

# The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 2022-JAN. 1, 2023



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*Inside:*

## A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The News looks back on the top  
events, issues in high school athletics  
**Sports, page B1**

*His Word*

"Behold, I will do a new  
thing; now it shall spring  
forth; shall ye not know it?  
I will even make a way in  
the wilderness, and rivers  
in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV)

### The Year in Review

# 2022 REWIND

The Covington News editorial staff combed through the headlines of 2022 to provide what we believed were Newton County's top news stories and topics ranked 1-10. What follows is a recap of the year's top local stories — things that were particularly newsworthy for a variety of reasons.

## 1. Newton voters keep SPLOST in place

**STAFF REPORT**  
news@covnews.com

During the November 2022 election, a majority of Newton County voters chose to keep the county's 1% SPLOST in place through 2029.

It will generate an estimated \$108 million over six years for a variety of public needs — from recreation centers to street paving, including widening of Brown Bridge Road.

With all 22 precincts counted, 55% voted "yes" and 45% voted "no" out of more than 41,000 cast in the special election.

With the vote, Newton Countians kept the 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in place for another six years through 2029.

It will begin to be collected July 1, 2023, after the current SPLOST expires on June 30, 2023.

Potential SPLOST-impacted items include:

- \$12 million for construction of four new recreation facilities, including a new "community water-park," an enrichment center for the county Senior Services department, and parks in both southwest Newton and



Tom Spigolon | The News

Among the projects planned for the 2023 SPLOST are a new 'enrichment center' for the Newton County Senior Services Department, whose dining hall in the Turner Lake Center is shown.

commission District 5, which covers northeast Newton.

- \$8 million for renovations to the historic R.L. Cousins High School building on Geiger Street.
- \$4.65 million for county Fire Services improvements;
- \$4.5 million for im-

provements at existing parks and walking trails countywide.

- \$1.07 million for expansion of the Animal Services facility on Lower River Road.
- \$900,000 for the library system.

SPLOST has been used for construction and renovation of

numerous county and city projects since the 1980s, including parks, renovation of the Historic Courthouse and construction of the county's Administration Building and the Judge Horace Johnson Jr. Judicial Building.

See REWIND, A2

### Continued Coverage: Rivian

## Feds approve wetlands permit for Rivian factory

Allows expansion of development  
to entire Social Circle, Morgan site

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

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — A federal agency has given the Rivian project the go-ahead to develop its planned electric vehicle manufacturing facility.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Dec. 16 issued a federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit to the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton and Walton counties (JDA) that was required for development of the 2,000-acre site.

The action will allow development on the entire site rather than on the 500-acre section it already has been grading in recent months.

State Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson said the permit's approval "is another critical step for the community and the state in the development of this exciting and transformational project."

But Chas Moore, spokesman for Rutledge-based Our Communities Oppose Rivian Assembly Plant, expressed, "Grief, anguish and a sense that 'The Sovereign Dollar' has exceeded the value of the American citizens' voice.

"Government has stopped listening to the citizen and has become an enforcement and funding arm for CEOs and corporations," Moore said. "Maybe, it always has been."

Section 404 regulates use of fill dirt for site development, water resource projects such as dams and levees, infrastructure development such as highways and airports, and mining projects, according to information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It requires a developer to receive a permit before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the U.S. — including wetlands, according to the EPA.

"When you apply for a permit, you must first show that steps have been taken to avoid impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources; that potential impacts have been minimized; and that compensation will be provided for all remaining unavoidable impacts," the EPA stated.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development said in a statement that, "To earn this approval, the state and JDA have demonstrated that the project planning has avoided and minimized impacts to wetlands and streams to the maximum extent practicable and that all unavoidable impacts will be fully mitigated for.

"As part of its standard public interest review,

See PERMIT, A2

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*Inside*

**WellStar partnership to broaden  
affiliation with Medical College**

Business, A12

*Weekend Weather Forecast*



**Saturday, Dec. 31**  
High: 64° Low: 49°  
• Thunderstorms



**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
High: 65° Low: 46°  
• Partly Cloudy

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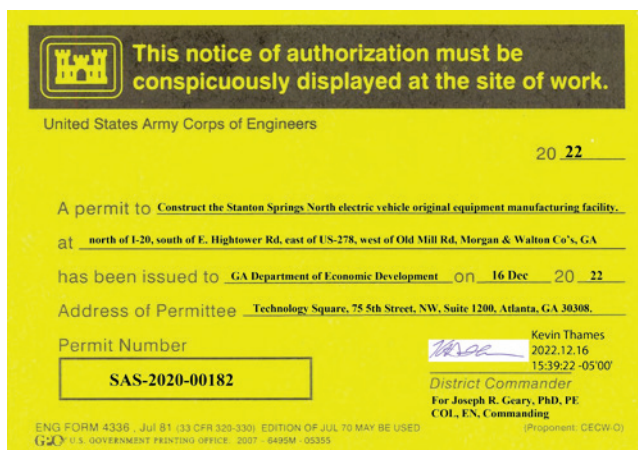
# PERMIT:

Continued from A1

the Corps sought and received public comments on the permit application, which the state and JDA carefully reviewed and provided detailed responses to.”

The EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Environmental Protection and Wildlife Resources divisions, and Georgia Historic Preservation Division joined the Corps of Engineers in reviewing the Section 404 permit application, the statement said.

“Consistent with its environmentally conscious mission, Rivian’s site designs show some of the ways the company aims to minimize the



environmental impact of the facility footprint,” according to the statement.

“Half of the site acreage will be permeable, vegetative surface that absorbs stormwater, creates wildlife habitat and stores carbon, with building placement and impermeable infrastructure on higher ground

where possible to avoid impacting wetland areas.

“Rivian intends to preserve as much of the existing tree growth as possible. Rainwater will be collected and used on-site, reducing the need for traditional potable water supply.

“Following the company’s philosophy for

new construction, the mature site will take into account best practices to limit lighting, stormwater runoff, water quality and noise impacts and to preserve scenic views and natural systems.”

Although local regulations do not affect the site because the state government owns the property, the state and JDA included site development guidelines and environmentally driven requirements in the overarching agreement between the Georgia government, the JDA and Rivian, according to the statement.

Rivian will be required to comply with the Social Circle city and Morgan County Stanton

Springs Business Park Ordinance’s threshold regulations, the statement said.

It also will limit impervious surfaces to 50% of the site compared to the 75% maximum that is permitted; perform additional hydrology studies; design the stormwater detention facilities for a 100-year storm; comply with the Walton County tree ordinance; coordinate with a local observatory regarding outdoor lighting plans; maintain a 500-foot setback from Old Mill Road; and comply with all federal and state environmental permitting requirements, the release stated.

“As demonstrated by these extra requirements,

conserving buffers, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation around the site is a priority for the state, JDA and Rivian.”

The project already has received other permits, including:

- Stream Buffer Variance issued Nov. 2, 2022.

- EPD 401 Water Quality Certification Concurrence (no impact to neighboring jurisdiction concurrence), issued Oct. 31, 2022.

- Phase 1 of the permit area released for construction by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sept. 28, 2022.

- Construction Stormwater Permit issued by Georgia EPD, Sept. 6, 2022.

# REWIND:

Continued from A1

## 2 Rivian begins site development, over residents’ objections

The Rivian automotive company got the green light this year to begin site development on 2,000 acres of land partly in Social Circle.

This came after receiving \$1.5 billion in state, local incentives.

An agreement that outlines requirements for such issues as the timing of employing workers and tax payments came into the hands of state and Rivian officials after a regional development authority’s approval back in April.

Development authority members also said

Rivian’s addition to the JDA-controlled Stanton Springs and Stanton Springs North business parks will increase tax revenues to more than \$900 million shared by the four JDA counties and Social Circle over the next 25 years.

The Joint Development Authority (JDA) of Jasper, Morgan, Newton and Walton counties on Tuesday, April 26, voted to approve a final economic development agreement between the JDA, the state of Georgia and electric vehicle maker Rivian Inc. In that same

meeting, the JDA also approved a resolution to exercise the options to buy 41 parcels of land on the site, pending

approval by the state and Rivian.

JDA Chairman Jerry Silvio of Newton County said at the time that his

agency’s approval of the documents means “we are taking a significant step toward realizing the original vision of the

JDA from more than two decades ago” to develop an industrial park east of

See RIVIAN, A5

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### Geneva Hodges

J.C. Harwell & Son Funeral Home

Mrs. Geneva Hodges, age 94, of Mansfield passed away Wednesday, December 21, 2022. She was born in Bostwick, Georgia on April 13, 1928 to Herbert Addison and Irene Ruark Few who have preceded her in death. Mrs. Hodges and her husband Hulon owned and operated the Hub Bus Station from 1971 until 1984. She enjoyed gardening, working in her yard, cooking, and loved flowers. She was a longtime member of the Pine Grove Ladies Club, and was once a member of the Newton Federal Feds Bowling Team. Mrs. Hodges was Methodist by faith and attended Sewell Church. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Hulon Hodges, her daughter Karen Hodges, her grandson Wayne Glaze, her sisters Carolyn Few Capps and Roselle Few Ozburn, and her brother Steve Few. Mrs. Hodges is survived by her sons Mr.

Geneva Hodges

### Lottie Shropshire Portwood

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

Lottie Shropshire Portwood, of Oxford, passed away Sunday, December 25, 2022, at the age of 89. Mrs. Portwood was a devout Christian and heavily involved member of the First Baptist Church of Covington. She had a big heart for others and volunteered as an Auxiliary for the Newton County Hospital. Mrs. Portwood loved baking in her spare time and was famous for her delicious tea cake cookies. Additionally, she enjoyed playing cards, music, and singing. Mrs. Portwood was a phenomenal seamstress and always made sure she was fixed up and dressed nice before leaving her home. She was a true southern lady that was tough as nails and kind as could be. Mrs. Portwood cherished spending time with her sisters and her family. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, James Portwood; parents, Henry and Lottie Mae Shropshire; sisters, Annie Hoover, Francis Rooks, Jean Adams; and brothers, Glen Shropshire, Henry Shropshire.

### Obituaries

William (Bill) Hodges (Sue) of Mansfield, and Mr. Michael S. Hodges (Catherine) of Oxford; daughters Mrs. Brenda H. Cason (Wayne) of Mansfield and Mrs. Kathryn H. Wheeler, of Mansfield; grandchildren Kevin Glaze, Linda Cason, Michelle Faith, Larry Cason, Shannon Porter, and Jennifer Moss; great-grandchildren Taylor Dial Bowman, Zachary Hulon Faith, Abigail Faith, Justin Dial, Aubrey Cason, Peyton Cason, Clay Porter, Will Porter, and Ben Porter; her great-great grandson Dawson Bowman; along with a host nieces and nephews, other family and close friends.

Funeral services for Mrs. Hodges were held at 2 o’clock Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at the Chapel of J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home with Reverend Darrell Payne officiating. Interment followed at Carmel Church Cemetery. The family received friends at the funeral home from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM on Tuesday prior to the service.

J.C. Harwell and Son Funeral Home was entrusted with these arrangements.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianne Daniel (Tony); granddaughter, Lisa Chasteen (Allen); great-granddaughter, Brittany Daniel; great-grandson, Hunter Henderson; sister, Sue Freeman and family; nieces, Tammy Blankenship (Shane), Barbara Thompson; nephew, Tim Adams (Shelly); and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Funeral Service for Mrs. Portwood will be held Saturday, December 31, 2022, 1:00 P.M., at First Baptist Church of Covington, 1139 Usher Street NW, in Covington, with Dr. Cody McNutt and Pastor Tim Barnes officiating, and interment following in Lawnwood Memorial Park, 1111 Access Road, in Covington. Friends were invited to visit with the family at Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, 1215 Access Road, in Covington, on Friday, December 30, from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Portwood will lie in state at the church one hour prior to her service from 12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M.

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

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# REGIONAL REPORT

Read about what's happening across the metro and beyond Newton County's border >>

## Election-year politics tops Georgia headlines in 2022

With the coronavirus pandemic at last under control, election-year politics dominated Georgia this year.

