

The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26-27, 2020



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SPORTS:

All-Region teams revealed

Alcovy, Eastside, Social Circle
unveil All-Region players

See A7

Ashton
Evans



His Word

Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace, good will
toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

Newton political parties clash over masks

Democrats blast Republican for wearing face
shield while monitoring process of absentee ballots

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton
County Republicans and Dem-
ocrats are blaming each other
for making the issue of wearing
masks “political” during a stand-
off over whether cloth face cover-
ings were required in the county
election office.

Democrats blasted a Repub-
lican Party member’s practice
of wearing a face shield while
monitoring the processing of ab-
sentee ballots for the Jan. 5 runoff
election earlier this week.

County Democratic Chairman
Ryan Barrett said his party’s

members feel the shield does not
adequately protect them from
COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Con-
trol does not consider a face
shield an “effective barrier to
transmission,” said Barrett, who
has worked as a cardiac and
emergency room technician for
18 years.

He said he was directing
Democratic Party appointees not
to return to adjudicate unclear
votes on ballots “until we hear
concretely that their safety will
be made a priority and a face

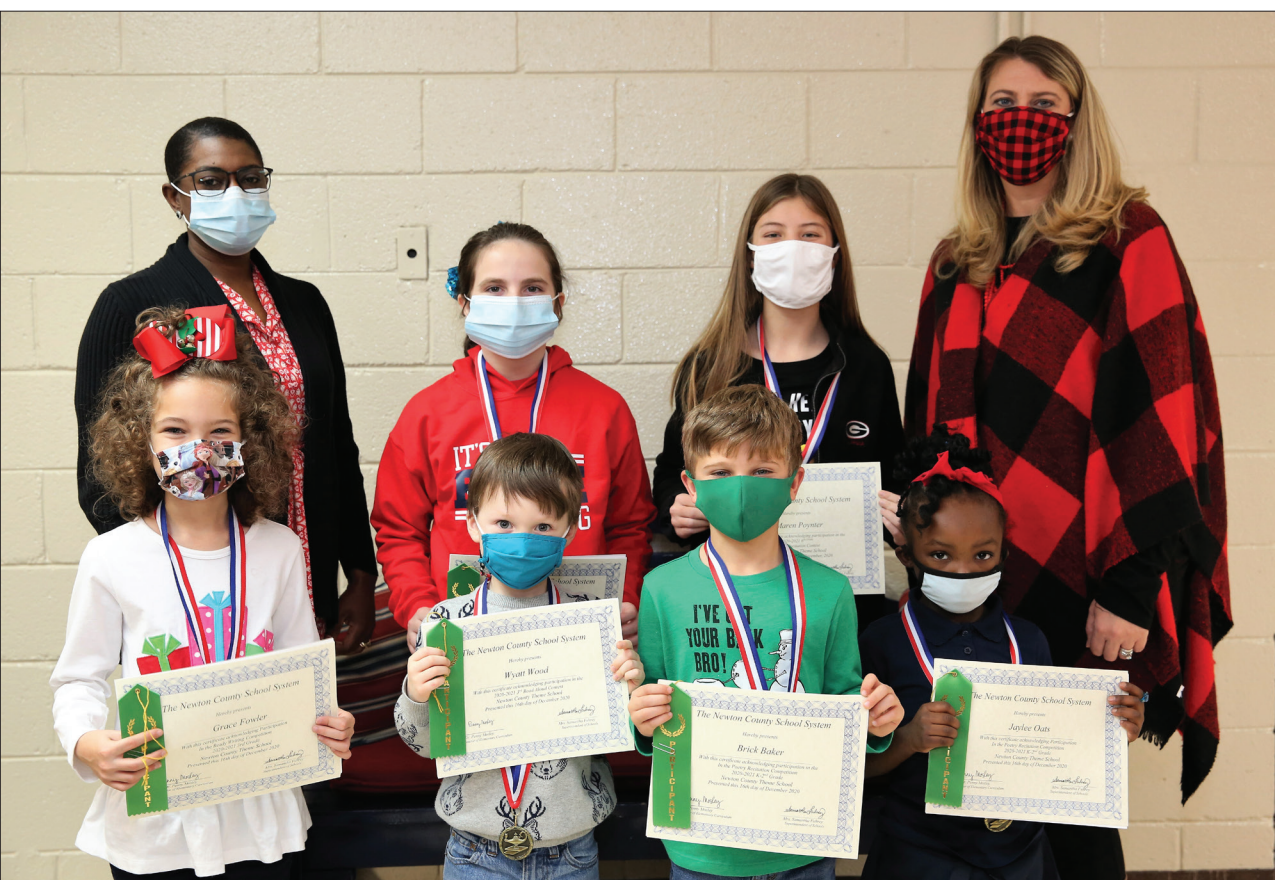
See CLASH, A3



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

From left, Mike Hesterley of the Newton County Democratic Party, county elections board
Chairman Phil Johnson and Leesha Jay of the Newton County Republican Party check ballots
containing write-in votes Nov. 24 during a recount of the presidential election.

Newton County Schools



Special Photo | Newton County Schools

Newton County Schools recently announced the winners of its 2020 Literacy Days Competition. Pictured are (back
row, from left) Ashante Everett, principal of Newton County Theme School; Briley Oller, Maren Poynter and Karen
Dozier, NCSS elementary school coordinator; (front row, from left) Grace Fowler, Wyatt Wood, Brick Baker and
Jaylee Oats.

>>>Read the full story inside on A2

Covington

Horton proud of ‘resilient’ community’s accomplishments despite turbulent 2020

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The
novel coronavirus, brought to
America’s doorstep in early
2020, has left its unmistakable
mark on the nation, including
the city of Covington.

When asked how he might
describe 2020, Covington May-
or Steve Horton said it’s been a
year filled with adversity thanks
to COVID-19. But while there
have been challenges, he was
proud of what the city had been

able to accom-
plish.

“There is noth-
ing to compare
2020 to,” Horton
told *The Cov-
ington News*.
“Municipal gov-
ernment like any
other business,
or even a sports
organization, relies on past
experiences and procedures.
2020 has not allowed us to
operate from the same playbook



Steve
Horton

that we might have referenced
in the past. When the pandemic
started, there was no reference
material to consult. Everyone,
including the doctors dealing
with the healthcare crisis were
tasked with learning and creat-
ing new methods and processes
for dealing with COVID-19.”

Horton said the pandemic as
a whole, and the social distanc-
ing requirements handcuffed
to it, had created “numerous

See HORTON, A8

Blessed to ‘be there’



File | The Covington News

Tommy Davis served as Newton County’s coroner for
three terms. Honored to serve his community in the role,
Davis will leave office Dec. 31. His reelection campaign
for a fourth term in office came up short in November.

Davis reflects on 12 years leading Newton County Coroner’s Office

By TAYLOR BECK
tbeck@covnews.com

COVINGTON,
Ga. — Since becom-
ing Newton County’s
coroner 12 years ago,
Tommy Davis’ primary
objective was simply to
be there for his commu-
nity.

But as he leaves
office Dec. 31, though
difficult, Davis said he
would continue serving
the place he calls home.

The 53-year-old
lost his reelection bid
against newcomer
Dorothea Bailey-Butts
in the Nov. 3 General
Election. Bailey-Butts
will lead the coroner’s
office starting Jan. 1.

Davis, a native of
Newton County and
owner of J.C. Har-

well Funeral Home in
Covington, said helping
families and friends get
through a time of loss,
though often difficult,
was rewarding.

“You can go through
a lot of hard times in
your life, but when you
receive the news of a
sudden tragic passing,
being there for people
is 100% why I did it,”
Davis told *The Covig-
ton News*. “I would’ve
done the job for free,
because I wanted to
be there when people
needed me.”

Davis began working
for the coroner’s office
under then-Coroner
Bob Wheeler after
Davis’ father, who was

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Volume 155, No. 67



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Inside

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prolong life of
poinsettias

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Charlene (Liz)
Snipes
Covington
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Alcovy Judicial Circuit

Ga. Supreme Court chief justice cancels jury trials across state

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — All jury trials in the state of Georgia have been suspended through January. Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton issued an order Wednesday, Dec. 23, extending a statewide judicial emergency. Within the modifying order, Melton suspended all jury trials across the state for the month of January, at least, due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. In a Tuesday statement on the District Attorney's Office's Facebook page, Alcovy Judicial Circuit District Attorney Randy McGinley shed light on the Georgia Supreme Court's decision.

"Chief Justice Harold Melton just announced that he will be issuing an order that cancels all jury trials in the state until at least the middle of February," McGinley wrote. "Both Newton and Walton had been preparing for jury trials for the week of Jan. 11," he continued. "This included regular meetings with the judges, District Attorney's Office, defense attorneys, law enforcement, health departments and others to ensure they would be conducted in a manner that



Randy McGinley

was safe for everyone. However, the rise in numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 was on our radar and something that we were all watching closely. "Anyone that received a notice to appear or a subpoena for jury trials to begin on Jan. 11 does not need to appear in court that day," McGinley said. "Our offices are working to make sure everyone knows of this cancellation. Further updates will be shared when there is relevant news. "Currently, only jury trials have been canceled," he said. "Jury trials vary greatly from other court matters because a much larger number of individuals must be summoned to the courthouse so that jury

selection can be conducted. Therefore, other criminal and civil court is still moving forward with an emphasis on handling matters using video conferencing when possible. "The District Attorney's Office will continue to be a part of this process in ensuring that the justice system can still function but does so in a safe manner," McGinley said. In the order, Melton stated all other court proceedings would continue being held under the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the CDC. All courts are urged to use technology when practicable and lawful to conduct remote judicial proceedings as a safer alternative to in-person proceedings.

