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Hwy. 142 bridge replacement in Newton County at ‘standstill’

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Replacement of the bridge on Georgia Hwy. 142 over the CSX railroad in Newton County has been prolonged.

In recent weeks, construction crews have been seen busting up the concrete bridge deck. Georgia Department of Transportation District Communications Specialist Kyle Collins said that was because the bridge deck “did not have an acceptable thickness, therefore it must be removed and replaced.”

“What’s happening now is crews (are) removing the stage 2 portion of the bridge all the way to the beams,” he said. “They will have to reform the bridge, reinstall reinforcement in the concrete and re-pour the bridge deck.”

But Collins said the project was at a “standstill” as of Wednesday, Oct. 21, due to damage of a beam that occurred during the recent demolition process. He said the GDOT bridge office now awaits the contractor’s plan to fix the beam.

“This beam problem pushes back the timeline for other project items,” Collins said.

The \$14.1 million project officially began in December 2016, Collins said, and included 1.6 miles of widening and reconstruction for additional lanes on Hwy. 142, beginning at Interstate 20 and extending to Alcovy Road, prior to replacing the bridge.

Collins said the project’s completion date was set for March 2020 but various bumps in the road have led to several delays.

“The project was (first) delayed due to a utility conflict with a sewer line and the earth wall at the bridge,” he said.

Many construction items were finished by the end of spring while the summer was spent developing a plan to repair the bridge, Collins said. Once the bridge deck’s thickness is corrected, Collins said the entire project would then be “topped, stripped, signals and shoulders completed.”

“Tentatively, the majority of work to open to traffic, except grassing, won’t be complete until early/spring 2021, we estimate,” he said.

Collins said Southeastern Site Development, Inc. — the prime contractor — would be paying for repairs.

“They currently lose \$1,191 each day the project isn’t complete and open to traffic,” he

DONATE:

Continued from A1

its living space after a wall was installed to separate male and female residents.

However, the remainder of the building was badly damaged and cannot be entered because of the danger it poses, she said.

Lett said the building’s owner, the Covington Housing Authority, has insurance on the building but it will be weeks before the design and bid phases are completed and construction begins on repairs.

She also promised to account for all of the public money pledged to help the nonprofit.

“They will know where every dime goes,” Lett said.

Covington City Council was set to vote on a budget amendment Friday night to provide the \$30,000 it pledged to donate to the county government to aid the shelter.

It followed the council’s narrow approval of giving the money to Newton County for donation to the shelter Monday, Oct. 19, and the Newton County Board of Commissioners’ Tuesday, Oct. 20, vote to match the council’s donation for a total of \$60,000.

Mayor Steve Horton on Monday said County Chairman Marcello Banes reached out to him with the idea of making the donation.

“He was concerned with their ability to be able to fully meet the needs of those who are served right now,” Horton said. “It cannot be done right now because they have one building that is significantly damaged.”

Councilwoman Hawnethia Williams said a donation would honor the legacy of the late Sam Ramsey.

Ramsey was a former mayor and longtime businessman in Covington who died Aug. 25. He played an instrumental role in the development of Rainbow Community Shelter.

“That was his baby, you might say,” Williams said. “In honor of him, I would love for us to do that.”

But Councilwoman Susie Keck and others voiced concerns about the donation.

“I understand we can’t write a check to the homeless shelter,” Keck said. “Can we write a check for materials for rehabbing the homeless shelter rather than writing a check to the county?”

Horton said paying for materials would also be a direct payment to the shelter.

City Attorney Frank Turner Jr. suggested either donating funds to the county or to the Covington Housing Authority, which is the shelter’s landlord.

“I would just like to know it goes there,” Keck said.

Keck’s concern was not with the county’s handling of the funds, but rather the shelter’s officials, she said.

“The person over the shelter isn’t going to get the money either,” Councilman Kenneth Morgan said.

“(Horton) just said we — he — didn’t know how it would be used,” Keck said.

“Well, I mean, if we gave it to the county, however the county chooses to disperse it, we should be honored,” Morgan said.

“Yeah, but I want to know that it’s dispersed for the right cause, because monies that go to some of these shelters do not actually go to the actual people needing it,” Keck said. “(There’s mishandling of) funds all the time, and I just don’t want to be a part of it.”

When it came to a vote, council members Anthony Henderson, Morgan and Williams voted in favor of making the donation.

Keck, Councilman Don Floyd and Councilwoman Fleeta Baggett opposed making the donation — with each saying they wanted to be given more information

first.

Horton then broke the tie by voting in favor of making the donation.

On Tuesday, Banes led the discussion of the Newton County Board of Commissioners’ donation.

Commissioner J.C. Henderson suggested taking the money from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds.

County attorney Megan Martin said her research of laws governing SPLOST led her to recommend the donation not come from the special sales tax fund unless the county government owned the shelter’s building.

Banes suggested the county’s contribution come from contingency funds, which typically are reserved for such unforeseen costs as storm damage to public buildings or project cost overruns.

Commissioner Stan Edwards shared similar concerns as some city council members and suggested the county Emergency Management Agency be responsible for approving the shelter’s individual expenditures as a “way to feedback to us official accountability” of the money.

Banes said he believed it might place an unfair burden on the small nonprofit as it worked to rebuild and care for its residents.

However, Commissioner Ronnie Cowan said it was “prudent” to seek a record of receipts directly from the shelter “rather than tying them up with the EMA.”

County commissioners’ unanimous approval included a requirement that shelter officials provide the county with receipts of individual expenditures of the approved funding.

Taylor Beck, editor and publisher of The Covington News, contributed to this report.

OBITUARY

Elizabeth “Betty” Ramsey Robertson Kincaid
Mrs. Elizabeth “Betty” Ramsey Robertson Kincaid, age 91, a lifelong resident of Covington passed away peacefully in her sleep on Oct. 21, 2020. Betty is survived by her

husband, David Kincaid, daughter Susan and Bill Atkinson of Covington, and her grandchildren Andy Wunder of San Francisco, CA, Renee Wunderberg of Diamond Bar, CA, and Anna Wunder of Covina, CA. She is preceded in death by

her first husband Doug Robertson, daughter Rosemary Wunder, and grandchild Sarah Rose Atkinson along with numerous other family members and close friends.

Betty was born on March 9, 1929 in Covington, Georgia to

George and Mary Sue Hull Ramsey. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in education. A lifelong educator, Betty taught elementary school for 30 years and was adored by generations of Newton County students. She passed on

her passion for education to her granddaughter Anna, who is now a teacher in Pasadena, California.

Betty treasured family and the love she felt for her kin was apparent to all. She was blessed to have not one, but two, soulmates and wonderful marriages. She married her first husband, Doug Robertson in 1949. They were married for 43 wonderful years and raised two beautiful daughters together. Following Doug’s passing, Betty met her current husband David Kincaid in 1992. They were married in 1994 and celebrated their Silver anniversary last December. They had a beautiful marriage and shared many passions.

Betty was a devout Christian and lifelong member of Salem United Methodist Church. Born into the

Salem Campmeeting tradition, Betty never missed a year attending 91 consecutive Camp Meetings. She passed as the Matriarch of the Robertson/Kincaid/Atkinson tent and an enthusiastic, dedicated camper.

The family regrets that during these difficult times the service must be private. They do appreciate your thoughts and prayers. At Betty’s request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Salem Campmeeting in her name (<http://www.salemcampmeeting.org/give>) or to Salem United Methodist Church, 3962 Salem Road, Covington, GA 30016. J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home, TE Davis Funeral Services, 2157 East Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014.



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Newton commissioner objects to plan to make future chairman highest paid

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — At least one Newton commissioner is objecting to a plan to give the successor to the current chairman the highest salary of any elected county official.

Commissioner Nancy Schulz said she did not believe any person elected in the future as board of commissioners chairman to succeed Chairman Marcello Banes should be paid more than the sheriff who she said has considerably more duties.

The longtime commissioner was objecting to the first draft of legislation presented by county attorney Megan Martin Tuesday, Oct. 20, to revise the way the county is calculating top constitutional officers' salaries.

The plan will only affect the holders of any of the five county offices elected after Jan. 1, 2021. It will not affect elected officials elected before Jan. 1, 2021.

A judge will rule in a lawsuit filed in Newton County Super-

rior Court on which of two pay methods should be used for current office holders.

Chairman Marcello Banes and Probate Court Judge Melanie Bell say they discovered they are not being paid what state law says they should for constitutional officers in counties similar in population to Newton.

The county government says it backs the method it has used since local legislation was passed in 1994 that does not include cost of living allowances and longevity in calculating pay.

Banes and Bell contend they should be paid according to a calculation in state law that differs from the local legislation — which could increase their pay by almost \$100,000 each, according to calculations by their attorney, Stephanie Lindsey.



Nancy Schulz

On Tuesday, Martin said she needed commissioners' input to determine how the legislation should be written before she submits it to members of Newton County's delegation for introduction during the Georgia General Assembly's 2021 session beginning in January.

The local law now used calculates salaries based on the highest minimum salary of five county officials defined as Newton County officers in 1981 local legislation.

The plan keeps the chairman as one of the five Newton County officers. Others include the sheriff, clerk of courts, tax commissioner and probate court judge — called constitutional officers because the state constitution allows them to operate their offices independently from county government control.

Martin said the draft legislation establishes the chairman as the highest-paid official because

See **OBJECTS, A6**

Elections chairman hopes for Election Day results

Data shows daily number of early voters increasing as wait times decline

By **TOM SPIGOLON**
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COVINGTON, Ga. — The county's election board chairman believes Newton will defy predictions heard elsewhere and have the local results of the Nov. 3 election the night following the closing of the polls.

Phil Johnson told the Newton County Board of Commissioners Tuesday, Oct. 20, the county elections board has a goal of publishing its election results the same night after the polls close at 7 p.m.

"We're not going to be one of those places where you have to wait days to get a result from," he told commissioners.

Afterward, Johnson said he was making the prediction based on the Elections & Registration Office already having all completed absentee ballots, received since September, scanned and ready to be counted Election Day.

"Unless we have a major systems failure, we're going to have results that night," Johnson said.

He added that anyone in line at their designated voting precinct on Election Day by 7 p.m. will

Daily totals for advance in-person voting in Newton County

Oct. 12: 890
Oct. 13: 746
Oct. 14: 817
Oct. 15: 913
Oct. 16: 1,080
Oct. 19: 1,064
Oct. 20: 1,149
Oct. 21: 1,128
Oct. 22: 1,261

Source: Newton County Board of Elections & Registration

be allowed to vote.

County elections officials began processing absentee ballots Monday, Oct. 19.

The state election board ruled in August that county election workers could begin processing but not counting absentee ballots two weeks and a day before Election Day Nov. 3.

HEAVY TURNOUT

Almost 19,000, or more than 24% of active Newton County voters, already had cast ballots through Thursday — 12 days before Election Day Nov. 3.

A total of 9,048 had voted

in-person at the Newton County Administration Building and an additional 9,883 absentee votes had been received in the elections office at the same location by Thursday, Oct. 22, Johnson said.

He said this year's number could exceed Newton County's 75% turnout seen in both the 2016 and 2012 elections.

"This is going to be a turnout election," he told commissioners.

The number of Newton County voters likely will exceed the 2016 total as well because the voter rolls have swelled by 34% compared to four years ago, he said.

The 2016 total of 58,192 registered and active voters in 2016 has increased to 78,388 in 2020, officials said.

LINE MOVING FASTER

Changes in the local office's check-in routine and the state's faster response to voter information requests led to increases in the daily number of in-person votes, Johnson said.

The first day total of 890

See **ELECTIONS, A6**

RECUSE:

Continued from A1

owed thousands in back pay.

Banes and Bell maintain they are each owed tens of thousands of dollars in back pay because each official's annual salary is less than what it should have been since they took office, according to current state law.

The chairman and judge said their salaries should have been calculated under a state law that uses the highest minimum annual salary of all constitutional officers in the county.

They contend the law states the highest minimum salary is calculated by adding base pay, local supplements, longevity pay and cost of living increases together.

The four are called constitutional officers because the state constitution specifies their duties and minimum salaries — both of which the county government does not directly control.

Local legislation approved for Newton County in 1994 followed state law in how it was to calculate salary for the county's four constitutional officers, including the clerk of courts, sheriff, probate court judge and tax commissioner. It also included the chairman of the Board of Commissioners in its pay calculation.

The county says in its lawsuit its "custom and historical practice" follows the 1994 local law

that does not include COLAs and longevity increases to calculate the highest minimum annual salary.

