

## His Word

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:21, KJV

## Election Coverage



Municipal elections in Newton County were decided Tuesday. Find our election coverage at [CovNews.com](https://www.covnews.com) and inside the next edition of [The Covington News](https://www.covnews.com).

## For the A!



The Atlanta Braves continued its quest for a World Series title Tuesday. Visit [CovNews.com](https://www.covnews.com) or check out the [Covington News](https://www.covnews.com) app for live updates.

## Weather Forecast

**Wednesday, Nov. 3**  
High: 58° Low: 44°  
• Partly sunny

**Thursday, Nov. 4**  
High: 52° Low: 41°  
• 50% chance of rain

## Sports



Playoff picture for area football teams is taking shape  
**See A8**

## Best of Newton



Time for YOU to decide who's the best of the best!  
**See A6 for your ballot**

## Index

Obituaries, **A2**    BON Ballot, **A6**  
Opinions, **A4**    Business, **B1**  
Sports, **A8**

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# Lawsuit alleges sheriff violated man's rights

DA drops loitering, obstruction charges against YouTuber after arrest outside Law Enforcement Center

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — The District Attorney's office says it will not prosecute charges the sheriff's office brought against a Gainesville man who claims the sheriff violated his constitutional rights by damaging camera equipment and arresting him for filming near the Newton County Law Enforcement Center.

Joshua Randolph, who operates a YouTube channel and Facebook page under the

name Georgia Guardian, also has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court alleging Sheriff Ezell Brown and Deputy Timothy Smith "smashed" the man's film equipment while filming a news segment for his social media pages and Smith used excessive force against him after handcuffing



**Ezell Brown**

and arresting him.

District Attorney Randy McGinley said his office moved to dismiss warrants against Randolph on charges of Willful Obstruction and Loitering or Prowling because "there is insufficient evidence to prove the guilt" of Randolph "beyond a reasonable doubt" despite his arrest Sept. 28.

Randolph has since posted a video of part of the confrontation on his social media pages.

His lawsuit in federal court alleges his First, Fourth, and 14th Amendment rights were violated and the law enforcement officers broke Georgia law when they seized his camera equipment and brought criminal charges against him for "filming in public places."

In the lawsuit, Randolph said he is an "independent journalist" who "films and produces independent news

**See SHERIFF, A3**



County Chairman Marcello Banes and District Attorney Randy McGinley help lead the 'Walk a Mile' march on the Covington Square on Saturday to raise awareness for domestic violence.

# A mile in her shoes

‘Walk a Mile’ brings awareness to domestic violence, donations to victims

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Purses, diapers and more filled two rooms at the Historic Courthouse after more than 100 walkers did their part to bring some supplies for victims and awareness to the problem of domestic violence Saturday on the Covington Square.

"Walk a Mile in their Shoes" encouraged partici-

pants to walk a mile — eight times around the perimeter of the park in the middle of Square — in support of victims on the day before the close of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

The event, organized by the Newton County Domestic Violence Task Force, also encouraged walkers to wear purple — the color commonly used in support of those killed or injured by someone

they formerly loved and trusted.

District Attorney Randy McGinley was among those who took Newton County Chairman Marcello Banes' challenge to try to walk the mile-long course in women's shoes to support the effort to benefit Project Renewal.

Organizers asked for donations of clothes, diapers,

**See MILE, A2**

# Husband charged with murdering Fulton deputy, her brother

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — The husband of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy has been charged with murdering her and her brother last week in the couple's Covington residence.

Jaquavia Jackson, 28, was arrested Friday, Oct. 29, and charged with two counts each of Murder, Aggravated Assault and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime, said Newton County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Caitlin Jett.

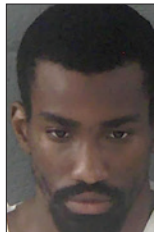
He was being held in the Newton County Detention Center without bond.

Jackson is charged with shooting and killing his wife, Fulton Deputy Sha-keema Brown Jackson, and her brother, Levoy Brown, 30, of Covington, Wednesday, Oct. 27, about 10:30 p.m. in the Windcrest Drive home the Jacksons shared with their 17-month-old child, who was not harmed.

A report stated the suspect was still at the scene when deputies arrived. They detained him until investigators arrived, the report stated.

The Newton County

**See DEPUTY, A3**



**Jaquavia Jackson**

# BOC to wait on recommendation for American Rescue Plan funds

Appoints four-person committee to investigate best way to do so

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County's Board of Commissioners voted Monday to appoint a four-person committee to devise a plan by Dec. 7 for distributing nearly half the American Rescue Plan funds it has available — but only after two members walked out of the meeting amid

repeated charges from one about uncaring colleagues and county officials.

Commissioners met Monday night in a special called meeting to discuss how to more quickly send \$10.8 million in American Rescue Plan funds to those in need because of COVID-19-related issues over the past year.



Commissioners J.C. Henderson of District 3 and Alana Sanders of District 4 have pushed for months for devising a plan for immediate distribution of the federal funds the county has held since May.

County Manager

Lloyd Kerr, one of the committee members, has said the county needed to wait to receive U.S. Treasury Department guidelines for distributing the funds. He has warned the county may be required to repay what-

ever part of the \$10.8 million it distributes if not done according to federal rules.

Henderson, with some members of the audience voicing their approval, said

**See WAIT, A3**

**The Board of Commissioners and county manager faced criticism during Monday's called meeting.**  
File | The News



## Newton County celebrates Halloween



Lee Ann Avery | The Covington News

Montessori School of Covington hosted its annual Halloween parade of students on Friday, Oct. 29, near its location on Summers Street.



On Sunday, Oct. 31, hundreds spent time collecting candy along the Cricket Frog Trail as part of Covington YMCA's Trick or Treat on the Trail event.



Special to The Covington News

## MILE:

Continued from A1

toiletries and other items victims could use immediately rather than money — though some cash was given, said Project ReNeWal director Ashley Dykes.

"I am just extremely thankful for the community," Dykes said. "It was a great way to end Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

Other elected officials who participated or were present for the event included Sheriff Ezell Brown, Superior Court Judge Cheveda McCamy and County



Special to The Covington News

Members of the Newton High School football team participate in the "Walk a Mile" event Saturday in Covington.

Commissioner Alana Sanders.

Members of the Eastside and Newton high schools' football

teams walked, as did Victims Services Director Leslie Smith and Victim Advocate Shay Payne of the Newton County DA's Office; and Assistant District Attorney Lacey Majors and Investigator Aimee Oliver of the Walton County DA's Office.

Task Force event director Nwaka Hughes and co-chairs Debbie Hillman and Latonja Hamp helped lead "Walk a Mile."

Hillman gave infor-

mation and statistics about Saturday's event and the issue of domestic violence to the crowd of walkers and onlookers.

Donors included Covington Trolley Tours, in addition to registered sponsors Dewindt Legal Services, Shekinah Counseling, PR Parties by Erica, Lindsey Firm, LRC Promotions, Police Who Care, Piedmont Newton & Women's Services, Newton County NAACP,

KNCB, She Ministries, and Newton High School and Eastside High School football, Hamp said.

Other registered sponsors included Rockdale-Newton NCNW; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Chi Tau Omega and Conyers/Covington chapters; Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. NewRock Chapter; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Conyers/Covington Chapter; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Conyers/Covington; and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Conyers/Covington Alumni Chapter.

Banes and retired Judge Samuel Ozburn formed the Newton County Domestic Violence Task Force in 2018.

Project ReNeWal is a domestic violence intervention program that has operated since 1995

and serves Newton, Rockdale and Walton counties.

Dykes and Project ReNeWal shelter director Lauri Reeder and board member Aimee Oliver also were among participants Saturday.