Voters reelected a Republican governor and a Democratic U.S. senator in a wave of ticket-splitting that drew national attention.

Here's a look at the top Georgia stories of 2022:

- January 7 – The father-and-son murderers of Black jogger Ahmaud Arbery near Brunswick in 2020 are sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The case led the General Assembly to pass a hate-crimes bill and overhaul Georgia's 19th-century citizens arrest law.

- January 10 – The Georgia Bulldogs win college football's national championship, defeating the University of Alabama 33-18 in Indianapolis.

- March 1 – The University System of Georgia Board of Regents votes to hire former two-term Gov. Sonny Perdue to become the system's 14th chancellor. Perdue takes up the post in April.

- April 4 – The Republican-controlled General Assembly completes the 2022 legislative session, highlighted by the passage of bills overhauling the delivery of mental-health services in Georgia, allowing Georgians to carry concealed firearms without a permit and cutting state income taxes by \$1 billion.

- May 20 – Hyundai Motor Group announces plans to build an electric vehicle manufacturing plant in Bryan County near Savannah. Expected to create 8,100 jobs, it's the largest economic development project in Georgia history.

- May 24 – Gov. Brian Kemp trounces former U.S. Sen. David Perdue by 50 points in the Republican gubernatorial primary. Democrat Stacey Abrams wins her party's nomination for governor unopposed.

- July 20 – The U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds Georgia's "heartbeat" bill banning abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

The General Assembly passed the law in 2019, but it didn't take effect until the

U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

- Sept. 26 – The state signs an agreement with water supply systems in Gwinnett, Hall, and Forsyth counties guaranteeing water from Lake Lanier through 2050.

The deal closes the chapter on a major portion of the tri-state "water wars" between, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama dating back to the 1990s.

- November 8 – Republican Gov. Brian Kemp wins a second term, defeating Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock lands in a runoff with GOP challenger Herschel Walker.

- November 16 – Georgia House Speaker David Ralston dies at age 68 after an extended illness.

Two days earlier, the House Republican Caucus had nominated House Majority Leader Jon Burns, R-Newington, to succeed the ailing Ralston as speaker.

- December 6 – Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock wins a full six-year term in the Senate after completing the late Sen. Johnny Isakson's unexpired term. Warnock defeats Republican challenger Herschel Walker in a runoff.

—Capitol Beat News

## Monroe Council opts for no liquor store referendum

Attempts to get a package store in Monroe continue to be thwarted.

A resolution was prepared for the December City Council meeting but nobody stepped up to propose a vote on it either way and it died for lack of a motion.

As a result, there will not be a referendum on the ballot at the March or July 2023 Special Elections.

Prior to the November Election, the Monroe City Council had voted 7-1 to place the referendum on the ballot.

Councilman Larry Bradley was the only opposing vote.

However, it didn't make it in on time to be on the ballot last month and subsequently the constituents did not have an opportunity to vote

on it.

"We had a resolution to allow it on the November ballot but there is a way forward to resolve it so we've crafted a new one for March 2023 that we would be able to have," Monroe City Administrator Logan Propes said prior to Mayor John Howard calling for a proposal.

Propes said there would possibly be a Special Election for the Board of Elections post vacated by the resignation of Simoan Capers Baker and if not March, possibly June or July 2023.

However, that is now a moot point as there was no support for the referendum from any of the city council members at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting.

There had been a move in Monroe to call for a referendum on whether or not to allow for the sale of distilled spirits in the city back in 2020.

Under Georgia law at that time, in order to call for a referendum election to authorize the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled a petition had to be presented to the relevant municipality.

It was required to have least 35% of the registered and qualified voters sign on to the petition. For the City of Monroe, that would have required at least 3,000 signatures.

Ty Vance had been contracted to obtain the signatures necessary to place the referendum on the ballot in November 2020 and in February he began the task of getting the signatures for an unnamed client.

He had until August 2020 to get the required signatures, but the pandemic shut that down and no more has been done on it since then.

Vance said he had explained that the petition was not to approve a package store in the city, but merely a call for a referendum to let the voters themselves make that decision.

—The Walton Tribune

## Federal legislation seeks to protect Chattahoochee River

President Joe Biden has signed legislation aimed at protecting the Chattahoochee River.

The first-of-its-kind measure authorizes \$90 million in feder-

al funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with local partners on water projects throughout the Chattahoochee River system.

Biden signed the bill last week as part of congressional reauthorization of the Water Resources and Development Act.

"This exciting new program will improve water quality, protect essential public works, and restore ecosystems along the river, which supplies much of our state's drinking water," said U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., who introduced the bill into the Senate along with Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga.

"Clean water is essential for healthy and thriving communities," Warnock added.

"While the Chattahoochee River's water quality has improved in recent years, hundreds of miles of Chattahoochee watershed waterways still do not meet water-quality standards.

"I'm proud to have worked with Senator Ossoff to ensure this provision that will invest in improving, protecting, and preserving the Chattahoochee River gets signed into law."

According to the Georgia River Network, the Chattahoochee supplies 70% of metro Atlanta's drinking water.

The river is also a key source of water for farmers and an important source of power generation through hydroelectric dams.

However, more than 1,000 miles of waterway within the Chattahoochee watershed do not meet water quality standards, creating potential health risks to humans and wildlife.

In 2019, the National Park Service reported visitors to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area added more than \$200 million to the metro region's economy, supporting more than 2,000 local jobs.

—Capitol Beat News

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—Mark 16:15-16

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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Morning Worship Services – 10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship Services 5:30 P.M.

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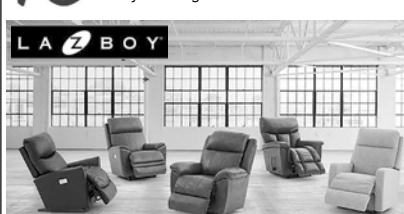
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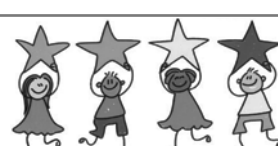
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# OPINIONS

The Covington News

**Ann Coulter** national columnist

## Kwanzaa, the holiday the FBI created

It seems like all I hear these days is how liberals are red-hot for teaching history, while retro-grade troglodytes on the right are demanding that we suppress the teaching of history by banning critical race theory (CRT). Haranguing students, day in day out, about their white privilege is just teaching history.

On this beloved Kwanzaa week, here's some history for you.

Celebrated exclusively by white liberals, Kwanzaa is a fake holiday invented in 1966 by black radical/FBI stooge Ron Karenga -- aka Dr. Maulana Karenga, founder of United Slaves, the violent nationalist rival to the Black Panthers. Liberals have become so mesmerized by multicultural gibberish that they have forgotten the real history of Kwanzaa and Karenga's United Slaves.

In what was ultimately a foolish gambit, during the madness of the '60s, the FBI encouraged the most extreme black nationalist organizations in order to discredit and split the left. The more preposterous the group, the better. (It's the same function Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez serves today.)

By that criterion, Karenga's United Slaves was perfect.

Despite modern perceptions that blend all the black activists of the '60s, the Black Panthers did not hate whites. Although some of their most high-profile leaders were drug dealers and murderers, they did not seek armed revolution.

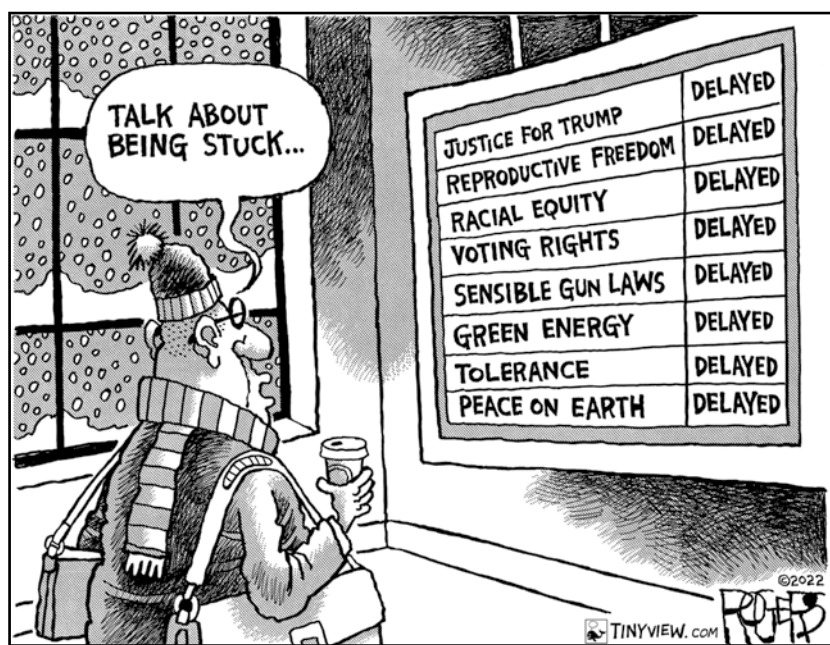
No, those were the precepts of Karenga's United Slaves. The United Slaves were proto-fascists, walking around in dashikis, gunning down Black Panthers and adopting invented "African" names. (I will not be shooting any Black Panthers this week because I am Kwanzaa-reform, and we are not that observant.)

It's as if David Duke invented a holiday called "Anglika," which he based on the philosophy of "Mein Kampf" — and clueless public schoolteachers began celebrating the made-up, racist holiday.

In the category of the-gentleman-doth-protest-too-much, back in the '70s, Karenga was quick to criticize Nigerian newspapers that claimed that certain American black radicals

See COULTER, A11

**Rob Rogers** cartoonist



**Gene Lyons** national columnist

## What could go wrong by traveling in bad weather?

If Americans had any sense, we'd celebrate Christmas very differently. In much of the country, it's borderline crazy to jump into the family chariot during the worst weather week of the year to travel hundreds of miles for the dubious pleasure of arguing with Angry Uncle Charlie about the 2020 presidential election.

Angry Uncle Charlie's one of the reasons you moved 500 miles away to begin with. But, hey, it's Christmas!

Meanwhile, countless thousands swarm to airports to stand for hours with a disgruntled mob watching the CANCELED signs blink, sleeping on the floor and awakening periodically to see that, yes, we still have no flights scheduled. TV correspondents prowl the aisles interviewing travelers numbened by fatigue but determined to press on.

Meanwhile, their luckless colleagues on the meteorological beat stand outside in the wind and driving snow to document that, yes, the blizzard continues, and Merry Christmas to all! Then it's back to you in the studio, where the head meteorologist wears a Santa hat and the Action News Team documents the seasonal death toll.

I heard an interview on NPR the other day with a Michigan official who said state police were warning citizens that it was not only too hazardous to venture from home, but anybody who did was on their own. Should they become stranded, rescuing them could be a physical impossibility for at least 24 hours due to howling winds, temperatures well below zero and whiteout conditions. A person could easily get lost in his own neighborhood, the official said. Visibility was maybe 2 feet.

That segment was immediately followed by an interview with a chipper Michigander who said, yeah, the weather was bad, but they'd probably leave that afternoon. It's only a couple of hours' drive, she said. In normal weather, that is. Maybe they'd wait until morning, but she didn't think so.

Ho, ho, ho.

My wife and I have passed the "over the river and through the woods" stage of life. And damned glad about it, thank you. If I had a favorite Christmas song, it would be Perry Como's old standby, "Home for the Holidays." Visitors are welcome.

Our neighbor Laura came over to remind me to feed our mutual cat Albert (long story). She was bound and determined to head into the teeth of the worst northeastern blizzard in 50 years to visit her brother in New England, although reports of jammed airports and canceled flights had her fretting.

She kept talking about the awful weather, and I kept saying, "Laura, don't go. Wait until Easter."

Easter comes in spring, you see, signifying rebirth and renewal. A far more sensible time for cross-country journeys. But Laura had that Christmas thing going on, and you can't reason people out of it. It seizes control of people's minds and emotions this time of year, and the entire Christmas Industrial Complex exists to reinforce it.