The longtime method was used to calculate Banes' current pay of \$101,000 annually and Bell at \$103,000.

It says the method favored by Banes and Bell adds more to cost of living allowances (COLAs) than should be allowed.

The county references Clerk of Courts Linda Hays' eight terms in office, and says the pay calculation favored by Banes and Bell gives longevity credit to constitutional officers even if they just took office.

"In other words, defendants' calculation leads to absurdity man-

ifestly not intended by the Legislature that the county clerk of court's eight-term longevity increase should be applied" to the base salaries of Banes, Bell and all other officers even though neither of the two have completed their first term.

"Such practice would be duplicative and potentially award longevity increases to officers for unearned terms," the suit states.

The county's action follows its plan to ask the Georgia General Assembly in 2021 to make changes to eliminate the differences between the county's traditional calculation and state law for future salary payments.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

- Covington Christian Church on the Round, located at 141 Highway 142 in Covington, will host its Fall Festival from 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy the season in backyard family style! Everyone is invited to attend for an evening of hay rides, photo stations, food trucks and a bonfire. Break out your best recipes, because there will be an Apple Pie Contest, complete with blue ribbon and a gift card to Applebee's for the winner! Come enjoy s'mores and guitars around the fire, then finish the festivities with a small fireworks display. Admission is free. Visit covingtonchristian.org to learn more.

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

- The Arts Association hosts Concert on the Square starting at noon.

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

- The Turner Lake Complex will host the Newton County Recreation Department's first Drive-Boo this year. Bring the family in your vehicle for some social distancing trick or treating! The free community event will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 6185 Turner Lake Rad, Covington.

THROUGH OCT. 30

- New Beginnings art show is an art exhibit of original art by members of Southern Heartland Art Guild. The public is invited to view this new show at Southern Heartland Visual Art Center and Gallery, Monday through Saturday.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

- Octoberfest Sales Event in the Downtown District, "Sweets on the Square," from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. participating businesses will be handing out free treats throughout the day.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOV. 6-7

- Fall yard sale barbecue, located at 215 East Soule St. in Oxford (below Palmer Stone Gym), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be fall and winter clothes sizes 2 petite through 3XL. Boots, shoes, coats, designer purses, toys and more. Everyone is welcome. Masks are encouraged.

THROUGH NOV. 30

- Virtual Vampire Run from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. All net proceeds from the race will go toward the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Prospective racers can register for the virtual run at runsignup.com/Race/GA/MysticFallsCovington/VirtualVampireRun and help "take a bite out of blood cancers."

ONGOING

- Everyone is invited to join Covington Christian Church on the Round on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. for worship. The church is located at 141 Highway 142 in Covington.

NOTICE

THE CITY OF PORTERDALE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 2800 MAIN STREET, PORTERDALE, GA 30070 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. A COPY OF THE BUDGET IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CITY HALL ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR INSPECTION BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY.

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TOWN OF NEWBORN

The Newborn 2020-2021 budget amendment and proposal are available for review by the public at Newborn Town Hall.

A hearing, for the benefit of public review and comment, in regards to the proposed 2021 budget is scheduled for November 2nd at 7PM at the regular council meeting.

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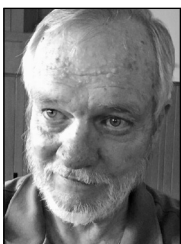
OPINIONS

The Covington News

Jeff MacKenzie columnist

Small farming is charming but famine is alarming

If farming were to blow away in a midwestern dust storm — as happened in the 1930s, the unaffected farmers today — unlike then — would be hard put to



take up the slack. The diaspora of displaced farm families who packed up everything into rickety old trucks and departed for the still functioning farmland of California — where their reception was often less than gracious — is illumined in tome and song. John Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath” and Sis Cunningham’s “How Can You Keep On Moving?” immortalized that time.

Back east many farms still functioned — those not repossessed due to lack of profitability, that is. For a host of reasons, the small family farm has passed into history.

Economics of scale: The business school philosophy that has justified so much financially engineered misery in the American social fabric—not to mention the decline in quality of the end product.

The American economic system has always fostered innovation. Some of the early farming devices — the tractor, the cotton gin, the hay baler, the combine — are absolute genius in their utility and complexity. And many are still in use today. Only now a combine will cost upwards of \$350,000, and a simple tractor in the \$20,000 range.

An excellent article on the true costs of farming in America is “The True Financial Cost of Modern Farming” by Jaclyn Krymowski published in Ag Daily’s October 2020 issue.

My grandfather, who died in 1939, was, along with being the only doctor in his portion of the largest county in Virginia, a semi-successful small farmer. At its height he owned almost 300 acres that supported his wife and three children, a farm manager and his wife and three children and at any given time a hired hand or two. The latter did most of the heavy lifting while my grandparents hustled around the countryside treating wounds and pneumonia.

One year, according to Grandma, the farm made all of 36 cents.

Yet despite the dawn-to-dusk (and beyond, for midnight house calls) nature of life in those benighted times, life was rich.

Their farm — initially a dairy and garden crop operation — sold a wide variety of products and had as unique a collection of buildings for a farm as I’ve seen anywhere.

At today’s prices, they would cost millions.

There was the office, a one-story building with tall ceilings and lapped wood siding that my grandfather, Dr. Emerson, used as a mini-hospital.

There was the pump-house, a hipped roof, stone affair with a tall metal tower and windmill which drew well water into the office and main house which, even then, had a flushable toilet and bath.

Next to it was the lighthouse, where batteries were stored.

There was the smokehouse, a small wooden building with fireplace where Grandma created some of the best country hams anywhere.

Nearby was the woodshed, an open, tin-roofed structure sheltering logs and kindling for the smokehouse and fireplaces in the main house.

Across a small dirt

road that circled the farmhouse was the garage. It was a large square, white painted building with heavy oak floors that held one of the first cars in the county.

The land behind the main house sloped gently down to more level pastureland.

At pasture’s edge a cluster of buildings: a stone stable where once two mules poked their heads out of round holes to be fed. A two-story feed barn where bales of hay were stored for the livestock.

And across from the stables, a corn house built of huge, slatted logs, ubiquitous tin roof, and bins for the corn to dry.

Behind the corn house and later, next to the stables was a hog pen. These would relocate periodically, but always at a remote due to odor issues.

Another open shed nearby sheltered at various times, hay balers, tractors, and eventually Grandma’s 1941 Buick.

At the far edge of the pasture reposed the dairy barn; a long wood structure with stalls for 10 cows.

Next to this was the milk house. Metal siding and roof. Milk was stored for distribution to nearby communities.

A huge pasture beyond the dairy barn descended to a fish-pond, where a dammed stream served as watering hole for the livestock and swimming hole for the kids.

Later, when cigarettes became a fad, tobacco barns were erected at the edge of large fields for curing what would become the largest cash crop into the ‘70s.

These 300 acres supported two families and a succession of renters who worked in the cotton mills of Danville and the furniture mills of Martinsville. The latter lived in small houses and cabins sprinkled about the property. All had outhouses. Three had running water and two required fetching water from a nearby spring.

The myriad farming operations: raising and canning fruits and vegetables, curing tobacco, smoking ham, milking, collecting eggs and butchering frying sized pullets and preparing a yearly Brunswick Stew in a large oblong iron pot in which beef, chicken, pork and a variety of vegetables were boiled over a slow wood fire, outdoors, for a day and a half. It was then consumed at a backyard gathering with the remainder canned for winter consumption.

Even as her children left for the wide world — my uncle became a doctor in the Air Force, saw the world and settled in Florida, my aunt married a dentist and moved to Danville, my mother married a merchant marine and moved to New York — part of them was anchored in this farm. Grandma continued living there into her 90s until the virtual blindness of macular degeneration limited her activity and sparked a fairly rapid decline. After my grandfather died, she built an identity around operating the farm. It sustained her and many others through lean times.

What if we restructured our economy so that such small farming operations could prosper?

What if pandemic assistance and Chinese tariff money fed into thousands of small farms, helping to recreate a lifestyle of spiritual abundance based on discipline, hard work and connection to the land?

What if such farms were part of a land trust with ownership limited to small acreage, so that a single uber farmer could not buy up other plots, undercut prices on those who wouldn’t sell, and ultimately drive everyone off the land except themselves and a crew of hired hands?

What if a large segment of our population lived and prospered in such a rich, stable environment?

It’s all about value. Do we value the rights of large operations to acquire all the property and then rent it out to others?

It seems this system, dedicated to and favoring “economies of scale,” nurtured and favored by banks, legal systems and the type of people who make deals on golf courses, is all about size success. The large frogs then get to eat the smaller ones; an economic system that favors — let’s face it — predators.

Farmers have traditionally had a tough row to hoe. Weather spikes, insect and bird decimation of crops, banks quick to loan and just as quick to repossess, over-leveraged equipment costs, seed monopolies, fertilizer costs.

If we keep as our central tenet that the people who feed us are worth preserving, then the benefits to all will be wondrous.

They are, after all, the true American nobility.

The DESIGN CONSUMER: Jeff MacKenzie examines issues of design that citizen consumers use.

Chris Bridges columnist

What will Election Day outcome bring to divided country?

The event which we’ll see millions of Americans participate in now less than two weeks away.

The 2020 General Election is certainly at hand as early voting has begun with large turnouts in most areas. In Georgia, at least, there have been few reports of any issues with the early voting process which is certainly a positive.

While there are many important races on the general election ballot, the contest which is certainly driving the bus has to be the presidential contest.

Our country is as divided as ever. It can be argued we are more divided now than any time since the Civil War. The Vietnam War split our country as well but what we are seeing in 2020 is somewhat unprecedented.

There is going to be approximately half of the country very upset when election night comes to a conclusion. One can only hope it will all be over by the morning of Nov. 4 but who knows. Even a repeat of what happened in 2000 is going to be more fuel onto an already burning fire.

The rhetoric in our country has gotten ugly. It’s a “you are either for us or against us” and it goes for those on both sides of the political aisle. Those on one side see their candidate as every issue. The other side believes the same thing for their candidate. Both sides view the other as 100 percent wrong.

Rallies dealing with various issues have become heated and even violent. How in the world did we get to this point? It’s dependent upon whom you ask. Ask those on the right and they will quickly tell you it is all the left’s fault. Ask those who lean left and they will quickly and loudly respond it is all President Trump’s fault.

So-called “news” media outlets have also contributed. With talk show hosts giving their opinions on a daily basis many viewers have the wrong impression they are watching a newscast.

Those who still have a rational thought process realize the actual fault lies with both sides of the two-headed political monster that dominates this country. Some die-hard support-

ers of both the major political parties and the candidates representing them have gotten to the point where they are willing to fight you if you disagree.

It’s become somewhat dangerous to even express who you are for. Numerous people have reported signs expressing support for the candidate of their choice stolen from their yard. Even when the sign is replaced, it quickly disappeared again.

One person I know said not only was their sign stolen but the thief urinated on their front door to further drive home the point that the wrong candidate was being supported. In reality, it showed that some people are such idiots that they are likely a lost cause.

Which brings us to the outcome on election night. Will this powder keg of an election explode into violence? Typically, this is not the case. Even in the disputed 2000 election the battle was fought mainly by elected supporters of the two candidates and teams of lawyers.

I’m not sure things are going to be as calm post-election this time around. People are angry in this country. They are angry about many things. They firmly believe their side is right and the other side is wrong. There is no middle ground.

It’s going to take a special president to bring our country back together. In reality, it’s unlikely to happen any time soon. Regardless of who wins on Nov. 3, half of our country is going to mad and crying foul over the outcome. The groundwork has already been set by both sides.

Yet we are so divided right now that even a health crisis has turned political. People don’t take stock in what doctors and scientists are telling us. They would rather believe what the political of their choice says, even if it goes directly against the doctors and scientists.

We can only hope that things don’t turn violent after the final votes are counted. We’ve had too much violence in recent months.

My advice for the side which loses the presidential race is simple. Just begin working for 2024.

Chris Bridges is a former sports editor for The Walton Tribune and The Covington News. You can email comments about this column to pchrisbridges@gmail.com.

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AGRICULTURE

The Covington News

Piedmont Academy picks up chicks



Special to The Covington News

The Piedmont Academy FFA was recently provided baby chicks to raise from Tractor Supply Company in Covington. Rusty Drew and Nutrena supplied feed for the chicks throughout the school year. Piedmont Academy FFA students are looking forward to caring and raising the flock and having the classes visit the animal barn, said Alison Hildebrant, admissions director for Piedmont Academy. Pictured left are Emily Whitwell and Carlie Wilbanks. Pictured top right is Gavin McCart. Pictured bottom right is Madalynn Bryant.