The nonprofit operates an emergency shelter for victims, in addition to a 24-hour crisis line and intervention services, including providing food, temporary shelter, clothing and transportation for domestic violence victims and their families.

It also offers services — such as peer support groups and job placement — which can assure victims they are capable of living without their abusers, Dykes said.

For more information, call 770-860-1666 or visit <https://projectrenewalgeorgia.com>.

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## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?

On Tuesday, November 30th, at 6:00 p.m. the Griffin Regional Educational Service Agency will conduct the South Metro Atlanta GaTAPP (Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy) Information Session hosted by Griffin RESA virtually via Zoom. The GaTAPP program is designed to attract highly motivated professionals outside the teaching profession who hold a Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college/university and are interested in pursuing a teaching career. Human Resources Directors from Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Griffin-Spalding and Thomaston-Upson School Systems will be in attendance at this event to virtually provide information on prospective employment opportunities for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year and for the 2022-2023 school year. Space will be limited and only those with reservations will be admitted.

To reserve your space, please RSVP to TAPP at [TAPP@griffinresa.net](mailto:TAPP@griffinresa.net).

To register, please send an email to [TAPP@griffinresa.net](mailto:TAPP@griffinresa.net)

### Frank Malcolm

Caldwell & Cowan

Funeral Home

Mr. Frank Malcolm, 78, passed away October 31, 2021, in his home in Newborn, Georgia. Mr. Malcolm was born in Porterdale, Georgia on June 8, 1943, to the late Corry W. Malcolm and Maggie Odell Malcolm.

Frank served as an Elder at Luther Hays Presbyterian Church where he was a delegate to the National Presbyterian Conference. Frank was also a Certified Lay Speaker of the Methodist Church and served on the Board for many years.

Frank was a success-

ful entrepreneur, receiving his Chartered Life Underwriters designation from The American College and retiring as a Financial Advisor and Insurance Agent from his own company, Malcolm Financial Services. During Frank's career he served as the President of the Walton/Monroe Area National Association of Life Underwriters. Beyond Mr. Malcolm's career, he was deeply involved in local agriculture. In high school, Frank was the President of the Newton County FFA. An officer of the Piedmont Cattleman's Association and a Master Cattleman, Frank was the Jasper County Conservationist of the Year in 2009 and was the recipient of many other awards. Mr. Malcolm proudly served as the first president of the Newton County Jaycees, was the President of the Meriwether County Kiwanis Club, and also a member of

Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge #6.

Mr. Malcolm is preceded in death by his parents, Corry W. Malcolm and Maggie Odell Malcolm, as well as his brother, Donald Malcolm. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Mrs. Laura Mitchell Malcolm, sons, Lin Malcolm and his wife Carol Malcolm, Kirk Malcolm, and Kevin Malcolm and his wife Sissy Malcolm. Frank is also survived by siblings, Wayne Malcolm and his wife Rita of Covington, Georgia, his sister Patricia McKibben of Macon, Georgia, and Faye McIntyre of North Augusta, South Carolina. Frank also leaves behind 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express a special "Thank You" to the staff and nurses of Lighthouse Hospice for the love and care shown to Mr. Malcolm.

A Memorial Service for Mr. Malcolm was held Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 2:00 P.M., at the Chapel of Caldwell & Cowan, 1215 Access Road, in Covington, with Pastor Blane Allen officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the American Parkinson's Disease Foundation or the Scottish Rite Hospital.

Gov. Brian Kemp's latest executive order has eliminated restrictions on large gatherings; however, CDC guidelines recommend social distancing (6 feet apart) and wearing of masks while in public. Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home requests that you observe these recommendations while in our funeral home attending visitations and/or services.

Visit [caldwellandcowan.com](http://caldwellandcowan.com) to place online condolences.



### Praise the Lord - 50th Anniversary Celebration!

We give thanks from our heart to Christ Jesus for loyal Family and Friends like you! We sincerely thank you for your calls, gifts and prayers during our Milestone Celebration. May God's grace be with you and your family.

Thank you,

Charles and Gwen Green Family

The couple was married at Graves Chapel A.M.E. Church



WAIT:

Continued from A1

he wanted immediate distribution. Residents have come to his house asking for part of the money because they could not pay rent or utility bills because of COVID-related issues," he said.

"I'm not looking for a debate. I'm looking for some help," Henderson said.

He supported a plan to give each commissioner \$1 million immediately to distribute in their respective districts. The highest priority should be getting money to those behind on rent and utility payments, he said.

But Commissioner Ronnie Cowan of District 5 said he wanted to see at least a "skeletal procedure in place" for

distributing the money before he could support it.

Commissioner Stan Edwards of District 1 said the greatest need in his heavily rural district was expansion of broadband service.

He suggested allowing members to give part of their \$1 million shares to other commissioners if not needed for COVID-related back rent or late utility payments.

County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter suggested a plan for creating five different categories for distributing the money and then commissioners deciding how much of the \$10.8 million to budget for each one.

Henderson said he

believed "we're making it too complicated."

He said County Manager Lloyd Kerr has given "a lot of excuses" over the past five months why the money could not be distributed immediately as some other nearby counties have done.

"It shouldn't be hard — it should be easy," Henderson said.

Henderson also repeated his harsh public and sometimes personal criticism of Kerr from meetings of recent months — telling him it was "supposed to be your job to do whatever we ask you to do" and not "several months from now."

He also repeated his suggestion that former longtime county attor-

ney Tommy Craig be hired to assist Kerr with distribution.

The Board fired Craig in 2015 amid allegations related to a plan for construction of a south Newton reservoir for which millions were spent before it ultimately was abandoned. However, Craig continued as attorney for the sheriff's office and tax commissioner.

Kerr acknowledged his job was doing what commissioners asked him to do.

"How I get that done is up to me," Kerr said.

He added he wanted to wait to hire an outside manager to administer the distribution — including making sure those receiving the money are qualified

according to federal guidelines.

He also said 110 potential program managers had replied to the request for proposals (RFP) he placed online and in the county legal organ.

After Henderson, a Democrat, said Republicans wanted to delay sending the money to residents immediately rather than waiting on a method for doing so, Cowan walked out as Henderson spoke.

Then, when Chairman Marcello Banes said he also believed a more organized plan was needed, Henderson walked out — leaving three commissioners to vote to approve a special committee to study the issue and make a

recommendation at the Board's Dec. 7 meeting.

During a citizen comments part at the end of the meeting, almost all — including District 113 State Rep. Sharon Henderson, D-Covington — criticized the Board for not taking immediate action to distribute the funds.

Her husband, Jerome Henderson, said he believed it was "time for a change" and would work for future candidates opposing some Board members.

"You're giving money to your buddies, your friends. You should give it to the people," he said.

"You've got big ol' houses, big cars," he said. "I do, too, but I'm for the people."

SHERIFF:

Continued from A1

videos focusing on issues of government accountability throughout Georgia."

"He posts these videos online for free public viewing. Over 20,000 viewers currently subscribe to his YouTube channel."

On videos posted on his Georgia Guardian YouTube page, Randolph typically does a "First Amendment audit" at the headquarters of a Georgia police department or sheriff's office and shoots video of the vehicles and equipment on-site.

His videos also have documented his stops at police or sheriff's departments in Douglas, Oconee, Greene, Barrow and Lincoln counties, and the cities of Winder, Cumming, Eatonton and Braselton, among others.

Officers or the police chief or sheriff also often confront him and Randolph said he always tells whoever confronts him he is gathering content for a story. He also does not show ID — maintaining that Georgia law only requires showing ID to an officer in the event of a traffic stop.