Sells a lot of useless toaster ovens, you see.

The whole thing is not only irrational, it's deeply anti-rational. Indeed, a certain kind of reader is already angry about my lack of Christmas spirit.

Yeah, well, my feet are warm and I'm not marooned in a snowdrift.

Hopefully, Laura made it to New England all right, and they got the power back on at her brother's place in time for the holiday. But we'd all be better off if we made Easter, Memorial Day or July 4th the cross-country travel and family-visiting American holiday.

For his part, Albert the cat seems fine. I haven't actually seen him, but his supper dish gets emptied, and he knows every cold weather hidey-hole for blocks around. A former barn cat, he's always been resourceful. The only way you could get Albert to go traveling in a snowstorm would be to lock him in a cage, and after you let him out, you might never see him again.

Here at home, we celebrated Christmas Eve with a po-

See LYONS, A11

**Dick Yarbrough** columnist

## Junior E. Lee takes a look at Y2KXXIII

The New Year is upon us. 2023. It seems like only yesterday that we were up at midnight on New Year's Eve, 1999, wringing our hands at what catastrophes might await us at the beginning of Y2K -- the year 2000.

It was thought there could be a problem in the coding of computerized systems that would create chaos in computers and computer networks around the world as the year 2000 made its presence known. Some even predicted our telephone network and power grid would blow up as a result. It didn't happen. As we approach Y2KXXIII, I am still getting calls wanting to extend the warranty on a car I don't own and Georgia Power is still hosing its customers.

Had the Yarbrough Worldwide Media and Pest Control Company, located in Greater Garfield, Georgia, been around in those days I doubt there would have been all that handwringing. That is because the world had not yet been introduced to Junior E. Lee, one of the nation's preeminent media analysts as well as a pest control professional. Junior would have said that our computers crashing was about as likely as a Bilobed Looper singing selections from Handel's Messiah. Junior is famous for his pest control tropes.

There is no other organization I know of that has a preeminent media analyst who is also a pest control professional. Listen to Rachel Maddow or Tucker Carlson blather on about whatever and then ask them if they know the difference between Sicariidae and Scutigeridae and see the blank look on their faces.

I called Junior this week because I knew you would be anxious to get his take on what Y2KXXIII has in store for us. I found him out at Arveen Ridley's place spraying for cow ticks. He told me he had not yet finished his analysis of our highly-anticipated Round-or-Square poll ("You provide the dough and we will cook the numbers.") but there were several trends developing that he found of interest and thought you would, too.

First off, Junior E. Lee thinks that somewhere along about the middle of August, Donald Trump will have run out of people to insult and will be forced to demean Beanie Babies. ("Pongo is a stupid penguin. Just stupid. And fake. Terribly fake. He has

never supported me. Pongo doesn't appreciate all the incredible things I did for penguins during the China virus. He's a bad penguin. Really bad.")

As for our current president, Junior says that after trying to locate a dead congresswoman at a recent speech and asking a wheelchair-bound state senator to "stand up, let the people see you," don't be surprised if Joe Biden compliments Gerald Ford for all the electric vehicles he is producing at his factory in Detroit.

I asked Junior E. Lee if the poll showed some interesting trends developing in Georgia. Ever the pest control professional, he said he thinks woodpeckers will eat an increasing number of Emerald Ash Borers this year before they can mess up anymore of our trees. I told him I knew you would find that fascinating but what about our economy?

Junior said while our state is in excellent shape financially, the poll indicates that we can save even more money. He says we are wasting paint putting lines down the middle of our highways because nobody ever goes north. They all come south. I didn't want to offend Junior, but that is nothing new.

In the category of sports, Junior E. Lee thinks the new football coach at the You-Know-Where Institute of Technology may have sniffed a bad bunch of malathion. The guy claims he is going to "dominate" his opponents, including the University of Georgia. I asked him what the polls show regarding that possibility. Junior said it was about as likely to happen as a Bilobed Looper singing selections from Handel's Messiah. Junior and his pest control tropes again.

There was so much more I wanted to ask Junior but he said he was in a hurry to get to Aunt Flossie Felmer's and poke around in her drawers. He claims he is looking for fire ants. Frankly, I think Junior spends too much in Aunt Flossie's drawers but I don't say anything. Finding a preeminent media analyst who is also a pest control professional is not that easy. I mean, can you see Rachel Maddow or Tucker Carlson crawling around in your basement, spraying hexaflumuron to try and get rid of termites? I didn't think so. Happy Y2KXXIII.k!

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at [dick@dictyarbrough.com](mailto:dick@dictyarbrough.com); at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook.

# The Covington News

**Newton Newspapers Inc.**

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## RIVIAN:

Continued from A2

Atlanta “with high-tech, good paying jobs for years to come.”

But before and after that agreement, the back-and-forth debate on whether or not Rivian was a good addition for the area persisted, sometimes with fever-pitched fervor.

Back in January, opponents of Rivian’s arrival into the area hired attorneys specializing in envi-

ronmental and zoning issues as they prepare for legal challenges to the planned complex.

A group named, “Our Communities Oppose Rivian Assembly Plant” quickly raised more than \$125,000 for the cause at the beginning of the year. And later, in November, a group of Morgan County residents tried to halt grading of the Rivian site.

Judge Stephen Bradley said in his Friday, Nov. 25, order that it did not justify issuance of a temporary restraining order to halt work on a portion of the 2,000-acre site where Rivian is planning to locate its second U.S. production facility.

## 3 Court ruling keeps statue debate alive

The lone individual allowed to continue a challenge to Newton County’s planned removal of a 116-year-old monument to Confederate soldiers in Covington said she and her supporters were “thrilled with the Georgia Supreme Court’s ruling” allowing her to continue her two-year effort.

“Our case will now be tried on the facts and the law,” said Covington resident Tiffany Humphries Tuesday, Oct. 25. “There were some very loud voices, that for a time, overshadowed all others,” Humphries said.

“Today’s decision is proof that our system works.”

The Georgia Supreme Court upheld the state Court of Appeals’ dismissal of a Sons of Confederate Veterans’ lawsuit to keep the Confederate statue standing in the middle of the Covington Square — but also reversed the Appeals Court’s dismissal of Humphries’ complaint, seemingly allowing her lawsuit to continue back at the Superior Court level.

According to the ruling published by the state Supreme Court,

the court determined that because the Sons of Confederate Veterans groups “have not shown that they are members of the communities” wherein the lawsuits were made — the group also had a dismissed lawsuit for similar removal of a Confederate monument in Henry County — there was no standing for the group to make its claims.

The Supreme Court’s ruling did not address the validity of the claims, but rather the legal right for each party to sue.

“This case is about

a highly controversial subject: whether local communities must continue displaying and maintaining at public expense, monuments that celebrate the Confederacy and its long-dead supporters, despite those communities finding such celebration repugnant,” Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson said in a written statement published on the gasupreme.us website.

“But nothing about those monuments is at issue in this appeal.”

## 4 Election returns new, old office-holders

The 2022 General Election returned two incumbent county commissioners — including J.C. Henderson to a seventh term and Demond Mason to a second term.

Voters also returned state legislators including District 113 Rep.

Sharon Henderson of Covington, and elected a new state legislator, District 114 Rep.-Elect Tim Fleming of Covington.

They also elected a new congressman for two-thirds of Newton County, U.S. Rep.-Elect

Mike Collins, R-Jackson, after redistricting placed a majority of Newton in the Republican-controlled 10th Congressional District.

Incumbent District 10 U.S. Rep. Jody Hice did not seek reelection in order to make an

unsuccessful bid for the Georgia Secretary of State’s job.

Fourth Congressional District Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Stonecrest, was reelected but will represent a smaller part of Newton County.

## 5 Severe weather bookends 2022 calendar

It was like a tale of two counties this year, as far as weather went.

While 2022 began with the aftermath of a New Year’s Eve 2021 tornado that damaged vehicles, a school building and other facilities along a 2.5-mile path in west Newton, the year ended with pipes bursting and power outages from bitter cold weather just in time for Christmas.

And even as New Year’s Day 2023 arrives, temperatures are forecasted to bounce back into the upper 60s.

Temperatures on Dec. 23 and Christmas Eve fell into the teens and single digits locally and across much of northern and middle Georgia, with patches of black

ice peppering roadways, thanks to rain and some light snow that fell in the area.

The frigid weather caused many to take precautions against frozen and bursting pipes.

Meanwhile, back on the first day of 2022, residents woke up to damage and debris from an EF-1 twister which caused minor injuries to six people and moved at a peak speed of about 90 mph on a 2.5-mile, 75-yard-wide path roughly parallel with Brown Bridge Road.

It damaged 12 homes, Veterans Memorial Middle School, Publix and a Chick-fil-A, where it tossed two cars 100 feet and flipped them in its parking lot, according to a preliminary

report from the National Weather Service (NWS) on Jan. 1, 2022.

The report stated the twister developed from an isolated supercell thunderstorm, which the NWS describes as a storm cloud with an extended upper part that has “a high propensity to produce severe weather” and is the least common type of thunderstorm.

A tornado “quickly developed from that thunderstorm” and first touched down about 5:39 p.m. along Creekside Lane just east of Brown Bridge Road. A few trees were snapped, the report stated.

“Both video evidence and ground surveys suggest the tornado was sporadic in its contact with the ground as evident by

small gaps in damage, particularly in the beginning of the track.”

The tornado continued in an east-northeast path along Brown Bridge Road, snapping more trees and blowing down a fence along Glynshire Court and Roberts Road, the report stated.

## 6 Face of county changing

With the addition of multiple hotels, retailers in Covington Town Center nearing opening, SKG Inc. and film studio groundbreakings and Archer Aviation and hydroponics facility announcements promising hundreds of new jobs, if you hadn’t been in Newton County for the last

few years, you might see it as hardly recognizable. Not only did the area’s

recent trend toward industrial growth and commercial development not slow down in 2022, it experienced a major uptick which is a sign that such growth in Covington and Newton County is likely here to stay for the foreseeable future.

The groundbreaking of Absolics’ new \$600 million manufacturing facility here in Covington

was expected to produce the first place in the world for mass production of a glass substrate expected to revolutionize the computer technology industry in coming years.

It was a big enough deal that it brought out U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., along with the promise of 410 new jobs.

During the Absolics’

See FACE, A9



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# CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**PUBLIC NOTICE #500015**  
12/25-1/1

### Adoptions

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF NEWTON, STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:  
**BAILEY SAGE ALLBRITTEN A MINOR**

**DANIEL TURETTE PADFIELD PETITIONER**

#### NOTICE OF ADOPTION

**TO: GARY WAYNE ALLBRITTEN, JR.,** biological father who is not the legal father of BAILEY SAGE ALLBRITTEN, whose current whereabouts are unknown.

**GREETINGS:**

**YOU ARE** hereby notified that on the 14th day of November, 2022 DANIEL TURETTE PADFIELD has filed a Petition for Adoption in the Newton County Superior Court, Adoption No. 2022-AD-3 I-2, seeking to adopt BAILEY SAGE ALLBRITTEN (YOB:2017), a female child born to BRITTNIIE LEIGH PEARSON PADFIELD. That on November 18, 2022, and for good cause shown, an Order for Service by Publication was entered by Judge John M. Ott, Chief Judge, Newton County Superior Court authorizing service by publication upon the above-named individual, GARY WAYNE ALLBRITTEN, JR., the biological father who is not the legal father of the above-named minor child.

**ALL PARENTAL** rights you may have with respect to said child will be lost, and you will receive neither notice of nor be entitled to object to the adoption of this child unless, within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication of this notice, you file an objection to the Petition for Adoption of the child and forward a copy of said objection to the attorney for the Petitioner, Sharon L. Barksdale, P. O. Box 1215, Covingt,o, n, GA

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**THIS 1ST** day of December 2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400982**  
12/18,25-1/1,8

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

**INRE: PETITION OF BETTY JEAN (RUCKER) HURLEY,**

**FOR ADOPTION OF NEWAH SAMUEL ALEXANDER ISRAEL HURLEY TO BE KNOWN AFTER THE ADOPTION AS NEWAH SAMUEL ALEXANDER ISRAEL HURLEY**

**MINOR CHILDREN.**

**CIVIL ACTION 2022-AD-22-3 PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**TO: THE UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER, THE PUTATIVE FATHER AND ANY JOHN DOES AND/OR ANY OTHER PERSON CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS IN THE REFERENCED MALE CHILD**

**YOU ARE** hereby notified that a Petition of Adoption was filed in this Court requesting the termination of your parental rights in the referenced male child.