Melton lifted a seven-month suspension of jury trials in early October. The first judicial emergency was issued by Melton on March 14, 2020. In that time, a statewide task force made up of judges and lawyers appointed by Melton has worked to develop guidelines for the safe reopening of in-person court proceedings. Topics taken up in the guidelines include the use of masks, the reconfiguring of courtrooms and chairs, installation of plexiglass barriers, and the use of markers to ensure social distancing. Also covered are plans for guaranteeing public access to court proceedings.

Newton County Schools

NCSS announces winners of 2020 Literacy Days Competition

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Newton County School System (NCSS) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 District Literacy Days Recitation, Drama, Read Aloud, and Ready Writing competitions. NCSS elementary and middle schools held poetry competitions at their school and sent their grade level winners to participate in the district's recitation contest. Competitors were judged on a number of criteria in the poetry recitation contest, including stage presence, articulation, interpretation, memory

and accuracy, and difficulty of the piece.

System Recitation Contest Winners

Kindergarten — Jaylee Oats; Newton County Theme School; Proud Wonderfully Made Child
First Grade — Brick Baker; Newton County Theme School; Suzanna Socked Me Sunday
Second Grade — Eliana Hutchinson; Newton County Theme School; I Wonder
Third Grade — Xander Wheeler; Live Oak Elementary School; Try, Try Again
Fourth Grade — Loghan Dudley; Middle Ridge Elementary

School; Booker T. and W.E.B.
Fifth Grade — Briley Oller; Newton County Theme School; The Unicorn
Sixth Grade — Marlen Poynter; Newton County Theme School; Highway to Happiness
Seventh Grade — Aubrey Norton; Cousins Middle School; Dear Santa
Eighth Grade — Naya Hatchett; Veterans Memorial Middle School; Real Me

System Ready Writing Winners

In the Ready Writing competition, school-level champions were given a writing prompt and one hour to complete their essays. Students are scored on a rubric of six traits: ideas and content; organization; voice; word choice; sentence fluency; and conventions.
Third Grade — Grace Fowler; Newton County Theme School; A Day with Walt Disney
Fourth Grade — Eli-

jah Perry; Oak Hill Elementary School; I Could Change the World
Fifth Grade — Ariel Shy; Middle Ridge Elementary School; My Most Memorable Day at Middle Ridge Elementary
Sixth Grade — Matthew Lynn; Cousins Middle School; Too Much TV
Seventh Grade — Emilee Beal; Indian Creek Middle School; Culture Studies Class
Eighth Grade — A'Leah Gibson; Liberty Middle School; Space Exploration

System Read Aloud Winners

Students in kindergarten through second grade participated in the Read Aloud of Best Piece Contest in which students, with the teacher's assistance, choose a piece from the student's collected writings to read aloud to the judges. They were scored on topic, words, order, sentences

and articulation.
Kindergarten — Wyatt Wood; Newton County Theme; School My Hero
First Grade — Harris Hawver; Mansfield Elementary School; My Three Wishes
Second Grade — Aubree Parrish; Livingston Elementary School; If I Could Change the World by Helping Kids Have a Christmas to Remember

System Drama Team Winners

The Liberty Middle School drama team took first place honors in the District competition with their performance of, "The Magic Marker Mystery." Cast members included Kanaya Kossonou, Kaylee Ransom, Matthew Rush, Landon Boston, and Jheloni Burt. Winners in all categories will now represent Newton County School System at the regional competition at Griffin RESA in February, 2021.

"The Literacy Days Competition provides students with the opportunity to perform and be recognized for their talents through the celebration of the arts," said NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey. "I am proud of each and every one of our participants as it takes a tremendous amount of talent and commitment to participate in this type of competition. They represented their schools very well." She added, "In addition to our poetry recitation, read aloud, and drama team winners, our district ready writing winners are also very talented. I know Newton County School System will be well represented at the Griffin RESA Regional Literacy Days Festival." For more information, contact Sherri Davis, director of public relations for Newton County Schools, at davis.sherri@newton.k12.ga.us.



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Pursuit of Excellence Award

For the 15th consecutive year, Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, Covington, has been named a recipient of the National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Award. This Award is presented by NFDA annually to firms that have demonstrated a commitment to raising the bar on funeral service excellence by adhering to strict ethical and professional standards and providing outstanding service to families and communities.

Congratulations to the Caldwell & Cowan Staff for this achievement!



Pursuit of Excellence

OBITUARY

Charlene (Liz) Snipes
Mrs. Charlene (Liz) Snipes, 82, of Thomaston, Ga. passed away on December 21, 2020. She was born on December 31, 1937 in Chicago and raised in Hollywood, Fla. Baptized Anne Charlene Schrickel, her parents were Charles T. Schrickel (1892-1971) and Catherine Ryan Schrickel (1899-1989). Mrs. Snipes attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School, now known as Central

Catholic High School, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. As a teenager, she was a candy counter girl at the Florida Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard and later worked at Southern Bell Telephone Company in Hollywood. Mrs. Snipes, who was preceded in death by her brother, Charles R. Schrickel (1939-1995), is survived by her husband, William R. Snipes, of Thomaston, and was the beloved mother of five children:

Meg Martinek Harris of Tampa, Fla., Paul J. Martinek of DeLand, Fla., Dennis J. Martinek of Evans, Ga., Michael J. Martinek of Key West, Fla., and Holly K. Winthrop of Worcester, Mass. Other survivors include six grandchildren (Ryan Harris of Atlanta, Danika Harris Wells of Tampa, Fla., Alexander Harris of Tampa, Duncan Harris of Tampa, Grace Martinek of Southbridge, Mass., and Jack Martinek of Southbridge, Mass.) and two great grandchildren (Melina M. Wells and Ezra A. Harris, both of Tampa, Fla.). Upon discovering in 1987 that she had been adopted, Mrs. Snipes engaged in a spirited search to identify her birth mother and discovered she had three previously unknown siblings -- Kathleen Rendel of Apopka, Fla., Sharon Santelli of Chicago, and Robert Poggensee Jr. of Byron, Ill., all of whom survive her. The family would like to give special thanks to Thomaston Hospice, Chelsea, Molly, Lindsey, Angela,

Candice, and Charley McCarthy, her wooden child. This obituary was prepared with love and affection by Mrs. Snipes' family. A Graveside Service for Ms. Snipes was held Wednesday, December 23, 2020, 2 P.M., at Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington, with Rev. Father Roberto A. Orellana officiating. A Memorial Mass is planned for spring 2021. CDC guidelines recommend social distancing (6 feet apart) and wearing of masks while in public. Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home requests that you observe these recommendations while in our funeral home attending visitations and/or services. In addition, gatherings are limited to 50 persons or less in our facility at one time. Please honor these restrictions for the safety of the family, yourself, and our staff. Visit www.caldwellandcowan.com to place online condolences.



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Covington resident promoted to assistant director of state Wildlife Resources Division

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Covington resident Thom Litts has been promoted to assistant director of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

Litts is a longtime employee of the division, most recently serving as chief of the fisheries management section.

"I am thrilled to announce the promotion of fisheries chief, Thom Litts, to assistant

director of the Wildlife Resources Division," said Wildlife Resources Division Director Ted Will.

"Thom's years of service with this Division make him uniquely qualified to assist in leading us into the next chapter. I look forward to his contributions in this role."



Thom Litts

As assistant director, Litts' responsibilities will include serving as the principal wildlife and fisheries resource management advisor to the director, supervising the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan, coordinating legislative initiatives, and supervising all administrative and personnel functions for the division's workforce.

Litts began his career with Georgia DNR in 2002 as a GIS Specialist with responsibility for statewide imple-

mentation of GIS data management projects for the Fisheries Section.

From there, he served as the program operations manager in the Fisheries HQ Office where his responsibilities included managing multiple programs and statewide initiatives.

Since December 2019, Litts has served as chief of the Fisheries Management Section.

Litts earned a master's degree in geography from the University of Georgia.

CLASH:

Continued from A1

covering that is in compliance with CDC guidelines" which state a face shield "is not an effective barrier to transmission."

"I believe that the Board of Elections will have to make alternative arrangements to ensure a fair processing method should they not be able to guarantee the safety of the community," he told a reporter.

"I feel this is an issue of public safety that has been made political — and I, for one, refuse to have the lives of others on my conscience because of poor decision making," Barrett said.

Republican Party Chairman Scott Jay, whose wife Leesha was the one wearing the shield, said Democrats were making the issue "political" by being overly verbally abusive about his appointees not wearing masks when numerous exemptions exist in an ordinance mandating face coverings in county buildings.