Georgia law does not require ID be shown



The Newton County Law Enforcement Center is located at 15151 Alcovy Road in Covington. File | The News

to a law enforcement officer unless operating a vehicle or the officer has probable cause to believe the person has violated the law, according to information from the ACLU of Georgia.

The lawsuit stated he traveled to the Newton County Law Enforcement Center on Alcovy Road Sept. 28 with a tripod and a touch screen handheld camera "to videotape and photograph the law enforcement area." He filmed "public accessible signs and banners and other stored items on the property" and various parked sheriff's office vehicles in the publicly accessible areas before Sheriff Ezell Brown approached him.

"Sheriff Brown demanded to know why Mr. Randolph was recording. Mr. Randolph informed him he was gathering content for a story. Sheriff Brown stated, 'We do not allow recording there,'" the

lawsuit stated.

He said Brown then called for "additional assistance to deal with Mr. Randolph." Deputy Timothy Smith soon arrived and Brown asked Randolph for an ID and ordered him to put down his camera.

"Mr. Randolph attempted to reiterate that he was in a public area and ascertain why he was being told to put down his camera as the visitor's parking is a publicly accessible area. Sheriff Brown and Deputy Timothy Smith did not address his question, and quickly snatched Mr. Randolph's cameras from him and smashed the equipment on the ground."

Randolph alleged Smith then pulled his arms behind his back, began pushing him towards a parked patrol truck, searched him "without his consent" and he "was told he didn't have permission to be on Sheriff's De-

partment property."

Randolph said he had no ID and did not need to show one because he "was not breaking any law." Smith then began pushing Randolph "down the public sidewalk towards the entrance of the Law Enforcement Center."

After arriving at the public entrance Smith told Randolph not to return "or he would lock him up and he could consider that a threat," Randolph alleged in the lawsuit.

Randolph then told Maj. Sammy Banks he could "record anything he could see from a publicly accessible place" and Smith handcuffed him and told him he was under arrest on a charge of Criminal Trespass.

"Mr. Randolph was then forced to endure a painful walk back to the Law Enforcement Center due to (Smith) pulling Mr. Randolph arms up to his head while in handcuffs.

Smith informed Randolph and Banks "that he did not care that Mr. Randolph was in pain."

"Deputy Timothy Smith informed Mr. Randolph that he could do what he wanted, after Mr. Randolph asked Deputy Timothy Smith repeatedly why he was doing this.

"Mr. Randolph never raised his voice, uttered fighting words, or acted in a violent or tumultuous manner.

Mr. Randolph remained calm and professional throughout his encounters despite being repeatedly assaulted" and was subsequently arrested on charges of Loitering and Willful Obstruction of Law Enforcement.

Randolph said he was performing "clearly constitutionally protected freedom of the press activity." Detaining Randolph, seizing his camera, bringing criminal charges against him and interfering with his filming violated

his First Amendment rights, the lawsuit alleges.

He said his Fourth Amendment rights were violated during his "unlawful seizure and arrest" because "the facts within defendants' knowledge were not sufficient to establish probable cause that Mr. Randolph committed the crime of Loitering, Willful Obstruction or any other criminal offense."

Randolph also said Brown, Smith and others were liable for damages not less than \$1,000 plus attorneys' fees and costs.

He is asking the court for a jury trial on his claims and for punitive damages against Brown, Smith, and Newton County; and civil penalties under the Georgia Open Records Act.

Brown declined comment on the lawsuit or the video Randolph posted.

DEPUTY:

Continued from A1

Sheriff's Office was actively investigating and asked that if anyone had information on the incident to contact Investigator Joshua Hicks at 678-625-1455 or jhicks@newtonsheriffga.org, according to a posting on the agency's Facebook page.

"Sheriff Ezell Brown and the Newton County Sheriff's Office send their condolences to the victims' families and to

Sheriff Pat Labat and his staff members," the posting stated.

Shakeema Jackson, 28, who was off-duty at the time, became a Fulton County sheriff's deputy just more than a month ago, said Fulton County Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat.

Labat said Jackson had been a "treasured member of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office" and joined the

agency in 2018 as a detention officer.

She was remembered as "eager to learn, and always having a positive disposition."

"Coworkers say she was bubbly and, no matter how disrespectful inmates may have been, always greeted them with, 'Good morning,' earning their respect," the Fulton County Sheriff's Office stated on social media.

Labat said Jackson's death was "a heart-breaking loss for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

"This is a hard time for the Sheriff's Office, and we ask for your continued prayers," Labat said.

Funeral services and arrangements for Jackson will be announced when confirmed, it stated.

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CITY OF COVINGTON

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for a **Communications Technician** in the **911 Communications Department** with a starting hourly rate of \$16.60 to a maximum hourly rate of \$24.38 depending upon qualifications. Qualified applicants can download a **Public Safety Application packet at [www.cityofcovington.org](http://www.cityofcovington.org)** or may apply in person at the Covington City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, November 12, 2021**. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITY OF COVINGTON

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for a **Water Reclamation Facility Operator** in the **Water Reclamation Department** with a starting hourly rate of \$17.96 to a maximum hourly rate of \$26.38 depending upon qualifications. Qualified applicants **MUST** download an application packet at **[www.cityofcovington.org](http://www.cityofcovington.org)** or may apply in person at the Covington City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, November 12, 2021**. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

David Carroll columnist

# What I learned from Brian Snitker

This is a column I should have written a long time ago, but with the Atlanta Braves in the World Series, now is the perfect time. It's sort of a confessional, I guess.



In March of 2016, I was at the Braves spring training site in Kissimmee, Florida. My family has always loved spring baseball. The weather is ideal, the players are relaxed, and many future Braves stars are on the field. That's where I got my first look at Jason Heyward (hitting a first pitch home run into the players parking lot, denting someone's SUV), Freddie Freeman (Heyward's best friend, a pudgy kid wearing number 71), and a young catcher named Tyler Flowers (who would soon be traded to the White Sox before returning to the Braves).

With my reporter credentials, I took a lot of pictures. I would just wander around the batting cage and dugout to chat with everyone from the general manager to the players.

Braves legend Phil Niekro was on hand each year. He had just as much time for a guy from Chattanooga as



**Braves manager Brian Snitker argues with umpire Mark Wegner after being ejected in the first inning of a 2019 game against the Miami Marlins.**  
John Amis | Associated Press

he did for the players. Should-be Hall of Famer Dale Murphy greets everyone with a smile.

Former Braves catcher Eddie Perez pointed at a 19-year-old third baseman named Austin Riley. "I'm trying to talk them into making him a catcher," Eddie told me. "That's his path to the major leagues." I looked at the stocky kid, and agreed. Obviously, we were both wrong. Riley is an excellent third baseman.

But this column is really about Brian Snitker, and a life lesson from that day.

In case you only know "Snit" as the manager of the Braves for the past few years, here's a little background. In the 1970s, he spent four years in the Braves minor league system as an average player, at best.

At the age of 25, the Braves told him he would never play in the majors, but hired him as an instructor, sort of a roving coach among their minor league teams. A few years later he became manager of one of their lower-level teams.

For the next several decades, he was living the minor league "dream." That included managing seven different teams, enduring the endless bus rides, fast food joints, and cheap hotels that come with it. The fact that he was able to maintain a long marriage to his (very patient) wife Ronnie and raise two great kids is a testament to his character.

He finally got a taste of the major league life in 2007, when the Braves hired him to be the team's third-base coach. For the first

time, Brian Snitker was riding on chartered jets, sleeping in fancy hotels, and enjoying first-class restaurants.

But by the time I saw him in 2016, his career seemed to be in decline. At the age of 61, he was back in the minors, at the helm of the Gwinnett Braves. On that spring day in Kissimmee, he was among a multitude of coaches and other minor league personnel, seemingly with little to do, other than watch the games.

