

The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6-7, 2021



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SPORTS:

National Signing Day

Several Newton County athletes signed NLLs to further their academic and athletic careers Wednesday [See A9](#)



His Word

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, KJV

Alcovy Judicial Circuit



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News
Family of Horace J. Johnson Jr. unveil a portrait of the late jurist Friday, located inside the newly-named Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center in Covington.

Judge Johnson immortalized

Newton Judicial Center renamed to honor late jurist

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Newton County Judicial Center closed for a few hours Friday, Feb. 5, so county and judicial officials could honor and formally rename it for one of its longtime occupants.

The judicial center in downtown Covington was renamed for the late Superior Court Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. during a ceremony

Friday featuring his family, friends and community members.

Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton, Alcovy Judicial Circuit Chief Judge John M. Ott, and Johnson's wife Michelle and mother Lottie were among the speakers during the ceremony in the building a block off the Covington Square at 1132 Usher St.

See [JOHNSON, A2](#)

Newton seeks circuit split

- BOC votes 3-2 to request court system break up
- McGinley 'disappointed' in how process unfolded
- Resolution now awaits state legislators' decision

By TAYLOR BECK
and TOM SPIGOLON
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County commissioners' decision to request a split from the two-county Alcovy Judicial Circuit and establish its own circuit came as a surprise to District Attorney Randy McGinley.

McGinley, whose office oversees the prosecution of all cases in the Superior Courts of Newton and Walton counties, said no one reached out to discuss the resolution before it was placed on Tuesday's agenda, and he was upset with how the entire process unfolded. "I'm disappointed in how on the day of the meeting the resolution



File | Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

Pictured, from left, are Alcovy Judicial Circuit Superior Court judges Jeff Foster, Layla Zon, Chief Judge John Ott, Cheveda McCamy and Ken Wynne.

was put on the agenda," McGinley said. "To my knowledge, and I can't speak for others, but I wasn't consulted ... none of the agencies involved on the criminal side was consulted in the decision."

The Newton County Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 on

Tuesday, Feb. 2, to seek legislators' support for splitting up the Alcovy Judicial Circuit.

The resolution asks state lawmakers for a bill that would place Newton County in a one-county Newton Judicial Circuit.

See [SPLIT, A8](#)

Newton County Schools: 150 years in education

Pictured is an old school building located in the Covington Mills area — one of the first schools in the county's history.

Special Photo | History of Newton County Georgia



The News explores district's history of growth, change

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County Schools was established Feb. 7, 1871, but the county's origin of public education has been traced back to years prior.

In celebrating the schools system's 150th anniversary, *The Covington News* recently spent time researching the district's beginnings with aid

from the Historical Society of Newton County among others.

Before 1860, public education was not a priority.

Federal, state and local governments placed little emphasis on schooling by shelling out minor funds in the early 1800s, according to "History of Newton County Georgia," a book compiled and released by the county's

historical society in 1988. But as the 19th century was coming to a close, local and state leaders increased their efforts to make education available on a much larger level than ever before.

In 1867, the Georgia Teachers Association was established, which would play a vital role in the creation

See [EDUCATION, A3](#)

Volume 156, No. 11



Inside

Publix, Georgia collaborate to administer vaccines

See [BUSINESS, A10](#)



Weather

Saturday, Feb. 6
High: 47° Low: 35°
• 80% chance of rain

Sunday, Feb. 7
High: 53° Low: 31°
• Partly sunny

Index

ObituariesA2
OpinionsA4
Classifieds/Legals.....A5
SportsA8
Business.....A10

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Judge agrees with county's pay method for chairman, probate judge

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — A judge said he agreed with Newton County government's long-standing method of not including longevity pay and most other extra compensation in calculating top officials' salaries despite an attorney's claims it should.

However, Senior Judge David Sweat of Athens also told attorneys to come to an agreement in 30 days on what should be included in a final method of calculation or he will decide for them in a final ruling, one attorney said.

The case is related to

claims by County Chairman Marcello Banes and Probate Judge Melanie Bell they are owed thousands of dollars in back pay because of the Newton County government's longtime miscalculation of the salaries for their positions.

The Newton County government filed the lawsuit in Superior Court in Covington in October against the chairman and Probate judge and asked the court to determine which of two methods should be used to calculate their pay since both took office in January 2017.

The county stated in its lawsuit its "custom and historical practice" follows

a 1994 local law that does not include longevity pay and cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) to calculate the highest minimum annual salary — a method that determines the sheriff has the highest minimum annual salary among constitutional officers at around \$80,000.

Banes and Bell contend their salaries should have been calculated under a general state law that uses the highest minimum annual salary of the chairman and four constitutional officers plus longevity pay and COLAs.

The four are called constitutional officers because the state constitution specifies their duties and minimum

salaries — both of which the county government does not directly control.

The chairman and Probate judge say the law states the highest minimum salary is calculated by adding base pay, local supplements, all longevity pay and all COLAs together — placing them at higher pay levels because of the compensation over time to Clerk of Courts Linda Hays, who first took office in 1983.

As a result, they have said in past filings that each is owed about \$180,000 in back pay since 2017.

The Alcovy Judicial

See **PAY, A8**

Extra ice time in Covington

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — People will get a little more time to enjoy the ice rink set up at Legion Field.

The Covington City Council unanimously voted Monday, Feb. 1, to extend its contract with Ice Days and allow the Conyers-based company to continue operation through Feb. 21. The ice rink was originally supposed to only be in town through Feb. 15.

Ticket and event information can be found at icedays.com/covington.



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Smiles of the Month

We are happy in the New Year thanks to January's cavity-free kids. Good work!

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Katie Baggett
Meghan Baggett
Margot Eastburn
Torianna Losch
Sophia Patterson
Mary Lindsey Whisnant



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Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!

  Pursuit of Excellence

JOHNSON:

Continued from A1

During the first part held inside the building, Melton said Johnson "made everyone feel like they were his closest friend."

He said his "hope and prayer" was that in "ways that are expected and ways that are unexpected" those who walk into the Horace J. Johnson Jr. Judicial Center will emerge feeling transformed into better people.

"(My hope is) that this won't just be a hall of justice (but) that this will be a hall of transformation, a hall of hope, a hall of healing, a hall of purpose, a hall of vision, a hall of family," Melton said.

Johnson's wife, Michelle, said Johnson loved his family and community, and loved representing Newton County.

She said he also loved working in areas of the community like Washington Street Community Center, the Boys & Girls

Club and the Kiwanis Club, and Oxford College. Mrs. Johnson asked the community to send her stories about her husband at media.hjff@gmail.com.

The event then moved outdoors for the unveiling of the new name in gold letters above the main entrance.

The Rev. Eric Lee, who was Johnson's pastor at Springfield Baptist Church, closed the event with words and a prayer.

"(The name) Horace J. Johnson Jr. is now permanently enshrined as a contributor to American history on this the bicentennial observation of the founding of Newton County," Lee said.

The ceremony was livestreamed into other courtrooms and online in a manner similar to a memorial service for Johnson following his death July 1, 2020.

Johnson, a Newton County native, served as a Superior Court

judge in his home county for 18 years. The Newton County Board of Commissioners voted six days later to name the judicial center for Johnson.

Johnson grew up in the Sand Hill community and attended Washington Street School. He was among the first Black students to integrate Ficquett Elementary School.

He graduated from Emory University after attending Oxford College, and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia.

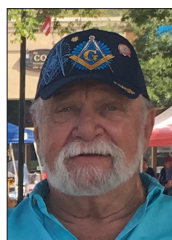
Gov. Roy Barnes appointed Johnson as Newton County's first Black Superior Court judge in 2002.

Johnson considered a run for the state's Supreme Court in early 2020 but later opted for a successful reelection bid to the Superior Court instead.

OBITUARIES

Richard Elkins

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home
Richard Elkins of Monticello, Georgia went to his heavenly home Sunday, January 17, 2021, at the age of 77. He was a faithful servant of God and a proud Veteran of the United States Navy. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Mr. Elkins was a member of High Point Baptist Church in Covington, Georgia where he served as a Deacon, sang in the Choir, participated in Christmas Alive and assisted with the Young at Heart. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and spending time with his family



and friends. He never met a stranger. He was a Third Degree Mason of Pace Masonic Lodge and will receive Masonic Rites. Mr. Elkins was an Al Sihah Shriner and a Scottish Rite 32nd Degree Free Mason.

His Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Elkins retired in 2009 from Manchester Tank and Equipment where he worked 34 years.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Carl Jackson Elkins and Mother, Ida Lucile (Miller) Elkins. He is survived by his wife of 36 years Bobbie Nelson Elkins, daughter, Donita Martin, daughter, Leann Elkins Wheeler and son-in-law, Chris Wheeler, son, Richard Elkins Sr. and daughter-in-law Sheri

Wilson Elkins, daughter, Dana Owen Henderson and son-in-law, Johnny Henderson, sons, Stephen Owen and Caleb Owen. His grandchildren Tyler Elkins, Richard Elkins, Jr., Jesse Wheeler, Taylor Wheeler, Dwayne Martin, Nicole Mason, Maygan Martin, Brooke Owen, Bethany Owen and Jimmy Henderson. He has 7 great grandchildren and his sister, Lorna Elkins Banks and brother-in-law Thomas Banks of Auburn, Alabama as well as niece and nephews.