Meeting broadband demand in rural Georgia tough task

By **DAVE WILLIAMS**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Rural Georgians from business owners to teachers to elected officials know one of the region's biggest challenges is inadequate internet connectivity, particularly amid a pandemic that is forcing people to stay home.

But the lack of population density in rural areas and high rates of poverty are combining to make extending high-speed broadband service into rural communities a daunting task.

The General Assembly passed legislation in June aiming to use Georgia's 41 electric membership corporations (EMCs) as the vehicle for addressing the problem.

House Bill 244 is a follow-up to a bill lawmakers enacted last year that authorized EMCs to enter the broadband business for the first time. Under this year's legislation, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) will decide how much EMCs can charge telecom providers for broadband attachments to their utility poles.

A dispute between the EMCs and providers over pole attachment fees has been a key obstacle in the way of delivering broadband to rural communities. It's a standoff policy makers say rural Georgia can no longer afford.

"COVID has shown the vulnerability of these folks who have to stay home from school and the businesses that can't expand," said state Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Savannah, chief sponsor of House Bill 244. "If they don't have broadband, they might as well not have power."

Some progress is being made on the rural broadband front. Comcast announced a \$9 million investment

in June to expand its internet services to nearly 8,000 homes and businesses in Haralson and Carroll counties in West Georgia.

Carroll EMC launched broadband after a feasibility study showed that two-thirds of its members didn't have it, said Tim Martin, CEO of Carroll EMC.

"We started looking for partners," he said. "We found a local broadband provider, Global Telecom, that committed to us because they live here and know the need."

Martin said the local schools are particularly anxious to get broadband service because of the pandemic.

"They couldn't even do virtual school," he said. "They had to send packets of work home."

Martin said the project wouldn't have been possible without a \$12.5 million federal grant, and that's been the rub.

Dennis Chastain, president and CEO of Georgia EMC, the trade association representing the local EMCs, said the sparse populations of rural communities in Georgia make broadband deployment into those areas difficult.

"Our density per mile is around 10 customers on average," he said.

On top of that, many of the people who live in rural areas are poor, Chastain said.

"No matter how bad they might like to have [broadband], they can't afford it," he said.

Another barrier to rural broadband deployment is that the Georgia EMCs are charging telecom providers \$20 per pole per year on average for broadband attachments, well above the average of about \$7 per pole set by the Federal Communications Commission.

While the EMCs say they can't afford to extend broadband into

many rural communities even at the \$20 rate, providers say such a high rate makes it hard for telecom companies to justify investing in broadband service to rural areas.

Michael Power, CEO of the Georgia Cable Association, said the list of states that have adopted the FCC rate for pole attachments includes regional neighbors Louisiana, North Carolina and Virginia.

"We believe if the PSC adopts a true cost-based formula, the EMCs will receive a pole rate that fairly compensates them," he said. "We think this is the right approach."

Power said the EMCs could lower the pole attachment rates to \$7 per pole and make up the difference from what they're charging now by adding only 50 cents to their average customer's monthly bill.

But Chastain said it's not that simple. He said the amount EMCs would have to raise customer bills would vary widely among the 41 individual companies, which face different economic circumstances.

For example, in the area served by Reidsville-based Canoochee EMC, the population density is only eight customers per mile, making extending broadband more expensive than in more densely populated communities.

Annual per-capita income in the area is only \$19,000, said Lou Ann Phillips, CEO of Canoochee EMC.

"Our schools and medical services are suffering because we don't have [broadband]," she said. "[But] our [feasibility] study says it's going to cost \$53 million. Where's it going to come from?"

The EMCs and telecom companies will get a chance to argue their cases on pole attach-

ment rates before the PSC in hearings set for next month.

"We're going to bring a lot of facts and history to the table and evidence to show that a majority of states ... did in fact adopt the FCC formula or something close to it," Power said.

"We're going to show what the cost is to put the pole in the ground and the cost to maintain the pole," Chastain said. "All we want to do is recover the fair cost of [the providers] using our facilities."

The PSC is scheduled to decide pole attachment rates in mid-December. The new rates then would take effect next July 1.

GDOT launches anti-litter campaign

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
news@covnews.com

ATLANTA — The average American produces five pounds of trash each day, which plays a part in the nearly \$11.5 billion spent on litter clean-up in the U.S. each year.

With more than 50,000 miles of interstates and state routes across Georgia, there are many places litter could pile up and potentially cause damage if not disposed of properly.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) recently launched its new anti-litter campaign, "Keep It Clean Georgia." The statewide initiative is focused on preventing and eliminating litter by motivating Georgians and Peach State visitors to not only avoid littering in the first place, but also play an active role in protecting and maintaining the stunning views and rich landscapes that make Georgia the heart of the South.

"We are excited to support Georgia DOT's efforts with the Keep It Clean Georgia campaign and encourage all Georgians to do their part to help the Peach State remain a place we are proud to call home," Gov. Brian Kemp said. "As our state continues to grow and prosper, let's take the necessary steps toward eliminating litter, protecting our environment, and ensuring a bright and beautiful future for Georgia."

Keep It Clean Georgia aims to stop the problem before it starts by educating Geor-

gians on the impact litter has on roadway safety and aesthetics, the environment and economy, and encouraging them to take action to ensure that litter finds its rightful place. The campaign creatively further reminds Georgians that littering is inappropriate everywhere, moving beyond the state's roadway system to highlight images of Georgia's natural beauty from the mountains to the coast.

Through Keep It Clean Georgia, Georgia DOT is partnering with individuals, businesses, environmental organizations and state agencies like the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation to emphasize the importance of litter prevention and highlight the role teamwork plays in maintaining Georgia's natural beauty.

Georgians can join in the fight against litter today by:

- Securing litter in their cars with compact cans or trash bags;
- Bringing reusable bags to the grocery store or farmers market;
- Utilizing refillable water bottles and coffee mugs;
- Ensuring outdoor trashcans have tight-fitting lids to prevent garbage from being spread by weather or animals; and
- Setting a positive example by disposing of trash properly and encouraging others to do so as well.



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

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GEORGIA AGRICULTURE: TOUCHING OUR LIVES EVERY DAY.



Newton man arrested after crash in Monroe

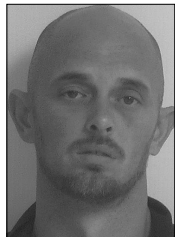
By **DAVID CLEMONS**
The Walton Tribune

MONROE, Ga. — A Newton County man faces numerous charges after a chase that ended in a collision with a sheriff's deputy.

The crash blocked traffic on U.S. 78 west of Monroe on Wednesday afternoon.

James Ross Johnson, 35, of Mansfield, was booked into the Walton County Jail and remained there Thursday. He's charged with driving under the influence of drugs, possession of a controlled substance, obstruction, fleeing to elude, speeding, possession or use of drug-related objects, driving with a suspended license, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic control device and passing on a shoulder.

Troopers said Johnson was driving a 2006 Hyundai Sonata westbound on U.S. 78 at about 5 p.m. Wednesday, fleeing a marked Walton County sheriff's vehicle



James Ross Johnson

State economic education group honors Newton County fifth grade teacher

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

The Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) has named a Newton County School System educator as its "Featured Teacher" for the month of October.

Lonnie Wonnum, a fifth grade teacher at Livingston Elementary School in Covington, is being recognized for his efforts to make economics and personal finance interesting subjects to study by connecting what he teaches in his classroom to the daily lives of his students.

The "Featured Teacher" is a monthly program at GCEE de-

signed to spotlight and recognize those teachers who are using interactive and creative methods to teach economics and personal finance to their students. Winning teachers receive a \$50 Amazon gift card and signed certificate to recognize their outstanding work.

"This recognition is our way of showcasing outstanding teachers who are making a tremendous difference



Lonnie Wonnum

in the lives of students by teaching economics and personal finance concepts in exciting and effective ways," says Mike Raymer, GCEE's Executive Director. "We know that by recognizing these professionals we are encouraging them and inspiring others."

Wonnum said, "Being recognized as the Featured Teacher for the month of October is a privilege and an honor."

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude to have been selected for this recognition. It means so much to me that the work that I am so passionate about resonates with others.

"I appreciate the legwork that the partners of GCEE continue to do to make teaching these standards interesting for our students. The GCEE workshops often provide the edge I need with engaging activities. We all know that learning can be mundane, but it is my hope that my students become life-long learners of economics and finance because of how they are taught in my class."

"I will continue my efforts to engage my students and look forward to participating in future workshops."

The Georgia Council on Economic Education

helps K-12 teachers in Georgia's public and independent schools teach economics. Through classroom materials, teacher workshops and special programs like the Stock Market Game, the Georgia Council helps students leave school prepared for their economic roles as productive workers, informed consumers and savers, involved citizens and lifelong decision makers in a globally interdependent world.

Visit <http://www.gcee.org> for more information.

Covington approves alcohol licenses, outdoor dining

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Several local businesses and eateries have been approved in recent weeks to sell alcohol.

During the Covington City Council's meeting on Oct. 5, Bread and Butter Bakery's application for a license to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises and off-premises consumption was approved unanimously.

Two weeks later, during the Monday, Oct. 19, meeting, the council approved the following alcohol li-

cense applications:

- Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse – sell for on-premises consumption only
- Beverage Mall – sell for off-premises consumption only
- Food Depot – sell for off-premises consumption only
- Ingles Markets – sell for off-premises consumption only
- Nitro 2 Go Beverage, LLC – sell for off-premises consumption only
- Walgreen's – sell for off-premises consumption only
- Southern Heartland Gallery & Frame Shop

– sell for beer and/or wine retail amenity only

- Town Square Olive Oil, LLC – sell for off-premises consumption and ancillary tastings only

Also during the Oct. 19 meeting, the council approved outdoor dining at the Local Coffee House & Study Lounge and for the Social Goat Tavern.

Julie Freeman, owner of the Local Coffee House, said the request was for only 2-3 tables to be used for to-go purposes only, and for anyone visiting the Covington Square to

use "at their leisure."

The chairs would be placed on the sidewalk in front of the establishment, complying to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines.

The council approved her request unanimously.

Jennifer Hartman, co-owner of the Social Goat, said her request was to place up to four tables on the sidewalk in front of her establishment. She said the goal was to offer patrons of her restaurant an option to sit outside without having to climb a set of stairs to reach the

balcony space.

After discussion by the council, her request was approved 5-1 (Councilman Don Floyd opposed). Floyd said he felt the sidewalk would be too crowded and was concerned that ADA guidelines would not be met at all times despite the restaurant's intention to do so.

Mayor Steve Horton said he believed ADA guidelines required 60 inches (five feet) of space for wheelchairs to be fully operational on the sidewalk. City staff members later concurred.

See **CRASH, A7**

THE THANK YOU PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask for a special one. Thank you. Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favor not mine.

AMEN.

OBJECTS:
Continued from A3

it was the "will" of previous commissioners to do so.

It removes a \$200 monthly salary supple-

ment from the Newton chairman's pay and replaces it with a requirement the chairman's salary be 10% higher than the highest-paid county officer's salary as determined by general state law.

It also gives the chairman cost of living allowances and longevity pay.

"That's the purpose, to get it consistent with

general (state) law," Martin said.

Schulz, who is completing her third term, said the chairman's duties were reduced in recent years as part of a 2016 change to a form of government headed by a county manager.

She said commissioners fought to keep the position a full-time job despite members of the public wanting a part-

time position, Schulz said.

"I think it will run into a lot of concern from the public because we changed to a county manager form of government," she said.

Lindsey, who worked with Martin to write the proposed legislation, said the Newton County chairman has more responsibilities than many believe.

She said the planned legislation would make the pay comparable to similarly sized counties where the chairman has even fewer duties than Newton's chairman.

The county commission could decide if it wants to provide supplements to even out the differences in pay between the officers, she said.

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2020 BEST OF NEWTON

ELECTIONS:
Continued from A3

voters on Oct. 12 dipped to 746 the following day but increased daily from there, Johnson said.

It reached 1,080 by Oct. 16, and 1,064 on Monday, Oct. 19; increased again to 1,149 on Tuesday, Oct. 20; dipped to 1,128 on Wednesday, Oct. 21; and surged again to 1,261 on Thursday, Oct. 22, Johnson said.

The elections office also had received a total of 9,883 absentee ballots through Thursday, Oct. 22, he said.