While scouting around the dugout looking for people to interview, I saw Snitker standing alone in a corner. We made eye contact, and he spoke first. "How ya' doing?" That's a rarity, because baseball guys usually wait for "media types" to speak first.

I nodded to him, thinking to myself,

"Well, there's poor ol' Brian Snitker. Now, where's somebody IMPORTANT I can talk to?"

I never introduced myself, and did not start a conversation. If I had, I could have learned that we share so much in common. His heroes are my heroes. He has seen even more games than I have, on a much higher level. On that day, I think he would have enjoyed having someone to talk to. And I could have made a new friend.

Little did I know that just a few weeks later, in May 2016, he would be promoted to manage the Atlanta Braves, and would take them on a long run of championships, and now a World Series.

I have spoken to him briefly during the past few years, and he is always kind. He treats

people the right way. His players would run through a brick wall for him.

What did I learn, even at my advanced age? Do not assume that the person in that "lowly" job is not worthy of your time. He or she may be a singer in a bar, a janitor, or just a no-name assistant baseball coach. But tomorrow, you may wish you had been more attentive to that person.

I can't turn the clock back to March 2016, and tell Brian Snitker how much I admire his perseverance. But hopefully I will get it right the next time.

*David Carroll is a Chattanooga TV news anchor, author and radio host. He may be reached him at [RadioTV2020@yahoo.com](mailto:RadioTV2020@yahoo.com).*

Kasey Carty Jordan religious columnist

# I'd rather be a vessel to be used by God

As an art major for my first two years of college, I spent a lot of time with people who today are still making a living creating the art that they have always been passionate about.



We spent hours, talking in art studios

or under the stars for an art retreat camping trip, contemplating our "passion" and how we would only feel satisfied if we were passionate about what we did in our professional lives.

With this mindset, figuring out if I was in the right major was quite a daunting task. What if I chose the wrong thing or my interests changed or I wasn't good enough at

this thing I was passionate about? I ultimately did make some of those realizations and decided that my preferred art medium was actually words. Photography has always been something I love and that I have been able to use even this summer, snapping pictures of separated sibling in foster care, but it has not ended up being how I have made any money in my life.

I still believe that having things that we are passionate about is important. I look around and see so many people who seem to have no life left in them, doing the day to day with life seeming to pass them by. Hey, that is me a lot of days too, if I am going to be honest. I feel so fortunate that I have been able to do things in my professional life that I am truly passionate about—serving as an English teacher internationally, teaching college writing, leading faith formation programs, and creating programming for siblings separated in foster care. While I was making my two-foot-tall Greek

vessel made from clay coils over 20 years ago, I would not have imagined the things that I would one day be passionate about. But my views have shifted even as I do in fact have the opportunity to do things I am passionate about.

The problem with my former view is that it was about what I wanted. What made me happy. What made me satisfied. And even as I said that I was seeking what God had for my life, there was so much of ME in it.

Don't get me wrong. We are created by God. We are loved by God and he cares about us individually and the lives that we lead. But so many times, even when we say the right things and look like we are doing things for God, it can be all about us.

1 Peter 4:11 says, "Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Our lives have the opportunity to glorify God or to glorify ourselves.

I will be the first to admit how tempting it is to want the attention to be on ourselves. But when I stop and think about the incomprehensible fact that the God who created the universe and holds all things in his hands allows his glory to shine through imperfect me, I am blown away.

Getting a little attention can be nice. But being a part of something so much greater than myself makes any of my accolades pale in comparison.

I sometimes wonder how people who are famous and have everything they could possibly want fall into depression and addiction and sometimes even take their own life. Obviously, mental health plays a big part in that. But fame and fortune can bring temporal happiness, but without connection and meaning, they can't fill our souls.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body."

May I never forget that my life was purchased for a price. That only in laying down myself can God live through me and do more than I could ever do with my own limited resources.

What freedom this brings.

When I feel tired and hopeless and the task before me seems impossible, it is precisely in that moment that God can use me most fully. I don't have to hold the weight of the world on my shoulders. God longs for me to depend on him and in my weakness, his un-surpassing strength can do incredible things far beyond the dreams I ever had for myself.

I would rather be a vessel of clay overflowing with the presence of God, than a vessel of gold that is empty inside.

I can be passionate about whatever task is before me, even those that are urbane or unpleasant because I know the One who can do anything through me if I seek his glory and not my own.

*Kasey Carty Jordan is a former missionary and resides in Monticello.*

## The Covington News

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# Mansfield teacher gets \$7,000 haircut for cancer research fundraiser

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

MANSFIELD, Ga. — Cancer is the No. 1 disease killer of children in America, but Mansfield Elementary School students were on a mission this fall to change that, thanks in part to an exciting challenge by physical education teacher, Jon Krieger.

Mansfield Elementary School special needs pre-kindergarten paraprofessional Paige Smith, whose sister was diagnosed with childhood cancer at age 12 and passed away when she was 18, suggested the school support the Rally Organization this school year. Krieger recalled the organization's support of his own family during a time of need and was all in.

"This is something that affects me personally, as my son went through treatment three times—he's in remission and is a freshman in college now in Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee and doing well", said Krieger. "It was a journey we went through—a rough road—but with organizations like Rally and Cure they were very instrumental in helping us along the way to get through it."

To encourage the students to collect change for the fundraiser, Krieger offered to shave his head if they met



Special to The Covington News

**Mansfield Elementary School physical education teacher Jon Krieger gets his head shaved after helping raise more than \$7,000 to donate for cancer research.**

his challenge to raise \$5,000 for the Rally Organization.

"The goal was to raise \$5,000 and I told them if they raised that collecting change, they would get to see me bald—they would get to see my head shaved, just like (Mansfield Principal) Mr. (Chris) Haymore. They loved it and said 'OK' and went after it," said Krieger, who admitted he's had short haircuts before but has never been bald.

The Mansfield student body met the challenge and actually far surpassed it by raising \$7,017.11. With the challenge met, students gathered in the school gym recently, while others watched live on Zoom, as school principal, Chris Haymore and other teachers took turns shaving Krieger's head.

"Having some experience in that realm (being bald) I asked him if he was sure he wanted to do it because he hadn't been bald before," laughed Haymore. "I told him it was a life-changing experience because he's going to wake up in the morning and not know what to do with all the free time he has because he doesn't have to dry or style his hair."

Haymore added, "I think it was a good challenge and Coach Krieger is a good sport to do this for the kids."

While the school principal was thrilled with the stu-

dents' success in the cancer research fundraiser, he admitted he wasn't surprised due to the support the school receives from the community.

"This school has a wonderful student body, and you can tell by the amount of money we raised that it has community support as well," Haymore explained. "This is a community school within the city limits of Mansfield and the community supports it. And you can tell that from the work they did with this fundraiser. The teaching staff, every member of the staff here—the paraprofessionals, the custodians, the cafeteria crew—everybody is involved in this school, and I think a fundraiser like this shows it. Within the span of a month, they collected \$7,000 in change—I just think it shows the support this school has. I think it's a big part of the community and our folks are good people."

According to Smith, 93 cents per dollar raised for the Rally Foundation goes directly to research childhood cancer.

"We wanted to get together and do something that goes directly for kids, and I think we kind of hit this one out of the park with our students and families who supported it here."

# NCTS parents unhappy with drop-off, pick-up experience want action

Superintendent says lines affected by bus driver shortage; ambulance service not fazed by school traffic

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Parents of Newton County Theme School students are frustrated with the drop-off and pick-up experience, saying it takes way too long. They're also worried that too much traffic is detrimental to the nearby hospital and its ambulance services.