Jay said other Republican volunteer monitors who were not wearing masks also were within the law — though they later donned face coverings after one Democratic monitor repeatedly loudly protested.

He said the elections board is required to have representatives from each party on the review panel to adjudicate unclear votes on ballots.

"It has come to my attention ... that the Republican Party appointments to the (Board of Elections) have been verbally assaulted," Jay said in an email to election board chairman Phil Johnson.

"I know that tensions can be high and brought about in many different ways but this is way beyond civil discourse and must be addressed and stopped!" Jay wrote.

"This outburst today towards the Republican volunteers was beyond the pale and I demand that the Democrat Party chairman do a better job to ensure that they provide rational and reasonable volunteers."

LAW FILLED WITH EXEMPTIONS

The county mask ordinance is filled with numerous exemptions.

Exceptions are made for those who object



Tom Spigolon | The Covington News

Democratic Party election monitors in mid-November watch a hand recount of votes in the presidential election in the election office in the Newton County Administration Building.

on religious or ethical grounds or for health reasons. Those practicing social distancing when it was "both possible and being actively practiced" also do not have to wear masks, the ordinance states.

County employees could remove masks while working in offices that are not in public areas in county buildings, according to an attorney who helped craft the ordinance.

County spokesman Bryan Fazio noted that signs stating that masks must be worn are posted at the entrance to the county administration building.

He said a department head or supervisor is directed to alert someone not wearing a mask in their area about the existence of the ordinance. Enforcement then would fall to sheriff's deputies who are in charge of building security, Fazio said.

However, deputies on Tuesday, Dec. 22, said the face shield Mrs. Jay wore was allowed under the ordinance.

SAFETY OR "CONTROL" OF AGENDA?

Barrett said the issue was the safety of those monitoring the absentee ballots.

He told Johnson that Democratic members of the voter review panel and absentee ballot processing monitors have been forced to "walk out of the early vote tabulation because

of a compromise in their safety."

"As a healthcare professional, I am seeing day in and day out staggering numbers of individuals who are in the emergency room and ICU battling COVID-19," Barrett said.

"With (an) already strapped volunteer and staff force to run this election, it would be my presumption that the Board of Elections would be unified in the effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved.

He said the county party has eight members who rotate in serving as voter review panel members and monitors.

"I cannot in good faith ask any of them to return to continue the processing and adjudicating of ballots for this election," he said.

Barrett said he understood from a source — identified by Republican members as Democratic Party executive committee member Gene Wills — that GOP board member Dustin Thompson instructed individuals to "do as they please" about complying with the ordinance "placing the lives of a vulnerable population on the line."

Thompson denied Barrett's claim and said Mrs. Jay was the only Republican monitor present Monday when he clarified with deputies that her face shield complied with the

ordinance.

He said all Republican attendees Monday "wore legal masks as requested for the entire day."

Thompson also said Barrett, who was not at the election office Monday, should "check with his source of information for better clarity."

"What's more concerning is that (the source's) lie inadvertently suggests that my actions intentionally place others' lives at risk. This nonsense has crossed the line," he said.

Wills could not be immediately reached for comment.

Jay said that local Democrats' actions have shown the party has become "unhinged" because the party's chairman is making claims about Republicans endangering lives and others verbally abuse members of the opposing party.

"I don't know what this new game is," Jay said.

He said he believed it was "their way of trying to control the agenda" now that Democrats hold most of the countywide offices following the Nov. 3 election.

"They're saying, 'We're loud, proud and in charge,'" Jay said.

He said he planned to continue to have his party's representatives available for monitoring and voter review because of the importance of the work.

Johnson said he sent an email to each party chairman stating "we have to work together on this election."

However, he said election workers also have a mandate to finish processing absentee ballots and begin counting them after polls close on Jan. 5.

"We've got to move forward," Johnson said.

Community Calendar

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

• New Year's Day! *The Covington News*, like other area businesses and government offices, will close Dec. 31-Jan. 1 to allow its staff to observe the holiday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 5

• Election Day for the 2020 General Election Run-offs. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



ONGOING

• Paint Party at Southern Heartland Visual Art Center has resumed! Hosted by professional gallery artists, this weekly get-together for those in our community interested in painting with others is free and open to the public each Friday from 10-2. Both classrooms will be utilized to insure participants have enough space to social distance from other participants.

• Food pantry at Covington First United Methodist Church is in need of volunteers now that students and teachers are back in school and unavailable to help with this project. If available to help, email Megan Hulgan at foodpantry@covingtonfirst.org to sign up.



Send your event announcements to news@covnews.com.

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CITY OF OXFORD MEETING NOTICE

The Mayor and Council of the City of Oxford will hold its annual Organizational Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be held virtually via teleconference. Teleconference information will be available for this meeting on or before December 31, 2020 at www.oxfordgeorgia.org.

Mollie Melvin guest columnist

Pandemic’s impact still has families in need

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a crisis-level impact on families’ abilities to meet their basic needs for shelter, food, and medical care. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has just published the report Kids, Families, and COVID-19: Pandemic Pain Points and the Urgent Need to Respond, generated from data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau’s weekly Household Pulse Survey. The data show that Georgians are reporting high economic insecurity. 58% of adults with children have reported that they’re concerned about eviction or foreclosure due to pandemic-related income loss. 16% of adults with children reported that they sometimes or often did not have enough food to eat in the past week.



“Georgia’s food banks are responding to a 50% increase in demand that surged in March and continues today. Adults who don’t have the food they need are more likely to miss work and have a difficult time holding down a job.” The data also show the mental health toll caused by the pandemic, with more than 30% of adults with children reporting they’ve experienced anxiety in the past week, and more than 20% reporting feeling down, depressed, or hopeless. Separately, the CDC reports that the pandemic is directly related to an increase in substance misuse and overdose. Overdose deaths increased nationally by 18.2% from the 12-month period ending June 2019 to the 12-month period ending May 2020. “The pandemic has increased the rates of many determinants of mental health conditions, such as isolation, poverty, and lacking a

sense of security,” said Kim Jones, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Georgia chapter. “Due to this, the data show that mental health issues will be our next pandemic. In 2020, Georgia ranked 51st in access to mental health.” Georgia has the second-highest rate in the nation of children who lack health insurance, making access to medical care difficult when parents are unemployed. While children enrolled in public school are still eligible to receive many basic need services, participating in school online from home and lack of transportation has limited families’ access to many supports. Many low-income families lack the skills necessary to support their children’s full virtual participation in classroom activities. Families are struggling to find suitable supervision for their school-age children when they

must work outside the home, and the correlation between job loss and reduced access to quality childcare must be addressed before employers can bring staffing and productivity back to full capacity. Locally, Newton County Family Connection is responding to these concerns through the Be Healthy Newton strategy team and Drug Free Community Coalition. Initiatives are being developed to address the needs of families suffering from housing instability and to better connect families with sources of food, medical care, and mental health services. Partner organizations are providing community members with opioid response training (including providing free Narcan kits) and suicide prevention education. Newton County Family Connection is training volunteers to teach low-income families skills to help support their children’s

learning online. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to participate in strategy teams or to help with delivering programs and services. Hands On Newton is Newton County Family Connection’s volunteer management program and recruits and refers volunteers for nonprofit partner organizations. Hands On Newton also manages the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service every year and is currently seeking low-/no-touch projects and volunteers for the event on January 18, 2021. For more information about Be Healthy Newton, the Newton County Drug Free Community Coalition, or Hands On Newton, visit www.nwtnfamilyconnection.org, email connect@nwtnfamilyconnection.org or call 770-330-7405. Newton County Family Connection provides leadership in community planning for solutions to issues that affect families and children.

Mollie Melvin, program director for Newton County Family Connection, has over 35 years of experience directing programs for families with children. Melvin serves as Chair of the Newton County Drug Free Coalition, and serves on the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Quality Rated Childcare Advisory Committee and the Georgia Suicide Prevention Advisory Group. She serves on Newton County Schools’ Career, Technical, Agricultural Education Advisory Board and chairs the Georgia Piedmont Technical College Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Board. She directs Hands On Newton, Newton County Family Connection’s volunteer management program and sits on the steering committee for GSU/Perimeter College’s Academic Community Engagement initiative.

David Carroll columnist

Snapshot of what we learned from historic 2020

When you write a column long enough, you establish traditions. For me, I usually turn over my Christmas week column to someone else. This gives me a break, it keeps you from having to endure a rerun column, and it is always written by someone I admire. Garry Mac is my best friend. He’s the brother I never had. We “grew up” in radio together, and while I’ve spent the rest of my career in TV, Garry has branched out into the political arena, public relations, and a few other endeavors. A few days ago, as I was camped out in line at the post office, he called to wish me a



Merry Christmas, and to review this bizarre year. While my year was relatively uneventful and blissfully boring, Garry has faced many challenges. Don’t worry, it has a happy ending, but he (and I) learned a few lessons along the way. I asked him to write about it, and he graciously consented. Garry, take it from here: Due to the pandemic, some of us had to learn technology we thought we would never need. For example, as soon as I started working from home, I learned you can have burgers and fries delivered to your door. I also learned what happens when a tornado hits your momma’s house on Easter Sunday. She lost everything except the baseball cards and 45 rpm records I had saved 50 years ago. I guess

you could say the truly important things were spared. Plus of course, my little 93-year-old mother. Just a few weeks after she had beaten cancer, she had to lie on the floor for two hours, just praying, until help arrived. By the time I made it past the rescue trucks and downed power lines, this is what I saw: my mother, being carried out of the ruins on the back of a firefighter. That’s when I learned there are good insurance people, and that God sends angels in your time of need. Don’t talk bad to me about church people. I saw them doing the Lord’s work. But 2020 wasn’t through with me yet. About the time I got Momma’s life back to near-normal, I had this little heart episode. Well, OK, it was a heart attack (remember what I said about burgers and fries delivered to my front door).