The elections office's original setup of only two check-in stations had created a bottleneck for voters the first two days, he said.

At the stations, county elections officials are charged with making sure voters are properly registered and have not already requested absentee ballots, Johnson

said.

If they already had requested absentee ballots and did not bring them, officials were required to cancel the ballots and have voters sign affidavits, he said.

Election officials also must access the Secretary of State's online voter information portal to certify a voter's eligibility. The portal became overwhelmed the first two days as voters statewide poured into their counties' advance voting locations, Johnson said.

Three- and four-hour waits were not uncommon on the first few days, voters said.

Wait times then dropped considerably after Newton County officials increased to five check-in stations and the Secretary of State's office added online capacity to its portal, Johnson said.

He said wait times of about one hour and 45 minutes were the longest seen recently — at the beginning of the day when people were already in line for the opening of the polls, Johnson said.

By 1 p.m. each day, wait times typically were about 90 minutes, he said.

"(Monday) by the end of the day our wait time was down to 55 minutes," Johnson said.

Upcoming times and locations for advance voting include:

- Today, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Newton County Administration Building at 1113 Usher St. in Covington.
- A second advance voting site at Porter Memorial Branch Library at 6191 Hwy. 212 in Covington will be open Monday, Oct. 26, through Friday, Oct. 30,

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- The administration building will continue to be an advance voting site Monday, Oct. 26, through Oct. 30, with new hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Newton County Board of Elections & Registration also is maintaining two secured lockboxes for completed absentee ballots, he noted.

Lockbox locations are:

- The north entrance of the administration building at 1113 Usher St.
- The sheriff's office's Westside Precinct at 3612 Salem Road in the Kroger Shopping Center.

Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Election Day and must be returned to the issuing county in order to be counted.

Newton jobless rate rises as more county residents enter labor force

STAFF REPORTS
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County’s unemployment rate increased slightly in September compared to August as more residents entered the workforce.

More Newton Countians found jobs during the month but more residents also were listed as unemployed.

In addition, fewer residents filed first-time jobless claims.

According to a monthly Georgia Department of Labor report released Thursday, Oct. 22:

- The county’s unemployment rate increased from 6.8% in August to 7.0% in September.
- A total of 235 Newton residents found jobs, with employment increasing from 46,695 in August to 46,930 in September.
- The county’s labor force — the total of all employed residents and those actively seeking work — increased by 383 residents.
- An additional 148 residents were unemployed — increasing from 3,405 in August to 3,553 in September.
- Fewer county residents filed initial unemployment claims. They decreased 15% from 2,497 in August to 2,122 in September.



Metro Creative Services

More Newton Countians found jobs during the month of September, but more were also listed as unemployed.

September unemployment rates for counties surrounding Newton ranged from Rockdale at 7.6% to Jasper at 4.6%.

Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler said the 30-county Atlanta metropolitan area — of which Newton is a part — also saw its labor force and employment increase in September.

In metro Atlanta, the unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points in September, reaching 6.7%. A year ago, the rate was 2.9%.

The labor force increased in September by 24,526 and ended the month with 3,000,950. That number is down 101,516 when compared to September of 2019.

Metro Atlanta finished the

month with 2,798,801 employed residents. That number increased by 14,127 over the month but was down by 214,004 when compared to the same time a year ago.

The Atlanta area ended September with 2,749,700 jobs. That number increased by 15,100 from August to September but was down by 106,300 when compared to this time last year.

The number of unemployment claims went down by 21% in metro Atlanta. When compared to last September, claims were up by about 1,387%.

“Although we saw some negative metrics in certain MSAs, a majority of the areas saw increases in jobs, employed residents, and labor force,” Butler said.

Area unemployment rates ranged from 4.0% in the Gainesville area, to 7.4% in the Albany area.

Georgia’s overall September unemployment rate was 6.3%, up from 6.0% in August.

“We really need to push the tens of thousands of jobs that we have on our online job listing page Employ-Georgia.com. The more we fill these jobs the more our state can regulate and show positive numbers throughout all MSAs.”

UNDERWAY:

Continued from A1

and regional planners about impacts on the area before beginning the process of county officials’ review.

She said she anticipated the rezoning and conditional use permit being submitted to the county planning commission in January and possibly being considered for final approval by the board of commissioners by February.

Johnson added the River Cove Homeowners Association — representing residents of a residential area across I-20 from the project — already had contacted her office with concerns about the project.

County Commissioner Stan Edwards, whose district includes the site, has said on his Facebook page his concerns include the potential for increased crime, traffic, light pollution and demand on such services as law enforcement.

He did not immediately return a call for comment Friday, Oct. 23.

The Development of Regional Impact submission quoted Johnson as saying traffic improvements will be needed in the area to accommodate the project.

Johnson stated in the submission that a traffic signal will be needed at the exit, and a tree line will need to be cleared south of the project’s driveway to provide sight distance, according to the submission.

“The development propos-

es (construction of) right-turn lanes at both driveways and a left-turn lane at the south driveway,” the submission stated.

However, Johnson said today any project would need approval from the Georgia Department of Transportation for signalization and other changes because it is on a state-maintained highway.

A 54,000-square-foot second phase also is planned for “future development” and will include “big box” retail development with nine individual tenant spaces, according to plans.

Completion of the first phase is expected by December 2021, with completion of both phases by the end of 2023.

A total of 19 acres will be developed and covered with impervious surfaces, according to submitted plans.

Developers plan to keep natural buffering already in place along the north side of the project to screen truck parking from I-20 and the project will be set back 100 feet from Hwy. 11, according to a rezoning petition the developer submitted to Newton County.

The site is between the city of Social Circle and Hub Junction, near Georgia State University’s Newton Campus. It now has some small convenience stores in the area but nothing of the size Jones Petroleum is planning.

CRASH:

Continued from A6

with lights and sirens activated.

Johnson allegedly tried to make a U-turn to head toward Monroe when the deputy’s car struck the left front of the Hyundai to stop the car.

Both vehicles came to an uncontrolled rest near the area of impact.

The Sheriff’s Office reported that the car was stolen, and that Johnson tried to flee the scene on

foot but was apprehended.

Sheriff’s Deputy Kristilee Cavoretto, who was driving the patrol car that struck the stolen sedan, was uninjured.

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Ambassador Andrew Young *U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations*

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Dr. Sharron Brown *Ambassador to the State of Georgia*

"I am a survivor of human trafficking, and I firsthand know what it feels like to want someone to stand up and be accountated for, someone who will fight for us, and someone who will make sure we are safe [...] We are electing someone that is kind, someone that believes in justice and equality for all mankind in this county. Will you join me as we re-elect Ezell Brown for Sheriff?"



Rob Fowler *Owner of Fowler Properties*

"Sheriff Brown is the only one who can hold together the fabric of this community. Because of him, we have gained prominence among other agencies. Yes, I am supporting Sheriff Brown's re-election. Sheriff, you make it look so easy that people sometimes think that they can just take over and keep the ball rolling."

JOIN US AS WE RE-ELECT EZELL BROWN FOR SHERIFF!

EARLY VOTING HAPPENING NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 30!
ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3!



Lashonia Mabin *Owner of Ohannahs Hair Studio*

"I came to Covington seven years ago, in 2013, to pursue my business and relocate my business. During those business affiliations, I had the opportunity to meet Sheriff Brown. Sheriff Brown has been amazing at keeping the city safe. I want you guys to know he has a re-entry program for Newton County that helps acclimate inmates. It's a program that allows them to come back and get a fresh start. Every county needs this program."



Wendy Rodriguez *Newton County resident*

"For over 10 years, Sheriff Brown has not only been our Sheriff but a part of the community. He's been a highly important person in my life since I was 13 years old. He's been at every event I've participated in the community, and he's been like a family member [...] I couldn't ask for a better Sheriff in this community. My family and I are voting for Sheriff Brown. I hope you are too."



Rev. Eric Wendel Lee, Sr. *Senior Pastor at Springfield Baptist Church*

"I'm grateful for [Sheriff Brown's] leadership for the last 12 years. He broke the color barrier in this county 12 years ago. We're grateful for his leadership now, and his leadership is needed now more than ever before."



Betty Owensby *Newton County resident*

"I have a very good friend that I have known for many, many years. We want to get him in office this term for Sheriff, so please cast your vote for Ezell Brown. He does what he says. Thank you."

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Covington News



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

The Wildflower Collective is a beauty salon that houses artists who specialize in quality hair and spa services. The salon officially opened its doors Sept. 1.

Covington's happy place

Wildflower Collective offers variety of salon, spa services



By MASON WITTNER
mwittner@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — There's a new destination for beauty care in Newton County.

Chasity Davenport has always dabbled in the world of salons, but it remained a gig she would do on the side. Or at least it did until last November, when she left her corporate job with the desire to open up her own business in Newton County.

Less than a year later, her dream has come to fruition with The Wildflower Collective.

The Wildflower Collective is a beauty salon that specializes in hair color, customized extensions and spa services. They're Covington's one-stop shop for coloring, cutting, extensions, lashes, facials and much more.

The business officially opened its doors to the public on Sept. 1, just 10 months after its owner's vision was set into motion.

"This whole thing just happened kind of out of the blue," Davenport said. "I knew that it was something I was interested in doing, but never did I imagine it would happen so quickly after leaving my 9-to-5."

Davenport saw a need in Newton County. With no specialized salons to speak of in the area, she wanted to provide locals with a beauty care option that didn't re-

quire taking a trip to the city.

"We basically wanted to offer something better in this community because we didn't have it," she said. "These women were going to Atlanta or to Athens to get this stuff done. The market is limited, which is why I thought this was important to bring here."

The Wildflower Collective currently staffs seven artists who either work behind a chair or in a private room, as well as two receptionists who assist with shampooing and answering phones.

One of the unique offerings the business has is a tailored experience. Each stylist is a subcontractor, meaning they all possess the ability to operate individually. Consequently, customers can sift through the salon's social media pages and determine which artist's style matches the vision they have for what they'd like done.

"We're a collective, so we like to look at ourselves as artists. Everybody here kind of specializes in their own thing. We're all different," Davenport said. "None of us are really competitive with each other. We all support one another and it really makes a beautiful experience and an amazing work environment. In this industry, you don't find that very often."

Another pillar of business at The Wildflower Collective is the sale of R + Co products. The sustainable,

integrity-driven styling products are eco-friendly as well as effective.

"We stock our shelves with R + Co and everything is gone within a week," Davenport said. "People use it and they never want to use anything else."

The salon is open Tuesday through Saturday. It operates from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

The first two months have been successful, but the employees of The Wildflower Collective hope to continue cementing themselves as the go-to spot for beauty care in Covington.

"We just want people to feel the energy that we feel when we walk in here," Davenport said. "This is our happy place. I think most of the people that come here feel that way as well."

For announcements, updates and more general information, Davenport encourages people to reach out to The Wildflower Collective on Facebook or on Instagram at @the_wildflowercollective.

"We have some exciting stuff that could be coming here soon that's in the works," Davenport hinted. "I can't go into too much detail about it, but we have some really cool possibilities coming that people should keep an eye out for."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

THE
WILDFLOWER
COLLECTIVE

The Wildflower Collective is a collection of local artists, specializing in customized hair coloring, extensions and lashes as well as offering relaxing salon and spa services. We strive to stay on top of new trends and services.

- Two private rooms available for a massage therapist or nail technician
- Stylist chair available for rent

8230 Hazelbrand Road Northeast • Suite A
Covington, GA 30014
678-660-3201



CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

—The Covington News—

CLASSIFIEDS

Yard Sales

Yard & Estate Sales

HUGE	ESTATE	Sale.
984 Davis	Ford Road	30014.
Covington, GA		
Furniture, tools, clothes, shoes, purses, bikes etc.		
WED	OCTOBER	
22-24	8am- 4pm	

Jobs

Help Wanted

DAYCARE REOPENING! Caring, Excited, Dependable Part-time Teachers needed for daytime 730a-1130am, and 8a-12p until we extend care hours. Call 770-905-6708 Ms Sherri

DEPARTMENT OF Natural Resources, Social Circle GA

SEEKING TO fill part time clerical position
29 HOURS per week at \$8.95 per hour

ANSWER MULTIPLE phone lines and provides general clerical/ administrative support to staff.
COMPUTER SKILLS a must and prefer candidate to have general knowledge of hunting.
INTERESTED APPLICANTS go to <https://gadrn.org/careers> to apply.