**ALL PARENTAL** rights you may have with respect to the referenced children will be lost, and you will receive neither notice of nor be entitled to object to the termination of your parental rights AND the adoption of the referenced children unless, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this **NOTICE, YOU** file: (1) a petition to legitimate the referenced children in the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22; (2) notice of the filing of such petition to legitimate the referenced children with Adoption Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia, at 1132 Usher Street, Room No. 338, Covington, Georgia 30014; and (3) notice of the filing of such petition to legitimate the referenced children with the Petitioner's attorney, William F. Elliott, at 1140 Brown Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. **YOU MUST** make known such other objection as you may have to the adoption of the **REFERENCED CHILDREN** within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice.

**THIS NOTICE** of Publication shall be published for three (3) consecutive weeks and personal service of said notice is perfected upon the last day of publication.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 13TH day DECEMBER of 2022.

**WILLIAM F. Elliott ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner GEORGIA BAR No. 244905**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500010**  
12/25-1/1,8,15

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA

**IN THE INTEREST OF NEVEAH COLLINS, A CHILD:**

**CIVIL ACTION ADOPTION NUMBER: 2022AD-19-5**

**NOTICE PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 19-8-10(c) and O.C.G.A. 19-8-12. THIS NOTICE** is provided to AMBER NICOLE COLLINS, Mother; DUSTIN KENDALL, Legal Father, JOHN DOE, any unknown, unnamed biological father or other persons claiming to have a parental interest in the minor child named above born to Amber Nicole Collins. Please be advised that a Petition for Independent Adoption was filed in The Superior Court of Newton County on June 29, 2022 by Petitioners Joseph Cissner and Kayla Cissner. Please be advised that your parental rights and responsibilities will be terminated upon the finalization of the adoption. You are hereby notified that pursuant to O.C.G.A. 19-8-10(c), as a parent who receives notification of this Adoption Petition, you are not a party to the adoption and shall have no

obligation to file an answer. However, you may file an answer if you choose. In order to object, you must file notice of your objection with the Adoption Clerk, Superior Court of Newton County, 114 Usher Street, Covington, Georgia 30014 and provide notice of the filing of your answer/objection to counsel for Petitioners: DeVona B. Roseberr, Bryant Roseberry Law, LLC, 920 Green Street, Suite H, Conyers, Georgia 30012. Further you do have the right to appear in the pending adoption proceeding and show cause why your parental rights to the child who is the subject of the proceeding should not be terminated by that adoption.

**THIS 5TH** day of December, 2022.

**DEVONA B. Roseberry, Attorney for Petitioners, Bryant Roseberry Law, LLC, 920 Green Street, Suite H, Conyers, Georgia 30012, (678) 278-9575**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400972**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

### Citations

#### CITATION

**ANNETTE MCGEE** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **ROBERT FRANKLIN MCGEE** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400948**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**CHARLIE GENE JEFFERIES SR** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **MATTIE PEARL HENDERSON** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400892**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**CIERA MARIE NEWSON** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **TAMARA LYNN HINSON** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400963**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**GERALDINE MOORE** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the

Estate of **ADA WILLIAMS** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400962**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**GERALDINE MOORE** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **ALONZO WILLIAMS** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400961**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**JESSIE LEWIS CLARK** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **TRACEY ESHAWN CLARK** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400891**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**JOANN OLIVER** has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **HILBERN OLIVER, JR** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

**MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET-148 COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400940**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**RE: ESTATE of ELASIE W. DELAMAR DECEASED**

**ELLA TURNER ADMINISTRATOR** has petitioned to be discharged from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9 2022 at ten

## NOW HIRING

### MASTERACK

Masterack is a leading manufacturer of industrial truck interior designs in Social Circle with an immediate need to fill the following full-time positions:

- Machine Operators
- Paint Line Tenders
- Assemblers (Entry Level)
- Material Handlers / Forklift Drivers (Experienced)

8 hr. shifts Monday through Friday from 6:00am-2:30pm

**Compensation & Benefits:**  
Compensation ranges from **\$15.00 per hour up to \$26.00 per hour** all depending on the particular job applied for and experience level. Benefits include: 401K with an Employer Match; Health, Dental, Vision Care and Flexible Spending Account; Health Savings Account with an Employer Contribution; Paid Vacation Time; 10 Paid Holidays; Company Paid Life Insurance and Short & Long Term Disability Coverage.

To Apply, Stop By Masterack at:  
1 Waters Place, Social Circle, GA 30025  
**(470)-482-4812**

**\*\*All positions will require a pre-employment drug screening and a criminal background\*\***

**Due to Continued Growth, Masterack is Hiring for Full Time Positions**

## AUCTION

### 59.995 ACRES

- Monroe (Walton County), GA
- Located on Vine Street
- Zoned M-1 (Industrial District)
- Current Survey
- 2% Broker Co-Op Available

## ONLINE AUCTION

Bidding Begins  
Wed, Jan 25 @ 9:00 A.M.  
Bidding Ends  
Thur, Jan 26th @ 11:00 A.M.

## 800-841-9400

## HudsonMarshall.com

GAL 274

o'clock am.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400971**  
12/18

#### CITATION

**RE: ESTATE of EVELYN P. PETERS, ADULT WARD**

**JOHNNY E. PETERS, CONSERVATOR** has petitioned to be discharged from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before FEBRUARY 6 2023 at ten o'clock am.

**MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court NEWTON COUNTY, GA**

**NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400999**  
1/1

#### CITATION

**THE PETITION of AUBREY W. HARVEY** widow of **CAROLYN V. HARVEY** deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9 2023 at ten o'clock am.

**MELANIE M. BELL BY: MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK PROBATE COURT NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**NEWTON COUTNY PROBATE COURT 1132 USHER STREET -RM 148 COVINGTON GA 30014-2435**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400944**  
12/11,18,25-1/1

#### CITATION

**THE PETITION of HELEN M. ROBERTSON** widow of **WILLIAM K. ROBERTSON** deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before

See LEGALS, A7

LEGALS:

Continued from A6

JANUARY 9 2023 at ten o'clock am

MELAINE M. BELL  
BY: MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK  
PROBATE COURT  
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NEWTON COUTNY PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET -RM 148  
COVIINGTON GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #400943  
12/11,18,25-1/1

CITATION

THE PETITION of JANA TYLYN HARPER widow of GREGORY HAROLD HARPER deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9 2023 at ten o'clock am

MELAINE M. BELL  
BY: MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK  
PROBATE COURT  
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NEWTON COUTNY PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET -RM 148  
COVIINGTON GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #400942  
12/11,18,25-1/1

CITATION

THOMAS A. HILL has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of CATHY DELORES HILL deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE  
MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK  
PROBATE COURT  
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET-148  
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #400890  
12/11,18,25-1/1

CITATION

YOLANDA LOUIS BROWN has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of JOSHUA DOUGHTY deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before JANUARY 9, 2022, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE  
MARCIA WYNNE, CLERK  
PROBATE COURT  
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET-148  
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #400941  
12/11,18,25-1/1

NOTICE

JUDITH KARNES CROCKETT INMAN has petitioned for wavier of bond and/or for the grant of certain powers contained O.C.G.A 52-12-261 in regards to the estate of WILLIAM BRANNON INMAN. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before January 9, 2023

MELANIE M. BELL, JUDGE  
BY, MARCIA Wynne, Clerk  
PROBATE COURT  
NEWTON COUNTY GA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET ROOM 148  
COVINGTON GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #400893  
12/11,18,25-1/1

NOTICE

RE: PETITION of VERONICA BACOTE to Petition to Petition for Letters of Administration, Estate of DAISY TUGGLE, UPON WHICH AN ORDER FOR SERVICE WAS GRANTED BY COURT ON May 31, 2022

TO CAMILLA Lackey

THIS IS to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition of Veronica Bacote to Petition to Letters of Administration Estate of Daisy Tuggle

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. All objections must be filed by JANUARY 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

MELANIE M. BELL PROBATE JUDGE

BY: MARCIA Wynne  
CLERK OF PROBATE COURT  
1132 USHER STREET COVINGTON,

GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #400964  
12/11,18,25,-1/1

Corporations  
NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporation THE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY HEALTH INC have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 8301 LEAFSTONE DR, COVINGTON GA 30014 and its initial registered agent at such address is HOWARD F. CAMPBELL

PUBLIC NOTICE #500025  
1/1,8

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE IS given that articles of incorporation that will incorporation TOGETHER REACHING EVERYONE FOUNDATION, INC have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 155 TREVERS LAKE DR, COVINGTON GA 30016 and its initial registered agent at such address is KEVIN DUKES

PUBLIC NOTICE #500024  
1/1,8

Debtors Creditors

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of JANE HOUSER METZLER late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to:

NAME OF Executor:  
FRED EUGENE METZLER, JR  
EXECUTOR ADDRESS:

FRED EUGENE METZLER, JR  
95 PARR FARM DRIVE  
COVINGTON, GA 30016

THIS 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2022

FRED EUGENE METZLER  
C/O SHANNON D. Sneed Attorney at Law

PUBLIC NOTICE #400967  
12/11,18,25-1/1

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of JOHN DAVID PATTILLO, late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to:

NAME OF Executor:  
CRYSTAL ROSE BOURGEOIS  
EXECUTOR ADDRESS:

CRYSTAL ROSE BOURGEOIS  
447 LACY ROAD  
CANTON, GA 30115

THIS 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2022

CRYSTAL ROSE BOURGEOIS  
C/O SHANNON D. Sneed Attorney at Law

PUBLIC NOTICE #400966  
12/11,18,25-1/1

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of MARTHA EUGENIA LLOYD late of Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to:  
NAME OF Executor:  
CYNTHIA J. ANDERSON  
EXECUTOR ADDRESS:

CYNTHIA J. ANDERSON  
95 MILLER ROAD  
COVINGTON

THIS 9TH day of DECEMBER, 2022

CYNTHIA J. ANDERSON  
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARTHA EUGENIA LLOYD

PUBLIC NOTICE #400980  
12/18,25-1/1,8

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF  
NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF  
GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY B. TURNER DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2022-ES-600

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY  
AT A regular term of probate court, the last will and testament dated May 12, 2014

N/A, of the above-named decedent, who was domiciled in this county at the time of his or her death or was domiciled in another state but owned property in this county at the time of his or her death, was legally proven in solemn form to be the DECEDENT'S WILL and was admitted to record by order, and it was further ordered that Kelly A. Williams and Jeffrey Parks Turner named as executor(s) in said Will, be

ALLOWED to qualify, and that upon so doing, letters testamentary be issued to such executor(s). THEREFORE, THE executor(s), having taken the oath of office and complied with all necessary prerequisites of the law, is/are legally authorized to discharge all the duties and exercise all powers of executor(s) under the Will of said decedent, according to the Decedent's Will and the law.  
GIVEN UNDER my hand and official seal, the 19th day of December, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE #500008  
12/25-1/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of LOTTIE MAE OLSON, deceased, a resident of Newton County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie \_\_\_ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt

- CLUES DOWN
1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm

according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 6TH day of December, 2022

SHIRLEY YATES Executrix of the ESTATE OF Lottie Mae Olson

C/O MICHELLE Chaudhuri, Esq. Talley & Associates, P.C.  
1892 GA Hwy 138, SE  
CONVERS, GA 30013

PUBLIC NOTICE #400956  
12/11,18

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of Wendell Eugene Mullen, Sr. LATE OF Newton County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.