In response, district administrators affirm they're doing all they can to improve the situation but said delays were a product of a shortage of bus drivers.

"Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've experienced a shortage of bus drivers that has impacted our student transportation services," Newton County Schools Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey said. "Many more parents are now driving their children to school, which has resulted in longer than usual car-rider lines at all of our schools."

Fuhrey also stressed the importance of parents allowing "ample time for student drop-off and pick-up."

"Students may be dropped off at Newton County Theme School as early as 7:05 a.m. each morning," she said. "We encourage our NCTS families to enter car-rider line prior to 7:25 a.m. to avoid the rush; unfortunately, we begin to experience delays in our morning drop-off due to the volume of cars arriving after 7:25 a.m."

To speed up the movement of the line, Fuhrey said it was "critical" for parents to have their students ready to exit the vehicle as soon as they arrive to the



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

**In this file photo from August, students are dropped off at the Newton County Theme School in Covington.**

drop-off/pick-up area.

There are two drop-off/pick-up locations for NCTS: one in front of the school and one at the rear.

"Even with two drop-off locations available, it is still important that parents enter the car-rider line prior to 7:25 a.m. to ensure their student is not late," Fuhrey said.

But one parent, who asked to remain anonymous, said roughly two-thirds of students were being taken to the rear location — which the parent believed was "a safety issue as well as equality." The parent said there have been ongoing issues since schools opened in August.

Fuhrey said the school's leadership team would continue to share the message about both drop-off/pick-up locations, as well as the tips and suggestions for parents to help make the process go smoother via School Messenger calls. Any suggestions, ideas and concerns from parents about the process are welcomed, Fuhrey said.

Also among parents' concerns was "blocking ambulance services [and] streets" while waiting to drop-off or pick-up their child.

A representative of

Priority Ambulance Services, who has been providing ambulance services for Piedmont Newton Hospital since May, reports school traffic at NCTS was not causing any issues.

"National EMS has continuous access to the Piedmont Newton Hospital from multiple entrances," Priority Ambulance Services Director of Communications Amanda Jennings said after speaking with local operations. "Newton County Theme School is located two blocks to the west of Piedmont Newton Hospital. School traffic in the mornings and afternoons congests Mill Street one block west of the hospital entrance; however, the traffic does not hinder the approach or exit of the hospital entrances. Additionally, ambulances have the option to enter the hospital premises from Highway 278 at the north side of the property or Dearing Street to Tate Street on the south side of the property when needed. National EMS ambulance crews and dispatchers monitor and plan for traffic patterns and trends across the county during certain times of the day and week, and our crews

are trained to use alternate routes around traffic congestion when needed."

Fuhrey said school leaders ask parents to

"follow traffic laws and remind them of general safety procedures, which include not blocking entrances, not blocking intersections,

and staying in the correct lane of traffic for all two-lane roads" to ensure it never becomes a problem for local emergency services.

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## Phil's Pregame Points – Week 12

# Alcovy must step up to challenge, 'close the deal'

By **PHILLIP B. HUBBARD**  
phubbard@covnews.com

[Editor's Note: To preview this week's football games, Sports Editor, Phillip B. Hubbard introduces a brand new series called "Phil's Pregame Points." For each game, he briefly breaks down what he believes each team needs to do to better their chances at a win.]

### Alcovy vs. Evans (on Saturday)

Sharp Stadium

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

Last Matchup:

2020 Evans won 40-30

#### • Close the deal

— Heading into the final minutes of last week's win, Alcovy held a 21-point advantage over Heritage High School. The final score, however, was 27-18. Heritage's near comeback was aided by incomplete passes, busted coverages and other miscues that cost Alcovy. If the Tigers want a legitimate chance against Evans, who comes in at 8-1 overall, they'll need to clean up the errors in the home stretch to safely secure a crucial region victory.

#### • Eyes on the Tigers

— All eyes will be on Saturday's game. Not only is it Homecoming and senior night for Alcovy, but the Tigers also have the opportunity to claim the Region 3-AAAAAA championship — the first in program history. Sharp Stadium will most likely be booming with fans support. The Tigers don't need to get caught up in the hype, though. Alcovy needs to keep its eyes on the prize and that is winning the football game.

### Eastside vs. Greenbrier

Sharp Stadium

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

Last Matchup:

2020 Eastside won 44-7

#### • Home field at stake

— Going into Friday's matchup, Eastside could possibly win its way to hosting the first round of the state playoffs. Right now, they're tied with Apalachee for second place in the region. But, if the Eagles win and Apalachee



File | Anthony Banks | The Covington News

**Alcovy running back Joseph Seay (4) breaks away from defenders for a long run to score a touchdown against Heritage on Friday.**

loses, then Eastside will get the No. 2 seed. So, there's a lot at stake on Friday night. The players should feed off that energy and battle to the very end to get home field in the state playoffs.

#### • Senior Send-off

— The Eagles will celebrate their senior class during Friday's game. That should bring a little more motivation for Eastside to give its seniors a proper send-off at Sharp Stadium. The seniors should be extra excited, too, to go out there and give a great performance. Should all the players rally around that motivation, they have no problem beating Greenbrier this Friday.

### Newton @ South Gwinnett

2288 Main St E,

Snellville, GA 30078

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

Last matchup:

2020 Newton won 17-10

#### • Be Consistent

— Consistency has been the Achilles heel of the Rams all season long. Even so, their inconsistencies have caused the Rams to currently be on a 3-game losing streak. Now, a week before the playoffs begin, Newton has one last opportunity to find a way to be more consistent. It should take this week's matchup and use it as a refresher on what has worked this season and what hasn't.

#### • Start strong, finish strong

— Last week, the Newton Rams offense looked flawless on its opening drive to take a 7-0 lead early in the game against Grayson. They ended up losing 15-7. From the first possession

to the end of the game, the Rams' offense became dormant. Newton will need to prioritize coming up with a string of plays that will move the ball down the field. Scoring early is important, but the Rams will need to build off that in order to win games when it matters most.

### Social Circle @

### Greene County

1002 S Main St,

Greensboro, GA 30642

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

Last matchup:

2020 Social Circle won 44-7

#### • Playoff return

— When Social Circle travels to Greensboro on Friday night, the fourth playoff spot in Region 8A-Public will be on the line. Should the Redskins win, they'll qualify for the playoffs for the second consecutive season. That hasn't been done at Social Circle since the 2008 and 2009 seasons. So, it'll be a big deal if the Redskins can accomplish this goal. The players should use this statistic as a way to become more motivated to go out and get a win.

#### • Channel winning energy

— There's another streak the Redskins should focus on, too. They're currently on a 2-game winning streak defeating Commerce and Towns County. Social Circle should be riding high into the regular season finale, as a result. However, if they can't properly channel that winning vibe, then the Redskins may be too hyped and not play as detail-oriented as needed to win.

## HISTORY:

Continued from A8

however, said if it wasn't for the players' commitment the past three years, the milestone wouldn't be possible. Now, Dukes

hopes his team puts its best foot forward when game time comes.

"These kids are tested and they're ready to perform," Dukes said.

"We're going to have to win the turnover margin. Then, special teams will play a huge role in the game. When we're on defense,

we've got to limit the big plays. Offensively, we've got to convert on third down. All of that is going to be important for us to get the win."

## NEWTON:

Continued from A8

upcoming Friday. It'll take on South Gwinnett in both teams' last Region 4-AAAAAAA contest of 2021.

For Grant, Friday will be the final tune up to get the Rams back on track and in the win

column before playoffs begin next week.

"I go back to the Mill Creek game," Grant said. "Even though we lost, that was as close as you can find us playing consistently in all three phases

and also at a high level. If we do that, I'm confident against any team in the state. If we want to win on Friday, we've got to play at the level we're capable of."