APPLICATION/RESUME MUST be postmarked by Nov. 8,2020 to: **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT** of Natural Resources
2065 US Hwy 278 SE
SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025
ATTN: ANGELA Thomas

GEORGIA HEART Specialists is hiring for a full time front desk receptionist. The job would consist of checking out patients, collecting copayments, verification of insurance, and scheduling appointments. Knowledge of EPIC is a plus.
PLEASE EMAIL or fax resumes to britmorgana2014@gmail.com or fax it to 678-729-0122.

HOTEL HELP WANTED
HELP WANTED hotel front desk. 2 years experience and Computer knowledge Housekeeping help wanted 1 year experience. Call 770-788-8919.

SEEKING: LOVING dependabie child care Teachers. Excellent work environment. Apply in person at Kids R Great. 2235 Dixie Road across from East Newton Elementary.

LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (TOWING OR STORAGE COMPANY)

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.
THE VEHICLES are currently located at 218 GUM CREEK ROAD, OXFORD, GA 30054
THE VEHICLES subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

VEHICLE MAKE: DODGE
YEAR: 2018
MODEL: JOURNEY
VEHICLE ID # 3C4PDCAB8JT183155
VEHICLE LICENSE #: CIK3678
STATE: GA

VEHICLE MAKE: CHEVROLET
YEAR: 2016
MODEL: SILVERADO
VEHICLE ID #: 1GC1CUEG7GF250951
VEHICLE LICENSE #: CFX9311
STATE: GA

ANYONE WITH an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:

M & M Towing & Recovery, LLC
218 GUM Creek Rd
OXFORD, GA 30054
678-712-9571

PUBLIC NOTICE #117433
10/18,25

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT

YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of NEWTON County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is: 9179 Aaron Dr. Covington, GA 30014.
ANYONE WITH an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before: 10-28-2020

ANSWER FORMS may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's office located at: Newton Court House
FORMS MAY also be obtained online

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FOOT CARE

METRO
FOOT & ANKLE CENTERS, PC

770-484-9599

Specialty treatment of the Foot and Ankle serving Lithonia, Covington and the surrounding areas.

50% Discounts Offered for Self Payers

8225 Mall Parkway • Suite 230 • Lithonia GA 30038

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.

INVESTMENTS

BROWN INVESTMENTS

WING RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Newton County
Netting \$75,000 per year
Motivated Seller
Asking only \$35,000
Serious Buyers only
Contact Mr. Brown @ 678-549-6322
Brown.bertell@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE



AQUARIUM MAINTENANCE & FISH SALES

FRESHWATER | SALTWATER | AQUARIUM TRANSPORT

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT US TO INQUIRE
404-916-2644 • JAMES SCOTT JR., OWNER

CATCH US ONLINE
@AQUATICWONDERSLLC

WWW.AQUATICWONDERS.NET

at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

2000 DODGE DURANGO
1B4HS28N5YF110198
20-3176AV

1995 CHEVROLET S10
1GCCS1448S8205953
20-3268AV

2000 FORD F150
1FTRX17W7YNC19703
20-2500AV

1993 CHEVROLET G20
1GBEG25K1PF344942
20-3268AV

2000 FORD TAURUS
1FAFP53U1YA167951
20-3265AV

1998 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BG22K6WU286366
20-3270AV

2006 SUZUKI FORENZA
KL5JD56Z96K398453
20-3269AV

PUBLIC NOTICE #117428
10/18,25

Alcoholic Beverage

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

HIMALAYA ENTERPRISE, Inc (NJ)
DBA 21 Package Store
6147 278 NW

APPLICANT: HINA M. Desai

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117458
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the

Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

LA- FONTANA Inc
DBA PACE Street BP
2106 PACE Street

APPLICANT: MANSOOR Qamruddin

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117468
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption only for:

QUIKTRIP CORPORATION
DBA QUIKTRIP # 821
11124 HWY 142

DBA QUIKTRIP # 798
3214 HWY 278 NW

APPLICANT: JOSHUA Gracek

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117467
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises

Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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

Call Georgia Newspaper Service - 770-454-6776

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

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

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

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

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

Attention Oxygen Users: THE NEW INOGEN ONEG5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24 hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a Free Info Kit today: 855-968-2718.

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

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS
Need IRS Relief \$10K - \$125K+ Great Fresh Start or Forgiveness Call 1-855-558-2664. Monday – Friday 7AM - 5PM PST.

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

COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTELY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 877-820-7565

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

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

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

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

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

DISH TV \$59.99 FOR 190 Channels! + 14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. 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

POSITION AVAILABLE: ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Administrative Clerk. This position shares responsibility in customer service for receiving and processing utility bill payments and performing clerical and administrative duties in support of needs and demands. Minimum qualifications include ability to read, write and perform basic mathematical calculations and at least one year of previous experience in a similar position. Other requirements are listed in the job description available at www.oxfordgeorgia.org. A background investigation including criminal history check will be conducted on all applicants. Applications will be accepted through Monday, October 26th, 2020 at Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark St., Oxford, Georgia 30054. The City of Oxford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POSITION AVAILABLE: ASSOCIATE CLERK

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Associate Clerk. This position is responsible for receiving and processing utility bill payments and performing clerical and administrative duties in support of needs and demands. In addition, this position is responsible for managing the city's web content, collecting building permit applications and fees, and planning and carrying out events. Minimum qualifications include ability to read, write and perform basic mathematical calculations and at least two years of previous experience in a similar position. Other requirements and salary information are listed in the job description available at www.oxfordgeorgia.org. A background investigation including criminal history check will be conducted on all applicants. Applications will be accepted through Monday, November 16, 2020 at Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark St., Oxford, Georgia 30054. The City of Oxford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POSITION AVAILABLE: GROUNDSKEEPER

The City of Oxford is accepting applications for the position of Groundskeeper. This position is responsible for operating mowing equipment to maintain grounds of parks, trails, and city properties, and maintaining trees and plantings. Minimum qualifications include experience with equipment such as lawn mowers, debris blowers, and weed eaters. Other requirements are listed in the job description available from the City Clerk. A background investigation including criminal history check will be conducted on all applicants. Applications will be accepted through Monday, October 26th, 2020 at Oxford City Hall, 110 W. Clark St., Oxford, Georgia 30054. The City of Oxford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

consumption only for:

S & F Convenience Inc
DBA ALCOVY Road Chevron
10176 ALCOVY Road

APPLICANT: FIROZ Ali

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117466
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises

consumption only for:

WAL-MART STORES East, LP
DBA WALMART # 459
10300 INDUSTRIAL Blvd, NE

APPLICANT: MELINDA White

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117455
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises

consumption only for:

ASHTON HILLS Golf Club
DBA THE Village Grille
10400 COVINGTON Bypass

APPLICANT'S NAME: Bryan Raines

THE APPLICATION will be heard on November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM at City of Covington Council Room, 2116 Stallings Street, NW, Covington, GA. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.12.080(C), Covington Municipal Code.

ATTEST:
JENNIFER HISE, PERMITTING AND LICENSE SPECIALIST
CITY OF Covington, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117465
10/25

NOTICE – APPLICATION ALCOHOL LICENSE

NOTICE IS hereby given that an application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington to obtain a license to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises

See LEGALS, B3

Subscribe today!

CovNews.com

REPRESENTATIVE ACCORDING to law.
THIS THE 20th day of October, 2020.

JACQUELINE DUPONT
408 AFTER GLOW SUMMIT
CANTON, GA 30114

PUBLIC NOTICE #117481
10/25,11/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of LARRY KENNETH GREENE**, 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 September, 2020.

ROGER GREENE
2399 WOODLEAF LANE
DECATUR, GA 30033

PUBLIC NOTICE #117417
10/11,18,25, 11/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of LORENZO MATTEO MARINELLI**, 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 September, 2020.

CYNTHIA MARINELLI
10 MAGNOLIA DR
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #117416
10/11,18,25, 11/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARY KATHRYN HONAKER COX**, 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 21st day of October, 2020.

MARY KATHERINE HOOD
C/O WATSON SPENCE, LLP
P.O. BOX 2008
ALBANY, GA 31702-2008

PUBLIC NOTICE #117479
10/25,11/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of MARY LILLIAN THOMAS**, 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 14th day of October, 2020.

GERALDINE THOMAS
1007 HULL ST.
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #117476
10/25,11/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of SAMUEL DAVID RAMSEY**, 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 29th day of September, 2020.

REBECCA RAMSEY
5112 N.DEARING STREET SE
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #117368
10/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of SHSELLEY J. PEDERSEN**, 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 25th day of September, 2020.

NEIL ALLEN CZARNECKI
2641 VILLAGE GREEN EAST
RACINE, WI 53406

PUBLIC NOTICE #117371
10/11,18,25, 11/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of TONYA L. ALLEN**, 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 20th day of October, 2020.

TERESA G. ALLEN
8136 CLAIRE ANN DRIVE
#106
ORLANDO, FL 32825

PUBLIC NOTICE #117482
10/25,11/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the **Estate of WILMA JEAN JOHNSON**, 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 14th day of

October, 2020.

CAROLYN SMITH
130 DIANNE TRAIL
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #117484
10/25,11/1,8,15

Divorces

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

FOUNTAIN, NIKKI I. PLAINTIFF VS. FOUNTAIN, RANDALL LEWIS DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION Number SUCV2020001886

SUMMONS

TO: FOUNTAIN, Randall Lewis

YOU ARE hereby summoned and required to file with the Clerk of said court and serve upon the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address is:

JOHN L. Strauss
JOHN L. Strauss, PC
1132 CONVERS Street, SE
COVINGTON, GA 30014

AN ANSWER to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 30 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If this action pertains to a Protective Order, the Answer is to be filed and served on or before the scheduled hearing date attached. If you fail to do so, judgement by default will be taken against youu for the relief demanded in the complaint.

THIS 17TH day of September, 2020.

CLERK OF Superior Court LINDA D. Hays NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117388
10/11,18,25,11/1

Foreclosures

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 **Charles R Davis** to Newton Federal Bank, dated July 27, 2012, recorded in Deed Book 3029, Page 571, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to HVRML Trust 2019-1 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 3927, Page 563, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000.00), 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, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in November, 2020, 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.

HVRML TRUST 2019-1 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: BSI Financial Services, 11350 McCormick Road, EP II, Ste 903, Hunt Valley, MD 21031, 866-581-4495. **TO THE** best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Charles R Davis or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **88 McGiboney Road, 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.

HVRML TRUST 2019-1 **AS ATTORNEY** in Fact for **CHARLES R Davis**
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 102, 10th District of Newton County, Georgia, per plat of survey for Sidney E. Bailey by Robert M. Buhler, L.S.#1403, dated December 22, 1981, said plat being incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference, and being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING At a nail and cap set in pavement, said nail and cap being North 01 degree 30 minutes East 895 feet along the east paved edge of McGiboney Road extended straight to the center of Salem Road (80' right-of-way); thence from said nail and cap, North 03 degrees 56 minutes East 70.00 feet to a point; thence North 84 degrees 30 minutes East 23.0 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set; thence North 84 degrees 30 minutes East 175.00 feet to an iron pin found; thence South 03 degrees 56 minutes West 70.00 feet to an iron pin found; thence South 84 degrees 30 minutes West 175.00 feet to a 1/2 iron rod set; thence South 84 degrees 30 minutes West 23.0 feet to the nail and cap which is the said POINT OF BEGINNING. Located hereon is a one story frame residence known as 88 McGiboney Road.
THIS BEING the same property deeded to Sidney E. Bailey by deed recorded at Deed Book 161, page 603,

Newton County Records.
MR/CA 11/3/20
OUR FILE no. 5410019 - FT17

PUBLIC NOTICE #117360
10/4,11,18,25,11/1

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, NEWTON COUNTY

PURSUANT TO the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **John W. Gordon and Barbara L. Gordon** to Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation dated 9/21/2006 and recorded in Deed Book 2322 Page 152 Newton County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for HSI Asset Securitization Corporation Trust 2007-OPT1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$94,240.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on November 3, 2020 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT tract of parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 50 of the 10th District of Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 23, West Forest Estates Subdivision, Section Three, according to plat recorded in Plat Book 22, page 285, Newton County, Georgia Records, which plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof for a more particular and complete description.

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

SAID PROPERTY is commonly known as **15 W Bradford Ct, Covington, GA 30016** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): John W. Gordon or tenant or tenants.