THIS 25TDAY of DECEMBER 2022

CATHERINE B. Mullena, Administrator, of the Estate of WENDELL EUGENE Mullen, Sr., Deceased

MICHAEL T. Byrne, Attorney at Law  
2138 East Main Street Snellville, GA 30078  
PHONE NO. 7 7 0 - 9 7 9 - 4300

PUBLIC NOTICE #500011  
12/25-1/1,8,15

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of BRIANNA MEGAN LUTI 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 8TH day of DECEMBER 2022

JAMES LOUIS LUTI  
401 WHITE STREET  
MANSFIELD, GA 30055

PUBLIC NOTICE #400989  
12/18,25-1/1,8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of ENNIS HOKE LEE SR deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.

THIS THE 22ND day of DECEMBER 2022

JAMES IVEY, JR  
683 SANDY CREEK RD  
FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30314

PUBLIC NOTICE #500031  
1/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of JAMES ARNOLD RUARK 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 =13TH day of DECEMBER

2022  
DANA E. BURTON  
41 DUKES ROAD  
MANSFIELD, GA 30055

PUBLIC NOTICE #400990  
12/18,25-1/1,8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the estate of Jane Hicks Milam, deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to the law.

THIS THE 8th day of DECEMBER 2022

TERRY HULL HICKS  
1234 BLUE SPRINGS DR.  
LOGANVILLE, GA 30052

PUBLIC NOTICE #400973  
12/18,25-1/1,8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of KATHERINE GOGGINS deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.

THIS THE 1ST day of DECEMBER 2022

MURIEL MINTER  
10 ROBERTS LANE  
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #400959  
12/11,18,25-1/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of KEITH LAWAN CHAMBERS 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 DECEMBER 2022

LATANDRIA CHAMBERS  
609 N CROSSING WAY  
DEKALB GA 30033

PUBLIC NOTICE #500027  
1/1,8,15,22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of ROBERT B. BISHOP deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.

THIS THE 30TH day of NOVEMBER 2022

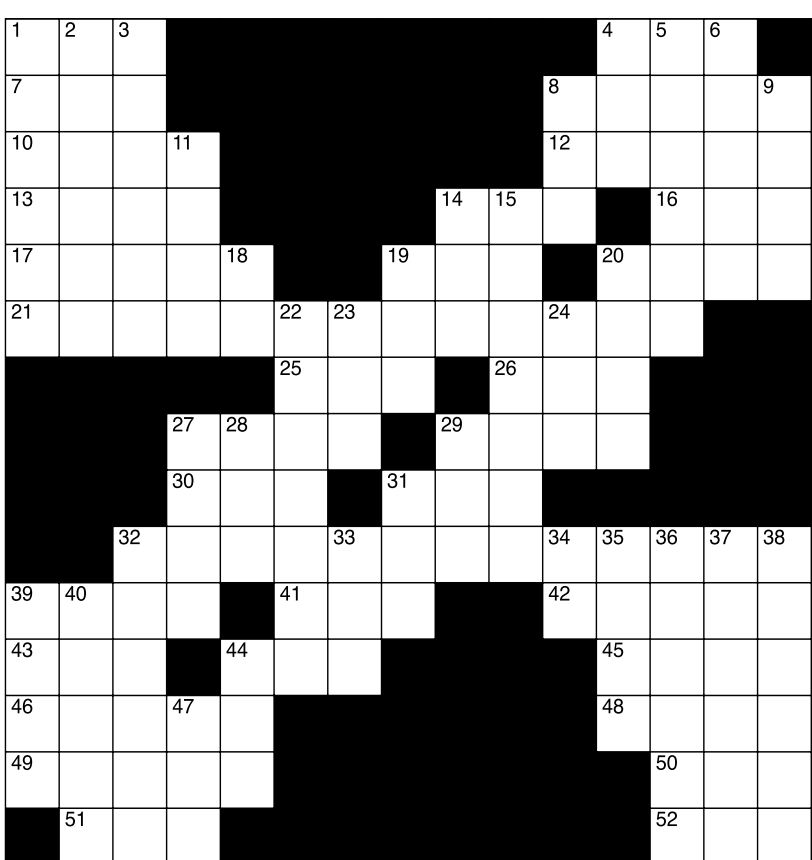
CARL BISHOP  
2325 OAK HILL RD  
COVINGTON GA 3016

PUBLIC NOTICE #400958  
12/11,18,25-1/1

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of THURMAN D. STAPP, SR deceased, late of Newton County, Georgia. You are required to render your demands and/or make payments to the undersigned estate representative according to law.

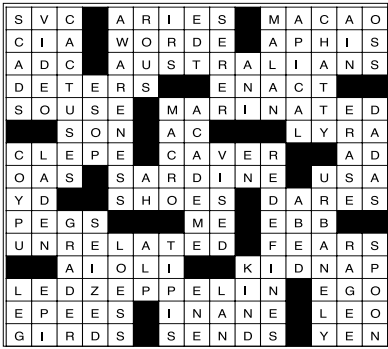
THIS THE 8TH day of DECEMBER



15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader

37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



payment.  
THIS NOVEMBER 30, 2022.

HURT & ASSOCIATES

BY: JAMES W. Hurt, Attorney for ESTATE OF BRENDA HALL

PUBLIC NOTICE #400948  
12/11,15,18-1/1

Divorces

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

MELONIE J. MURILLO PLAINTIFF

VS

OSCAR ALBERTO DAVILA MURILLO DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION  
FILE NO. 2022-CV-2518-2

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: OSCAR ALBERTO DAVILA MURILLO, current whereabouts unknown

YOU ARE hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Divorce was filed  
AGAINST YOU in the Newton County Superior Court in the matter of: Melonie J. Murillo vs Oscar Alberto Davila Murillo, Civil Action File No. 2022-CV-2518-2. An order for service upon you of the Summons and Complaint for Divorce was entered by Newton COUNTY SUPERIOR Court on December 1, 2022 and filed on December 2, 2022 authorizing service by publication as allowed by law. You are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Plaintiffs attorney, Sharon L. Barksdale, whose address is P. O. Box 1215, Covington, GA 30015, an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication.

THIS 5TH day of December, 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE #400981  
12/18,25-1/1,8

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

BREANNA MASON PLAINTIFF, V  
RAKEEM MASON DEFENDANT,

ACTION NO. 2022-SU-CV-1969-1

NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO RAKEEM MASON  
685 BARSHAY DR  
COVINGTON GA 30016

BY NOTICE for Publication dated the 1ST day of DECEMBER 2022 you are hereby notified that on the 09/19/2022 the Plaintiff, BREANNA MASON filed suit against you for COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE. You are required to file an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Notice for Publication with the clerk of Superior Court of the Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented). Witness the Honorable JEFFERY L. FOSTER Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County. THIS, THE 2ND day of DECEMBER 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE #400957  
12/11,18,25-1/1

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF

See LEGALS, A8

# LEGALS:

Continued from A7

**GEORGIA**  
**CONROY P. GRANDISON**  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
**V**  
**SENOVIA S. GRANDISON**  
**DEFENDANT,**  
  
**ACTION NO.**  
**2022-CV-2194-2**  
  
**NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE**  
**BY PUBLICATION**  
  
**TO SENOVIA S. GRANDISON**

**BY NOTICE** for Publication dated the 2ND day of DECEMBER 2022 you are hereby notified that on the 10/13/2022 the Plaintiff, CONROY P. GRANDISON filed suit against you for COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE You are required to file an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Notice for Publication with the clerk of Superior Court of the Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented). Witness the Honorable JOHN M. OTT Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County.  
**THIS, THE 5TH day of DECEMBER 2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400997**  
**12/25-1/1,8,15**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**  
  
**KATIE ELIZABETH MARTIN**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
  
**VS.**  
  
**WESLEY MATTHEW MARTIN**  
**DEFENDANT**  
  
**TO: WESLEY Matthew Martin**  
**2655 H.D. Atha Road**  
**MONROE, GEORGIA 30655**

**NOTICE**  
  
**BY ORDER** of the court for service by publication dated DECEMBER 7, 2022 you are hereby notified that on July 19, 2022, KATIE ELIZABETH MARTIN filed suit against you for divorce. You are required to file with the clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve upon plaintiffs attorney, MARCY A. HANKS, HANKS, BALLARD & BARTH, LLC, 302 NORTH BROAD STREET, P.O. BOX 310, MONROE GEORGIA 30655 an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of DECEMBER 7, 2022

**WITNESS, THE** Honorable W. Kendall Wynne, Jr. Judge, of the Superior Court of Newton County.

**THIS 9TH day of December 2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500009**  
**12/25-1/1,8,15**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**  
  
**OSWALD NELSON**  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
**V**  
**MERLENE NELSON**  
**DEFENDANT,**  
  
**ACTION NO.**  
**2022-CV-2291-2**  
  
**NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE**  
**BY PUBLICATION**  
  
**TO MERLENE NELSON**  
**1720 ELIZABETH COURT**  
**CONYERS GA 30094**

**BY NOTICE** for Publication dated the 14TH day of DECEMBER 2022 you are hereby notified that on the 11/01/22 the Plaintiff, OSWALD NELSON filed suit against you for COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE You are required to file an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Notice for Publication with the clerk of Superior Court of the Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented). Witness the Honorable JOHN M. OTT Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County.  
**THIS, THE 15TH day of DECEMBER 2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500016**  
**12/25-1/1,8,15**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF**  
**GEORGIA**  
  
**SUZETTE JOHNSON HARRIS**  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
**V**  
**OWEN BERNARD COUSINS**  
**DEFENDANT,**  
  
**ACTION NO.**  
**2022-CV-1446-2**  
  
**NOTICE OF SUMMONS- SERVICE**  
**BY PUBLICATION**  
  
**TO OWEN BERNARD COUSINS**  
**270 FAIRVIEW CHASE**  
**COVINGTON GA 30016**

**BY NOTICE** for Publication dated the 6TH day of DECEMBER 2022 you are hereby notified that on the 07/13/2022 the Plaintiff, SUZETTE JOHNSON HARRIS filed suit against you for COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE You are required to file an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Notice for Publication with the clerk of Superior Court of the Newton County and to serve a copy of the answer upon the plaintiff (if pro se) or upon the plaintiff's attorney (if represented). Witness the Honorable JOHN M. OTT Judge of the Superior Court of Newton County.  
**THIS, THE 7TH day of DECEMBER 2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400983**  
**12/1825-1/1,8**

**Foreclosures**  
  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF NEWTON**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
  
**BECAUSE OF** a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by **Latesa Moore-Jones** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Everest Financial, Inc. D/B/A Supreme Lending dated September 13, 2019,

and recorded in Deed Book 3895, Page 385, as last modified in Deed Book 4438, Page 493, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$196,377.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, February 7, 2023, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:  
**ALL THAT** tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 124 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 187, Trelawney Subdivision, Unit One, per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 40, Page 264, Newton County Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description.  
**SAID PROPERTY** is known as **115 Trelawney Pl, Covington, GA 30016**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.  
**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.  
**THE PROCEEDS** of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.  
**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 secured creditor.  
**THE PROPERTY** is or may be in the possession of Latesa Moore-Jones, a/k/a Latesa Moore a/k/a Latesa Jones, successor in interest or tenant(s).  
**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC** as Attorney-in-Fact for Latesa Moore-Jones  
**FILE NO. 22-079632**  
**LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP\***  
**ATTORNEYS AND Counselors at Law**  
**211 PERIMETER** Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 300  
**ATLANTA, GA 30346(770) 220-2535/CF REFERENCE NITIALS\*\*\***  
**HTTPS://WWW.LOGS.COM/**  
**\*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400946**  
**12/18,25-1/1,8,15,22,29**  
  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF NEWTON**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
  