The work appointments on my August and September calendar were replaced by quadruple bypass open heart surgery, and a few weeks of recuperation and rehabilitation. I learned a lot about our health care system. Here’s a tip, should you ever end up in my hospital gown. Being a patient is a full-time job, and you have to treat it that way. Those folks have a lot going on, especially in a pandemic, so you have to be your own advocate. Every time a doctor says “Here’s what we’re going to do,” it’s your job to ask, “Why?” This is because your doctor has probably never experienced this as a patient, and they tend to leave out certain details regarding pain, burning or a potentially embarrassing rash. I also learned about the huge difference in the attention you get in the ICU, compared to your “regular room.”

You are a VIP in the ICU. You have RN’s, techs, CNA’s and people you don’t even know, constantly pampering you. At some point they cheerily tell you that you are about to become a regular patient. No more ICU! While that’s certainly a good thing, I would advise you to call a family member or a close friend for a favor. Ask them to smuggle in some good, brand-name toilet paper. In an effort to control health care costs, hospitals use the same “barely there” toilet paper you find in those rundown gas station restrooms on I-75. Of course, visitors were not allowed, so my son Kellan was my “person.” He drove in from Texas when we realized I would be laid up for a while. Thanks to the technology I mentioned earlier, he was able to work remotely for about a month, usually in my hospital room. He was wonderful, and he

learned to understand the doctors’ language. I think he earned a medical degree by the time I was discharged. One other hospital note: For the sake of my health and sanity, the doctors would not let me go online, or watch any cable news during the heated election season. That may have saved my life. So, we’ve made it to the holidays. Momma’s doing fine. I’m upright, breathing, and feeling better than I have in a long time. I feel blessed that I can enjoy this merry season. I pray we all have hope for 2021. Let joy fill your soul, and be kind. I’m blessed to have friends like Garry, and readers like you. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all!

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. He may be reached at radio2020@yahoo.com.

The Covington News

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Your Letters to the Editor

Reader gives shoutout to Piedmont Healthcare

Dear Editor:
A big shout out to Piedmont Newton Medical Center. I was recently treated there and was approached with the utmost courtesy, professional-

ism and kindness that couldn’t have been better than any world class medical center. They have a great staff there, and I was treated like I really mattered by everyone I came

into contact with. Just want to say Piedmont Newton ... y’all rock!

Mary Street
Newton County

Have your say!

We welcome your letters to the editor on issues of public concern. Please include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). Only names and hometown will be published. Editors’ decisions are final. Letters must be submitted by noon Wednesday for publication in the weekend edition.

- 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



Special to The Covington News

Georgia Piedmont Technical College students sign commitments to participate in a program mixing classroom instruction with on-the-job training Monday, Dec. 14, in Covington.

Worker shortage leads Newton industries to apprenticeship program

GPTC students commit to three-year mix of classroom, on-the-job training

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A shortage of workers in advanced manufacturing jobs across the region led industries in Newton and two other counties to sign agreements with Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) and 10 student apprentices Dec. 14 on three-year commitments for technical classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

GPTC worked with regional

employers, Rockwell Automation and community partners to develop a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) registered program that is designed to support apprenticeships in high-demand industries such as mechatronics, a news release stated.

“Our industry partners expressed concerns regarding a lack of highly skilled mechatronics technicians in the region,” said Irvin Clark, GPTC’s vice president of economic development.

“Through the leadership and work of an advisory board that consisted of manufacturing industry partners, technical experts from Rockwell Automation and David Bernd and Serra Hall Phillips from the Newton County Industrial Development Authority, GPTC has successfully launched the first cohort of the Georgia Apprenticeship Mechatronics Track program.”

Using an earn-while-you-

See PROGRAM, A8

THANKFUL:

Continued from A1

Wheeler’s deputy at the time, died in 2003.

“The day after the funeral Bob came to me and he said, ‘What do you think about filling your daddy’s shoes?’” Davis recalled. “‘Would you want to be deputy coroner?’ And I was like, ‘heck yeah.’”

“From April 2003 to now I’ve been involved with the coroner’s office, and I didn’t fill my dad’s shoes — couldn’t fill his shoes — but I did the job, you know.”

Davis said it was the five years as deputy coroner that helped prepare him for his tenure as chief coroner. It takes “empathy, compassion and true understanding” to uphold the position to his best ability, he said.

“It’s not a job that can be learned overnight. It’s something you can’t walk into and expect to understand fully until you’ve done it,” he said. “It’s a demanding job physically, mentally, emotionally. It’s a demanding job. You’re dealing with people at the most devastating time in their life. By the time they get to a funeral home, they’ve had a little bit of time to absorb what’s happened. But when the moment happens and you’re in that moment, it’s a devastating time for them and you have to prepare yourself for this.”

In 2008, after Wheeler chose to retire as coroner, Davis was elected to succeed him after a successful campaign. Davis would go on to serve as coroner for three full terms, totaling 17 years with the coroner’s office.

“Seventeen years is a lot of time to give of yourself to a job,” he said. “It’s a part time position, but you’re on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So you have to be ever-ready. To give of my time for 17 years to the community, I was proud of that. For 17 years I was able to serve the community I call home, where I raised my family, my grandchildren, where I live — I own a business here. But for that time there in office, I think being there when somebody needed me is what I was proudest of.”

Davis said there are approximately 700 deaths recorded in Newton County each year, and the coroner’s office is typically tasked with investigating 25%-

30% of those cases. That totals to more than 2,000 cases over 12 years for Davis. Some of those cases are still fresh on his mind even today.

“There were some rough days, there were some rough calls. Even at roughly 100,000 people, we’re still a relatively small community in the world. And we’re responding to deaths both natural and of tragic manners of people we know. Our friends, our neighbors ... so when you’re responding to those things, you’re responding to some pretty tragic events. Being there when those families needed me and being sure I was carrying out what they needed to have happen for them as far as the coroner goes was very important to me.”

One of several particular incidents Davis recalled was the death of his friends’ young daughter.

“The last time I saw her, she peeled a sticker off her book and put it on my chest,” he said. “Her name was on that sticker. Her and her mom left. The next time I saw her, about 5 o’clock the next morning, she passed away. That was pretty devastating. To be joking around, her playing and laughing with me, and then the next day she was deceased.

“None of them are easy, but to deliver those death notifications — a lot of them stick out in your mind,” Davis added. “And I’m not going to say that I haven’t shed tears for these folks before, because I care about them. A lot of them I knew, some of them I didn’t, but it was still some pretty hard times ... Moments you’ll never forget.”

Davis said there were times calls forced him to walk out on family dinners, Christmases and even caused hiccups in his family’s vacation plans, but it never bothered him.

“I did all that because I have a desire to serve,” he said. “I guess I’ve had a servant’s heart all my life.”

Come Jan. 1, Davis said all his focus would be on his funeral business, but he “will always have that desire to be there for people.”

“Thank you,” Davis said as a heartfelt message to the community. “Thank you for allowing me to do that for 17 years.”



Special Photo

Rotary Club of Covington recently completed its Empty Stocking project, helping hundreds of children have an unforgettable Christmas.



The Covington News
will be closed December
31st and January 1st to
celebrate the New Year.

Happy New Year
Everyone!

The Covington News

AGRICULTURE

The Covington News

Ways to prolong the life of poinsettias

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Poinsettias and their rich red, white or variegated color schemes are the ideal backdrop for Christmas celebrations. In fact, poinsettias are among the most popular decorative flowers during the holiday season.

According to the 2013 USDA Floriculture Statistics report, poinsettias accounted for about one-quarter (23%) of all flowering potted plant sales that year. Roughly 34 million poinsettia plants are sold in a given season. Indigenous to Central America, the plant was introduced to North America in the 1820s when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, brought the red-and-green plant back with him from a trip abroad.

While millions of poinsettias will be purchased for the holiday season, many mistakenly think their utility ends once New Year’s Day has come and gone. But with proper care poinsettia plants can continue to thrive and bring warmth and beauty to a home long after the holiday decorations have been



The red foliage on poinsettias are actually modified leaves called bracts. The flowers are the small, yellow buds in the center of the plant.

Metro Creative Services

tucked away.

- Choose a hearty plant. Experts with the University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science say that many people mistake the plant’s leaves for its flowers. The red, white or pink bracts are

actually modified leaves. The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center called “cyathia.” Choose poinsettia plants that have buds which are, ideally, not yet open.

- Keep the temperature consistent. Poinsettias prefer

a room temperature between 60 and 68 F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night. Humidity levels between 20 and 50 percent are ideal. Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.