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

PHH MORTGAGE Corporation
ONE MORTGAGE Way
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054
(800) 750-2518

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

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

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

DEUTSCHE BANK National Trust Company as Trustee for HSI Asset Securitization Corporation Trust 2007-OPT1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1 as agent and Attorney in Fact for John W. Gordon and Barbara L. Gordon
ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

1017-4541A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-4541A

PUBLIC NOTICE #117367
10/4,11,18,25,11/1

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

PURSUANT TO the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by **ANTOINE C TUCKER** to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR FIRST HORIZON HOME LOAN CORPORATION, its successors and assigns, in the original principal amount of \$209,520.00 dated February 23, 2007 and recorded in Deed Book 2393, Page 210, Newton County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on December 01, 2020, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOTS 25 AND 40 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 26, PHASE TWO OF GLEN ECHO SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 44, PAGES 37-39, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH RECORDED PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

PARCEL ID: 029B 051
SAID PROPERTY being known as: **335 GLEN ECHO DR., COVINGTON, GA 30016**
TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in

possession of said property is/are **ANTOINE C TUCKER** or tenant(s).

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

SAID PROPERTY will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

20-058849 - AmE
SAID SALE will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

THE NAME, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd. Coppell, TX 75019 1-888-480-2432

NOTE THAT pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER, as Attorney-in-Fact for ANTOINE C TUCKER
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, Schneid & Crane LLC 10700 Abbott's Bridge Road Suite 170 Duluth, GA 30097 Phone: 470.321.7112 Firm File No. 20-058849 - AmE
20-058849 - AmE

PUBLIC NOTICE #117485
10/25,11/1,8,15,22,29

Juvenile Court

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT NEWTON COUNTY

CIVIL ACTION# SUCV2020000931

JOHANNA ELIZABETH SALMERON AVALOS PLAINTIFF vs **RAFAEL MORENO LOPEZ** NOTICE OF PUBLICATION BY ORDER of the Court service for service by publication dated October 2, 2020, You are hereby notified that on May 4, 2020, the above-named Plaintiff filed suit against you for DECLARATION OF SOLE CUSTODY.

YOU ARE required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve an Answer in writing with 60 days upon the Plaintiff's attorney whose name and address is:

WILLIAM A. Matos
ATTORNEY AT Law
797 MILLER Run
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30349

WITNESS THE Honorable Layla H. Zon, Judge of the Newton County Superior Court. This the **2ND DAY** of October 2, 2020

LINDA D. Hays
CLERK OF Newton County Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE #117453
10/25,11/1,8,15

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MORGAN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
B.C. **SEX:** M **AGE:** 3
DOB: 11/30/2016
CASE#: 2020-104J-071
CHILD UNDER 18 Years of Age

NOTICE OF SUMMONS & EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN and Lyndy Clark:

GEORGIA LAW provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A court hearing for your case has been scheduled for the 7th day of December, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Putnam County Courthouse, Eatonton, Georgia. A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Morgan County Courthouse, Monroe, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m., exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester – parents or alleged parents only. The allegations concern your failure to comply with your reunification case plan, abandonment, and failure to address dependency issues affecting your child.

IF YOU fail to appear, the court can terminate your rights in your absence. If the court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the petition to terminate parental rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interest of your child, the court can enter a judgment ending the rights to your child. If the judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child or your child's earnings or property. Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else. Even if your parental rights are terminated: (1) You will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child's care unless and until your child is adopted; and (2) Your child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted.

THIS IS a very serious matter. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney if the court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing in your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

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

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

THIS 14TH day of October, 2020.
/S/ JODY M. Higdon CLERK,
JUVENILE COURT OF MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA
PREPARED BY:
LEE R. Moss
SPECIAL ASSISTANT Attorney General
288 SOUTH Main Street
MADISON, GEORGIA 30650
TEL: (706) 707-8500
FAX: (706) 342-0447

PUBLIC NOTICE #117460
10/25,11/1,8,15

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
BABY BOY Doe, a/k/a Baby Boy Foundling **SEX:** Male **D O B :** 04/23/2020 **Case #**107-20J-0373
CHILD UNDER 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS

TO: JANE DOE, Mother; JOHN DOE, and any unknown, unnamed biological father or other persons claiming to have a parental interest in the minor child named above born to JANE DOE on the date above-listed.

A PETITION to Terminate Parental Rights was filed in this Court on September 25, 2020, by the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, concerning the above child. In accordance with O.C.G.A. §15-11-281, you are hereby notified that this proceeding and the hearing(s) specified herein is/are for the purpose of terminating your parental rights and to place permanent custody of said child with the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, pending adoption. The Court shall mail a copy of said Petition to the last known address of the above-named parent(s) within fifteen (15) days of filing of the Order of Service by Publication. This is a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, you, the party(ies) named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as said case may be continued, and until discharged from the Court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear in said Court at the time and place below stated, each of you then and there to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of law.

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT

GEORGIA LAW provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed requesting the Court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A copy of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights can be obtained from the Clerk of the Newton County Juvenile Court. A Court hearing of your case has been scheduled for the 12th day of January, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the Newton County Juvenile Court, Newton County Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

IF YOU fail to appear, the Court can terminate your rights in your absence.

IF THE court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your child, the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your child.

IF THE judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child or your child's earnings or property. Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else.

EVEN IF your parental rights are terminated:

(1) **YOU** will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child's care unless and until your child is adopted; and

(2) **YOUR** child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted.

PURSUANT TO statute, you are put on notice that as a biological father you may lose all rights to your child named above and will not be entitled to object to the termination of your rights to such child unless, within 30 days of receipt of notice, you file:

(1) **A** petition to legitimate such child; and

(2) **NOTICE** of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Court in which the termination of parental rights proceedings is pending.

THIS IS a very serious matter. A party is entitled to an attorney in the proceedings. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and to have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney if the Court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

IF YOU have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone number of the clerk's office which is 770-784-2060.

THIS IS a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be

770-784-2060.

THIS IS a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished

HELD IN contempt of court and punished accordingly.

WITNESSTHE Honorable Jenny S. Carter, Judge of said Court, this 25th day of September, 2020.

S/JANELL GAINES CLERK
JUVENILE COURT of Newton County, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117361
10/4,11,18,25

Name Changes
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF NEWTON, STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:
PETITION OF
BENNE JEAN GILKEY
CIVIL ACTION FILE NUMBER:
2020-CV-1900-4

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

TO ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

GREETINGS:

NOTICE IS hereby given that, BENNE JEAN GILKEY filed his Petition in the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia on the SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 requesting to change his name from BENNE JEAN GILKEY to BENNA LAJJEAN GILKEY. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in the Superior Court of Newton County and to file objections to said name change. Objections must be in writing and filed with the Clerk, Newton Superior Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said Petition.

THIS 25TH day of September, 2020
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
SHARON L. Barksdale
ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner
GEORGIA BAR NO. 037981
P.O. BOX 81084
CONYERS, GA 30013
PHONE: (770) 760-9383
FAX: (770) 760-1629
EMAIL: SLBATTY@BELLSOUTH.NET

PUBLIC NOTICE #117390
10/14,21,28,11/5

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
JAN DELORES BLANCHARD
PETITIONER
CIVIL ACTION File Number:
2020-CV-2020-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

JAN DELORES BLANCHARD filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on **October 6, 2020** to change the name from **JAN DELORES BLANCHARD** to **ALEXANDRIA GEORGIA BLANCHARD**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after Petition was filed.

DATED OCTOBER 6, 2020

JAN DELORES Blanchard
70 MOORES Lane
OXFORD, GA 30054

NOTICE #117429
10/18,25,11/1,8

Notice of Proceedings

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

MARY MOUAMMAR,
PLAINTIFF
V.
AMANDA BROOKE CLARK,
DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION File #
SUCV2020001315

NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: AMANDA BROOKE CLARK,
Defendant Named Above.

YOU ARE hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking monetary damages was filed against you in said Court on July 7, 2020, and that by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on October 13, 2020, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon counsel for the Plaintiff, whose address is 1820 The Exchange SE, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS THE Honorable W. Kendall Wynne, Jr., Judge of said Court. This the 14th day of October, 2020.

CLERK OF Superior Court
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #117469
10/25,11/1,8,15

Public Hearings

NOTICE IS hereby given that at 6:30 p.m. on November 2, 2020 at 2116 Stallings Street, Covington, Georgia the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington, Georgia, shall provide for a hearing on the passage of an ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE COVINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ENACTED AND ADOPTED ON THE 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 10.08.011 (THROUGH TRAFFIC IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS) AS A PART OF CHAPTER 10.08 (PARKING AND THROUGH TRAFFIC) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

A COPY of said proposed ordinance is posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia.

THIS 20TH day of October, 2020.

THE

CITY OF COVINGTON
AUDRA M. Gutierrez
CITY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE #117472
10/25

NOTICE IS hereby given that at 6:30 p.m. on October 19, 2020 at 2116 Stallings Street, Covington, Georgia the Mayor and Council of the City of Covington, Georgia, shall provide for a hearing on the passage of an ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE COVINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ENACTED AND ADOPTED ON THE 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001, AS AMENDED BY PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS, TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISION OF TITLE 16 OF THE SAID CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTION 16.08.010 (DEFINITIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.08 (INTERPETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS), AMENDING SECTIONS 16.16.020 (PERMITTED USES) AND 16.16.030 (SPACE DIMENSIONS) OF CHAPTER 16.16 (STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS), DELETING SECTIONS 16.20.205 (DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY) AND 16.20.255 (DWELLING, TOWNHOUSE) OF CHAPTER 16.20 (SUPPLEMENTAL USE PROVISIONS), AMENDING SECTION 16.28.020 (BUILDING DESIGN) AND ADOPTING SECTION 16.28.025 (BUILDING TYPOLOGY) WITHIN CHAPTER 16.28 (CIVIC DESIGN), AMENDING SECTION 16.40.010 (OPEN SPACE) AND SECTION 16.40.020 (BUFFER REQUIRED) WITHIN CHAPTER 16.40 (OPEN SPACE, BUFFERS AND SCREENING) THEREOF, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

A COPY of said proposed ordinance is posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia.

THIS 20TH day of October 2020.

THE CITY OF COVINGTON
AUDRA M. Gutierrez
CITY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE #117473
10/25

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 3rd day of November, 2020, an election will be held at the regular polling places in all the election districts of Newton County, Georgia (the "County"), at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the County for their determination the question of whether a one percent transportation special purpose local option sales and use tax (the "Sales and Use Tax") shall be imposed on all sales and uses in the special district created in the County for a period not to exceed five years commencing on April 1, 2021 for the raising of approximately fifty-six million, one-hundred thousand dollars (\$56,100,000.00) for the funding of transportation purposes.

IF IMPOSITION of the tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute an approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the County secured first by the Sales and Use Tax in the aggregate principal amount of eighteen million, nine-hundred thousand dollars (\$18,900,000) (the "Debt"). The proceeds of the Debt, if issued, shall be used to pay the costs of (i) all or a portion of the County's and the City of Covington's transportation purposes, (ii) capitalized interest on the Debt and (iii) the costs of issuing the Debt.

THE DEBT, if so authorized, may be issued by the County in whole or in part and in one or more series and shall bear interest at rates not exceeding 5% per annum from the first day of the month during which the Debt is to be issued or from such other date as may be designated by the County prior to the issuance of the Debt. The actual rate or rates shall be determined in a supplemental resolution to be adopted by the County prior to the issuance of the Debt. The amount of principal to be paid in each year during the life of such Debt shall be as follows:

YEAR
MAXIMUM Principal Payable in Such Year

2022
\$3,295,000
2023
\$3,620,000
2024
\$3,800,000
2025
\$3,990,000
2026
\$4,195,000

ANY BROCHURES, listings, or other advertisements issued by the Board of Commissioners by any other person, firm, corporation or association with the knowledge and consent of the Board of Commissioners, shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the Board of Commissioners concerning the use of the proceeds of the Debt, and such statement of intention shall be binding upon the Board of Commissioners in the expenditure of such Debt or interest received from such Debt to the extent provided in Section 36-82-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

THE PRINCIPAL and interest on the Debt are expected to be paid from proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax and shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America.

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 36 82 100, the County notifies all interested parties that no independent performance audit or performance review (the "Audit") will be conducted with respect to the Debt. However the County will continue to ensure that Debt proceeds are expended efficiently and economically, as intended by the Audit.