This obituary was prepared with love and affection by Mr. Elkin's family.

Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.

Horace Anthony Wimpey

Meadows Funeral Home

Horace Anthony Wimpey, age 64, of Social Circle, passed away on February 1, 2021. He was born in Atlanta, GA on October 2, 1956 to the late Blanche Moss Wimpey and the late Richard Wimpey. He is preceded in death by his brothers, the late Eric Wimpey, the late Ricky Wimpey, and the late Randy Wimpey.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Wimpey of Social Circle; sons and daughter-in-law, D.J. and Sherri Wimpey of Bethlehem, Andrew Wimpey of Monroe; brothers, Eddie Wimpey of Oxford,

John Wimpey of Lodi, CA, and Paul Wimpey of Oxford.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at Harmony Baptist Church. Visitation was from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, and the service began at 2:00 pm with Rev. Paul Wimpey officiating.

In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make donations to Covenant House Georgia at PO Box 94456 Atlanta, GA 30377, or to St. Jude Children's Hospital at www.stjude.org.

Meadows Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook online at www.meadowsfuneralhomeinc.com.



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EDUCATION:

Continued from A1

of public education we know today. Four of its original members hailed from Newton County (Gustavus Orr, T.J. Hill, Joseph S. Stewart and Alexander Means). Another force in the creation of public education was the formation of the Freedmen's Bureau by an act of Congress in 1865.

The object of the bureau was to protect former slaves from the development of laws that tried to limit their freedom. Between 1866 and 1870, the bureau spent nearly \$5 million to pay teachers, construct and rent schools, and establish black colleges and "normal schools," according to the historical society's findings.

The area's first Freedmen's school was reported in 1866. It was located in Covington and had 25 students taught by Edward Putry. By 1867, a local Freedmen's school was described as one with more than 100 students taught by C.A. Sprague.

In August 1870, the Freedmen's Bureau withdrew from Georgia, which made it difficult for Black people to receive a quality education because of their systematic exclusion. Black teachers at the time were poorly trained, however, in October 1887, the legislature mandated all licensed teachers must attend all sessions of teacher institutes held in their respective counties.

Black schools in Newton County did not receive tax funding until the 1870s, according to the historical society's findings.

Despite the adversity, there were 27 schools for Blacks across Newton County with 1,489 students enrolled by 1912. Most were held in churches and community buildings, though it is unclear if the county owned or supported any of the school buildings.

After the Civil War ended and Georgia rejoined the Union, the Newton County Schools Board of Education was formed, including charter members Henry Twiggs, Henry L. Graves, A.J. Webb, J.J. Dearing, Thomas C. Davis, J.W. Smith, L.S. Mann, E.L. Thomas, Henry Gaither, Asbury C. Mixon, T.W. Meriwether and L.M. Brown.

Dearing was elected the first board president of Newton County Schools and served in that capacity until December 1890 when he was succeeded by Harry H. Stone. Shaw was elected secretary of the board and county school commissioner.

Under Stone's leadership, the school system



Special to The Covington News
Newton County Chairman Marcello Banes presents Newton County Schools Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey a special proclamation Thursday, Feb. 4, to commemorate the district's 150th anniversary.

established a traveling library. Several hundred books were purchased and put in boxes. Each school was allowed to keep one or two boxes for a short time. The library system was considered the first of its kind.

According to superior court records, there was an average of 1,450 students attending Newton County schools per month in 1877. By 1912, there were 26 school locations for white students in Newton County with a total of 1,890 students enrolled and 56 teachers. Schools were limited to a seven-grade system at the time.

In 1904, the district was first in the South to execute a school consolidation when four schools were combined into Heard-Mixon School, which drew national attention. The "Southern Agriculturalist" of Springfield, Massachusetts, sent a reporter to investigate and write a feature on the consolidation. In 1907, Newton won first place in the state for school improvement. In 1912, Newton County Schools was cited by the National Education Association as one of the state's two leading county systems.

Under the direction of George C. Adams, Newton County Schools started the Boy's Corn Club, which was believed to be the forerunner of the National 4-H Club.

In 1947, Newton County Schools consolidated with rival school system, Covington City Schools Commission.

The Covington school system was organized in 1889. The school system took over the Georgia Methodist Female College in Covington in 1894. In 1896, the building was deemed unusable, so it was torn down and a new school called Covington Public School was built in its place. Covington Public

School served as an elementary school and then a high school until 1954.

After the two school systems consolidated, the county school board agreed to furnish 22 teachers at the Covington High School. The board also agreed to sell the land for a new high school to be built on Speedway Drive — what's known as Newton Drive today. Homer F. Sharp was elected supervising principal for the Newton County High School, which was opened for white students in 1950 and started the beginning of the county's 12-grade program.

R.L. Cousins School and East Newton School were each built and opened for the 1955-56 school year for Black students after the consolidation of 30 Black schools, led by Cassie M. Robinson, was approved. R. L. Cousins held grades one through 12, while East Newton held grades one through eight.

Integration of schools in Newton County slowly began in 1954 after the U.S. Supreme Court case Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka. The court ruled racial segregation was a violation of the 14th Amendment. This led to the voluntary integration of only four school districts across Georgia out of 197 by 1964.

After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Newton County Schools were integrated by 1970.

During the district's integration, it was determined there would only be one high school — Newton County High School — that offered grades 10-12. R.L. Cousins High School was lowered to a junior high school, offering grades eight and nine. Leaving elementary schools with only grades 1-7. Each school had two principals

— one Black and one white. Teaching staffs were also integrated.

On the first day of school, Sept. 3, 1970, Superintendent Whitlow Richardson said, "All of us are extremely pleased with the smoothness with which our transition to a unitary school system has taken place."

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Newton County saw a strong population increase, which led to changes.

"This was a time of tremendous student growth," said former Superintendent Wendell Clamp, who served from 1992 to 2005.

"If my memory serves me correctly, when I went to the Newton County Schools System in 1992, we had only approximately 8,000 students. Thirteen years later, in 2005, we had approximately 18,000."

Clamp said to compensate for the increase, a plan for expansion was created.

"Now in order to accommodate that student growth, we had to have a massive building program," he recalled. "We built 10 schools during that period. Four elementary schools, four middle schools and two high schools. And in addition, we added 130 classrooms to existing schools. We also built a service center and a (board of education) building. And I'm proud to say, and a little bit lucky too, we brought all of these buildings in on time and within budget."

Eastside High School was opened in 1994, located on Eagle Drive in Covington, as a transitional school and later became an official high school in 1998 after its first graduating class. A new Eastside High School is being built today at 140 Georgia Hwy. 142 in Covington and is expected to open for the 2021-2022 school year.

In 2006, Alcovy High School was opened at 14567 Georgia Hwy. 36 in Covington.

Today, Newton County Schools System consists of 25 different schools, which also includes the Newton County Theme School at Ficquett, Newton College and Career Academy, Mainstay Academy and RISE Academy.

Samantha Fuhrey is Newton County's current superintendent. She has served in the role for the last seven years. In 2020, Fuhrey was named Georgia's Superintendent of the Year and was a finalist for the national award.

The Newton County Schools Board of Education consists of five members: Anderson Bailey, Trey Bailey, Abigail Coggin, Shaki-la Henderson-Baker

and Eddie Johnson.

Approximately 20,000 students are enrolled across Newton schools.

Newton County Schools celebrated its 150th anniversary virtually over the past week (Feb. 1-5) by posting various videos and artwork from the community to social media.

Newton County Chairman Marcello Banes joined the celebration by stating his appreciation of the school system via a video message.

"Thank you so much for all that you do in our community," he said. "It's because of you that our kids are ready to face the world."

"I remember back in 1995 when I graduated from NHS," Banes continued. "I was scared, I didn't know what to do, but I was prepared, all because I graduated from Newton County High School."

"From the superintendent to the BOE, all the staff, thank all of you guys for being that support system that our kids so rightly need."

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- Mail: Editor: The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015
- In person: Stop by 1166 Usher St. NW in downtown Covington
- Email: news@covnews.com

OPINIONS

The Covington News

Jeff MacKenzie The Design Consumer

Vaxing is taxing and not so relaxing

I had planned to write this month's column on managing traffic flow; highlighting stoplight-induced congestion at major intersections, the speechless frustration of non-connecting parking lots, the unholy juxtaposition of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on our shoulder-less, busy thoroughfares, etc. But a looming awareness of the cluster copulation that is our state vaccine distribution system trumps the latter.

Being of an age and having survived two different episodes featuring massive pulmonary embolisms (each of which I was told would have killed me in a couple of days, had I not gotten to a hospital when I did. And which reduced my overall lung capacity by 30%) it is incumbent upon me to avoid the current COVID-19 contagion.

People in my position face a likelihood of dying — or at least a life of suffering on becoming infected.

Thus the availability of vaccines to obviate this threat is most welcome. And while the effort to develop vaccines happened in record time, the distribution of the same is appalling.

Wild rumors are circulating on where the vaccine is available.

Waiting lists for where shots will be given out are "booked up," presumably because the numbers of registrants far exceeds the projected availability of supplies.

Yet a friend secured her shot of the Pfizer vaccine — listed as totally unavailable in this area for the near future — by simply wandering the halls of a nearby hospital (names withheld in the interest of stampede avoidance) and happening upon a vaccination site, whereupon she got in line and got her shot.