- Place near sunlight. The United Kingdom-based Perrywood floral company advises placing poinsettia plants near a bright windowsill but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.
- Avoid drafts. The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature. So it’s best to keep poinsettias away from drafty doors, windows, radiators, or fireplaces.
- Don’t drown the roots. Wait until the surface of the compost dries out before watering the plant anew. Also, the decorative foil wrapper that covers pots can trap water and lead to root rot. Remove it or poke holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.
- Cut back plants. Come mid-March, cut back the plant by half to encourage new shoots, suggests the University of Illinois Extension. The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed. Bring poinsettias back in around mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.

Are backyard chickens right for you?

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

Raising backyard chickens has been a growing phenomenon for several years. Many cities have passed laws legalizing backyard chickens, encouraging many to raise chickens as a rewarding hobby. One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and often tastier than store-bought varieties. Hens can lay one egg per day. Multiply that egg per hen, and break-

fast is always available. Another benefit to chickens is they produce a natural fertilizer that can be used in gardens. “The Old Farmer’s Almanac” says chicken manure can be composted, aged and eventually added to the garden. In about six months, a person will accumulate about one cubic foot of manure per chicken. Egg shells and other compostable material can be added to create an even richer formula. Chickens also can

help control bugs around the yard, offers the experts at Tractor Supply Company. Before investing in backyard chickens, people should determine if chickens will fit with their lifestyle. Costs and care are a big consideration. Each chick will cost anywhere between \$3 to \$5 a bird. Then there’s feed to consider. The most expensive item will likely be the coop. The experts at The Happy Chicken Coop, a resource for

raising chickens and starting coops, says handy men and women can build homemade coops, but ready-made ones will cost a few hundred dollars. The coop will need to offer around four square feet of space per chicken (or what’s recommended for the breed). Despite being seemingly independent birds, chickens need people to be active caregivers. They require feed and water daily. The chickens will need a

caregiver while you vacation. People who are frequently away from home should reconsider chickens. Chickens also are prone to worms, parasites and lice. They need to have rear feathers trimmed to stay clean and sanitary, and they will require an area where they can “dust” and self-groom. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises not to cuddle and kiss chickens like pets because they can

carry salmonella. Not every coop is completely varmint-proof, and some chickens may succumb to predators. Squeamish or sentimental folks may find chickens aren’t the right fit. Chickens require commitment and care that many people can provide. It is essential to do one’s homework to ensure that backyard chickens are a sound investment.



Agriculture in Georgia Firsts

- Georgia was the first state to charter a state university – The University of Georgia – founded in 1785. It is also the state’s land grant university.
- Georgia was the first state to create a state department of agriculture.
- The first agricultural experiment farm and state were established in Savannah in 1735.

To learn more about Georgia agriculture and how to become a Farm Bureau member, go to www.gfb.org

Newton County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 390
Covington GA 30015
770.786.7201



GEORGIA AGRICULTURE: TOUCHING OUR LIVES EVERY DAY.



Metro Creative Services

One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and arguably tastier than store-bought varieties.

HORTON:

Continued from A1

workplace and workforce challenges” as it pertains to the city’s services while trying to look out for the safety of its community members.

“Our workers have not been immune from the virus either and as such, quarantine, and isolation requirements have created obstacles for us. It has been difficult at times maintaining service levels when contractors or even our own staff were personally impacted by the virus. We have had to remain flexible as everything in 2020 has been fluid.”

Horton said he was proud of the city for its accomplishments despite the virus’ impact on the community.

“From a business perspective, we have conducted third party efficiency, operations and salary studies to make sure we are adhering to regional best practices. We have also retooled operationally and made succession planning a top priority; we are now well situated from a staff perspective. We have

continued to effectively deal with customer complaints and requests for services in a safe, timely, and effective manner. That says a lot when you consider the required work limitations, social distancing, separation of work groups, split shifts, and employees who can/are working from home.”

One of the biggest accomplishments Horton is most proud of was the grant program established to aid local businesses when initial COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, leading to several establishments struggling to stay afloat.

“At the beginning of the pandemic, elected officials and staff recognized that our customers and local businesses would be hit hard due to operational restrictions placed on businesses. Thus, we immediately put in place a grant program for local businesses whereby they could receive up to \$2,000 each aimed at helping until larger resources were distributed through federal programs. We

administered close to 200 local business grants.”

Horton said the city also authorized the creation of up to 50 part-time jobs (25 hours per week for 12 weeks) to assist those unemployed or underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another way the city helped struggling businesses was passing a local ordinance to allow restaurants closed for inside dining to sell unopened packages of alcoholic beverages with to-go orders to help them boost their revenues.

Other COVID-19 relief efforts included the city extending tax payment deadlines for businesses, extending expiration dates associated with building permits at no cost and holding utility cutoffs for three months. The city still offers assistance to anyone struggling due to COVID 19.

Unrelated to COVID-19, Horton said the city made “deliberate” efforts to increase quality of

life initiatives for the community by creating additions at several parks, approving the paving for the city’s trail system, adding a seasonal ice rink, providing drive-in movies/ concerts and adding to the festive feel of its holiday lighting in the downtown area.

One goal Horton hoped to accomplish in 2020 was to establish ways for Covington to operate with a “people first” mentality, but COVID-19 postponed those plans.

“(City Manager Scott Andrews) and I really wanted to build a bridge between the city of Covington and citizens based upon a ‘people first’ approach. This would include partnerships between citizens, city staff and elected officials to participate to a greater extent in neighborhood clean-ups and neighborhood revitalization efforts than has been accomplished to date. It would have also included reoccurring town hall meetings aimed at giving citizens an opportunity to speak and be heard, versus

just being addressed by staff and elected officials regarding proposed or planned activities.

“We also wanted to create other ways for citizens to be engaged and be heard, such as the Citizen’s Academy, Youth Council, Diversity Task Force, the faith-based Spirit of Covington group and the start of a Volunteer Recognition banquet where we engage, inform and thank our top 100 community champions. All of these initiatives would operate in a more participative approach, to build stronger trust and forge new relationships between the citizens of Covington and those who serve them.”

Horton said the city hopes to put some of those ideas for better “citizen engagement” into action next year. With a COVID-19 vaccine now being distributed, Horton said working to create a happier and healthier city was also among top priorities in 2021.

“We seek to continue working on programs

that make us more efficient and provide better communications and customer service for our citizens,” Horton said. “We want our public spaces to promote happiness, health and a sense of well-being, so our quality of life and placemaking efforts will remain a priority. The goal remains of making our community a more desirable location for residents to live, businesses to flourish, and visitors to recommend to others.”

Though it’s been a difficult year, Horton said he was gratified at Covington’s unwavering spirit.

“As we can all attest from the pandemic, life can certainly turn around on a dime and though we have never experienced anything like it, our staff, customers and citizens are resilient people. We are all a resilient people,” he said. “When times get tough, we lean on God and one another. That’s what has gotten us through so much in the past and it will serve us well now too.”

PROGRAM:

Continued from A5

learn model, the program and training costs are funded entirely by the American Apprenticeship Initiative Grant.

SRG Global and Veresence in Newton County are among the apprenticeship program partnership in-

dustries which also include Thermo Pac in DeKalb County; and Golden State Foods, Haver and Boecker, and MGM Products in Rockdale County.

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ber in a hybrid format.

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The Covington News

LEGALS

Public Notices

Citations

CITATION

ADONIS M. HARDEMAN has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of CAROLYN JEAN HARDEMAN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117620
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

BRIDGET LATONIA MITCHELL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of JEFFERY KEITH MITCHELL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117619
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

CATINA M. PARKER has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of LEONARD CHARLES PARKER, JR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117621
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

CHERYL B. HILL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BRANDACE LESLIE**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117678
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

CRISTI ROBINSON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of TIM LAWSON ROBINSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117616
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

EDDIE GEORGE MANUEL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of BETTY JEAN BELL MANUEL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117675
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

EDDIE GEORGE MANUEL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of EDRIC MANUEL**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next,

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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. Call 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

at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117674
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

ELLA LOUISE MILLS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of WILLIAM DOUGLAS MILLS**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117677
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

GREGORY THOMAS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of ELOISE MARTIN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117617
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

HARRY WILLIAM HODGES has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of RALPH HODGES**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117616
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

JOEY L. JOHNSON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of HELEN KELLY JOHNSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117676
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

KATIE MELOVITZ has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of STACEY LYNNE ANDERSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117623
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

KEYWANDER A. FLOYD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of HENRY THOMAS JOHNSON**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117680
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

MARVIN WILSON CLABORN, JR. has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of LISA MARIE HERMAN**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117622
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

MELVA L. MONTGOMERY has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of WILLIE MONTGOMERY, JR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117679
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

MERLENE ST. LUCE has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of AMAYAH PARRIS**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117625
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

ROBIN A. BUTZ has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the **Estate of DONALD BRIAN ADAMS, SR.**, 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 objections must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne
CLERK, PROBATE Court
NEWTON COUNTY, GA

PUBLIC NOTICE #117624
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of ALAN D. CANNON, widow/widower of TERI DIANE CANNON, deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition

should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117639
12/6,13,20,27

CITATION

THE PETITION of OBY NWANDU, ON BEHALF OF CHIMABI NWANDU, for Twelve Month's Support, Estate of Augustine Ifenayi Nwandu, deceased, having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 4, 2021, next at ten o'clock a.m.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #117683
12/6,13,20,27

Debtors Creditors

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF: HELEN SANDRA HICKS, DECEASED.