**BECAUSE OF** a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by **Marcia E White, Rhonda L Kanpp and Kenneth W Kanpp** to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. dated March 5, 2007, and recorded in Deed Book 2398, Page 561, and pursuant to Affidavit recorded in Deed Book 3323, Page 557, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Federal National Mortgage Association AKA Fannie Mae, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$157,500.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, February 7, 2023, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:  
**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 166, OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 3 OF THAT PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED FINAL PLAT FOR COUNTRY VIEW SUBDIVISION UNIT III, DATED APRIL 14, 1988, PREPARED BY AND CERTIFIED BY ROBERT L. BUHLER, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1403. SAID PLAT BEING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 22, PAGE 157, NEWTON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING SAME HEREIN AND MAKING IT A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE THERETO, SAID LOT CONTAINS 0.939 ACRES.**  
**SAID PROPERTY** is known as **401 Jack Neely Road, Covington, GA 30016**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.  
**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.  
**THE PROCEEDS** of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.  
**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 secured creditor.  
**THE PROPERTY** is or may be in the possession of Marcia E White and The Representative of the Estate of Marcia E White; Rhonda L Knapp and Kenneth E Knapp, successor in interest or tenant(s).  
**US BANK** Trust National Association,

Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust as Attorney-in-Fact for Marcia E White, Rhonda L Kanpp and Kenneth W Kanpp  
**FILE NO. 22-079094**  
**LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP\***  
**ATTORNEYS AND Counselors at Law**  
**211 PERIMETER** Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 300  
**ATLANTA, GA 30346 (770) 220-2535/GR**  
**HTTPS://WWW.LOGS.COM/**  
**\*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400996**  
**12/18,25-1/1,8,15,22,29**  
  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF NEWTON**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
  
**BECAUSE OF** a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by **Yormica L. Truitt** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc as nominee for Colonial Bank, its Successors and assigns dated January 15, 2009, and recorded in Deed Book 2685, Page 183, as last modified in Deed Book 3792, Page 39, Newton County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Wells Fargo Bank NA, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$216,997.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, February 7, 2023, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:  
**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 168 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 38, HINTON CHASE SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 46, PAGES 167-183, NEWTON COUNTY RECORDS, SAID PLAT BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO.**  
**SAID PROPERTY** is known as **410 Hinton Chase Parkway, Covington, GA 30016**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.  
**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.  
**THE PROCEEDS** of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.  
**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 secured creditor.  
**THE PROPERTY** is or may be in the possession of Yormica L. Truitt, successor in interest or tenant(s).  
**WELLS FARGO Bank, N.A.** as Attorney-in-Fact for Yormica L Truitt  
**FILE NO. 18-071144**  
**LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP\***  
**ATTORNEYS AND Counselors at Law**  
**211 PERIMETER** Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 300  
**ATLANTA, GA 30346 (770) 220-2535/CL**  
**HTTPS://WWW.LOGS.COM/**  
**\*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400949**  
**12/25-1/1,8,15,22,29**  
  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**  
  
**UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed executed by **Marcia Phillips**, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Pine State Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, said security instrument being recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia on July 21, 2006 2238 at Page 419 - 425 as Instrument Number 014317, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$62,580.00, with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2023, the following described property:  
**ALL THAT** tract or parcel of land lying and being in land lot 13 of the 8th District, Newton County, Georgia, being lot 13 of Weatherford Subdivision, as per plat thereof recorded in plat book 40, page 166-173, Newton County, Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description..  
**THE DEBT** secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).  
**PLANET HOME** Lending, LLC can be contacted at 1-866-882-8187 or by writing to 321 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450-8301, to discuss possible alternatives to foreclosure.  
**SAID PROPERTY** will be sold subject to any outstanding ad

valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.  
**TO THE** best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Marcia Phillips or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **25 Havenwood CT, Covington, GA 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.  
**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.** ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
**SECOND START, LLC**, the current lender as attorney in fact for Marcia Phillips  
**HALLIDAY, WATKINS & Mann, P.C.**  
**244 INVERNESS** Center Drive  
**SUITE 200**  
**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242**  
**PHONE: (801) 355-2886**  
**FAX: (801) 328-9714**  
**WWW.HWMLAWFIRM.COM**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400908**  
**12/4,11,18,25-1/1**  
  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY**  
  
**UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Yolanda Yvette Townsend** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for FBC Mortgage, LLC., its successors and assigns, dated March 30, 2021, recorded in Deed Book 4177, Page 279, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 4451, Page 639, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$253,228.00), 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 February, 2023, 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 pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 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), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned.  
**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC** 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: Nationstar Mortgage LLC, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, (888) 480-2432.  
**NOTE, HOWEVER**, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.  
**TO THE** best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Yolanda Yvette Townsend or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **80 Forray Dr, Covington, Georgia 30016.** Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.  
**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.  
**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC AS ATTORNEY IN FACT FOR YOLANDA YVETTE Townsend**  
**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 122 of the 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 26 of Streamwood Manor Subdivision, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 53, Pages 68-79, as revised in Plat Book 53, Pages 263-274, Newton County, Georgia Records, which recorded plat is incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this description.  
**MR/CA 2/7/23**  
**OUR FILE NO.** 22-09518GA - FT2  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400975**  
**12/18,25-1/1,8,15,22,29**  
  
**NOTICE OF Sale Under Power.**  
**State of Georgia, County of NEWTON.**  
  
**UNDER AND** by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by **APRIL MCCULLOUGH** to **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.**, dated 09/11/2009, and Recorded on 09/18/2009 as

Book No. 2756 and Page No. 456 475, NEWTON County, Georgia records, as last assigned to **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.** (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$165,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the NEWTON County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2023, the following described property: **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 129, OF THE 9TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 99, OF HANLEY MILL PHASE ONE, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 44, PAGE 147 151, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, SAID PLAT BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY THIS REFERENCE.** The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.** holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP**, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.** (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP** may be contacted at: **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP**, 7105 CORPORATE DRIVE, PLANO, TX 75024, 800 669 6650. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **25 HANLEY MILL DR, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30016** is/are: **APRIL MCCULLOUGH** or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 13 172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. **BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.** as Attorney in Fact for **APRIL MCCULLOUGH.** **THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT.** ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000009398223 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400917**  
**12/11,18,25-1/1**  
  
**Name Changes**  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
  
**IN RE** the Name Change of:  
**DEBORAH MARIE THORNHILL**  
**PETITIONER,**  
  
**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2022-CV-2567-2**  
  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO**  
**CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**  
  
**NOTICE IS** hereby given that **DEBORAH MARIE THORNHILL** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on DECEMBER 2, 2022 to change the name from **DEBORAH MARIE THORNHILL** to **PENNY BEMBURY** Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition  
  
**THIS 2ND day of DECMEBER 2022**  
  
**DEBORAH MARIE THORNHILL**  
**431 KIRKLAND RD**  
**COVINGTON GA 30016**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400984**  
**12/18,25-1/1,8**  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
  
**IN RE** the Name Change of:  
**DILAN LOPEZ**  
**PETITIONER,**  
  
**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2022-CV-2514-2**  
  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO**  
**CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**  
  
**NOTICE IS** hereby given that **DILAN LOPEZ** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on November 29th, 2022 to change the name from **DIALN LOPEZ** to **DILAN OPORTO** Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or

affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition  
  
**THIS 11TH day of NOVEMBER, 2022**  
  
**DILAN LOPEZ**  
**205 OAK HILL CIR**  
**COVINGTON GA 30016**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #400965**  
**12/11,18,25-1/1**  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
  
**IN RE** the Name Change of:  
**JENNIFER YVONNE ROSA**  
**PETITIONER,**  
  
**CIVIL ACTION NUMBER**  
**2022-CV-2423-4**  
  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO**  
**CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**  
  
**NOTICE IS** hereby given that **JENNIFER YVONNE ROSA** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on DECEMBER 20TH 2022 to change the name from **JENNIFER YVONNE ROSA** to **JENNIFER YVONNE ROSA LEÓN** Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition  
  
**THIS 20THDAY of DECEMBER, 2022**  
  
**JENNIFER ROSA**  
**ORCHARD LN**  
**COVINGTON GA 30014**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #500012**  
**12/25-1/1,8,15**  
  
**Public Hearings**  
  
**MODIFICATION TO CONDITIONS**  
**OF ZONING**  
**GEORGIA, NEWTON County**  
  
**A PETITION (MOD22-000002)** HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR A MODIFICATION TO THE CONDITIONS OF ZONING FOR THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: **KATHRYN DALE CHESNUT** **WHOSE SUBJECT PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION** is 2486 Hwy 81, BEING ON TAX MAP 28A PARCEL 1. **APPLICANT IS REQUESTING TO MODIFY THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF ZONING BY SUBSTITUTING THE SITE PLAN FOR CONDITION 2A WHICH REFERENCES THE PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED OPERATION OF A LANDSCAPE BUSINESS; AND TO REMOVE CONDITION 3D WHICH LIMITS THE HOURS OF OPERATION FROM 7:00AM THROUGH 10:00PM; AND CONDITION 3E WHICH REQUIRES THE MAINTENANCE OF A 75 FT TREE LINE ALONG SHEPHERD ROAD.** **A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HEARD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE: 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023 AT 7:30 PM** **THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 2ND FLOOR BOARDROOM. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING.**  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #500032**  
**1/1**  
  
**Public Notice**  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
  
**NEYONDA CROWTHER**  
  
**PLAINTIFF,**  
  
**V.**  
  
**ARLENE HEARD** and  
  
**WEISSMAN P.C.**  
  
**Defendant.**  
  
**CIVIL ACTION FILE N**  
**SUCV2022000001**  
  
**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
  
**TO:**  
**A. ARLENE Heard;**  
**YOU ARE** hereby notified that the above-styled complaint regarding property located at 305 Timberlake Terrace, Newton County, Georgia, was filed against you in the Superior Court of Newton County on January 3, 2022 and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the Court on May 19, 2022, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon John Ayoub, Attorney at Law, whose address is 675 Seminole Ave., Suite 301, Atlanta, GA 30307 an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the filing date of the Order for Service by Publication.  
  
**WITNESS, THE** Honorable Jeffrey Foster, Judge of Newton County Superior Court.  
**THIS THE 20th day of May, 2022.**  
  
**CLERK OF** Superior Court  
  
**PUBLIC NOTICE #500017**  
**1/1,8,15,22**  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF**  
**NEWTON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
  
**TRAVIS MOSS;**  
**PETITIONER,**  
**V.**  
  
**DIV TAX Venture II, LLC OR ITS UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS OR SHAREHOLDERS; OCCUPANT OF 0 SYCAMORE**  
  
**See LEGALS, A9**

FACE:

Continued from A5

facility groundbreaking ceremony, Newton County Chairman Marcello Banes dropped the cliffhanger that “there were more similarly exciting announcements to come.”

A few weeks later, that came with the announce-

ment of Archer Aviation Inc., a Silicon Valley-based aerospace company, planning to begin construction next in December on a 500,000-square-foot complex near the Covington Municipal Airport that promises to create 1,000

jobs for the area.

Back in January, the state budgeted \$2 million from the Georgia Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II) to build a CDL driving range and facilities in Newton County for transportation training. Construc-

tion for that project is set to begin in spring 2023, and of course there’s Rivian.

While many are excited about the growth, jobs and progress that these industrial additions promise to bring, a sizable swath of the county isn’t as thrilled.

What it likely means is months – and perhaps years – of candid and passionate debate and discussion among county residents as to what path of inevitable growth is best for Newton County.

7

County’s insurance carrier settles discrimination claims

Two members of the Newton County Board of Commissioners said they were ready to testify in court about being not guilty of discriminating against two former appointed officials.

This came despite the county’s insurance carrier making a “business decision” to settle the claims for more than \$1 million by the former county

attorney and former county manager — who are white — against three Black commissioners, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson and Demond Mason. The commissioners objected and said they were never given chances to tell their sides of the story.

The county’s liability insurer, Charter Oak Fire Insurance Co., decided to pay the settle-

ments and the county admits no liability in connection with the claims, according to the agreements The Covington News received through an open records request.

Also, the former officials, Lloyd Kerr and Megan Martin, agreed not to take part in any class action lawsuits and not seek employment again with the county government

as part of settlements of their discrimination and breach of contract claims.