The lack of federal coordination of vaccine distributions as they come online seems to have resulted in a free-for-all

among the states as they compete for supplies and try to affect their own distribution systems.

Some states, like North Dakota and West Virginia, appear to have figured it out, inoculating almost their entire population (or at least enough to flatten the curve) with Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Of course these states have small, relatively homogeneous populations so availability is not as budget-busting as a large state like Georgia. This largest of the states east of the Mississippi has experienced closure of 128 rural hospitals since 2010, and thus access to both vaccination nodes and care for the infected is both rare and expensive.

In a system straining to handle the third COVID wave personnel scarcity also factors in.

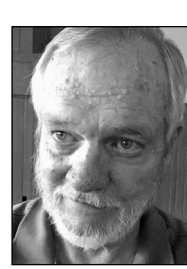
There's that. And the laissez-faire approach to the seriousness of the pandemic by elected state officials, allowing restaurants, bars and hair salons to operate openly in the early days of its onset is another factor.

As are the myriad messages coming down from federal entities (NIH, the CDC, Homeland Security, etc.).

Supplies of the vaccines are limited as production ramps up, supply lines rife with choke points and overly ambitious scheduling also figure in the mix.

That said, and recognizing the obstacles the powers that be are confronting as they attempt to make this happen, I nevertheless feel compelled to point out some obvious flaws in the overall scheme:

- Givens:
- a) Not enough vaccines currently available to meet the need.
 - b) Weary personnel, from delivery people to medical staff, operating in an underfunded, over-



worked environment limits effectiveness.

c) Not all who qualify will seek vaccination.

d) Rural vax centers are few and far between and likewise congested in the few available sites by people who must travel many miles to access them.

e) Politics has roiled the picture, with voting accuracy disputes occupying large swaths of politicians' time, distracting their efforts to cope with the pandemic.

Probable (eventual) remedies:

1) Supplies will become adequate given the massive production underway.

2) More personnel are being hired, borrowed from other states and assigned to areas of acute need.

3) As to the never vaxers, all that can be done is to publicize vaccine effectiveness and potential consequences and hope for the best.

4) Some facilities are being repurposed in hard-to-reach areas and mobile clinics can help address this need.

5) Despite an armed insurrection, a new administration is taking hold and is focusing on some of the inconsistencies.

But why is it so hard to coordinate actual injections?

Why are most of the websites devoted to COVID, concerned with explaining what it is, how to quarantine, symptoms and social distancing rules, etc., with links to inoculation sites obscured?

And upon reviewing the above, one wishes to say "OK, when and where can I be vaccinated?"

One is presented with a list of sites on which to register, along with a short quiz to determine eligibility, and invited to register at the nearest one. Upon which a message "overbooked" prevents even registering to get in line.

Setting aside for a moment the CDC guidelines on who gets the first shot at the shots — medical personnel, nursing home residents, seniors over 65, etc. — the remainder falls into a massive political/ethical category that is way open to interpretation.

*Should obese people, more inclined to suffer serious complications upon testing positive, or youth, more disposed to congregate and because they are less likely to become dis-

abled by infection, become themselves super-spreader vectors for the rest of us — which of these gets first crack?

*Should laborers in close quarters (chicken processors, meat packers, etc..) supersede teachers where crowded classrooms make separation and masking difficult?

*Where does the pregnant housewife, the immigrant fruit picker figure in the mix?

*And what about prisons and jails? Many inmates have yet to be tried but cannot make bail, and overcrowded jails are premier super-spreader events.

I suggest a centrally coordinated effort, perhaps with regional commissions composed of medical personnel, scientists, social workers, law enforcement and private citizens to decide these priorities. Nothing they decide will be without controversy, but the buck has to stop somewhere.

Registration would be universal, with no confusing 'overbooked' site designations, because a team of dispatchers monitors and assigns people based on their place on the list as designated by the commission.

This team notifies the shotees using a phone bank — perhaps paid, or volunteers or both — to determine their availability and register them and if necessary arrange transportation using the buses currently available to residents of retirement centers and nursing home.

I don't think those residents will object to the use of their buses for such an acute emergency. But if they did well, this is a certified emergency.

This type of operation has been done in the past (small pox in Boston, polio and measles nationwide) and requires a political will to make it happen.

The longer it's delayed, the more serious the results and hopes of 'flattening the curve' recede into the distance.

Jeff MacKenzie, the Design Consumer, examines issues of design — be they objects or systems — all are designed and all are products the citizen consumer uses. He may be reached at dncninput@gmail.com.

Taylor Beck editor and publisher

Unfortunately, you can't please everybody

One of the first lessons I learned as a child was from my Mawmaw Beck.

The lesson? Making everyone happy is impossible.

One day many years ago, I remember the topic of my school days came up in conversation while eating lunch with her. She asked about my friends and lovingly assumed I had many. I told her I only had a few, even though I tried my best being nice to everyone. For the record, I was an awkward kid growing. I like to believe I've grown out of that, but the truth is that I still have my moments.

"Well, you can't please everybody," Mawmaw said, as she so often did. She'd often follow up with something to the effect of, "Even if you fixed all the world's problems, there'd still be someone out there who wouldn't be happy about it."

She passed away last spring, just as COVID-19 cases began to surge throughout the nation. But her battle was with dwindling health, not the virus. She'd battled cancer for the longest time until doctors told the family there was nothing more to be done. I moved to Covington only a few weeks after her death.

I miss her and her Godly wisdom every day. She was the sweetest lady and an inspiration to our entire family.

Mawmaw's lesson for me is certainly true in the world of journalism.

Her advice echoed throughout my mind after receiving a few emails/letters recently from readers.

Two of them were requests to cancel their subscription, but their reasonings were on opposite ends of the spectrum.

The first request stated the reader wanted to cancel their subscription because our newspaper was "too liberal," and they didn't like what it had become in recent years.

The second request stated the reader wanted to cancel their subscription to the newspaper because it was "too conservative."

But, to make things even more interesting, we picked up nearly 10 new subscribers over the same period of time.

Folks, you can't make this stuff up.

But rather than getting down about losing a couple readers, I realized something. This only tells me we're doing something right.

The newspaper's role in the community is to inform and educate readers on local, current events with eye-catching content based solely on facts and without bias. And that's what we're doing. We present you with the facts, and then let you determine what to think about it.

Sure, we have an Opinions section where myself and other staff members share our individual thoughts on various issues, but these are to create conversation and encourage readers with potentially different views to write letters and interact with us. We're never telling you how to think or feel.

Some opinions, like mine often are, will be conservative-leaning and others will be more liberal and progressive, which is an honest reflection of our politically divided county.

The Covington News' goal isn't to please everyone because, unfortunately, we know that will never happen. Instead, we'll just stick to being the eyes and ears of our great community and covering Newton County around-the-clock, as we have been for the last 156 years.

Taylor Beck is editor and publisher of The Covington News. He may be reached at tbeck@covnews.com.



The Covington News

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Do you think legislators should OK Newton County's request to break away from the Alcovy Judicial Circuit to create its own? Why? Why not?

Send us your thoughts in a Letter to the Editor.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Help Wanted

ANGEL'S SEAFOOD & More LLC is looking for a Safe Serve Certification Food Service MGR. Must have the skills to operate & run a existing Seafood restaurant. Must be able to work at least 4 days a week. Hours & salary will be discuss upon interview please call Alfreda Armstrong @ 404-484-4474 restaurant is at 2308 Hwy 212 Covington, Ga. 30016

GEORGIA PLATING Inc.
has job openings for
factory worker.

JOB ENTAILS load raw materials and unload finished products from conveyors. Lift raw materials and finished products. Packing finished products manually. No air conditioning system in the work place. May work in hot environment. To apply, complete and send your resume to
**16100 GEORGIA Peach Ave
Covington GA 30014.**

NEWTON COUNTY Family Connection has an immediate opening for a **Drug Free Communities (DFC) Project Coordinator.** The DFC Project Coordinator will work with Family Connection leadership to: (a) engage and collaborate with youth, community partners, businesses, and key stakeholders to manage a stakeholder that prevents youth substance abuse, (b) educate through innovative community engagement, (c) develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based programs to reduce and prevent youth substance use, and (d) assist in identifying ways to sustain prevention programming through networking, presentations, and research.
QUALIFICATIONS: **BACHELORS'** degree in Public Health, Social Work, or other Human Services field or equivalent experience in the field of prevention or health and human services to ensure required skills and knowledge.
AT LEAST two years' experience with planning and implementing community-based prevention programming.
PLEASE RESPOND to **connect@nwtnfamilyconnection.org** with a cover letter, resume and a list of two references with contact information.
THIS POSITION is funded for five years through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Covington News

Place your
ad here!

Call 770-787-6397

LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE AUCTION will be held at:
Chancey's Wrecker Service, Inc: 539
McDaniel Mill Rd SW
CONYERS, GA 30014
TELEPHONE: 770-483-0698
FAX: 770-922-5223

THESE VEHICLES will be sold as **PUBLIC AUCTIONS** on the following Saturday, February 20, 2021
539 McDaniel Mill Rd SW Conyers, Ga 30014
AUCTION WILL start promptly @ 1:00pm. Registration begins @ 12 noon.