## REDSKINS:

Continued from A8

past season that also makes this season a triumphant one.

It all began Aug. 9 when the Lady Redskins lost to Franklin County 9-1. That was a momentous occasion because later in the season, on Sept. 29, Social Circle avenged the loss by winning 3-2.

Another notable game from this past season was at Washington-Wilkes on Aug. 26.

Even with the absence of their head coach, the Lady Redskins went on the road and defeated the Lady Tigers 4-3 in extra innings.

The cherry on top came in the regular season finale.

After already defeating Commerce once, Social Circle only needed to split the Oct. 9 doubleheader at home to claim the Region 8A-Public champion-

ship.

It took both games, but Social Circle came out on top and were crowned region champs.

But Social Circle didn't have long to celebrate.

Four days later, it swept Bowdon High School in the first round of the state playoffs. Then, the Lady Redskins swept Charlton County a week later in the second round.

Both rounds were played at home before traveling to Columbus for the final rounds of the playoffs.

Admittedly, Eades stressed how difficult it was for any team to compete at the South Commons Complex. He also highlighted how much the team improved from the beginning to the end of the season.

"I think we had a ton of im-

provement," Eades said. "From the summer to where we ended up, I thought we made a huge transformation. The goal is to be playing your best in the postseason. And, fortunately for us, that happened."

Moving forward, Eades hopes the returning underclassmen next season will use this postseason's experience to their advantage.

"At the beginning of the year, I talked a lot about winning a region championship and getting to Columbus," Eades. "And, for the girls who've never been, that's just a word: 'Columbus.' Now, it's just a word, it's an experience. They've seen it, lived and experienced what it's like. Hopefully the mindset now is to make that an annual trip."

## PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Alcovy Tigers

### #8 Ashton Evans

Evans had his most consistent performance through the air of 2021. He threw for a touchdown in Friday's win and made crucial third down throws as well.



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Eastside Eagles

### #3 Dallas Johnson

Once again, Johnson shined the brightest for the Eagles. During Friday's region win for Eastside, Johnson stormed down the field for an 89-yard touchdown run.



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Newton Rams

### #3 Marcus Calwise

The sophomore wideout turned in an impressive performance for the Rams. Calwise caught a pass, ran 24 yards downfield and crossed the goal line for the Rams' lone score of the contest.



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Social Circle Redskins

### #3 Logan Cross

Cross tossed three touchdowns in the Redskins' lopsided victory on Friday. His first touchdown pass was on the very first play of the game to Mason Moore. Receiving the final two touchdown passes were Amarion Russell and Tyrell Branch.



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Prep Football

# Playoffs in sight for area teams



Special to The Covington News  
Tristan Mayweather (5) and the Alcovy Tigers are a lock for the post-season with their eyes on a Region 3-AAAAAA championship.

## History is in Tigers' eyes

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. - In the 15-year history of Alcovy football, there's one thing that is not mentioned in the history books: A region championship.

That could all change on Saturday night at Sharp Stadium when Evans High School comes to town.

Both teams enter Saturday's contest at 4-0 in the region tied for first. The winner will be crowned the 2021 Region 3-AAAAAA Champion.

The game will also be Alcovy's homecoming and senior night as well.

So, there'll be a lot on the line for the Tigers.

Head coach Jason Dukes, See HISTORY, A7

GHSA REGION STANDINGS	
Region 3-AAAAAA	
T1. Alcovy.....	4-4 (4-0)
T1. Evans.....	8-1 (4-0)
3. Lakeside.....	3-6 (2-2)
4. Grovetown.....	2-7 (1-3)
- Heritage.....	1-8 (1-4)
- Rockdale Co.....	(1-7 ; 0-4)
Region 8-AAAAA	
1. Clarke Central.....	7-2 (6-0)
2. Apalachee.....	4-5 (4-2)
3. Eastside.....	6-3 (4-2)
4. Jackson Co.....	5-4 (3-3)
- Greenbrier.....	4-5 (3-3)
- Walnut Grove.....	3-6 (2-4)
- Loganville.....	3-6 (2-4)
- Johnson.....	0-9 (0-6)
Region 4-AAAAAAA	
1. Brookwood.....	7-2 (3-0)
2. Grayson.....	7-3 (4-1)
3. Newton.....	4-4 (2-2)
4. Parkview.....	4-5 (1-2)
- South Gwinnett.....	4-5 (0-3)
Region 8A-Public	
1. Commerce.....	6-3 (3-1)
2. Washington-Wilkes.....	7-2 (3-1)
3. Lincoln Co.....	6-3 (3-1)
4. Social Circle.....	5-4 (2-2)
- Greene Co.....	4-5 (1-3)
- Towns Co.....	4-5 (0-4)

## If Eastside wins, they're in

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Eastside Eagles could be in for a long, crazy night this upcoming Friday.

Eastside will host Greenbrier at Sharp Stadium for its regular season finale. Friday night will also be the team's senior night.

There are a lot of scenarios that could possibly play out to make things interesting for the Eagles.

Going into this week, the Eagles are No. 3 in Region 8-AAAAA. But, when Friday comes to an end, they could find themselves up or down a spot in the standings.

If they end up at the No. 2 seed, then the Eagles will host the first round of the state playoffs next week. On the other hand, if they stay in third or drop down to fourth, then the Eagles will be on the road for the entire post-season.

So, Friday's outcome will be consequential to where



Taylor Beck | The Covington News  
As Eastside's playoff picture hangs in the balance, the team controls its own destiny.

Eastside ends up.

Head coach Jay Cawthon and the coaching staff have full belief in their players. With that, Cawthon said they're not looking to add any more pressure in practice this week.

"[The players] know what's at stake," Cawthon said. "We'll tell them a little bit, but not too much. It's just the next opponent. We've been practicing well. This team is really close and they pull for each other. I think when the stakes get higher, they focus a lot more."

## Newton aims for consistency in season finale

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — There's been a common theme surrounding the Newton Rams football team all season long: Inconsistency.

Whether it's costly turnovers or penalties, inconsistency has been a problem for the Rams this season.

It also seems to be the main reason the



Taylor Beck | The News  
Rams head coach Camiel Grant Jr. watches a play unfold against Mill Creek.

Rams are on a 3-game losing streak heading

into the final week of the regular season.

Head coach Camiel Grant Jr., believes that his team could've won all three of those matchups if certain mistakes weren't made.

Be that as it may, the Rams shift their focus to this week.

Newton's final test will be on the road this

See NEWTON, A7

## Social Circle battles Greene County for final spot

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Last year, the Social Circle football team ended its 10-year playoff drought.

Now, this season, the Redskins have the opportunity to make it back-to-back years.

Social Circle will travel to Greensboro to take on Greene County High School. Both



Special to The News  
Redskins' Amarion Russell runs down field against Towns County on Friday.

teams will battle for the fourth and final playoff

spot in Region 8A-Public.

Should the Redskins win, it'll be the first time since 2008-2009 that they've qualified two consecutive post-seasons.

Currently, Social Circle is on a 2-game winning streak. It'll look to make it three in a row with a win Friday night.

Prep Softball: GHSA Playoffs

# Fourth place finish for Lady Redskins

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Becoming state champions is the ultimate goal for all softball teams when they travel to Columbus. But Social Circle's fourth place finish isn't too shabby either.

That was after it defeated Screven County 8-0 in the Elite Eight, dropped to the loser's bracket in a 2-1 loss to Emmanuel County Institute, but won

again 20-6 versus Crawford County.

After an up and down weekend, the Lady Redskins were officially eliminated on Saturday by Gordon Lee in a 10-5 loss.

When all was said and done, head coach Bryan Eades still considered 2021 a successful season.