THE BALLOTS to be used at the Election shall have written or printed thereon substantially the following:

"() Yes. **()** No.
SHALL A special one percent sales and use tax be imposed in the special district consisting of Newton County for a period of time not to exceed five years and for the raising of not more than an estimated amount of fifty-six million, one-hundred thousand dollars (\$56,100,000.00) for transportation

purposes? If imposition of the tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of Newton County in the principal amount of eighteen million, nine-hundred thousand dollars (\$18,900,000) for the above purpose."

THE SEVERAL places for holding said election shall be at the regular and established voting precincts of the election districts of the County, and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Elections and Registration of Newton County, adopted on July 27, 2020.

BOARD of Elections and Registration of Newton County

PUBLIC NOTICE #117319
9/27,10/4,11,18,25

NOTICE TO Voters in Newton County, Georgia
OF INTENT to Tabulate Absentee Ballots
PRIOR TO the Closing of the Polls FOR THE November 3, 2020 GENERAL/SPECIAL ELECTIONS

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 21-2-386(a) (3)(4), you are hereby notified that it is the intent of the Newton County Board of Elections to begin tabulating the paper absentee ballots cast during the November 3, 2020 General/Special Elections at 9:00 AM on November 3, 2020 at the Board of Elections Office located at 1113 Usher Street, Suite 103, Covington, Georgia. The process for tabulating absentee ballots on the day of a primary, election, or runoff before the closing of the polls shall be a confidential process to maintain the

secrecy of all ballots and to protect the disclosure of any balloting information before 7:00 P.M. on Election Day.

FOR ADDITIONAL information you may contact the Board of Elections Office at (770) 784-2055.

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE #117486
10/25

Public Sales Auctions

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 11th day of November, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Said property is Space Shop Self Storage, 6177 Jackson Hwy, Covington, GA, 30014.

JOHNSON, BRANDY G03: Fridge, couch, recliner, TV, Chairs, End Tables
CERRY, DARREYL G27: Motorcycle, TV, Bed Frame, Bed, Boxes, Jackets, Dresser, Totes, Boxes
BLAKER TRUST, ROGER O15: Boxes, Pictures,Trophies, File Cabinet, Microwave, Safe, Slot Machine, National Geographic
WILLIAMS, LATASHA G24: Boxes, Bags

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 #117461
10/25,11/1

READY RENT ALL, INC.
1335 ACCESS Road
COVINGTON, GA 30014
770-787-3200

NOTICE OF SALE

A DEFAULT having occurred under the terms of the rental agreement between Ready Rent All, Inc., and the tenants listed below, notice having been sent to the tenants as required by law, there will be sold at public sale, to the public, all personal property involved, for cash, to satisfy owner's lien for rent due on each warehouse.

LAW GEORGIA Law Ann.
10-4-213

THE PROCEEDS of said public sale shall be distributed in accordance with the terms of said agreement. Ready Rent All, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any bids.

DATE AND Time of Sale:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2020
11:00AM
PLACE:
STORAGEAUCTIONS.COM

TENANTS NAME
Warehouse Number
Contents

JONES, BIANCA
B-10
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
N O R R I N G T O N ,
OSHEA B-32
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
FARMER, BECKY


E-15
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
JONES, MILTON
F-5
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
ROBINS, GEORGIA
F-9
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
WILSON, WAYNE
F-20
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
NOLLY, EUGENE
F-25
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
BROADNAX, LISA
H-44
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
LAVERPOOL, KEITH I-7
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
REED, CHANDRA
I-26
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
JOHNSON, CLAUDINE I-31
HOUSEHOLD GOODS

PUBLIC NOTICE #117463
10/25,11/1

Trade Names
NEWTON SUPERIOR COURT
TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

PERSONALLY APPEARED the undersigned who on oath depose and says that: THE LAST LAUGH, LLC, 20 HIGH RIDGE ROAD, COVINGTON, GA 30014, is doing business in Newton County, Georgia under the name of TRIGGER FINGERS. 20 HIGH RIDGE RD, COVINGTON, GA 30014 and that the nature of the business to be carried on at such address is INTERNET SALES IN THE FORM OF FIREARMS AND ACCESSORIES.

PUBLIC NOTICE #117454
10/25,11/1



The Covington News

Thanksgiving SPECIAL!

Subscribe to The Covington News during the month of November and receive a FREE Turkey

Essential Everyday Turkey (10-16 lbs)

from Food Depot

Subscription must be for 1 full year (\$52 value); valid for new and renewal subscriptions (No Refund).

This offer is valid November 1 - November 22.


QUALITY

FOOD DEPOT

OUR COST PLUS 10%

ADDED AT THE REGISTER!

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



Call 770-728-1418 to subscribe or visit our website at covnews.com



.....

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mail this whole page to The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015 or bring it to us at 1166 Usher Street, Covington. We're open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Dropbox available after hours.

.....

WIN \$50-\$100

Write in your favorites from Newton County in the various categories below. You may complete just one category, a few categories or all of them. Your choices will be tallied and results published in January 2021 in *The Covington News* as part of the special "Best of Newton" magazine. All entries are due by 5 p.m., November 11, 2020. These entries will be entered in a random drawing for \$100 first prize and \$50 second prize. Entries received after 5 p.m., November 11, 2020 will not be counted and will not be entered in the drawing.

COMMUNITY:

Charity Event _____

Church _____

Civic Club _____

Community Event _____

Networking Group _____

Nonprofit Organization _____

Park _____

Place to Volunteer _____

Summer Camp _____

AUTO & TRANSPORTATION:

Auto Audio & Electronics _____

Auto Body Shop _____

Auto Repair & Service _____

Auto Window Tinting _____

Car Wash _____

Dealership Service _____

Heavy Equipment & Tractor _____

New Car Dealership _____

Oil Change & Quick Lube _____

Tire Store _____

Towing Service _____

Used Car Dealership _____

EDUCATION:

College/University _____

Elementary School _____

High School _____

Middle School _____

Pre-school _____

Private School _____

School Administrator _____

School Teacher _____

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Prep Softball - Playoffs

Lady Rams knocked out by Lowndes

STAFF REPORTS

news@covnews.com

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Newton's 2020 softball season came to an end Tuesday night.

The No. 4 Lady Rams were swept out of the first round of the Class AAAAAAA state playoffs by No. 1 Lowndes in a best-of-three series. The Vikettes took Game 1, 9-0, before finishing the job with an 11-1 victory in Game 2.

The first leg of Tuesday's doubleheader got out of hands almost as quickly as it began.

After retiring Newton's batters in order in the first inning, Lowndes came to the plate ready to swing away. The Vikettes started off the frame with a double from Tori Hedgecock, who later scored on a fielding error. Their biggest blow three at-bats later, when Lexi Metts clobbered a three-run home run to left field to make it 4-0.

Lowndes doubled its lead in the second

inning and tacked on a ninth run in the fourth before closing out the victory in just five frames. Newton was held to just three hits — all hits — and wasn't aided by any errors.

The Vikettes scored early again in the nightcap — plating three runs in the second inning and another pair in the third — but this time it was a late push that sent them over the top. Sitting on a 6-1 lead in the sixth inning, run-scoring knocks from Katelyn Lane, Auriell Reavis and Hedgecock effectively put the game out of reach.

Newton finished the year at 17-12 overall. Among key moments from the campaign were victories over county rival Eastside and defending state champions Locust Grove and Banks County, as well as a thrilling extra-inning affair against Mountain View.

Newton was swept out of the postseason at the hands of top-seeded Lowndes on Tuesday evening.

File | The Covington News



Lincoln County Red Devils 36, Social Circle Redskins 20

Redskins slip at Lincoln County

By GARRETT PITTS
Correspondent

LINCOLNTON, Ga. — A fourth quarter safety doomed the Social Circle Redskins as they fell to Lincoln County in an A Public Region 8 matchup Friday night by a score of 36-20.

After losing their region opener the week before, Social Circle was looking to get back on track and pick up their first region win as they took the long trip east to play the Lincoln County Red Devils who were 4-2 going into the game.

Through majority of the first half, the Red Devils' secondary shut down the Redskins wideouts, making it hard for Social Circle to generate anything offensively early on.

The stout defensive play allowed Lincoln County to get on the board first by scoring on a nine-yard touchdown rush by Red Devils running back CJ Zellars, which put Social Circle down 6-0 after a missed extra point.

After being held to a fourth down by the Red Devils' defense, the Social Circle snap went over the punter's head and the ball was downed inside the Redskins' 20-yard line giving Lincoln County excellent field position to start their next drive.

The Red Devils' offense did not let the good field position go to waste as they marched down the field and get in for the score on a quarterback sneak by Keenon Lampkin to extend the Lincoln County lead to 13-0 going into the second quarter.

Following another Social Circle punt, the Red Devils put the ball in the air for one of the few times in the first two quarters as Lampkin found wideout Johnny



File | The Covington News

Social Circle quarterback Logan Cross threw two touchdown passes in the Redskins' loss against region foe Lincoln County on Friday.

Wise deep for the 69-yard touchdown pass to extend the Lincoln County lead by a score of 20-0.

After capitalizing on a Social Circle punt miscue earlier in the game, Lincoln County had one of their own as they mishandled the snap of a punt and gave the ball back to the Redskins inside of the Red Devils' five-yard line.

The Redskins answered at the goal line with a one-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Logan Cross to Mason Moore as the two sophomores helped cut the Lincoln County lead to 20-7 at halftime.

Going into the locker room down by two scores, the Redskins looked to feed off momentum from the late first half touchdown and start chipping at Lincoln County's lead in the second half.

Social Circle got a much-needed turnover on the Red Devils' first offensive drive of the second half when Lampkin's pass was tipped and intercepted

by Tucker Clearly to start the Redskins' next possession in Lincoln County territory.

Cross wasted no time as two plays later he found senior wideout Eric Taylor deep in the corner of the endzone for a 35-yard touchdown pass to bring the Redskins closer by a score of 20-14.

After holding the Red Devils to a quick three-and-out on their next drive, Taylor came through on special teams to block the punt and recover it in the endzone for a Social Circle touchdown. After the missed extra point attempt, both teams were tied at 20 going into the final quarter.

After holding the Red Devils to a turnover on downs inside the Redskins five-yard line, the bad starting field position for Social Circle bit them as Cross was sacked for a safety to give two points and the ball back to Lincoln County, trailing 22-20 with eight minutes left in regulation.

With the ball and the lead, the Red Devils kept the football on the ground and milked the clock down to just over two minutes before scoring on a one-yard rush by Colton Willis to extend the lead to 29-20.

Before the final seconds would tick off the clock, Lincoln County added another score on a 67-yard run by Tevin Gartrell to seal the victory.

With the loss, Social Circle drops to 2-5 on the season and 0-2 in region play.

After dropping their second straight game, the Redskins will have a week off to recharge before hosting another region matchup against the Commerce Tigers on Friday, Nov. 6.

DOWN:

Continued from C1

Loganville 39. They were ultimately unable to capitalize, however, as the drive ended with a missed field goal from 33 yards out.

Loganville's first possession of the night ended with a botched punt, allowing the Eagles to take over on the Red Devil 30.

This time, the Eagles made the most of their short field.

After sneaking inside the red zone on just two plays, Eastside capped off a six-play drive as senior running back Sincere Johnson took the snap in wildcat formation and powered his way into the end

zone for the four-yard rushing touchdown. The score gave the Eagles a 7-0 lead with 4:42 left in the quarter.

From that point on, offense remained at a premium. The teams trotted into the locker room having booted five combined punts and missed one field

goal apiece.

After back-to-back nail-biting finishes, Eastside's bye week couldn't come at a more opportune time. The Eagles will return to the gridiron on Thursday, Nov. 5, when they welcome Jackson County to Sharp Stadium.

COMMITTED



Mason Wittner | The Covington News

Eastside High School junior Natalie Ray recently announced her commitment to play softball at the University of Mississippi. Ray primarily started in the outfield for the Lady Eagles this fall and helped lead her club to a 13-13 record on the diamond.

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BULLDOGS *Extra*

The Covington News



@ Arkansas
37-10



vs. Auburn
27-6



vs. Tennessee
44-21



@ Alabama
24-41



Oct. 31
@ Kentucky



Nov. 7
Florida



Nov. 14
Missouri



Nov. 21
Mississippi State



Nov. 28
@ South Carolina



Dec. 5
Vanderbilt



Dec. 19
SEC Championship



Alabama wide receiver John Metchie III (8) hauls in a pass during Saturday night's 41-24 win over the Bulldogs.