VEHICLE MAKE: GMC Year: 1991
Model: SIERRA 1500
VEHICLE ID #: 1GTDCL4K4MZ519824
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: HONDA Year: 2006
Model: ACCORD
VEHICLE ID #: 3HGCM56456G707271
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: FORD Year: 1999
Model: F-150
VEHICLE ID #: 2FTRX18W0XCB13127
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: CHVEROLET Year: 2004
Model: CAVALIER
VEHICLE ID #: 1G1JC12F147147582
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: NISSAN Year: 2005
Model: FRONTIER
VEHICLE ID #: 1N6BD06TX5C447243
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: FORD Year: 2010
Model: EDGE
VEHICLE ID #: 2FMDK4JXCABA18738
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: VOLKSWAGON Year: 2004
Model: PASSAT
VEHICLE ID #: VVVWAD63B85E044525
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: BUICK Year: 2008
Model: ENCLAVE
VEHICLE ID #: 5GAER237X8J239157

Georgia

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Run your classified ad in 124+ Georgia newspapers reaching over 1 million readers for only \$350

Call Georgia Newspaper Service - 770-454-6776

We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

HEARING AIDS! Buy one/get one FREE! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45-day money back guarantee! 866-395-1310

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+ filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help you get approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-513-8730.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kiti! Call 888-670-0481.

A Place For Mom. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. 1-855-508-8043.

ATTENTION: Oxygen users! Gain Freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refill! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 844-923-2359.

Attention Oxygen Users: THE NEW INOGEN ONEGS. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24 hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a Free Info Kit today: 855-968-2718.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

Arthritis, COPD, Joint Pain or Mobility Issues on the Stairs? **STOP STRUGGLING** Give your Life A Lift! An Acorn Stairlift is a perfect solution! A BBB Rating. Call now for \$250 OFF your purchase. FREE DVD & brochure. 855-200-4205.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-866-971-9196.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-735-0477.

MISCELLANEOUS

Need IRS Relief \$10K - \$125K+ Great Fresh Start or Forgiveness Call 1-855-558-2684. Monday – Friday 7AM - 5PM PST.

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 855-399-5797

COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTELY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 864071 Restrictions apply. 877-820-7565

Cash for Cars! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled—it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! 833-882-3437.

Donate your car to charity. Receive the maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All Conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details 866-994-1146.

SsAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Threatened with FORECLOSURE? CALL the homeowners Relief Line Now for Help! 855-596-0109.

PROBLEM CREDIT REPORT? Lexington Law helps work to challenge inaccurate negative items including: Identity theft, collections, late payments, liens, and more from your credit report. Call for a free consultation 877-250-3937

TV/INTERNET

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 855-808-6843.

DISH TV \$59.99 FOR 190 Channels! + 14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included. Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 7/21/21. 1-877-740-8994.

DISH Network \$59.99 For 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$19.95/month. Call Today for \$100 Gift Card! Best Value & Technology. FREE Installation. Call 1-866-369-1468 (some restrictions apply)

AT&T INTERNET. Starting at \$40/month w/12 –mo. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get more for your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and save! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-888-581-6815



CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for the position of **Evidence Technician** in the **Police Department** with a starting hourly rate of \$18.01 to a maximum hourly rate of \$32.54 depending upon qualifications. This position accepts, records and maintains record system of all physical evidence and lost/found property taken into custody by the Police department, and performs routine laboratory analysis of various materials. This position may require working extended hours, nights, and weekends, and may also require working extended hours in an outside environment. Applicants must be 18 years or older with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a valid state driver's license without record of suspension or revocation in any state, and have three years of general office, communications or records management experience. Qualified applicants may apply via our website by downloading a Public Safety Application packet at www.cityofcovington.org or may apply in person (**Drive-thru only**) at the City of Covington, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Vehicle License # LYUJ42 State: FL

VEHICLE MAKE: DODGE Year: 1999
Model: DURANGO
VEHICLE ID #: 1B4HR28Y3XF518347
Vehicle License # RUK8082 State: GA

VEHICLE MAKE: HYUNDAI Year: 2007
Model: SONATA
VEHICLE ID #: 5NPET46C27H261598
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: BUICK Year: 1999
Model: LESABRE
VEHICLE ID #: 1G4HR52K7XH402285
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: FORD Year: 2000
Model: F-150
VEHICLE ID #: 1FTRX08L4YKA06224
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: CHEVROLET Year: 2007
Model: EQUINOX
VEHICLE ID #: 2CNDL13F776025103
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: ACURA Year: 2006
Model: TL
VEHICLE ID #: 19UUA66206A059242
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: GMC Year: 2005
Model: ENVOY XL
VEHICLE ID #: 1GKES16S456114851
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: CHRYSLER Year: 2017
Model: 300
VEHICLE ID #: 2C3CCAEG5HH564528
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: CADILLAC Year: 1992
Model: DEVILLE
VEHICLE ID #: 1G6CD53B1N4296158
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: HONDA Year: 2000
Model: ACCORD
VEHICLE ID #: JHMC65670YC019781
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: TOYOTA Year: 2000
Model: TUNDRA
VEHICLE ID #: 5TBBT4411YS028630
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: TOYOTA Year: 2010
Model: COROLLA
VEHICLE ID #: 1NXBU4EE5AZ230471
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: TOYOTA Year: 2006
Model: COROLLA
VEHICLE ID #: 1NXBR32EX6Z616343
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: SUZUKI Year: 2001
Model: GSX 1300R
VEHICLE ID #: JS1GW71A712104109
Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: CHEVROLET Year: 2001
Model: S10
VEHICLE ID #: 1GCCS195118252161
Vehicle License # Y99AHM State: FL

VEHICLE MAKE: NISSAN Year: 1996
Model: MAXIMA
VEHICLE ID #: JN1CA21D2T172897
Vehicle License # XGA593 State: GA

VEHICLE MAKE: NISSAN Year: 2012
Model: ALTIMA
VEHICLE ID #: 1N4BL2APOCC143045

Vehicle License # 1D07V0 State: TN

PUBLIC NOTICE #118859
01/31,27

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.
THE VEHICLES are currently located at 4199 OLD ATLANTANA HWY COVINGTON, GA 30014
THE VEHICLES subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

VEHICLE MAKE: TOW DOLLY Year: 000
Model: N/A
VEHICLE ID #: N/A Vehicle License # NA

VEHICLE MAKE: YAMAHA Year: 2016
Model: YZ250
VEHICLE ID #: JYACG34C2GA017882
Vehicle License # NA

ANYONEWITH an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:
BUSINESS NAME: Chanceys Wrecker Service
ADDRESS: 4199 OLD ATLANTA HWY COVINGTON, GA 30014
TELEPHONE #: (770) 483-0698

PUBLIC NOTICE #118893
2/7,14

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Newton County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all

AMOUNTS OWED. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is:

125 OLD Hwy 138 Loganville, GA 30052-4814

ANYONEWITH an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before: 02/26/21

ANSWER FORMS may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's office located at: 1132 Usher St Room Covington, GA

FORMS MAY also be obtained online at

www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

VEHICLE MAKE Year Model
MAZDA 2007 MX-5 Miata
CHEVROLET 2008 Silverado
HONDA 2003 Accord
CHEVROLET 2006 Express
HONDA 2009 CR-V
LEXUS 2000 GS 400
NISSAN 1996 Maxima
GMC 2016 Terrian
TOYOTA 2011 Rav4
CHEVROLET 2010 Silverado
TOYOTA 2010 Avalon

VEHICLE ID #Vehicle License#

MAZDA JM1NC25FX70125684
CHEVROLET3GCCEC13C08G120509
ACCORD 1HGCM566X3A068641
EXPRESS 1GCHG35U661135224
CR-V 5J6RE38319L016528
GS 400 J78BH68X4Y0021692
MAXIMA JN1CA21D8T7731577
TERRAIN 2GKALMEK0G6115549
RAV4 2T3ZF4DV3BW079519
SILVERADO 1GCSCEPX3AZ139082
AVALON 4T1BK3DB9A4352063

MAGISTRATE COURT Case No
21-390AV
21-391AV
21-392AV
21-394AV
21-395AV
21-396AV
21-397AV
21-398AV
21-399AV
21-400AV
21-401AV

PUBLIC NOTICE #118894
2/7,14

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
HILLTOPTOWING INC

-LOCATION -8360 Nolley Drive
Covington, Ga 30014
DATE- -A&-C:-LJ

TIME-10:00 AM

BIDS STARTS AT \$2800

CASH ONLY,SOLD AS IS

LIST OF VEHICLES

1. **1994 FORD EXPLORER**,VIN-1FMDU34XSRUC11758 (WRECKED)
2. **2006 CHEV TAHOE**,VIN-1GNEC13V76J149428 (WRECKED)
3. **2003 HONDA ACCORD**,VIN-1HGCM66593A038141 (WRECKED)
4. **2002 FORD FISO**,VIN-1FTRW07L72KB19872 (WRECKED)
5. **2012 DODGE JOURNEY**,VIN-3C4PDCAB6CT324369 (WRECKED)
6. **2018 HONDA CIVIL**,VIN-JHMF1C1F3QJX025481
7. **2012 KIA OPTIMA**,VIN-KNAGM47A75C5297664 (WRECKED)
8. **2013 KIA OPTIMA**,VIN-SXXGM475DG241708 (WRECKED)
9. **2005 VOLK JmA**,VIN-3VWRA69M6SM035138 (WRECKED)

