsmanship, integrity and respect, to the area's junior golfers.

See CAMPS, C3

For more information and to register:  
**[www.NewtonCountyArts.org](http://www.NewtonCountyArts.org)**



# Summer camp tips for parents to consider in pandemic era

## SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

Children make cherished memories at summer camp, where many youngsters first discover passions and hobbies they will enjoy for the rest of their lives.

Summer 2020 was a camp season unlike any other. Some camps closed their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while others downsized their offerings in an effort to keep campers safe while still providing them with a much-needed outlet. As the 2021 summer camp season approaches, parents may be a little less hesitant about sending their kids to camp than they were a year ago. The rollout of COVID-19 vaccines has helped millions of people return to some semblance of normalcy, and that rollout has put summer camp back in play for families.

Choosing a summer camp is not always so easy, and it might be especially tricky as the world slowly emerges from the pandemic. The following are some tips for parents as they consider if camp is a good idea this summer.

- Consider your comfort level. It's understandable if parents are hesitant about sending their youngsters to camp this summer. In fact, some camps may still be closed while others may only offer limited day camps this summer. Parents should consider their comfort levels before enrolling kids in camp. Vaccines have proven effective, but COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and some regions have yet to vaccinate teenagers. Vaccines also have yet to be offered to children under 16. Parents can ask themselves how comfortable they are sending kids to camp,



Metro Creative Service

**Following the pandemic, some parents may have reservations about sending their children off to camp, even after the massive COVID-19 vaccine rollout.**

and if they're hesitant to do so they can explore their alternatives.

- Ask children if they want to go to camp. Everyone is experiencing some measure of pandemic-related burnout, and that includes kids. Kids may be sick of wearing masks at school all day and, even if they have loved camp in the past, may not be looking forward to wearing masks all day at camp this summer. Others might not be experiencing such burnout and may see camp as a way to quell boredom at a time when boredom has seemingly lingered over every day. Either way, solicit kids' input and let them know their feelings matter regardless of which side of the fence they're on.

- Inquire about safety protocols. When researching summer camps, ask about the safety protocols each camp will have in

place. Will masks be mandatory for both campers and staff? How much direct interaction will campers have with each other? Have staff members been vaccinated? What measures are being taken to keep kids safe? Camps should have detailed protocols and share those protocols with parents upon request.

- Ask about alternatives. If parents and/or children are hesitant about attending camp in person, ask camp officials if there will be any virtual events or programs this summer. Some camps may be organizing activities like craft projects online, and that can help kids overcome the boredom of being stuck at home all summer.

Summer camps may not be fully back to normal in 2021. However, families likely won't have to go without access to summer camps for the second consecutive summer.

## CAMPS:

Continued from C2

Participants of all skill levels are invited to register for the two week event.

Due to COVID-19, The Oaks has limited the number of participants allowed per week and has increased the number of teachers. Due to the smaller student/teacher ratio, golfers will be able to break into smaller groups that provide appropriate social distancing.

Week one of the camp will run June 14-18, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Week two will be June 28-July 2, also Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The cost is \$200.

The Oaks is located at 11240 Brown Bridge Road in Covington. Learn more at [golfoaks.com](http://golfoaks.com) or by calling 770-786-3801.

### CAMP PEACHTREE

Peachtree Academy will host Camp Peachtree to provide a summer camp experience to all kids through the eighth grade in Conyers and Covington.

Students will take part in several fun activities involving art, sports, STEM and other academics. Sports and STEM camps will be available for middle and high school students. Students may attend half day camps or full day camps.

Learn more at [peachtreeacademy.com](http://peachtreeacademy.com) or call 770-860-

8900 ext. 1004.

SUMMER JAM Church at the Grove will host its Summer Jam in Social Circle on June 4-6.

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to attend. By registering at [church-atthegrove.com/summer-jam](http://church-atthegrove.com/summer-jam).

On June 4 and 5, the event will be held at Social Circle Elementary School from 6-8:30 p.m. each night.