Tide overpowers Georgia

Dawgs have extra week to bounce back against Kentucky

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A positive COVID-19 test couldn't keep Nick Saban from the sideline, and Georgia's heralded defense had scant hope of keeping Alabama's playmakers out of the end zone.

Mac Jones passed for 417 yards and four touchdowns and the No. 2 Crimson Tide picked apart No. 3 Georgia in the second half of a 41-24 victory Saturday night. It ended up being a decisive 'Bama victory in a collision of the Southeastern Conference's last remaining unbeaten teams.

The Crimson Tide (4-0), with Saban stalking the sideline after all, rallied with three touchdowns in a 10-minute span starting late in the third quarter.

The nation's top scoring offense ultimately got the emphatic upper hand in a battle with the Bulldogs (3-1) and one of the nation's best defenses.

"This was an obvious great win against a very, very good football team," said Saban, who was cleared early in the day after a false COVID positive. "I was very proud of the way our guys fought in the game."

"I sort of knew it was going to be a 15-round fight and we wouldn't be winning until the late rounds."

Georgia had no answer for Jones and star receivers Jaylen Waddle and DeVonta Smith, especially with Alabama's own beleaguered defense grabbing two second-half interceptions and three overall. Freshman Malachi Moore had one at the goal line and returned it 42 yards.

Smith caught 11 passes for 167 yards and two touchdowns, including one in the fourth quarter that effectively put it out of reach.

Waddle caught a 90-yard touchdown pass and gained 161 yards on six catches. Jones completed 24 of 32 passes and was strong after an interception on the opening play.

"The goal was just to win the game," Jones said. "You can look at their defense. They have good players in the secondary, they have good linebackers, they have good defensive linemen but so do we."

Then there was some old-school ground and pound, too. Najee Harris gained 152 yards on 31 carries carries with a touchdown during that game-clinching span. He did it against the nation's top run defense, which came in allowing 38 rushing yards and 12.3 points per game.

Stetson Bennett completed 18 of 40 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns, including an 82-yarder to James Cook. But he threw three interceptions.

Bennett was angry with himself over his mistakes, especially that final interception throwing across his body, calling it "just stupid."

"I was frustrated with myself," the former walk-on said.

Alabama got a boost about seven hours before the game when the SEC cleared coach Saban to return to business of usual, determining a Wednesday COVID test was a false positive. He tested negative Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"That was very emotional," he said.

"It was very crazy," Jones said. "We were in our little quarterback meeting and he just showed up."

A maskless Saban was yelling at a referee after an intentional grounding call in the second quarter.

The Tide has won the last six meetings with Georgia, including a 3-0 record against Saban's former defensive coordinator, Kirby Smart. The first two came in the January 2018 national championship game and the

SEC championship game the following season.

This was the first one that didn't go down to the wire. Georgia's defense allowed 564 yards.

"Just frustrated we couldn't get anything going in the second half, especially that opening drive," Smart said. "I thought we were going to be able to run the ball and we stalled out and lost momentum after that point, especially after they hit the big long bomb to Waddle."

REMATCH, PLEASE?

The Bulldogs left hoping for a rematch in the SEC championship game, certainly a strong possibility.

"That's what everybody was saying in the locker room," Bennett said. "Our destiny is still controlled by us. We win out, we'll be in the SEC championship. Everything is still ahead of us."

THE TAKEAWAY

Alabama: The defense remains more generous than is standard in Tuscaloosa, but it did deliver some big plays. The offense just continues to roll along, and those receivers just appear unstoppable. Saban is now 22-0 against his former assistants.

Georgia: Led 24-20 deep into the third quarter and gained a solid 410 yards. But the defense that had been so suffocating more than met its match.

POLL IMPLICATION

Clemson hasn't done anything to weaken its claim to the top spot, but perhaps Alabama's decisive win will close the gap some. Georgia probably won't fall much past the Top 10.

UP NEXT

Georgia visits Kentucky on Oct. 31, which is fresh from a big win over Tennessee.

Alabama visits traditional rival Tennessee.

A loyal dog

Smart backs Bennett despite shaky play against Alabama

By CHARLES ODUM
The Associated Press

An unexpected open week would be the perfect opportunity to consider changes following No. 4 Georgia's ugly loss to Alabama.

There was no indication from coach Kirby Smart on Tuesday that a change is coming at quarterback.

Asked if Stetson Bennett is still Georgia's starter, Smart said "Like I have talked about before, I feel great about Stetson. He's done a good job of managing the situations we have put him in."

Bennett threw three interceptions while completing only 18 of 40 passes for 269 yards with two touchdowns in the Bulldogs' 41-24 loss to No. 2 Alabama on Saturday.

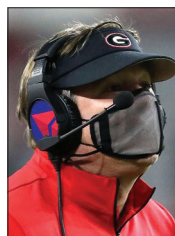
Smart stuck with Bennett even as Georgia failed to score in the second half.

Georgia's game at Kentucky, originally scheduled for this week, was pushed back to Oct. 31 as the Southeastern Conference adjusted to the coronavirus pandemic. That gives the Bulldogs (3-1) a week off to regroup.

D'Wan Mathis and JT Daniels could see more practice snaps with the No. 1 offense this week. Smart said off weeks are a time to change the normal routine of giving starters 78% of snaps with the first-team offense.

"This week, we will get to get a lot of guys reps," Smart said. "JT will get reps, D'Wan will get reps, Stetson will continue to get reps. We try to develop our roster. ... It just gives a chance to give more guys work and see where they are in their progress. That's true at every position and true at quarterback."

It could be an important week for Daniels, the former USC starter who was at first limited



Kirby Smart

by his recovery from a knee injury following his transfer to Georgia. Daniels has yet to make his Georgia debut.

Mathis started Georgia's opener against Arkansas before Bennett led the team to a comeback win and kept the job.

Bennett drew positive reviews for his early season play, including in Georgia's win over then-No. 14 Tennessee, but he struggled against the Crimson Tide. Though he remained supportive of Bennett, Smart also said the former walk-on must do a better job of stepping up in the pocket and avoiding passes into coverages.

The 5-foot-11 Bennett had some passes deflected at the line, possibly leading him to scramble on other plays when he should have remained in the pocket. Smart said the tipped passes may have affected Bennett's decisions.

"But it's one of those things every good quarterback finds," Smart said. "You look all across the league, in the NFL, in college football, height is not the greatest indicator of batted balls. The ability to use the pocket is, and a lot of that comes from experience."

Smart said former Georgia quarterback Jake Fromm "was really good" at knowing when to step up in the pocket to avoid pressure.

"He could feel the pocket opening and step up in the pocket and either run or make a throw," Smart said. "We continue to work with Stetson on that. He's shown the ability to do that. He didn't always trust it Saturday. He's got good pass protectors around him."

The three interceptions thrown by Bennett were his first of the season.

"I just didn't play well enough," Bennett said after the game. "I have to figure out how to not give bad balls, have to figure out how to not throw interceptions and how to score points in the second half."

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- 10/5
@ Green Bay — 16-30, L
- 10/11
Carolina — 16-23, L
- 10/18
@ Minnesota — 40-23, W
- 10/25
Detroit, 1 p.m.
- 10/29
@ Carolina, 8:20 p.m.
- 11/8
Denver, 1 p.m.
- 11/22
@ New Orleans, 1 p.m.
- 11/29
Las Vegas, 1 p.m.
- 12/6
New Orleans, 1 p.m.
- 12/13
@ LA Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
- 12/20
Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
- 12/27
@ Kansas City, 1 p.m.
- 1/3/21
@ Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Note: Schedule is subject to change.

Morris making most of interim opportunity

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Raheem Morris would prefer that everyone stay away from the “I” word.

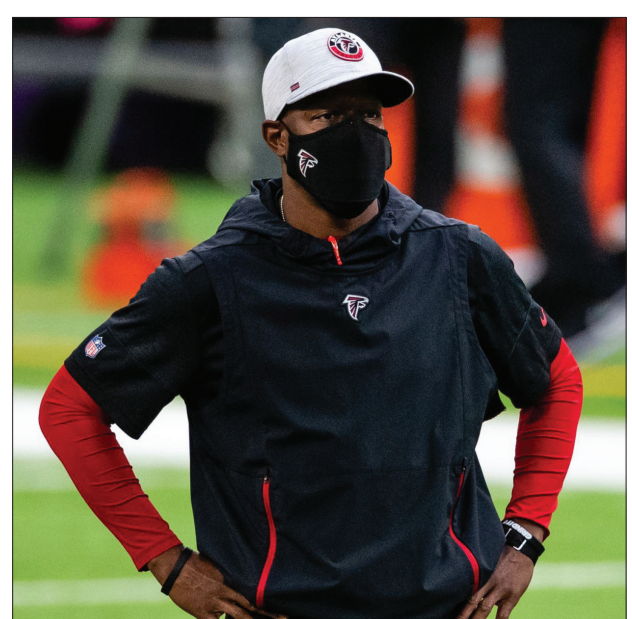
Sure, he’s officially the interim head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, a caretaker role handed to him by a team that fired Dan Quinn after losing its first five games.

But Morris refuses to look at himself in a temporary sort of way. “I don’t correct you guys every day because I’m angry at anybody,” he said Wednesday on a conference call with reporters. “If you’re in the moment of being an interim head coach, then you’ll be an interim head coach. ... I’m focused on being the head coach of the Atlanta Falcons.”

Morris’ second chance at a top job is off to a promising start. The Falcons finally picked up their first win of the season, romping past the Minnesota Vikings 40-23.

If Morris can conjure a few more performances like that one out of his team, he might earn serious consideration at keeping the job beyond this season.

The Falcons (1-5) will go for their second straight victory when



Courtesy of Atlanta Falcons

Atlanta picked up its first win of the season one week after firing Dan Quinn and moving forward with Raheem Morris (pictured) as interim head coach.

they host the Detroit Lions (2-3) on Sunday.

“I’m being in the moment of going 1-0 this week,” Morris said.

He got his first head coaching gig more a decade ago, surprisingly taking over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at age 33 after Jon Gruden was fired.

Even though the Bucs posted a promising 10-6 mark in Morris’ second season, just missing the playoffs, he went 3-13 and 4-12 his other two years. He was fired after Tampa Bay ended 2011 with a 10-game losing streak.

When he allows himself a reflective moment, Morris knows he’s better prepared to

handle the job this time around.

He points to all the head coaches he’s worked with over the years, from Gruden to Quinn to Mike Shanahan. He brings up his longstanding relationship with Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, “one of my better friends in life.”

He lists all the fellow assistants who went on to become head coaches, from Sean McVay to Kyle Shanahan to Matt LaFleur. He’s even provided advice to coaches-in-waiting such as Eric Bieniemy, who could very well could be in the running to take over the Falcons when the season is done.

“I think the development over the last couple of years has been really beneficial to me,” Morris said. “It really helped me.”

While the 44-year-old Morris is hardly a new face — he was on Quinn’s staff from the beginning in 2015 — and most of the Falcons assistants remain the same, there is an attempt to change the mindset of a team that became the first in NFL history to lose back-to-back games when leading by at least 15 points in the fourth quarter.

“When we go out to practice, I want to make the game come to life,” Morris said. “Everything we do has to simulate a game-like atmosphere.”

When a player messes up, he can expect to get called out.

Right on the spot.

“I want to make them uncomfortable,” he said. “I want them getting used to that. Things are going to happen in the game. You’re going to get tired, things aren’t going to go your way, the other team is going to score a touchdown. You want to bounce back, get comfortable being uncomfortable, and find a way to force your will on the opponent.”

It worked in Morris’ first game. It remains to be seen if the Falcons can maintain that sort of urgency on a consistent basis, especially when playing better teams than the one-win Vikings.

“Raheem is a guy who connects with everybody, for sure,” quarterback Matt Ryan said. “He’s blunt, matter of fact, and gets to the point. That’s his personality type, that’s his style. You’ve got to buy into what the head coach is preaching.”

Morris is considered a long shot to keep the job beyond this season.

Clearly joking but with an element of truth, owner Arthur Blank set a pretty high bar for Morris to have any chance of being considered in the coaching search.

“If Raheem ends up 11-0,” Blank said with a sly smile, “he’ll certainly be a candidate.”

Morris’ first win as the head coach — don’t say interim — merely left him hungry for more. He didn’t even take time to savor a game ball the players presented to him after beating the Vikings.

“You hate looking at it until you can get another one,” he said. “You grow and look for the next moment.”

WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 25, at 1 p.m. • WHERE: Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta • WATCH: FOX 5 Atlanta, WAGA-TV • LISTEN: 92.9 FM, The Game

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