Adoptions

TO:TERRY Ray Drake and

Unknown Putative Father Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-8-12(c)(3), you are hereby notified that on the 6th day of January, 2021, James Frnaklin Ricks filed a Petition to Adopt a minor male child. The case is known as In the Interest of: Dilynn Ray Drake, Newton County Superior Court, Civil Action No.:2021-A-1-1-A hearing to finalize the adoption shall be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 12, 2021, at the Newton County Superior Courthouse, 1132 Usher Street, Covington, Newton County, Georgia 30014. Pursuant to Georgia law, you shall lose all rights to the child and will neither receive notice nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child unless, within 30 days of receipt of such notice, you file: (1) A Petition to Legitimate the child pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22 or an Acknowledgment of Legitimation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-21.1; and (2) Notice of the filing of the Petition to Legitimate or Acknowledgment of Legitimation with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia and to Petitioners **ATTORNEY, RUSSEL Davis Moore V, Nation, Moore & Assoc. LL., 770-922-1818**

PUBLIC NOTICE #118822
01/20,27-02/3,10

Alcoholic Beverage

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Newton County Board of Commissioners to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverage(beer and wine) for off-premises consumption by: **Valero 14625,LLc**
 VNEHA GILANI
14625 HIGHWAY 36, Covington, GA 30014

OCCUPATION TAX/BUSINESS License
Contact: Tina Waters
BUSINESS LICENSE Clerk
TWATERS@CO.NEWTON.GA.US

PUBLIC NOTICE #118886
2/7,14

Bids

NEWTON COUNTY School System
Current Solicitations
CONSTRUCTION OF new replacement Eastside High School Road Accesses - (IFB C-913-06)
THE NEWTON County School System is soliciting sealed bids to obtain the services of a qualified vendor to provide road improvement services for the replacement Eastside High School.

INSTRUCTIONS
ALL SOLICITATION documents are located on the School System's e-procurement website at the followingLink: <https://ncssebid.ionwave.net>
NOTE: YOU must be a registered supplier to obtain solicitation documents and participate in the solicitation. New suppliers must first complete the online registration process by selecting “Supplier Registration” at the link above to register your company, and obtain a username and password. All responses must be submitted electronically utilizing the Newton County School System's e-procurement system.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #118882
2/7

NEWTON COUNTY School System
Current Solicitations
PAINTING AND Pressure Washing at **Select Schools (IFB C-910-39)**
THE NEWTON County School System is soliciting sealed bids to obtain the services of a qualified vendor to provide painting and pressure washing services at select schools.
INSTRUCTIONS
ALL SOLICITATION documents are located on the School System's e-procurement website at the following link:
HTTPS://NCSSSEBID.IONWAVE.NET
NOTE: YOU must be a registered supplier to obtain solicitation documents and participate in the solicitation. New suppliers must first complete the online registration process by selecting “Supplier Registration” at the link above to register your company, and obtain a user name and password. All responses must be submitted electronically utilizing the Newton County School System's e-procurement system. If you have any questions, please contact the Newton County School System's procurement department at 770-385-6874

PUBLIC NOTICE #118881
02/7

THE CITY of Covington invites sealed proposals for the sale and development of real property currently identified as Conyers Street Gym at 1146 Conyers Street SE, Covington, GA 30014. The site is located in the Covington Historic District. This RFP seeks market-viable, office, residential, and retail proposals that contribute to the City's tax base and contribute significantly to its quality of life. Projects consistent with the City's future land use plan and all other applicable codes, regulations, and guidelines contribute to the continued redevelopment and community desires of a vibrant, well-established, historic neighborhood. By inviting this disposition, the City seeks to continue revitalizing and strengthening the community by eliminating blight, developing vacant land, reactivating property, and creating sustainable opportunities.

RESPONDENTS ARE strongly encouraged to attend the pre-proposal meeting at 11:00 a.m. on March 1, 2021, at 1143 Oak St SE, Covington, GA 30014. The purpose of this meeting is to review this RFP and respond to questions. To register for this meeting, please email comm.dev@cityofcovington.org ATTN: Conyers Street Gym.
SEALED PROPOSALS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014 if using FedEx or UPS and if being mailed (USPS), send to P.O. Box 1527 Covington, GA 30015, Attn: William Smith, Economic Development Manager, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday,

March 12, 2021.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #118858
01/31,27

THE CITY of Covington is accepting proposals for the purpose of contracting for janitorial services for various City buildings as specified in the bid packet

SEALED BIDS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Thursday, March 4th, 2021.A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 am at the council / court room located at 2116 Stallings Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #118857
01/31,27

THE CITY of Covington is soliciting for sealed bids to furnish all labor and equipment to preform tree & brush cutting removal services for the electric utility right-of-ways.

A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 am at the council / court room located at 2116 Stallings Street NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

SEALED PROPOSALS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Thursday, February 25, 2021.
REQUEST FOR Bids and additional information may be obtained by accessing the request for proposals on the City's website at <https://www.cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=business-opportunities>

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #118889
2/7,14

Citations

CITATION

CALEIGH RYANNA Hegwood has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **Kelly Alan Hegwood**, deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in **O.C.G.A. 53-12-232**). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before **March 1, 2021**, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne, Clerk
PROBATE COURT
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #

LEGALS:

Continued from A6

REQUIRED TO render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.

THIS THE 11th day of January 2021.

MELVA MONTGOMERY
175 KESTREL Circle
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #118808
01/1724,31-27

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

EBONIE JOHNSON
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
RONALD TAYLOR
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2021-CV-62-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: RONALD TAYLOR
5152 HERITAGE OAKS CT
HIRAM, GA 30141

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **JANUARY 29, 2021** you are hereby notified that on **JANUARY 11, 2021**(date of filing) **EBONIE JOHNSON** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

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

THIS, THE 12th day of **JANUARY 2021**.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #118890
2/7,14,21,28

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

TONY R WALLS
PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
CHIKKEEDA J JACKSON
DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION No.: 2021-CV-13-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: CHIKKEEDA J. JACKSON
60 BELMONT CIRCLE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

BY ORDER of the court for service by publication dated **JANUARY 15, 2021** you are hereby notified that on **JANUARY 15, 2021**(date of filing) **TONY WALLS** (plaintiff) filed suit against you for Divorce .

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

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

THIS, THE 15th day of **JANUARY 2021**.
LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #118828
01/24,31-2/7,14

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER,
NEWTON COUNTY

PURSUANT TO the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by James Frederick Jackson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns dated 6/26/2006 and recorded in Deed Book 2239 Page 596 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSRPM Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-1 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$136,600.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 12, 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING SHOWN AS LOT 23, UNIT ONE, COLDWATER CREEK, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 38, PAGE 162, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.

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

SAID PROPERTY is commonly known as **160 Coldwater Drive, Covington, GA 30016** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): James Frederick Jackson or

tenant or tenants.

PHH MORTGAGE Corporation is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

PHH MORTGAGE Corporation
ONE MORTGAGE Way
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054
(800) 750-2518
NOTE, HOWEVER, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

DEUTSCHE BANK National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSRPM Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-1 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1 as agent and Attorney in Fact for James Frederick Jackson

ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.
1017-4807A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-4807A

PUBLIC NOTICE #118853
01/31-2/7,14,21

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER,
NEWTON COUNTY

PURSUANT TO the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by John K. Kinder to Beneficial Mortgage Co. of Georgia dated 10/21/2005 and recorded in Deed Book 2044 Page 482 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$113,397.05, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 170 OF THE 10TH LAND DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING LOT 14, BLOCK B, SALEM VILLAGE SUBDIVISION, SECTION 1, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 62, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA WHICH PLAT IS BY REFERENCE THERETO INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.

TAX MAP OR PARCEL ID NO.: MAP 0012A PARCEL 055

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

SAID PROPERTY is commonly known as **2185 Chester Circle, Conyers, GA 30013** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): John K. Kinder or tenant or tenants.

SELECT PORTFOLIO Servicing, Inc. is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

SELECT PORTFOLIO Servicing, Inc.

LOAN RESOLUTION Department

3217 SOUTH Decker Lake Drive

SALT LAKE City, UT 84119

(888) 818-6032

NOTE, HOWEVER, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure

documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

U.S. BANK National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2 as agent and Attorney in Fact for John K. KinderAldridge Pite, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

1012-13779A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1012-13779A

PUBLIC NOTICE #118860
01/31-2/7,14,21

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER,
NEWTON COUNTY

PURSUANT TO the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Michael O. Jegede to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Solutions Lending, LLC, an Indiana Limited Liability Company, its successors and assigns dated 1/5/2009 and recorded in Deed Book 2677 Page 509 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2018-2, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee , **CONVEYING** the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$146,927.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 2, 2021 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 14 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, **GEORGIA, BEING** SHOWN AS LOT 54D, THE FALLS, PHASE FOUR, ON A PLAT SURVEY OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 33, PAGE 61, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH RECORDED PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

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

SAID PROPERTY is commonly known as **410 Freeman Drive, Covington, GA 30016** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Michael O. Jegede or tenant or tenants.