Copies of the signed agreements showed Kerr, the former county manager, was awarded \$575,000 and Martin, the former county attorney, was awarded \$500,000 in the settlements reached Aug. 10 and Aug. 11.

Both had filed ante litem no-

tices with the Newton County government through federal court in January. An ante litem notice detailing specific claims against a government agency is required to be sent to the agency before a lawsuit is filed.

The claims were, perhaps, a factor in Traveler’s Insurance’s decision to not renew coverage with the BOC.

8

Airplane crash near General Mills plant kills all aboard

Soon after takeoff from Covington Municipal Airport, an airplane piloted by a trainee crashed into parked tractor-trailers outside General Mills plant in Covington in late April, killing both aboard but no one on the ground.

Covington Police Capt. Ken Malcom said at the time that there were two passengers aboard the Cessna 340 aircraft, calling it a “horribly tragic situation.”

National Transportation Safety Board spokesperson Peter Knudson confirmed the plane’s owner was

receiving flight instruction on “touch-and-go landings” when the incident occurred.

The incident was reported around 6:45 p.m. after

See AIRPLANE, A10

LEGALS:

Continued from A8

**TRAIL, NEWTON COUNTY TAX PARCEL ID 0043B-00000-062-000; RESPONDENTS.**

**CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV2022000101**

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

**TO:** **A. OCCUPANT**  
**OF 0 SYCAMORE TRAIL,**  
**(COVINGTON GA 30014) NEWTON**  
**COUNTY TAX PARCEL ID 0043B-**  
**000000-062-000;**  
**B. D I V**  
**TAX VENTURE II, LLC OR ITS**  
**UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS,**  
**ASSIGNS OR SHAREHOLDERS**  
(Reg. Agt. John Ayoub 675 Seminole Ave, Ste 301, Atlanta, GA, 30361 - Pres / CEO / Sec / Authorized Service Agent 125 High St c/o The Davis Companies, Boston, MA 02110);

**YOU ARE** hereby notified that the above styled action, seeking to remove clouds on the Petitioner’s title to certain real property caused by the equities of redemption following a tax sale, as specifically provided by O.C.G.A. § 23-3-44, related to property located at 0 SYCAMORE TRAIL, TAX PARCEL ID 0043B-00000-062-000 was filed against you in the Superior Court of Newton County on the 18TH day of January, 2022, and that by reason of an Order for Service of Summons by Publication entered by the Court on the 28th day of November, 2022, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon John Coleman, Attorney at Law, whose address is 675 Seminole Ave. NE, Suite 302, Atlanta, GA 30307 an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the Order for Publication.

**WITNESS, THE** Honorable Jeffery L. Foster, Judge of said Court.

**THIS THE** 28th day of November, 2022.

**LINDA D. Hays,**  
**CLERK OF Superior Court, Newton**  
**County**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400914**  
**12/11,18,25-1/1**

**Public Sales Auctions**

**PUBLIC SALE / Auction**  
**NOTICE IS** hereby given that Dixie Self Storage located at 1447 Access Road, **COVINGTON GA. 30014.** The

Undersigned intend to sell household goods and **PERSONAL PROPERTY** to enforce imposed on said property pursuant to the **GEORGIA SELF Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215**  
**THE UNDERSIGNED** will sell at Public Sale to the highest bidder on:  
**DATE:1/10/2023** **TIME**  
**11: AM**  
**UNIT # 3044**  
**NAME: TEVIS Patrick Harris**

**SALE IS** subject to cancellation in the event of settlement.  
**DIXIE SELF Storage**  
**770-787-3039**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500003**  
**12/25-1/1**

**EXTRA SPACE** Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:  
**6177 JACKSON Hwy Covington, GA 30014 on 1/16/2023 @ 11:00am**

**JESSICA WADE**  
**1100**  
**MATTRESS, BOX Spring, Bed**  
**Frame, Couch, Love Seat, TV, Toys,**  
**Vacuum Cleaner, Fan, Lawn Mower,**  
**Wall Art, Pack N' Play, Bags, Boxes,**  
**Totes**

**CARLOS MORELAND**  
**1118**  
**DRUMS AND Cymbal, Duffie**  
**Bags, Igloo Cooler, Shoe Boxes,**  
**Electronics, Boxes, Totes**

**JESSICA CALLENDER**  
**A37**  
**DRESSER, TABLE, TVs, Power**  
**Tools, Lawn Mower, Planter Pots,**  
**Carpet Cleaner, Night Stand,**  
**Basketball Goal, Weights, Home**  
**Decor, Boxes, Totes**

**TIMOTHY WILSON**  
**B44**  
**CHAIRS, COWBOY Boots, Kitchen**  
**Hutch, Game Table, Rug, Boxes,**  
**Totes**

**MONIQUE MAHONEY**  
**E05**  
**MATTRESSES, COUCH, Chair, TV,**  
**Clothes, Toys, Grill, Weight Bench,**  
**Luggage, Power Wheel, Tables,**  
**Patio Umbrella, Car Battery, Printer,**

Bags, Boxes

**TRAYE SCOTT**  
**K12**  
**BED, MATTRESS, Washer and**  
**Dryer, TVs, Power Tools, Luggage,**  
**Step Ladder, Wall Art, Bags, Boxes**

**LOLITHIA JEFF**  
**K18**  
**ARMOIRE, CHAIR, Mattress,**  
**Tables, Dryer, Toys, A/C, Vases,**  
**Brake Pads, Boxes**

**VANETTE MARTINEZ**  
**K25**  
**ARMOIRE, CHAIRS, Mattress,**  
**Box Spring, TVs, Table, Luggage,**  
**Fireplace Poker Set, Chest, Mirror,**  
**Home Decor, Bags, Boxes**

**THE AUCTION** will be listed and advertised on [www. storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500007**

**01/1,8**

**NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property:**

**NOTICE IS** hereby given that Covington Stor-It, located at 8165 Washing St SW, **COVINGTON, GA 30014;** intends to sell the personal property

**ACCORDING TO** the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner’s lien. All bids will be accepted online through [www. storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). The auction will end on or after 28 December 2022, 10AM. Covington Stor-It reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash or money order only.

**KENYUNTA DAVIS,** 073, appears to contain exercise equipment, misc items, & tire.

**KIMBERLY REED,** 169, appears to contain dressers, bed frame, mattresses, boxes spring, boxes, suitcase, table, & chairs.

**JONATHON LINDSEY,** 192D, appears to contain boxes, bags, toys, baskets, & mirror set.

**MAURICE FORD,** 199, appears to contain bike, plastic containers, end table, misc items, boxes, speakers, chair, suitcases, baby furniture, & ladder.

**KEYSA RUSSELL,** 245, appears

to contain boxes, plastic containers, shoe boxes, clothing, cooler, & bike. **TAKESHA SMITH,** 262, appears to contain rug, mattress, table, boxes, coffer maker, & chair. **GALE COLE,** 324, appears to contain plastic containers, fan, & clothes. **COURTNEY SMITH,** 342, appears to contain dressers, bed frame, bedroom set, mattress, & box spring. **MSXYTIA BROWN,** 381, appears to contain bike, toys, and baby bed. **PURCHASE MUST** be paid for on the day of the auction with cash and valid ID at the location of the unit. All items are sold as is and must be removed from the property within 48 hours, unless otherwise approved by the Manager, after the time of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of a settlement between the owner and the obligated party.

**TONEKIA KENDALL** General Manager Covington Stor-It **8165 WASHINGTON St. S.W. COVINGTON, GA 30014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE #400975**  
**12/25-1/1**

**NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property:** Notice is hereby given that Budget Self Storage, located at 6217 Hwy 278 NE, Covington, GA 30014; intends to sell the personal property according to the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner’s lien. **ALL BIDS** will be accepted online throu

[gh www. storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). The auction will end on or after 17 January 2023, 1 PM. Budget Self Storage reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash or money order only. **MICHAEL WILLIAMS,** G50, appears to contain sofa, mattress, TV, dresser, bags, plastic bins, & clothing.

**CONSEULLO COOPER,** G38, appears to contain boxes, clothes, baskets, bike, blankets, & totes.

**LINDSEY LANDERS,** F08, appears to contain TV, box spring, mattress, bed frame, lamps, kitchenware, clothing, misc. items, baby furniture, artwork, & toys.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500018**  
**1/1,8**

**NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property:** Notice is hereby given that Budget Self Storage, located at

6217 Hwy 278 NE, Covington, GA 30014; intends to sell the personal property according to the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner’s lien. **ALL BIDS** will be accepted online th [rough www. storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). The auction will end on or after 16 January 2023, 1 PM. Budget Self Storage reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash or money order only.

**DONNA DODSON,** F11, appears to contain mattress, boxes, home decor, dressers, artwork, weed eater, microwave, lamps, & chairs.

**LEE ANNE** Tant, G06, appears to contain boxes, bins, fans, TVs, tent, & artwork.

**AMIE REBECCA** McLean, G30, appears to contain stove, mop bucket, tool, & bed frame.

**CECILIA INGRAM,** H06, appears to contain mattresses, dressers, dryer, TVs, bins, nightstand, clothing, luggage, skillet, air mattress, chairs, & boxes.

**CONSEULLO COOPER,** G39, appears to contain deep freezer, TVs, boxes, mattresses, microwave, box springs, shoes, & picture frames.

**PUBLIC NOTICE #500019**  
**1/1,8**

**NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property:** Notice is hereby given that Covington Stor-it, located at 8165 Washington St SW, Covington, GA 30014; intends to sell the personal property according to the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner’s lien. All bids will be accepted online through [www. storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). The auction will end on or after 10 January 2022, 10AM. Covington Stor-it reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash only.

**KEYSA RUSSELL,** Unit 245 appears to contain; box, plastic containers, shoe boxes, clothing, cooler, bike.

**MSXYTIA BROWN,** Unit 381 appears to contain; bike, toys, & baby bed.

**KENYUNTA DAVIS,** Unit 073 appears to contain; weight bench, one tree, and weight bar.

**MAURICE FORD,** Unit 199 appears to contain; bike, high chair, ladder, play pin, luggage, plastic container, end table, & sneaker boxes.

**KIMBERLY REED,** Unit 168 appears to contain; dressers, bed frame, mattress, box spring, boxes,



Happy New Year 2023

From the Covington News Family

The Covington News will be closed  
Monday, January 2nd

The Covington News

# AIRPLANE:

Continued from A9

the plane took off from Covington Municipal Airport in a northeast direction and crashed about a half-mile away in an isolated area where tractor-trailers were stored on the General Mills grounds, Malcom said.

He said the plane hit some tractor-trailers on the ground about 100 yards east of the Harland Drive entrance to the plant near Industrial Boulevard in northeast Covington. Anyone aboard the plane died after it burst into flames on impact, Malcom said.

Two Gwinnett County residents have been identified as

the victims in an April 21 fatal airplane crash in northeast Covington that occurred the day after they picked up the plane in Texas.

Later, it was determined that Sergio Gill, 45, of Snellville — a private pilot and flight instructor — and student pilot Edward Rodriguez, 33, of Lawrenceville, died in the incident, Covington Police reported.

Rodriguez was identified from dental records, while GBI investigators identified Gill from DNA, a Covington Police Department spokesman said.

No one on the ground was injured and it occurred in a fenced area that was roughly 300 yards from General Mills' production plant which operates around the clock, police officials said. General Mills spokesperson Mollie Wulff said no employees were harmed in the crash.

FAA records show the Cessna 340 fixed-wing, multi-engine aircraft was manufactured in 1973 and certified as airworthy in 1985. It was owned by Nixon Enterprises Inc. of Portales, New Mexico.



Tom Spigolon | The News

Firefighters battle flames from the April 21 plane crash into parked tractor-trailers near the General Mills plant in Covington.

## 9 Board OKs using \$1.3M from ESPLOST to install turf

For the first time since 2019, Homer Sharp Stadium is getting a facelift beginning in December 2022. During a Newton County School System's Board of Education on Tuesday, board members voted 4-1 in approval of artificial turf being installed for Sharp Field.