ESTATE NO. 2020-P-296

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **HELEN SANDRA HICKS** of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 10th day of DECEMBER, 2020.

DERWIN BRYAN Davis
973 GREEN Street, SE
CONYERS, GA 30012

PUBLIC NOTICE #11709
12/20,27,13,10

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of Susan J. Samuel, late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. **THIS 24TH** day of November, 2020.

BRUCE R. HAWKINS, JR. ATTORNEY FOR CHARLES WILLIAM SAMUEL AND TYLER J. BOROWSKI, EXECUTORS ESTATE OF SUSAN J. SAMUEL
538 SCENIC Highway Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (770) 822-5635

PUBLIC NOTICE #117658
12/6,13,20,27

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of EUGENE TALMADGE NASWORTHY, SR.**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 7th** day of DECEMBER, 2020.

CHRISTY ANN NASWORTHY
50 STEWART HOLLOW LANE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117714
12/27,13,10,17

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of HARRIETT EUGENIA KITCHENS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 7th** day of DECEMBER,

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEALTH CARE

ADVIR HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Now hiring CNA, PCA, homemakers, full time, part time and PRN positions for areas in Newton, Rockdale and other surrounding counties.

If interested in positions go to www.advirhealthcare.com and click on careers to apply for interview. or call 404.348.2643 ext 702.

RETAIL

SHOE HOUSE

Fine Italian Leather men's dress shoes retail at \$129 to \$250.

Your price is only \$69.95-\$79.95 | Sizes 8-14.

New Blaze tennis shoes are here!

Men and Women Only \$55.00 to \$65.00

Pastors Receive 10% Off!

Conyers Mini Mall | Thursday-Sunday
678-798-2883 or 678-549-6322

RETAIL



COMING SOON

2233 GA Highway 20 | Conyers, GA 30013

info@shopsneakerasylum.com

www.shopsneakerasylum.com

DATING

LET GOLDEN DATING CONNECT YOU!



Dating Website for Singles Over 40 Years of Age

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SIGN UP FOR A 7-DAY TRIAL TODAY!

SPACE NEEDED

SPACE NEEDED FOR NEW MINISTRY

Safe, clean and reasonably priced space needed for Ministry Recruiting, Worship, and Bible Study. Only needed for 2-3 times per month. Willing to share or rent with another Ministry. Space should seat upwards of 25-50 people. Willing to share space. Please contact Pastor Barbara Sherman at 404-468-2190.

2020.

BRANDON EPPS
4177 CHESTNUT LAKE AVE
LITHONIA, GA 30038

PUBLIC NOTICE #117711
12/27,13,10,17

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of HARRIETT EUGENIA KITCHENS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 7th** day of DECEMBER, 2020.

BRANDON EPPS
4177 CHESTNUT LAKE AVE
LITHONIA, GA 30038

PUBLIC NOTICE #117712
12/27,13,10,17

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARSHA NEAL MCCALL SEARS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 7th** day of DECEMBER, 2020.

LISA A. SINGLEY
P.O. BOX 2637
COVINGTON, GA 30015

PUBLIC NOTICE #117713
12/27,13,10,17

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of RAYMOND ELLIS**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 30th** day of November, 2020.

KEITH ELLIS
257 RAVEN ROAD
MONTICELLO, GA 31064

PUBLIC NOTICE #117681
12/6,13,20,27

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of ROBERT SHEPARD, SR.**, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law. **THIS THE 1st** day of December, 2020.

ROBERT SHEPARD, Jr.
1428 MAIN St, Apt 231
FITCHBURG, MA 01420

PUBLIC NOTICE #117682
12/6,13,20,27

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION

See LEGALS, B2

LEGALS:

Continued from B1

OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Scott White Jr.** to Sun America Mortgage Corporation, dated January 23, 2003, and recorded in Deed Book 1358, Page 521, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Yurt Series IV Trust by assignment to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of one hundred sixty-eight thousand and 00/100 (\$168,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, the following described property: **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 230 OF THE 9TH LAND DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 143 OF UNIT FIVE, WOODS OF DEARING SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 38, PAGES 11-14, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IN INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART HEREOF.**

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

YOUR MORTGAGE servicer can be contacted at 800-603-0836 - Loss Mitigation Dept., or by writing to SN Servicing Corporation (Servicer), 3223 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Scott White Jr. or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **270 Dearing Woods Way, Covington, GA 30014.**

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

U.S. BANK Trust National Association, as Trustee of Yurt Series IV Trust as Attorney in Fact for Scott White Jr., **BOWEN QUINN, P.A.** **25400 US Hwy 19 N, Suite 150 CLEARWATER, FL 33763** **PHONE: (727) 474-9603** **ESERVICE@BOWENQUINN.COM** **BY: /S/ Erin M. Rose Quinn** **ERIN M. Rose Quinn, Esq.** **GEORGIA BAR** Number 547833

PUBLIC NOTICE #117668
12/6,13,20,27

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON

UNDER AND by virtue of the power of Sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated January 30, 2018, from **Paul Holfeld and Barbara A. Holfeld** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, recorded on February 7, 2018 in Deed Book 3662 at Page 560 Newton County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated January 30, 2018, in the amount of \$210,000.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Newton County, Georgia, on January 5, 2021 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 91 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 30, MILLCREST SUBDIVISION, UNIT THREE, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 30, PAGE 230- 231, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR AND COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.**

THE DEBT secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law.

TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property are Paul Holfeld and Barbara A. Holfeld. The property, being commonly known as **30 Creekstone Court, Covington, GA, 30016** in Newton County, will be sold as the property of Paul Holfeld and Barbara A. Holfeld, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which

would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A.Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Compu-Link Corporation, d/b/a Celink, 2900 Esperanza Crossing, Austin, TX 78758, 512-691-1699. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Albertelli Law Attorney for WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 as Attorney in Fact for Paul Holfeld and Barbara A. Holfeld 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 960 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 By: Cory Sims For the Firm THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 20-011054 A-4727858 12/06/2020, 12/13/2020, 12/20/2020, 12/27/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE #117641
12/6,13,20,27

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

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

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Lorraine Richardson** to First Franklin a Division of Nat. City of Bank of IN, dated October 31, 2005, recorded in Deed Book 2055, Page 91, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to US Bank National Association, as trustee for the holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF2 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 4049, Page 222, Newton County Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$162,320.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2021, the following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

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 will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

US BANK National Association, as trustee for the holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF2 is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

THE ENTITY that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Select Portfolio Servicing, 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 888-818-6032.

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Lorraine Richardson and Estate of Lorraine Richardson or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **120 Glen Echo Drive, Covington, Georgia 30016.**

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

US BANK National Association, as trustee for the holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF2 **AS ATTORNEY IN Fact for LORRAINE RICHARDSON MCCALLA RAYMER** Leibert Pierce, LLC **1544 OLD Alabama Road ROSWELL, GA 30076** **WWW.FORECLOSUREHOTLINE.NET** **EXHIBIT "A"**

ALL That tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 40 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 65, of Glen Echo Subdivision, Phase One, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 42, Pages 195-198, Newton County, Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description.

MR/CA 1/5/21
OUR FILE no. 5605419 - FT1

PUBLIC NOTICE #117684
12/6,13,20,27,1/3

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF

NEWTON NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

TO: HALL Employment Network and Ladawn J. Hall, Carlton R. Nivens and Antawan Anderson, Hall Employment Network - Learn Network INC.

TAKE NOTICE that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:

ALL AND only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel C0320 00030 035 000, in Land Lot

234 OF the 9th District, in the City of Covington, Newton County, Georgia, being 0.24 acre, more or less, and being Lot 32, Block A, Covington South Subdivision, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 8, page 26, Newton County Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description, located on **Morris Drive.**

WILL EXPIRE and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 31st day of January 2021.

THE TAX deed to which this notice relates is dated the 4th day of December, 2018 ,and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of Superior court of Newton County Georgia, in Deed Book **3786 AT** page 608.

THE PROPERTY may be redeemed at any time before the day of January 31st 2021, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: **BRUNO PROPERTIES** Management LLC. 3126 Mill St. NE Covington, Georgia, 30014

PLEASE BE governed accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117697
12/27,1/3,10,17

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

TO: JACOB LUNT, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, JSL PROPERTIES, LLC, FIRST FRANKLIN A DIVISION OF NATIONAL CITY BANK, "MERS" MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC,CAPSTONE FUNDING, LLC, CITY OF COVINGTON,

TAKE NOTICE that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:

ALL AND only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel C007 00030 002 000, Land Lot 264 of the 9th District, in the City of Covington, Newton County, Georgia, being 0.26 acre, being shown as Lot 102 Covington Mills, Inc. Subdivision according to plat of same recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 192, public records Newton County, Georgia, which plat is by reference thereto incorporated herein and made a party hereof for a more particular and complete description.