SELECT PORTFOLIO Servicing, Inc. is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

SELECT PORTFOLIO Servicing, Inc.

LOAN RESOLUTION Department

3217 SOUTH Decker Lake Drive

SALT LAKE City, UT 84119

(888) 818-6032

NOTE, HOWEVER, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

TOWD POINT Mortgage Trust 2018-2, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee

AS AGENT and Attorney in Fact for

Michael O. Jegede

ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

1012-13880A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1012-13880A

PUBLIC NOTICE #118818
01/31,-2/7,14,21

NOTICE OF Sale Under Power. State of Georgia, County of NEWTON UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by NIKI MCKENZIE to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC ("MERS") AS NOMINEE FOR CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS , dated 07/19/2016, and Recorded on 08/04/2016 as Book No. 3464 and Page No. 284 301, NEWTON County, Georgia records, as last assigned to CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure

a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$134,518.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the NEWTON County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2021, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 119 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING LOT 663, THE SILOS OF ELLINGTON, PHASE II, AS PER PLAT OF SAME FILED FOR RECORD AT PLAT BOOK 39, PAGES 125 129, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS. THE DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE, SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATED HEREIN. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC, may be contacted at: CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., 13801 WIRELESS WAY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73134, 800 401 6587 Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **110 KEYTON DRIVE, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30016** is/are: NIKI MCKENZIE or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 13 172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC as Attorney in Fact for NIKI MCKENZIE. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000007578412 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.

PUBLIC NOTICE #118854
01/31-02/7,14,21

Local Government

REZONING PETITION
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A PETITION (REZ21-000002) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR A REZONING FOR THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO **MORGAN BETSY & JONES SHELIA GARRETT GREGORY TERRELL, JONES SHELIA ELLISON GARRETT C BULLARD KRISTY D, GARRETT GREGORY & ADAM G PRICKETT LESLIE, & MORGAN BETSY FULLER LETA M MASTERS MELVIN LINN JR**

WHOSE SUBJECT PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS FAIRVIEW RD CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 53.78 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCELS 25-43, 25-43A, 25-43B, & 25-44 (south side of Fairview only).

A REZONE REQUEST HAS BEEN INITIATED FROM R2 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RMF (MULTI-FAMILY).

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE:

23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 7:00PM

THE PLANNING Commission's public hearing will occur as a Zoom meeting. Register in advance for this meeting: **H T T P S : / / Z O O M . U S / M E E T I N G / R E G I S T E R / T J I R D O G O P J S R G N W J M W H X V Z 1] L O _ E G F C Q X G K U Y**

AFTER REGISTERING, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HEARD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE:

16TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021 AT 7:30 PM

THE BOARD of Commissioner's public hearing will be held in the Newton County Historic Courthouse, located at 1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014, Second Floor.

THE PURPOSE of the public hearing shall be for public review. All Newton County residents and any other affected and/or interested persons are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information on this case please contact Tracy Hernandez at 770-784-2018, Shena Applewhite at 678-625-1231 or Judy Johnson at 678-625-1656. Updated information will also be posted at the following link as it becomes available <https://www.ncboc.com/196/>

Development-Services

PUBLIC NOTICE #119900
2/7

Name Changes

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

ANNMARIE BLACKE filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 1, 2021** to change the name from **ANNMARIE KIMONA BLAKE-BARTHEL** to **ANNMARIE KIMONA BLAKE**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED JANUARY 5, 2021

ANNMARIE K. Blake
395 BARSHAY Dr
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #
01/1724,31-2/7

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF
GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of Child(ren):
ARETHA FAFA MILLER

EUNICE ADU
PETITIONER,
VS.

RESPONDENT.
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 2021-CV-78-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF CHILD(

EUNICE A. ADU filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 14, 2021**, to change the name of the following minor child **FROM: ARETHA FAFA MILLER to ARETHA FAFA ADU.** **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).

ENICE A. ADU
425 ST. ANNE'S PL
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #118829
01/24,31,-2/7,14

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF
GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of Child(ren):
LEILANI LOVE DUCASSE

MICHELLE HILL
PETITIONER,
VS
FRANCIS DUCASSE
RESPONDENT
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 2021-CV-002-3

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF CHILD(

MICHELLE LATOYA Hill filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on January 4, 2021, to change the name of the following minor child **FROM: LEILANI Love Daucasse to Leilani Love Hill.** **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).

PUBLIC NOTICE #117790
01/1724,31-2/7

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
ANTHONY ALTON Titus
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2021-CV-26-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

ANTHONY ALTON Titus filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 7, 2021** to change the name from **Anthony Alton Titus to Abdullah Shaheed** . Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED 01/01/2021

ANTHONY TITUS
15 NORTHWOOD SPRING DR
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #118807
01/1724,31-02/7

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
DEREK WOLFE
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2020-CV-97-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

DEREK WOLFE filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **JANUARY 15, 2021**to change the name from **DEREK WOLFE to ELRAD JUSTUS ISRAEL**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED JANUARY 15, 2021

DEREK WOLFE
225 THE falls Blvd
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #118846
01/31-2/7,14,21

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2021-CV-35-4

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF ADULT

JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS filed a petition in the Newton County Superior

Court on **JANUARY 8, 2021** to change the name from **JENNIFER NACOLE MATHIS to JENNIFER NACOLE MOTON**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED JANUARY 8, 2021

JENNIFER NACOLE Mathis
205 1ST Ave
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #118823
01/24,31-2/7,14

PAY:

Continued from A2

Circuit’s Superior Court judges Oct. 15 filed an order to recuse themselves and sent a notice to the administrator of the state’s 10th Judicial District to find a new judge — leading to Sweat hearing the case. Sweat said he read the text of the 1994 local legislation approved for Newton County and he understood it referred to the use of the highest annual minimum salary among the four constitutional officers as mandated in state law plus the chairman — but without longevity pay and cost-of-living allowances added to it. The judge said it “seems to me nonsensical” that a law would be written that would effectively lower the pay of a county official if a long-serving official who had been given regular longevity pay and COLAs retires and the official’s replacement does not have the same level of benefits. Attorney Stephanie Lindsey, representing Banes and Bell, told Sweat that the 1994 local law was written that way because it did not contemplate officials like Hays remaining in office for decades. Sweat told Lindsey and the county’s attorneys — Eric O’Brien and Timothy Buckley — to agree on what should be included in the calculation and include it in an order. However, he said if no agreement was reached he would issue his own final ruling in 30 days, Lindsey said.

LEGALS:

Continued from A7

<p>ON THE:</p> <p>23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 7:00PM</p> <p>THE PLANNING Commission's public hearing will occur as a Zoom meeting. Register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/j/30014 MEETING/REGISTER/TJIRDOGOPJSRGNWJMWHXVZ1 LO_EGFCQXGKUY</p> <p>AFTER REGISTERING, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p> <p>A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HEARD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE:</p> <p>16TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p>THE BOARD of Commissioner's public hearing will be held in the Newton County Historic Courthouse, located at 1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014, Second Floor.</p> <p>THE PURPOSE of the public hearing shall be for public review. All Newton County residents and any other affected and/or interested persons are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information on this case please contact Tracy Hernandez at 770-784-2018, Sherna Applewhite at 678-625-1231 or Judy Johnson at 678-625-1656. Updated information will also be posted at the following link as it becomes available https://www.ncboc.com/196/Development-Services</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE #118898 2/7</p>	<p>ZONING DISTRICT SEC 510-380 (A).</p> <p>THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE: 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 1124 CLARK ST, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING.</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE #119901 2/7</p>
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<p>VARIANCE PETITON GEORGIA, NEWTON County</p> <p>A PETITION (VAR20-000013) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR A VARIANCE FOR THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: EARLE S & NANCY DOWNES WHOSE SUBJECT PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS 391 PARKER RD CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 145 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCEL GP74 063.</p> <p>APPLICANT IS REQUESTING A VARIANCE TO: REDUCE THE 150 FOOT IMPERVIOUS SURFACE SETBACK ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHORELINE OF LAKE JACKSON IN THE MSR ZONING DISTRICT SEC 420-050 (C).</p> <p>THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE:</p> <p>25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 1124 CLARK ST, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING.</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE #118899 2/7</p>	<p>VARIANCE PETITON GEORGIA, NEWTON County</p> <p>A PETITION (VAR21-000001) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR A VARIANCE FOR THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: RICHARD R THOMPSON</p> <p>WHOSE SUBJECT PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS 405 WEST LAKE DR CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 2.01 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCEL 58A 027.</p> <p>APPLICANT IS REQUESTING A VARIANCE TO: ALLOW LIVESTOCK QUARTERS WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE PROPERTY LINE IN THE AR</p>
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SPLIT:

Continued from A1

The proposed legislation will be sent to members of the Newton County legislative delegation who must consider whether they want to introduce it and work to advance it through the legislative process this year. District 1 Commissioner Stan Edwards’ motion to “table” the resolution to delay action on it for 60 days failed with commissioners Demond Mason of District 2, Alana Sanders of District 3 and J.C. Henderson of District 4 voting against it. District 5 Commissioner Ronnie Cowan said he wanted the board to delay action on the resolution until members could discuss the proposed change with the judges it would affect. “I do think it’s going to have a substantial impact on the judicial system,” Cowan said. Commissioners then voted 3-2 for the resolution with Henderson, Mason and Sanders supporting it and Edwards and Cowan voting against it. The two counties’ judicial systems have been tied together since the early 1970s. They share the same five Superior Court judges and a district attorney. Each county, however, has its own Probate Court and Juvenile Court judges and Clerk of Courts. Before commissioners voted to formally request state legislators create a bill to OK the split, Chairman Marcello Banes said “now is the perfect time.” He pointed to increased population and caseload as leading factors in the decision to put the item on the agenda. Banes also said he’s heard several requests to create a Newton-only circuit “throughout the community.” He said there was no ulterior motive. Banes said counties similar in size to Newton, including Columbia and Rockdale, either already have or are working to create their own single-county circuits. Though he hasn’t seen official numbers from the civil side, McGinley believed the criminal case load was not too much for his staff to manage. He said there were 61 total employees between the

accepted at the time **OF PURCHASE.** **UNIT 122** Wilborn, Donald **UNIT 135** Jordan, Marvin L. **UNIT 201** Oakley, James A. **UNIT 214** Puckett, Johathan Rya **UNIT 216** Leaks, Warren T. **UNIT 301** Johnson, Eddie J. **UNIT 406** Lawrence, Jennifer **UNIT 428** Greenfield, Stacy D. **UNIT 430** Williams, Nikia L. **UNIT 507** Barnes, Phillip P. **UNIT 518** Walters, Christopher D. **UNIT DS09** Thomas, Terrill W. **SALE IS** subject to cancellation in the event of settlement **BETWEEN OWNER** and obligated party. We reserve the right to **WITHDRAW ANY** unit from the sale. We also reserve the right to **REFUSE ANY** bid. Call 770-788-9818

PUBLIC NOTICE #118855
2/7,14

PUBLIC SALE/AUCTION

NOTICE IS hereby given that Dixie Self Storage located at 1447 Access Road, Covington, Ga. 30014. The Undersigned Intent to sell household goods and personal property ,to enforce Imposed lien on said Property pursuant of the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215. The undersigned will sell at Public Sale to the highest Bidder on:

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 at 11A.M. CASH ONLY, will be accepted at the time of purchase.
UNIT 1033, Heather Love, Household Goods
UNIT 1038, Sharita Parada, Household Goods, Boxes
UNIT 1046, Ivan Richard Smith, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys
UNIT 2024, Demetrius A.Enoch, Household Goods
UNIT 2041, Yulandra M..Mitchell, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys
UNIT 3004, Ilysia Walker, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes
UNIT 3014, Arthur Dawson, Jr. Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes
UNIT 3016, Ashley M.Thomas, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes
UNIT 4004, Vonetia McLemore, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes

SALE IS subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between Owners and the obligated party. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. **CALL 770..787-3039**

PUBLIC NOTICE #118824
01/24,31

THE CITY of Covington will be putting up for auction to the highest responsible bidder the following vehicles.
2013 DODGE Charger – Qty:2
2014 DODGE Charger
2008 FORD F250
2002 FORD F250
2003 FORD E350 Van
2005 FORD Escape
2015 FREIGHTLINER M2
1982 MACK MR6858
2019 INTERNATIONAL MV607
THE AUCTION will end on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. For questions concerning these vehicles and equipment or to schedule an inspection, please contact Tom Mason, Equipment Manager at 678-212-6137.All interested parties may place a bid at any time through the end of the auction by accessing GovDeals auction website at www.govdeals.com.

TERMS AND GUARANTY WAIVER. All assets are offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS;" City of Covington (Seller) makes no warranty, guaranty or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. The Buyer is not entitled to any payment from the seller for loss of profit or any other money damages – special, direct, indirect or consequential. **DESCRIPTION WARRANTY.** Seller warrants to the Buyer the property offered for sale will conform to its

district attorney offices in Newton and Walton. “All courts are busy,” McGinley said, “but I think we’re well staffed and more than equipped to handle it.” If the judicial circuit were to split, Newton County attorney Sam Van-Volkenburgh said Superior Court judges Cheveda McCamy, Ken Wynne and Layla Zon would remain as judges in a new judicial circuit because they are Newton residents. However, he said the governor would need to appoint a district attorney for the new circuit until the 2022 election. McGinley is the first Walton resident to serve as DA since Chief Judge John Ott in the 1990s. Superior Court judges and the district attorney currently must win a majority of the total votes cast in both counties to earn election. McGinley was elected to his position Nov. 3 by winning the majority of votes overall, but he did not win Newton County’s majority. “I was elected to serve as district attorney with

votes from both counties,” McGinley said. “I stand ready and will continue to serve both counties for as long as I’m allowed.” Henderson said some local residents had lobbied for the change for years. He said he knew of Newton residents who had wanted to run for offices within the Alcovy Circuit but likely could not have won because they also had to campaign in Walton. “I think this is a good day in Newton County,” Henderson said. County Manager Lloyd Kerr said he did not believe a change in the judicial system would have a “significant” impact on the budget. He noted that salaries of district attorney and judges’ staffs already working in Newton would not change and are often supplemented partly or totally by the state. Ott declined *The Covington News*’ request for comment. The Newton commissioners’ resolution now awaits consideration from state legislators.

PUBLIC NOTICE #118895
2/7

Trade Names
<p>TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY</p> <p>TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that REGAL LIFE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL INC., whose address is250 CRESTFIELD CIRCLE COVINGTON, GA 30016 the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: SUCCESSFUL & THRIVING LIFE that the nature of said business is: . LIFE COACHING, MENTORING & ALL ANCILLARY SERVICES THIS STATEMENT is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county. THIS THE 29thh day of January 2021</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE #118897
2/7,14

<p>TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY</p> <p>TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that BC UNLIMITED ., whose address is1154 MABRY ROAD COVINGTON, GA 30014the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BC HOMES CO. that the nature of said business is: .CUSTOM HOME BUILDING 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 6th day of January 2021</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE #118851
01/31,02/7,14,21

<p>TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY</p> <p>TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that BC UNLIMITED., whose address is3154 MABRY ROAD COVINGTON, GA 30014 THE OWNER(S) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BC LANDSCAPING CO. that the nature of said business is: .LANDSCAPING AND LAWN CARE MAINTENANCE SERVICE. 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 6thh day of January 2021</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE #118850
01/31-02/7,14,21

<p>TRADE NAME REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY</p> <p>TO WHOM It may Concern: PLEASE BE advised that BREANNA EDWARD., whose address is45 HUNTER XING COVINGTON, GA 30016 the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at in the following trade name, to-wit: BREE'S CREATIVE DESIGNS that the nature of said business is: .HOMEMADE CRAFTS 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 21st day of January 2021</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE #118852
01/31-02/7,14,21

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Football



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Newton celebrated five football players who signed their National Letters of Intent to play at the next level on Wednesday in honor of National Signing Day. The five seniors helped lead the Rams to their ninth consecutive playoff appearance in 2020.

Dream come true

Newton student-athletes ink NLIs on National Signing Day

By MASON WITTNER

mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — In honor of National Signing Day, Newton held a ceremony Wednesday morning for five football players who signed their National Letters of Intent to compete at the next level.

Groupings proved to be the theme of the day. First, seniors Malachi Arnett, Keyshawn Blackstock and Quincy Cullins penned their respective NLIs to extend their academic and athletic careers at Coffeyville Community College. Eugene Tavarres and Nijay Willis followed suit, committing to remain teammates by signing with Independence Community College.

Arnett, a stout defensive lineman, was among team leaders in

total tackles in 2020 with 96. He recorded 21.5 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks and 20 quarterback hurries. Blackstock primarily appeared on the other side of the ball, making way for the Ram offense with his tremendous blocking. As for Cullins, he rushed for 354 yards and a touchdown on 54 carries while racking up an additional 196 receiving yards on 22 catches during his senior season.

Tavarres and Willis were defensive backs in a loaded Newton secondary. Despite missing significant time due to injury, Tavarres persevered and recorded 14 total tackles and an interception for the Rams. Willis finished the year with 75 total tackles — 35 solo, 40 assisted — and four pass breakups.

With Ram reunions in place for both programs next fall, Newton head coach Camiel Grant Jr. spoke on the importance of kids teaming up at the next level.

“Whether you’re an athlete or not, going off to college is stressful. It’s exciting, but it can be a stressful time as well,” Grant said. “So if you can have somebody there that you’re familiar with, to kind of help ease that transition, I think it’s always huge to have a little bit of familiarity with you when you get to that next spot.”

The quintet of signees joined fellow Newton standouts Nyland Green (Georgia) and Darius Green (Minnesota), both of whom penned their NLIs during the Early Signing Period in December.

“They’re doing a great job of carrying on the legacy,” Grant said of the 2021 signing class. “I’m just excited that these guys get an opportunity to — even in this COVID-19 situation — have a day where they can celebrate.”

While National Signing Day kicks off the signing period in ceremonious fashion, the period will remain open though Aug. 1. Grant noted that more NLI signings could be coming down the pike before the 2021 signing period draws to a close.

“We’re not finished,” he said, grinning. “We’ve got some other guys that are still making some decisions, so we’ve got three or four more coming in the next couple of weeks.”