On June 6, there will be an awards ceremony, competition and lunch following the 11 a.m. service at the church, located at 294 N. Cherokee Road.

### SOUTHERN HEARTLAND

Southern Heartland in Covington will host a series of summer art camps throughout June and July.

For ages 6-12, week one is slated for June 14-17. Week two is June 21-24; week three is June 28-July 1. Cost is \$170.

Advanced camp for ages 12 to adult are July 12-13: Creating Skin Tones for painting faces (oil) and July 14-15: Painting Animal Faces (oil). Class times are 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Cost is \$165 per session or \$300 for both.

Call 770-788-8799 or visit [southernheartlandart.com](http://southernheartlandart.com) for more.

## Southern Heartland



### AGES 6-12 Camp Dates

Week 1: JUNE 14-17

Week 2: JUNE 21-24

Week 3: JUNE 28-July 01

For Info: Call or Text Jackie Kelly, 678-342-0425

\$170 for 4 day camp, \$160 if paid before May 1

### ADVANCED CAMP: Ages 12—Adult

JULY 12 & 13: Creating Skin Tones for Painting Faces (Oil)

JULY 14 & 15: Painting Animal Faces (Oil)

For Info: Call or Text Elise Hammond, 678-640-6215

\$165 per session, \$300 for both

All Class Times: 9:30 AM—2 PM

1132 Monticello Street • Covington, GA

770-788-8799

[www.southernheartlandart.com](http://www.southernheartlandart.com)

## SUMMER CAMPS AT THE OAKS COURSE

OUR PGA PROFESSIONALS TEACH THE GAME OF GOLF AS WELL AS SPORTSMANSHIP, INTEGRITY AND RESPECT — GOOD FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE.

OUR CAMPS ARE PERFECT FOR ALL JUNIORS, NO MATTER THEIR SKILL LEVEL. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT OUR CAMPS FOCUS ON YOUR CHILD'S WELL-BEING, BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND FUN ENVIRONMENT FOR THEM TO GROW AS GOLFERS AND AS PEOPLE.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING COVID-19'S EFFECTS ON OUR SUMMER CAMPS:

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE SAFEST ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE FOR OUR CAMPERS, WE ARE LIMITING THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH WEEK AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS. DUE TO THE LOWER STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO, WE WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK INTO SMALLER GROUPS THAT PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DISTANCING, WHILE MAINTAINING SAFE HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

HALF DAY (GOLF ONLY) \$200

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9:00AM-12:00PM

DATES:

WEEK 1: JUNE 14TH - 18TH (LIMITED TO 18 CAMPERS)

WEEK 2: JUNE 28TH - JULY 2ND (LIMITED TO 18 CAMPERS)



The Oaks Course  
11240 Brown Bridge Road  
Covington, GA 30014

770-786-3801  
[www.golfoaks.com](http://www.golfoaks.com)



# Freshway Market

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

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**Social  
Circle City  
Schools  
Round-Up  
Program\***