SAID PROPERTY being known as **6130 Sorrell Street, Covington, Georgia** in accordance with the current system of numbering properties in Newton County, Georgia.

WILL EXPIRE and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 31st day,of January 2021.

THE TAX deed to which this notice relates is dated the 4th day of December,2018 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of Superior court of Newton County Georgia, in Deed Book 3786 at page 615.

THE PROPERTY may be redeemed at any time before the day of January 31st 2021, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

BRUNO PROPERTIES Management LLC. 3126 Mill St. NE Covington, Georgia, 30014

PLEASE BE governed accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117696
12/27,1/3,10,17

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of Child(ren):
QUINDAJAH HARRIS

ANTONIO TYON HARRIS
PETITIONER,
VS.
SHAKEITA C. KEY
RESPONDENT.
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 2020-CV-2380-3

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF CHILD(

ANTONIO T. HARRIS filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on NOVEMBER 20, 2020, to change the name of the following minor child **FROM: QUINDAJAH HARRIS to KAILA HARRIS.** **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 #117669
12/6,13,20,27

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
LANEIR SWINSON
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number: **2020-CV-2076-1**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

LANEIR SWINSON filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **October 9, 2020** to change the name from **LANEIR SWINSON** to **LANIER X. JAGANI.** Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Crow species
4. Partner to flow
7. Male offspring
8. Sedate
10. Orange beverage
12. Pair of small hand drums
13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
14. Former Pirates star Jason
16. Computer company
17. Made angry
19. Beverage container
20. Charlize Theron film “___ Flux”
21. Localities
25. Consume
26. Don't know when yet
27. Bed style
29. Make a low, continuous sound
30. Wrath
31. Pollinates flowers
32. Association
39. Prejudice
41. Unhealthy
42. Hasidic religious leader
43. Distinctive philosophy
44. Short-term memory
45. In a good way
46. Emperors of Ethiopia
48. Imaginary line
49. Of barium
50. One's sense of self-esteem
51. Man who behaves dishonestly
52. Monetary unit

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES DOWN

1. Rear of (nautical)
2. He minds the net
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. When you hope to get there
5. Young children
6. Beloved hobby
8. Pigpen
9. Wish harm upon
11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
14. Scrooge's phrase “___

days after Petition was filed.

DATED OCTOBER 9, 2020

LANIER SWINSON
170 REGENCY PLACE
COVINGTON, GA 30016

NOTICE #117449
12/6,13,20,27

Public Notice

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER 2020 TERM

ORDER TO PUBLISH GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

THE FOREGOING general presentments and recommendations of the Grand Jury having been returned in open court, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the same be recorded in the minutes of the Clerk of Superior Court and that the same be published in the official organ of Newton County.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of December, 2020.

LAYLA ZON
JUDGE, SUPERIOR Courts
ALCOVY JUDICIAL Circuit

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER 2020 TERM

THE NEWTON County Grand Jury for the October 2020 Term hereby submits its general presentments and recommends that the same be published in the legal organ of Newton County pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-12-80.

THIS 18TH day of December, 2020.

JAZZMON L. Sanders
FOREPERSON

GRAND JURY COMMITTEE
INSPECTION ATTENDANCE
CERTIFICATION

THIS IS to certify that the undersigned Grand Jury members met with the department head for the Tax Commissioner department/ office and/or his or her authorized representative on the 11th day of December, 2020 for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities to the Court and to the citizens of Newton County to inspect and investigate the various office of the government of our county. This 11th day of December, 2020

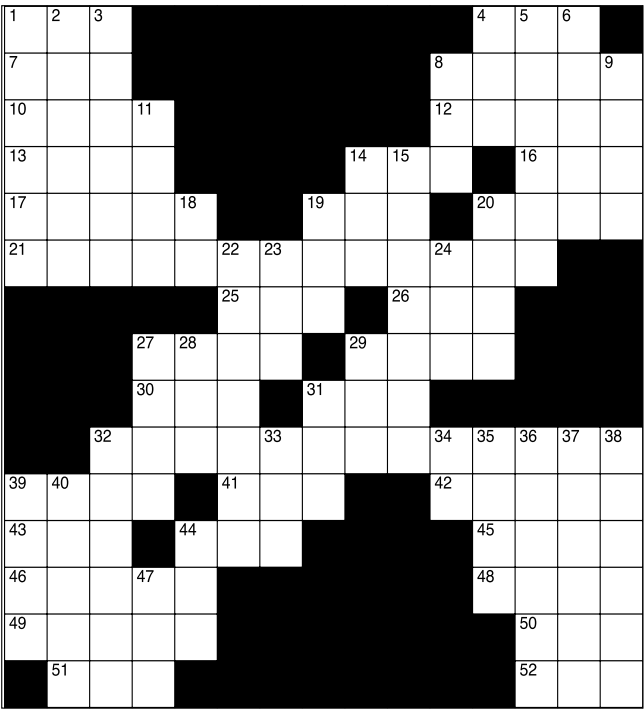
DANA DARBY
TAX COMMISSIONER

GRAND JURY MEMBERS:
ANNIE BELL Jackson
JAMAICA GARRIS
MONTAURS M. Smith
TERRY GILES

COMMITTEE REPORT
OFFICE OF Tax Commissioner

THE COMMITTEE conducted an inspection of the Office of Tax Commissioner on 12/11/2020. Dana Derby, who is the current Tax Commissioner for Newton County, led the tour. Below are our general observations:

- UPON** arrival, we did see that the waiting room was packed with residents waiting for service.
- WHILE EVERYONE** had on masks, there was no adherence to the social distance guidelines set forth by the CDC, and chairs in the waiting room were not 6ft apart.
- THE** entire staff was both courteous and hardworking.
- THE** committee was impressed by the overall cleanliness of the office. All personal workstations and common areas were tidy and organized.
- ALL** motor vehicle records and cash were kept in a locked room within the office. Commissioner Darby talked through the security protocols that were in place to ensure safety, and the committee felt confident that office



Humbug”
15. One more
18. A ballplayer who only hits
19. Once vital TV part
20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
22. Advantage
23. Type of tree
24. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
27. Life stories
28. Vase
29. Tiny
31. Package (abbr.)
32. A photog's tool
33. Wood
34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
36. Wild goats
37. A way to comply
38. Horatio ___, British admiral

39. Actress Leslie
40. Sir ___ Newton
44. Pouch
47. Have already done

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION:



personnel are handling all personal records and cash securely.

COMMISSIONER Darby mentioned that there was a need for additional staff. Volume across the board has remained high since the office reopened after closures due to COVID-19 in the spring. There is one unoccupied workstation that could be used by a new hire if/when additional staff is hired.

- THERE** are two satellite offices that opened in 2020 that offer limited services and have limited staff. Commissioner Darby mentioned that both locations see a fair amount of volume, but nowhere near the number of visitors that the main office receives.

- COMMISSIONER** Darby also mentioned that there is a need for new office printers. The current printers are outdated and require manual manipulation by office staff to work properly.

- THE** tour was brief considering the office is rather small. Based on the committee's observation, it seems as though the operation is close to outgrowing their allotted space.

GRAND JURY COMMITTEE
INSPECTION ATTENDANCE
CERTIFICATION

THIS IS to certify that the undersigned Grand Jury members met with the department head for the Newton Co. Probate Court department/office and/ or his or her authorized representative on the 11th day of December, 2020 for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities to the Court and to the citizens of Newton County to inspect and investigate the various office of the government of our county.

THIS 11TH day of December 2020.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
MARCIA WYNNE, Chief Clerk

GRAND JURY MEMBERS
DEBORAH WHITNEY
BETHANY CORVOS
KECHSA PARTEE
THELMA MALCOM

A COMMITTEE of four members of the October, 2020 Grand Jury term inspected the Newton County Probate Court on Friday, December 11, 2020. The committee consisted of Bethany Corvos, Deborah Whitney, Thelma Malcom and Kechsa Partee. We received a tour of the offices and work areas by Marcia Wynne, Head Clerk and were later given a presentation by the Department Head Judge Melanie Bell. Ms Wynne and Judge Bell were gracious and very informative. It is evident from the information provided and from the physical appearance of the are that this Department is very professional and take pride in their responsibilities and performance.

THE PROBATE Court consists of Judge Bell, Chief Magistrate and one full time Associate Magistrate Judge and two part time Magistrate Judges. There are a total of 6 Probate Clerks who support the Department.

DURING THE tour of the area, we observed that a lot of attention was taken to ensure the area met or exceeded what would be considered safety concerns as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic. Special care is made to keep people spaced as much as possible and to also schedule appointments to keep a minimum of the public coming together at any given time. The committee was very impressed, and we were told that some members of the medical profession had toured the offices and felt the precautions were at a medical facility level. Everyone is concerned for the safety and health of employees and the public who come into the facility.

THE PROBATE Court offices and work area consisted of a records room, conference room, several offices, a cubicle area, a kitchen and a break area. All were very clean, tidy and organized.