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Defensive lineman Malachi Arnett signed with Coffeyville Community College on National Signing Day.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Offensive lineman Keyshawn Blackstock signed with Coffeyville Community College.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Running back Quincy Cullins rounded out the trio of Rams signing NLIs to play at Coffeyville Community College.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Defensive back Eugene Tavarres signed with Independence Community College on Wednesday morning.



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Defensive back Nijay Willis closed out the ceremony by signing to play at Independence Community College.

Prep Baseball

Eastside's Booth signs with SRC



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside catcher Ethan Booth recently signed his NLI to further his academic and athletic career at Spoon River College

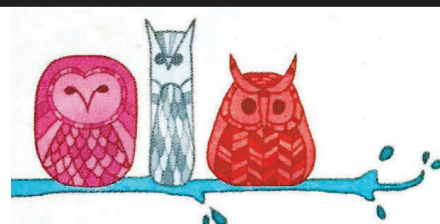
By MASON WITTNER

mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Eastside student-athlete Ethan Booth took a step toward reaching his dream of playing college baseball Sunday when he signed his National Letter of Intent to further his academic and athletic career at Spoon River College in Canton, Ill.

Booth, a catcher, has helped the Eagles post a 54-18 record over the last three seasons.

Eastside is scheduled to return to the diamond to kick off its 2021 campaign Tuesday, Feb. 16, against Ola.



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County, utility agency to back bonds for business park

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Two county governing agencies have agreed to back financing for development of a new business park in Newton’s north-east corner.

The Newton County Board of Commissioners and the county Water & Sewerage Authority approved an intergovernmental agreement early this week to share the responsibility for guaranteeing \$16.1 million in bonds for purchase of undeveloped land at I-20 and U.S. Highway 278 to establish Stanton Grove business park.

The Newton County Industrial Development Authority plans to issue the industrial revenue bonds and use the proceeds to buy the 335-acre site.

The land includes frontage along I-20 between highways 278 and Ga. Highway 11.

Commissioners voted unanimously for the agreement Tuesday, Feb. 2, after hearing the county government would share equally with the Water & Sewerage Authority in responsibility for repayment if the Development Authority defaults on repayment of the bonds.

Newton commissioners voted in early November to deny the Development Authority’s request for the same deal because the county government was the sole guarantor of the bonds.

Commissioner Ronnie Cowan, whose district includes the Stanton Grove site, said he was comfortable with the new risk-sharing agreement.

“This is a good deal for the county,” Cowan said.

District 1 Commissioner Stan Edwards said he had concerns about the county’s role in the November request.

“Those concerns are alleviated now,” he said.

County Attorney Sam Van-Volkenburgh said the government would take ownership of the land if the Industrial Development Authority defaults on bond payments.

However, Development Authority vice president Serra Hall told commissioners the agency has enough money to make bond payments even if no land sales were completed within the next six years.

She said the Authority would reserve the money in a fund dedicated to debt service payments.

Hall stressed that the agency intends to market the park to companies planning high-quality developments similar to those already in nearby Stanton Springs business park.

Stanton Springs is home to Takeda Pharmaceuticals while social media giant Facebook is nearing completion of an almost 1-million-square-foot data center in the park.

Facebook also is planning a second data center adjacent to the first to bring the company’s investment in Stanton Springs to about \$1 billion, it has announced.

Publix, Georgia partners to administer COVID-19 vaccines

Newton County store location among 97 across Georgia involved; all ‘fully booked’ within hours of online reservation system launch

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga.

— Within three hours of launching its online reservation system, nearly 100 Publix Pharmacy locations planned to soon begin administering COVID-19 vaccinations across the state of Georgia were “fully booked.”

Publix and the state of Georgia recently announced its partnership to advance distribution of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to 97 Publix Pharmacy locations, including Newton County.

Vaccinations will be provided by appointment only, while supplies last, through the online reservation system at publix.com/covidvaccine, which opened Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 6 a.m. for appointment times starting Thursday, Feb. 4. Appointments cannot be made by calling Publix or the Publix Pharmacy.

Currently, the only people eligible to schedule an appointment are first respond-



Metro Creative Services

COVID-19 vaccines produced by Moderna and Pfizer are currently being rolled out across Georgia and the entire U.S., though limited in supply.

ers, health care workers, adults age 65 years old and up and their caregivers, and residents and staff of longterm care facilities, which follows the state’s current guidelines.

Publix planned to make the vaccine available at Newton County’s lone store location at 13015 Brown Bridge Road.

By 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, all counties listed in the states of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina were “fully booked.” Additional appointments will be announced as Publix receives more inventory.

If a person currently has the virus, the CDC suggests deferring the vaccine “until recovery, and until criteria

have been met to discontinue isolation.” The CDC also suggests waiting until the quarantine period is over before scheduling a vaccination if a person has been exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus.

If a person has received passive antibody therapy treatment for COVID-19, the CDC recommends waiting to get the vaccine for 90 days after treatment. It’s also recommended to wait on getting a vaccine if a person has received another vaccine within the last 14 days.

The vaccine will be made available to eligible individuals at no cost to the individual.

Customers with health insurance will need to bring their insurance card to their scheduled appointment. Medicare members should bring their red, white and blue Medicare Part B card.

Customers without health insurance will need to provide their driver’s license or Social Security number.

Confusion leads to rejection of local gun club’s shooting range plan

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. —

Commissioners nearly began the process of allowing outdoor shooting ranges in most rural parts of the county but ultimately were unable to approve it after one apparent supporter was confused by what she was voting on.

The Newton Board of Commissioners deadlocked on a 2-2 vote Tuesday, Feb. 2, that effectively denied a Lithia Springs-based gun club’s request to amend the county zoning ordinance to allow outdoor gun shooting facilities in areas zoned AR-Agricultural Residential.

District 3 Commissioner Alana Sanders rejected efforts to clarify the motion before abstaining on the vote — sending it to Chairman Marcello Banes who also abstained because of an apparent conflict of interest.

If approved, Development Services director Judy Johnson said it would have directed the county planning staff to write the amendment and ultimately return it to commissioners for any changes before its addition to the zoning ordinance.

AR zoning requires residential construction to be on at least one acre of land, according to the zoning ordinance. It is the most common zoning in the unincorporated part of the county, Johnson said.

Members of Bass Reeves Gun Club were seeking to build an outdoor gun shoot-

ing facility on a 90-acre site on Fincher Road near state highways 212 and 36 in south Newton County.

Club leaders Colin Mapp and attorney Nezida Davis told commissioners the organization wants to build in Newton County because many of its members live east of Atlanta and it had outgrown its current training facility.

Davis said the club was planning to host competitive matches at the facility that will attract shooting enthusiasts from outside the area and help the county economically.

She also noted an existing club, the South River Gun Club, is less than 1/8 of a mile from residences in southwestern Newton.

Johnson said the South River Gun Club was built in the 1950s and a 2002 state law protects gun ranges in existence at the time.

It cannot expand under current zoning laws but may be allowed to do so if gun ranges were allowed as a right on any AR-zoned land, Johnson said.

She said she recommended commissioners approve an outdoor gun range as a conditional use in the AR zone in a manner similar to how other metro Atlanta counties treat such facilities.

The action would mandate that county commissioners approve a permit for a shooting range rather than it being automatically allowed in any AR zone, Johnson said.

District 1 Commissioner

Stan Edwards said he was opposing Bass Reeves’ request because it was “about allowing outdoor shooting anywhere” and not because of the club itself.

He said the sound of automatic weapons coming from ranges likely would reach homeowners anywhere in the county because residential growth in recent years has led to homes being closer together.

“You can’t get remote enough in Newton County to place a shooting facility,” Edwards said. “The population has moved to the point where it would be detrimental to the people around it — the quality of life.”

He then made a motion to deny any new zoning amendments allowing gun shooting ranges in any area of the county zoned AR. His motion failed on a 2-3 vote.

Edwards said he apologized to his constituents — many of whom would see their quality of life adversely affected in his primarily rural district.

“It’s the fact we’re going to have automatic weapons’ fire ... within half a mile of hundreds of homes,” he said.

District 3 Commissioner Alana Sanders responded that Edwards should have more respect for fellow commissioners as they worked in the best interests of their constituents.

She said she felt Edwards’ motion was too restrictive, and could foresee an applicant possibly requesting a

site in another area of the county for a shooting range.

“That is strenuous to put that type of stipulation on any business that wants to come in this county and submit a petition to build a business in this county,” Sanders said.

District 4 Commissioner J.C. Henderson noted an approval would only begin a six-month process and not allow a shooting range to operate automatically.

However, Henderson’s motion to add an outdoor shooting range as an allowed use failed for lack of support on a 2-2 vote after Sanders abstained.

She said she was confused about how Edwards’ amendment — which was not approved — would affect Henderson’s motion and rejected Chairman Marcello Banes’ efforts to clarify it.

“The language is not completely clear on the motion,” she said.

Sanders then noted the tie vote meant the chairman needed to break it. Banes responded that he also abstained — killing the motion because it lacked a majority of votes.

He did not comment but the abstention apparently was related to attorney Stephanie Lindsey’s representation of the gun club.

Lindsey also is representing Banes in an unrelated case involving a pay dispute with the county government.

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