**Over \$114,159  
Raised to Date!**

\*Ask Cashier for  
Details



6 Pack, 1/2 Liters, Assorted

**Coca-Cola  
Products**

**5/\$10.00**



Family Pack

**Chicken  
Leg Quarters**

**69¢ LB.**



Fresh, White, Yellow or Bi-Color

**Florida  
Corn on the Cob**

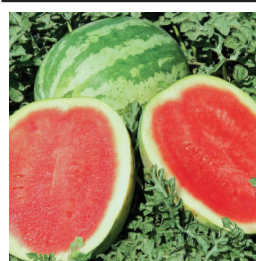
**3/\$1.00**



CAB, Family Pack

**Premium  
Ground Chuck**

**\$4.99 LB.**



Fresh, 60 Ct. Size  
**Seedless  
Watermelon**  
**\$3.99 EA.**



20 Ounce  
**Hunt's  
Ketchup**

**5/\$5.00**



30 Ounce  
**Sauer's  
Mayonnaise**

**2/\$4.00**



7.75 Ounce  
**Lay's  
Chips**

**2/\$4.00**



CAB Choice

**Chuck  
Roast**

**\$4.99 LB.**



2 Pack, Vacuum Pack

**Boston  
Butt**

**\$1.69 LB.**



15 Ounce, Regular,  
Bun Length or Turkey

**Ball Park  
Hot Dogs**

**2/\$4.00**



3 Pound

**Gwaltney  
Jumbo  
Hot Dogs**

**\$3.99**



12 Ounce, Assorted  
**Jimmy Dean  
Sliced Bacon**

**2/\$7.00**



19 Ounce

**Johnsonville  
Brats or Italian  
Sausage**

**2/\$9.00**



13-14 Ounce  
**Hillshire Farm  
Smoked  
Sausage**

**2/\$7.00**



22-28 Ounce

**Bush's  
Baked Beans**

**2/\$4.00**



16 Pound  
**Kingsford  
Charcoal**

**\$9.99 LB.**



48 Ounce  
**Mayfield  
Select  
Ice Cream**

**2/\$6.00**



6-8 Ounce, Assorted,  
Shredded or Bar  
**Borden  
Cheese**

**2/\$5.00**



16 Ounce  
**Daisy  
Sour Cream**

**2/\$4.00**



18.64-22.63 Ounce,  
Classic or Brick Oven  
**Red Baron  
Pizza**

**2/\$8.00**



5 Pound  
**Martha White  
Corn Meal  
or Flour**

**\$2.29**



6 Pack, 1/2 Liters  
**Pepsi  
Products**

**4/\$9.00**



Vacuum Pack

**Baby Back  
Pork Ribs**

**\$5.99 LB.**



Vacuum Pack

**St. Louis  
Style  
Ribs**

**\$4.99 LB.**



Vacuum Pack

**Beef  
Back Ribs**

**\$4.99 LB.**



Family Pack  
**Western  
Style  
Pork Ribs**

**\$2.29 LB.**



Family Pack

**Pork  
Steak**

**\$2.29 LB.**



CAB Choice, Family Pack

**Chuck  
Steak**

**\$6.99 LB.**



CAB Choice

**Chuck Eye  
Steak**

**\$7.99 LB.**



CAB Choice  
**Stew Beef,  
Diet Lean or  
Stir Fry**

**\$5.99 LB.**



CAB Choice, Family Pack

**Cube  
Steak**

**\$5.99 LB.**



Fresh  
**Green  
Cabbage**

**49¢ LB.**



Fresh, Pint  
**Grape  
Tomatoes**

**2/\$5.00**



10 Pound Bag  
**Idaho  
Potatoes**

**\$3.99**



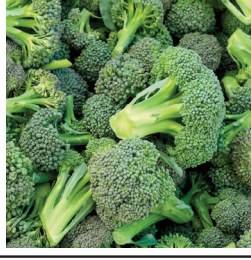
Fresh  
**Danjou, Bosc  
or Bartlett  
Pears**

**\$1.29 LB.**



Fresh, Bunch  
**Green  
Onions**

**2/\$1.00**



Fresh  
**Broccoli  
Florets**

**\$2.49 LB.**



**Super Select  
Cucumbers**

**2/\$1.00**



Gallon  
**Red  
Diamond  
Tea**

**2/\$5.00**



1 Pound  
**Sunnyland  
Spread**

**89¢**



**Deli Made  
Cole Slaw**

**\$2.49 LB.**



1 Pound, 30/40 Count,  
CPD, IQF  
**Nature's Best  
Shrimp**

**\$9.99**



2 Pound Bag, IQF  
**Nature's Best  
Tilapia Fillets**

**\$7.99**

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

**This Ad Good Wednesday, May 26th thru Tuesday, June 1st, 2021**

**Wed  
26**

**Thur  
27**

**Fri  
28**

**Sat  
29**

**Sun  
30**

**Mon  
31**

**Tues  
1**

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