"I told them [after the final game was over], if they felt like their season was a failure be-

cause they didn't win state, then they were wrong," Eades said. "This season was a huge success and they had accomplished a lot in the last three months. And they need to appreciate that."

The Lady Redskins finished with a 22-8 overall record while also going 9-1 in region play.

Eades said that there were some noteworthy games this

See REDSKINS, A7



Phillip B. Hubbard | The Covington News  
The Social Circle Lady Redskins' 2021 season came to an end when they suffered a 10-5 loss against Gordon Lee at the South Commons Complex in Columbus on Saturday.

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# BUSINESS

The Covington News

## US to make large firms give paid time off for vaccinations

Federal officials say more details about COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employers expected this week

### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government will require companies with at least 100 workers to provide paid time off for employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and paid sick leave to recover from effects of the shots, a Biden administration official said Monday.

Those requirements will be part of a pending federal rule that will spell out how large employers will meet a requirement that workers be vaccinated or tested regularly for the virus.

The White House budget office has completed its review of the rule being written by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is expected to be released this week.

The rule — issued under emergency standards to respond to the pandemic —



Metro Creative Services

**Companies with 100 or more employees are being required to have every worker vaccinated or regularly tested for the virus, per an executive order issued in September.**

will cover firms with 100 or more employees, regardless of how many are located in any particular spot.

“Covered employers must develop, implement, and enforce a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, unless they adopt a

policy requiring employees to choose either to get vaccinated or to undergo regular COVID-19 testing and wear a face covering at work,” a Labor Department spokesperson said Monday. The rule “also requires employers to provide paid time

to workers to get vaccinated and paid sick leave to recover from any side effects.”

The official said that the Office of Management and Budget completed its review of the OSHA rule on Monday, and the rule will be published in the Federal Register

“in the coming days.”

The spokesperson declined to give further details, saying that the administration “will provide further updates when we have more information.”

Separately, the administration will give federal contractors broad authority on how to treat employees who refuse to be vaccinated, according to guidelines that the White House issued Monday.

Under an executive order that President Joe Biden issued in September, contractors have until Dec. 8 to ensure that employees are fully vaccinated. The order has met resistance from some workers at large employers with federal contracts, including American Airlines and Southwest Airlines. The CEO of Southwest said his airline would not fire anybody for refusing to get the shots.

## Dollar General opens new Salem Road store, donates 100 books to area school

### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Dollar General announces its new store at 3227 Salem Road in Newton County is now open.

Dan Nieser, Dollar General’s senior vice president of real estate and store development, said, “At Dollar General, we believe the addition of each new store provides positive economic growth for the communities we proudly serve, and the addition of our new Covington store highlights our commitment to deliver a pleasant shopping experience that includes great prices on quality products in a convenient loca-

tion.

“We look forward to welcoming customers to our new store and hope they will enjoy shopping at our new location.”

To commemorate the opening of its new Covington location, Dollar General plans to donate 100 new books to a nearby elementary school to benefit students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.

Through the partnership with the Kellogg Co., the donation will be part of a planned donation of more than 100,000 books across the country to celebrate new Dollar General store openings.

Furthermore, DG

strives to be a good neighbor and is committed to the communities it proudly calls home, evidenced by unwavering support of literacy and education initiatives through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

The addition of the Salem Road store opens the opportunity for schools, nonprofit organizations and libraries within a 15-mile radius of the store to apply for Dollar General Literacy Foundation grants.

Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$203 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 14.8 million indi-

viduals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education.

For more information about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and its grant programs, visit [www.dgliteracy.com](http://www.dgliteracy.com).

Dollar General plans to create new jobs with the store, which is expected to employ six to 10 people depending on

its individual needs.

The Goodlettsville, Tennessee-based company provides employees with competitive wages, world-class and award-winning training and development programs and benefits including day-one telemedicine eligibility and Dollar General’s Employee Assistance Foundation, as well as

health insurance coverage options, 401K savings and retirement plans, tuition reimbursement, paid parental leave and adoption assistance to eligible employees.

Interested candidates can review and apply for available positions at <https://careers.dollargeneral.com/>.

## Benefits of in-person holiday shopping

### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

news@covnews.com

The 2020 holiday season was unlike any other.

The COVID-19 pandemic was still affecting daily life across the globe over the final months of 2020, prompting many families and individuals to alter holiday traditions they’d embraced for decades. That included how people shop. Many people avoided in-person holiday shopping in 2020. However, the successful rollout of various COVID-19 vaccines has made in-person shopping safe again. That’s good news for local businesses and great news for shoppers, who may have forgotten just how much they can benefit from shopping in person.

• In-person shopping is convenient. Much is made of the convenience of online shopping. And it’s undeniable that the ability to shop at all hours of the day and night is convenient. However, in person shopping, especially when shopping for others, is much

more convenient than shoppers may realize. When shopping in person, shoppers can get a feel for an item, size it up and even inspect its quality prior to purchasing it. That can save shoppers from that disappointing feeling of receiving an item in the mail only to realize it’s poorly made or oddly sized and therefore unlikely to fit its eventual recipient.

• In-person shopping isn’t all about shipping. Shipping speed is a significant factor for online shoppers, and that may affect just which gift they give come the holiday season. According to a Dotcom report titled “How Fast Delivery and Quality Packaging Drives Customer Loyalty,” 87% of shoppers surveyed indicated shipping was a key factor when deciding whether to shop with an e-commerce brand again. That’s an important consideration, as shoppers may be more inclined to buy an item from a retailer simply because of their shipping speed capabilities and not because of the quality of the


item and whether or not it’s what they want to give to their loved one. Shopping in person removes shipping from the equation, ensuring gift givers will give a gift they truly want to give and not just the one that will arrive on time.

• In-person shopping allows for more accessible browsing. Within minutes of entering a store and walking around, shoppers may see a handful of gifts that will ultimately be great for various people on their lists, even if they had no idea what to get prior to entering. That ability to browse is more difficult when shopping online, especially when buying from online retailers with massive inventories of a range of products. Such sites often require visitors to pick a category to streamline their searches. That’s not always easy or enjoyable for shoppers who cherish the opportunity to uncover hidden gems or more unique gifts that aren’t available all over the internet.


# NEWTON

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING RIBBON CUTTINGS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!




**Connection Point Counseling**



**S.H.E Ministries**



**Sojourney Travel**



**Everflow Supplies**



# Food Depot

Please visit our website at [www.fooddepot.com](http://www.fooddepot.com)  
Download the Food Depot App for digital coupons and in-store promotions!

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

\*OUR COST INCLUDES FREIGHT, STOCKING FEES AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

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



USDA Inspected,  
Fresh,  
Any Size Package  
**Ground Beef**  
**\$2.98**  
LB.



USDA Select,  
Whole or Flats  
**Beef Brisket**  
**\$3.95**  
LB.



USDA Inspected,  
Boneless, Fresh  
**Pork Loin Chops**  
**\$2.77**  
LB.



Smoked  
**Sugardale Center Cut Ham Steaks**  
**\$1.98**  
LB.



USDA Select Beef,  
Boneless  
**Sirloin Tip Roast**  
**\$4.95**  
LB.