THE PROBATE Court is responsible for many types of business. Included are Estate Matters, Guardianships and Conservatorships of Incapacitated Adults; Conservatorships of Minors, Temporary and Permanent Guardianships of Minors, Traffic Court, Marriage Licenses, Weapons Carry Licenses, Issuing Oaths to Elected Officials; Approve and track bonds for

elected officials, Approve fireworks permits, Register Cattle Brands, and Serve as Chief Magistrate for the County. It should be noted that while this is a lot of areas, it is not all inclusive. There are various other types of issues that are handled. This is a list of the main areas of responsibilities.

THIS IS a very busy Department and involved in many areas' residents of the county need and use. Judge Bell provided an example, that YTD 4,055 Weapons Carry Licenses had been issued. Keeping in mind there are still 3 weeks in the year left and permits were not issued during the period of 3/14/2020- 5/13/2020 due to the pandemic. This compares to the next highest year (over a 4 year period) of 3,124 issued in 2018.

JUDGE BELL also noted that warrants can now be processed and issued electronically. This had been a significant savings in time, eliminating costs of paying lay enforcement overtime while obtaining the warrants and overall costs savings to the county.

THE JUDGE also provided us with a breakdown of fees collected by the department through the following categories; Firearms, Marriage, Probate, Traffic, Vital Records total Year End, \$819, 762.78. Some of these funds help support the Jail as well as the Victim Assistance Program.

THIS COMMITTEE was appreciative of the time and information provided by Judge Bell and her team. The time was quite informative.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Deborah Whitney

GRAND JURY COMMITTEE
INSPECTION ATTENDANCE
CERTIFICATION

THIS IS to certify that the undersigned Grand Jury members met with the department head for the Newton County Jail department/office and/or his or her authorized representative on the 11th day of December, 2020 for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities to the Court and to the citizens of Newton County to inspect and investigate the various office of the government of our county.

THIS 11 th day of December

1ST LT. Brice D. Smith, Sr.

GRAND JURY Members
KIMBERLY WALDEN
JAZZMAN SANDERS
CHANDA WRIGHT
SHERRIKA PEOPLES

GRAND JURY Inspection report of the Newton County Sheriff's Office and Jail (12/11/2020)

ON DECEMBER 11th 2020, four members of the Grand Jury visited and inspected the Newton County Jail. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Lieutenant Brice Smith and staff. In regard to Covid-19 precautions, our temperatures were taken at the door. We were also asked screening questions. We were then provided a guided tour of the facility. The tour guide (one of the officers) was excellent. The tour was very detailed and very in-depth. The rules were enforced and the faculty maintained control at all times.

WE BEGAN by touring the intake and booking areas. It was obvious that the staff took pride in their facility. They talked about the updates in technology, including the machine that is used to screen people as they enter the jail as well as the technology that allows for visits using a virtual platform. We also toured the medical facility, food preparation area laundry room, control rooms and cell pods. The cook was extremely proud of the 100% score that he received in their previous inspection.

AS MEMBERS of the Grand Jury, we discussed our inspection of the jail. We all agreed upon arrival, that the facility was much cleaner than we imagined it would be. It initially smelled of bleach and cleaning supplies. The food in the kitchen, smelled wonderful and we were impressed with the **FRESHNESS OF** the food. We were also very impressed with the scheduling

See LEGALS, B3

LEGALS:

Continued from B2

AND PLANNING that it takes to **OPERATE THE** jail. Every part of the day is scheduled in a manner that ensures that the inmates are treated fairly and that precautions are taken to maintain a controlled safe environment.

AFTER THE tour, we were able to meet with Sheriff Ezell Brown. He also displayed pride and professionalism. He explained the duties and expectations of law enforcement, in our community, and thanked us for our duties of serving on Grand Jury. He was very thorough in his explanations and very personable.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS for improvements included an increase of manpower at the jail. More than one of the Grand Jury members expressed concern with there only being one detention officer sitting in the center of the pod. If an emergency were to occur, what kind of protection would that officer receive and in what amount of time?

OVERALL, WE all enjoyed our tour of the jail. It was a very enlightening experience!

SINCERELY,
KIMBERLY WALDEN

PUBLIC NOTICE #117720
12/27

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

TO WHOM It may Concern:
PLEASE BE advised that **MARIE N LUSTIN.**, whose address is 400 TRELAWNEY CIRCLE, COVINGTON, GA 30016 is the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 400 TRELAWNEY CIRCLE, COVINGTON, GA 30016 in the following trade name, to-wit: M and M CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT that the nature of said business is: FOOD 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** 16 day of DECEMBER, 2020.
PUBLIC NOTICE # 117719
12/27

Public Sales Auctions

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GEORGIA LAW 40-11-2:
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AT **INSURANCE AUTO** Auction 125 Old Hwy 138 Loganville, GA 30052-4814 AND ARE PRESENTLY STORED AT SAID LOCATION.
IF NOT CLAIMED, THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON 01/08/21 10:00 AM

YEAR	MAKE	Model	Color
------	------	-------	-------

2008	INFINITI	QX56	
5N3AA08D68N912741			
2011	TOYOTA	Corolla	WHT
JTDBU4EE1BJ102753			
2009	HONDA	CR-V	
5J6RE38779L002698			
2006	HONDA	CR-V	
JHLRD685X6C003416			
2010	HONDA	Insight	
JHMZE2H57AS028127			
2012	FORD	Mustang	
1ZVBP8AM2C5229403			
2008	LAND	LR2	
SALFP24N88H037648			
2007	HONDA	Odyssey	
5FNRL38447B131435			
2011	BMW	5 series	
WBAFU9C59BC784624			
2009	FORD	Fusion	
3FAHP07Z59R146156			
2018	NISSAN	Sentra	
3N1AB7AP9JL612529			
1999	FORD	Expedition	
1FMRU1765XLB46779			
2006	NISSAN	Altima	
1N4AL11E66N325331			
2010	HONDA	Odyssey	
5FNRL3H73AB082018			
2005	NISSAN	Altima	
1N4AL11D05N403348			

PUBLIC NOTICE #117704
12/20,27

AFFORDABLE SELF Storage East, 5272 Ga Hwy 20 S, Covington, Ga. 30016
PURSUANT TO the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, shall conduct a Public Auction for the following units for non-payment.

CYNTHIA SIMMONS K-33 household items

PAMELA BERRY D-01 G-17 household items

QUINN RIVERS H-10 H21 household items

AUCTION WILL be held January 22nd 2021 at 10:30AM

PUBLIC NOTICE #117701
12/20,27

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF
PERSONAL PROPERTY**

IN ACCORDANCE with the GA Self Service Storage Facilities Act notice is hereby given that the undersigned will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder in order to satisfy lien of the owner. Bidding to take place on lockerfox.com ending Wednesday the 13th day of January, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Said property is Space Shop Self Storage, 6177 Jackson Hwy, Covington, GA, 30014

LATIMORE, JERYCA L19 Heaters, handicap bed, electric wheel chair, boxes, Christmas tree, misc items. Clark, Brett K04 Fridge, tools, lawn mower, boxes, tool box, table, chairs.

BOLIA, AMANDA 1107 Costumes, Shoes, Clothes, Bags, Guitars, Luggage, Boxes, Books, Briefcase, Amp, Samurai Swords, Small Mattress.

KRAFT, LETITIA 1043 Plastic bins, toys, boxes, scooters, Dvd player.

STEPHENS, RUBY 1132 Clothes, plastic bins. King, Whitney 1158 Clothes, plastic container, seats for car, shovel.

CLARK, BEVERLY 1049 Chairs, Table, TV, Clothes, Mattresses, Dart Board, Night Stands, Boxes, Bags.

SIMS, MILDRED 1150 clothes, plastic container, hamper.

LAWRENCE, DAVID G28 windshields, air compressor, misc.

PEREZ, NOELIA 2020 nightstand.

PITTS, VALENCIA A11 wooden furniture, mattresses, lamp, chairs, sofa.

THE AUCTION will be listed and advertised on lockerfox.com. Space Shop Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117705
12/27,01/3



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Who will stand up to Big Labor?

Every day, millions of Americans are forced to pay tribute to a union boss just to earn a living and feed their families.

Union bosses funnel this money into the election of Tax-and-Spend politicians who protect and expand Big Labor's compulsory unionism power and the BILLIONS in forced-dues dollars it generates.

80% of Georgians think that's just plain wrong.

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**Jon Ossoff and
Raphael Warnock**

- Champion the PRO Act, which would wipe out all state Right to Work laws -- including Georgia's.
- Back coercive "Card Check" organizing schemes.
- Support union boss pushbutton strike powers.



**David Perdue and
Kelly Loeffler**

- Cosponsored the National Right to Work Act, which would remove the federal authorization for forced union dues.
- Oppose monopoly union bargaining in the public sector.
- Support the Freedom from Union Violence Act.

Right now is when politicians pay the most attention to the folks back home!

Contact Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock today.

Demand they publicly disavow their support for Big Labor's so-called "PRO Act" and pledge 100% opposition to forced unionism.

Ask Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock where their true loyalties lie -- with Georgians or with Big Labor. Call them at:

Jon Ossoff (678) 333-3218 Raphael Warnock (470) 788-8922

Urge Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock to change their ways and stand with the 80% of Georgians who oppose compulsory unionism.

Paid for by the National Right to Work Committee

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