10 Pound Bag,  
Fresh  
**Claxton Fryer Leg Quarters**  
**\$6.90**  
EA.

## Farm Fresh Produce



5 Ounce, Organic Clamshells  
**Fresh Express Salads**  
**\$3.59**  
EA.



**Roma Tomatoes**  
**\$1.79**  
LB.



**Banana Peppers**  
**\$2.49**  
LB.



3 Pound Bag  
**Florida Tangerines**  
**\$4.29**  
BG.



**Green Cabbage**  
**69¢**  
LB.



**Acorn, Butternut or Spaghetti Squash**  
**89¢**  
LB.



**Poblano Peppers**  
**\$1.89**  
LB.



**Pink Grapefruit**  
**99¢**  
EA.



8 Pound Bag  
**Food Depot Russet Potatoes**  
**\$4.79**  
BG.

## From Our Dairy Case!



8 Ounce  
**Dutch Farms Shredded Cheese**  
**\$1.85**



16 Ounce  
**Land O Lakes Butter**  
**\$2.84**



12.4-16.3 Ounce  
**Pillsbury Flaky Layers Biscuits**  
**\$1.72**



59 Ounce  
**Dole Juice Blends**  
**\$1.69**



27.5-31.5 Ounce, Select Varieties  
**DiGiorno Pizza**  
**\$5.42**



20-32 Ounce, Assorted  
**Ore-Ida Fries**  
**\$2.58**



16-20 Ounce, Fried, White or Yellow  
**McKenzie's Chub Corn**  
**79¢**



7.3-11.25 Ounce, Texas Toast,  
Garlic Knots or Garlic Bread Sticks  
**New York Bread**  
**\$1.78**

# Food Depot

Watch Your Savings Grow!

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

\*OUR COST INCLUDES FREIGHT, STOCKING FEES AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

**OFFERS GOOD NOVEMBER 1ST-NOVEMBER 7TH, 2021**

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

## Great Quality Brands!



750 ML, Assorted  
**Capriccio Wine**

**2/\$10.00**



750 ML, Assorted  
**Flybird Wine**

**\$7.49**



12 Pack or 8 Pack Bottles  
**Coca-Cola Products**

**3/\$10.98**



28 Ounce  
**Body Armor**

**3/\$4.00**



6.2-6.9 Ounce,  
Select Varieties  
**Rice-A-Roni**

**76¢**



18 Count, Assorted  
**Frito-Lay's Multipack**

**\$7.79**



18.19.5 Ounce,  
Family Size  
**Nabisco Chips Ahoy**

**\$3.00**



30 Ounce  
**Blue Plate Mayonnaise**

**2/\$5.00**



9-9.5 Ounce,  
Assorted  
**UTZ Chips**

**\$2.00**



18.4 Ounce, Fudge or  
Milk Chocolate  
**Pillsbury Brownie Mix**

**95¢**



16 Ounce, Assorted  
**UTZ Pretzels**

**\$2.00**



128 Ounce  
**Crisco Oil**

**\$6.85**



15 Ounce,  
Italian or Ranch  
**Wishbone Dressing**

**\$1.56**



11.36 Ounce  
**Red Lobster Cheddar Bay Biscuit Mix**

**\$1.78**

## Low Prices — Name Brand Meats



12 Ounce  
**Gwaltney Meat Franks**  
**94¢**  
EA.



18 Ounce,  
Any Variety  
**Southern Chef Smoked Sausage**  
**\$2.78**  
EA.



27 Ounce,  
Hot or Mild  
**Swaggerty's Sausage Patties**  
**\$5.18**  
EA.



14 Ounce  
**Four Star Red Hots**  
**\$2.16**  
EA.



16 Ounce  
**Land O Frost Premium Sliced Smoked Ham or Turkey**  
**\$4.44**  
EA.



16 Ounce  
**Jamestown Sliced Bacon**  
**\$2.95**  
EA.

## Stock Up On Freezer Favorites!



# Freshway Market

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

Visit Our Ad Online @ [www.covnews.com](http://www.covnews.com)

Online Grocery Shopping Available at [www.freshwaymarketsocialcirclega.com](http://www.freshwaymarketsocialcirclega.com)

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

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

\*Ask Cashier for  
Details



Family Pack  
**Split  
Chicken Breast**  
**99¢ LB.**



Family Pack, Bone-In  
**Assorted  
Pork Chops**  
**\$1.69 LB.**



Family Pack, Bone-In  
**Center Cut  
Pork Chops**  
**\$2.49 LB.**



4 Pound  
**Domino  
Sugar**  
**2/\$5.00**



30 Ounce  
**Blue Plate  
Mayonnaise**  
**2/\$6.00**



3-4 Pound Bag  
**Florida  
Tangerines or  
Navel Oranges**  
**\$3.99**



USDA Select,  
Family Pack  
**New York  
Strip Steak**  
**\$7.99 LB.**



CAB Choice,  
Family Pack  
**New York  
Strip Steak**  
**\$10.99 LB.**



14.5 Ounce, Selected  
**Margaret  
Holmes  
Vegetables**  
**5/\$5.00**



6 Pack, 1/2 Liters, Assorted  
**Coca-Cola  
Products**  
**3/\$10.00**



24 Count, Family Size,  
Excludes Decaf  
**Tetley  
Tea Bags**  
**2/\$3.00**



13 Count  
**Tide  
Pods**  
**2/\$6.00**



24-28 Ounce  
**PictSweet  
Vegetables**  
**2/\$5.00**



**Yellow  
or Fancy  
Zucchini  
Squash**  
**\$1.69 LB.**



**Kretschmar  
Oven Roasted  
Chicken  
Breast**  
**\$6.99 LB.**



Virginia Smoked  
or Honey  
**Kretschmar  
Ham**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



**Deli Made  
Cole Slaw**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



Honey Crisp, Red, Gala,  
Granny Smith or Gold  
**Washington  
Apples**  
**\$1.29 LB.**



**Florida  
Navel  
Oranges**  
**69¢ EA.**



**Florida  
Tangerines**  
**2/\$1.00**



CAB, Family Pack  
**Premium  
Ground  
Sirloin**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



CAB Choice  
**Sirloin Tip  
Roast**  
**\$4.99 LB.**



Family Pack, Bone-In  
**Quarter Loin  
Pork Chops**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



Family Pack, Bone-In  
**Wafer Thin  
Pork Chops**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



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



Fresh  
**California  
Celery**  
**2/\$3.00**



5 Ounce  
**Mahatma  
Yellow Rice**  
**59¢**



16 Ounce,  
Mild or Light Red  
**Bush's  
Chili Beans**  
**5/\$5.00**



8 Ounce,  
Spaghetti or Elbows  
**Mueller's  
Noodles**  
**69¢**



12 Pound  
**Match Light  
Charcoal**  
**\$9.99**



Red or White  
**Seedless  
Grapes**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



5 Pound Bag  
**Idaho  
Potatoes**  
**\$2.99**



Fresh  
**Avocados**  
**99¢ EA.**



Bone-In  
**Pork  
Roast**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



Family Pack, Bone-In  
**Country  
Style  
Ribs**  
**\$1.99 LB.**



Bone-In  
**Thick Cut  
Pork Chops**  
**\$3.19 LB.**



Vacuum Pack, Boneless  
**Whole  
Pork Loin**  
**\$2.99 LB.**



Gallon  
**Food Club  
Orange Juice**  
**2/\$6.00**



16 Ounce  
**Food Club  
Sour Cream**  
**2/\$3.00**



15 Ounce  
**Luck's  
Beans**  
**4/\$3.00**



1.05 Ounce  
**Mario  
Snack Olives**  
**5/\$5.00**



14 Ounce  
**Sheboygan  
Cocktail  
Smokies**  
**2/\$3.00**



**Hormel Pork  
Tenderloin  
Tips**  
**\$1.59 LB.**



16 Ounce  
**Lawry's  
Seasoned  
Salt**  
**2/\$6.00**

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

**This Ad Good Wednesday, November 3rd thru Tuesday, November 9th, 2021**

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

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

**Wed  
3**

**Thur  
4**

**Fri  
5**

**Sat  
6**

**Sun  
7**

**Mon  
8**

**Tues  
9**