The vote approved a contract for Sourcewell to do the job with Sports Turf being in the company providing the actual playing surface to be installed.

Approving turf instal-

lation comes less than a month after the board's Oct. 25 meeting in which board members approved the purchase of LED lights for the stadium.

School Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey said she was thrilled with the board's approval of such renovations.

"We are incredibly excited that Sharp Stadium will be upgraded with turf and new stadium lights," Fuhrey said. "Both items have been on our wish list for awhile."

The turf installation comes with a \$1.3 million price tag. The price includes all tools, equipment and labor needed to complete the job. Field goal posts, soccer goals, play clock and all maintenance are also accounted for.

Fuhrey credited the ESPLOST as a proponent to make Sharp renovations possible.

"The ESPLOST penny is extraordinarily important to our school system and community; it helps to remove the tax burden for

capital projects from our property owners by distributing the expense to anyone who makes a purchase in Newton County," Fuhrey said. "We remain grateful to those who continue to support projects like these by voting to support E-SPLOST."

Though ESPLOST will ultimately pay for the renovations, the initial funding source will be from the school system's General Fund budget after the school board approved it Aug. 9, 2022.

According to Barr, installation of turf was to begin in December and be completed in April 2023.

Concerning the LED lights, that project will start in January 2023 and Barr said it "will take a few weeks to complete."

Barr believes the lights will help with the entire facility, which has a capacity for 4,100 people.

"The new LED lights will provide better lighting for the playing surface and surrounding area," Barr said.

## 10 Ott retires, Hicks departs, governments hire new managers

Two longtime area influencers moved on from their posts this year, and the Covington and county manager positions also saw change.

Dean Doug Hicks departed from Emory University's Oxford College to take on the presidency at Davidson College in North Carolina.

Hicks, 54, became Davidson's 19th president. His departure was announced in May as he decided to return to his alma mater after six years serving Oxford College.

Meanwhile, Newton County Superior Court Judge John Ott announced in October that he would retire Dec. 31 and end a 32-year career on the Alcovy Judicial Circuit bench.

Ott also asked Gov. Brian Kemp to appoint him as a senior judge "so that I can continue to be of some service to the court system and people of Georgia."

The Walton County resident is the chief judge of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, serving with four other Superior Court judges overseeing criminal and civil cases in Newton and Walton counties.

"For the past 41 years, I have had the privilege, honor and pleasure of serving the people of my circuit and the



Special | Newton County government

Retiring Superior Court Judge John Ott, right, swears in fellow Superior Court Judge Cheveda McCamey Wednesday, Dec. 28, following her election to a full term in 2022.

state of Georgia as an assistant district attorney and district attorney for nine years, and a Superior Court judge for 32 years," Ott said in his letter notifying Kemp of his retirement.

"I have been supported by superior staff, great sheriffs, police chiefs, clerks of court and by county commissions that have always stood ready to meet any needs of the court system.

"I've also enjoyed the many fine lawyers that have prac-

ticed before me," he said.

Ott enjoyed a retirement celebration in his honor in early December in Monroe.

Walton County attorney and Magistrate Judge Kevin Morris of Monroe will replace Ott.

On Dec. 16, Gov. Brian Kemp named Morris to be one of five Superior Court judges in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit to fill the vacancy.

Morris, 51, of Monroe, has served as the Walton County Magistrate Court judge since 2014.

In January, Newton County commissioners named a Washington, D.C., city official and a former Georgia city official as finalists for the position of interim county manager.

But in March, commissioners approved Jarvis R. Sims — a former top Augusta administrator — as interim county manager after they narrowly voted to agree to a contract with him.

On Tuesday March 1, the Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to offer Sims a one-

year contract at a base salary of \$150,000 — \$15,000 more than former county manager Lloyd Kerr received before he left the job Jan. 1.

Sims' contract was slated for a one-year period to end March 6, 2023, said county Human Resources director Amanda Shoemaker.

Also, on Dec. 12, Covington City Council chose to take the "interim" tag from before Tres Thomas' name and give him the permanent position managing the city government's day-to-day operations.

The appointment followed the May 3 resignation of Scott Andrews who took a position with Bakersfield, California, city government after three years as city manager in Covington.

The council voted to appoint Thomas as city manager after he served in the interim role since May 16.

Before Thomas' appointment, he worked over a two-decade span in a number of roles with the city. He began work as the city engineer in 2001, and subsequently worked as assistant public works director, public works director and planning director.

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# NCSS science fair winners advance to state

**STAFF REPORT**  
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton County Schools announced the 25 winners of the NCSS Elementary District Science and Engineering Fair Wednesday.

Of the 25 prize winners, 10 students won first place, nine took home second and six claimed a third place prize. NCSS Elementary Curriculum and instruction specialist Christina Phyll says the district’s first place winners will represent Newton County Schools in the Georgia College and State University Science and Engineering Fair in Milledgeville in March.

Dr. Penny Mosley, director of Elementary Schools for NCSS, had nothing but glowing remarks for all 25 of the prize-winning students, as well as those who didn’t place.

“A lot of time and effort goes into researching and conducting science experiments for each project, so I commend the students for taking the time to participate,” Mosley said. “Our students conducted some very high



caliber experiments, so I know our first-place winners will represent Newton County School System well in the State Science Fair.”

NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey echoed those sentiments.

“I’m very impressed with the complexity and variety of exper-

iments the students conducted for their projects,” Fuhrey said. “I just know our first place winners will represent their schools and our district well in the state competition.”

The following is a list of each of the 25 winners, their schools and where they placed.

First place winners: Cooper Maxey and Ameerah Spence of Live Oak Elementary; Anthony Watson (Rocky Plains); Blakely McKelvey and Esme Aycox of Mansfield; Emma Beam (East Newton); Rufus Bryant and Journey Johnson of Oak Hill and M’Kayla Solomon (South

Salem).

Second place winners: Gavin Bernard and Dallas Toler of Livingston Elementary; Adilene Zintzun (South Salem); Serenity Moore (Middle Ridge); Julia Babin-eaux (NC Theme School); Abhiram Kariyethala (Heard-Mixon); Cole Boudoucies (Mansfield); Mya

Mosley (East Newton) and Hiromi Pollard (Rocky Plains)

Third place winners: Stephanie Gomez, Kathleen Martinez and Darian Ward (Middle Ridge Elementary); Nikolai Garibay (Livingston); Jace Devine (Live Oak) and Kaleb Doucette (South Salem)

## LYONS: Continued from A4

tentially catastrophic plumbing leak. Under our house, it’s snug and warm, but the water heater in the attic froze up and a pipe burst. Had I not been here when the torrent began, the ceiling would have crashed. Thanks to our relationship with an estab-

lished plumbing company, they sent around a highly competent young man who set things right before the worst could happen.

I regaled him with tales of my beloved Uncle Tommy Connors, a plumber who babysat me in

working-class New Jersey taverns. He’d play shuffleboard while I sat at the bar watching ballgames on a little black-and-white TV.

And then at 4 a.m. on Dec. 26, our four dogs celebrated by eating three boxes of chocolate-covered

cherries.

You do know that chocolate is toxic to dogs, right? It wasn’t enough to poison them, but what happens is ...

Well, I don’t need to tell everything. After all, it’s the holiday season.

*Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of “The Hunting of the President” (St. Martin’s Press, 2000). You can email Lyons at [eu-genelyons2@yahoo.com](mailto:eu-genelyons2@yahoo.com).*

## COULTER: Continued from A4

were CIA operatives.

Now we know the truth: The FBI fueled the bloody rivalry between the Panthers and United Slaves. In the annals of the American ‘60s, Karenga was the Father Gapon, stooge of the czarist police. Whether Karenga was a willing FBI dupe or just a dupe remains unclear.

In one barbarous outburst, Karenga’s United Slaves shot two Black Panthers to death on the UCLA campus: Al “Bunchy” Carter and John Huggins. Karenga himself served time, a useful

stepping-stone for his current position as the chair of the Africana Studies Department at California State University at Long Beach.

The left has forgotten the FBI’s tacit encouragement of this murderous black nationalist cult founded by the father of Kwanzaa. The esteemed Cal State professor’s invented holiday is a nutty blend of schmaltzy ‘60s rhetoric, black racism and Marxism. The seven principles of Kwanzaa are the very same seven principles of the Symbionese Liberation

Army, another invention of The Worst Generation.

In 1974, Patty Hearst, kidnap victim-cum-SLA revolutionary, famously posed next to the banner of her alleged captors, a seven-headed cobra. Each snakehead stood for one of the SLA’s revolutionary principles: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani. These are the exact same seven “principles” of Kwanzaa.

When Karenga was asked to distinguish Kawaidda, the philosophy underlying

Kwanzaa, from “classical Marxism,” he essentially said that, under Kawaidda, we also hate whites. (And here’s something interesting: Kawaidda, Kwanzaa and Kuumba are also the only three Kardashian sisters not to have their own shows on the E! network.)

While taking the “best of early Chinese and Cuban socialism” (is that the mass murder or the seizure of private property?), Karenga said Kawaidda practitioners believe one’s racial identity “determines life conditions,

life chances and self-understanding.”

There’s an inclusive philosophy for you!

Sing to “Jingle Bells”:

Kwanzaa bells, dashikis sell

Whitey has to pay;

Burning, shooting, oh what fun

On this made-up holiday!

Kwanzaa emerged not from Africa, but from the FBI’s COINTELPRO. It is a holiday celebrated exclusively by idiot white liberals. Black Americans celebrate Christmas.

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# BUSINESS

The Covington News

Health Care Industry

## WellStar, Augusta U. unveil partnership plan

By **DAVE WILLIAMS**  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Marietta-based WellStar Health System and Augusta University Health System (AUHS) have signed a letter of intent to form a partnership, the two systems announced Tuesday. The proposed partnership, subject to a final agreement and regulatory approval, would let WellStar cre-

ate a broader affiliation with Augusta University's Medical College of Georgia (MCG) as AUHS joins the WellStar system.

"By bringing Augusta University Health System together with WellStar Health System and leveraging our respective strengths, we would improve the health of the community, address social determinants of health

and expand access to quality care for all Georgians," said Candice Saunders, WellStar's president and CEO.

The two systems have been working toward a partnership since 2019.

"AUHS, Augusta University and the WellStar Health System have a shared mission to solve Georgia's health-care challenges," said Sonny Perdue, chancellor of the University System of Georgia. "By joining forces and working together, we can leverage WellStar's clinical platform and leading-edge systems to support patients while providing more opportunities for students to learn, train and care for residents in local communities across Georgia."

If approved, the partnership would focus on expanding digital health offerings to create more convenient access to care and provide more individualized care regardless of location. It



Special | WellStar

WellStar Sylvan Grove Hospital is in Jackson in neighboring Butts County.

also is aimed at growing Georgia's pipeline of physicians and other health-care providers as well as developing new treatments.

While there are aspects of the proposed partnership yet to be determined, it likely would result in significant investments to improve existing health-care facilities and expand access to care across the state, including a new hospital and medical office buildings in Columbia County.

"Providing health

care has never been as dynamic and complex as it is today," said Brooks Keel, president of Augusta University. "This partnership ... would enable us to extend our mission of improving health through excellence in patient care, education and research for the benefit of Georgians."

A new teaching campus at WellStar Kennestone Hospital could also be established under the proposed partnership. As a result, MCG, which already has the

ninth-largest freshman medical school class in the nation, would grow to become one of the largest public medical schools in the country.

Tuesday's announcement came less than two months after WellStar's Atlanta Medical Center closed its doors, dealing a huge blow to patient care in Georgia's capital city.

The state responded by sending \$130 million in federal pandemic funds to Grady Memorial Hospital to help offset the impact of the closure.

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**Smiles of the Month**  
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*Happy New Year!*

Jillian Carnes	Joey Knight
Adam Forde	Ethan Lynch
Emma Forde	Justin Penley
Taylor Goodrum	Wesley Penley
Kayla Jones	Slade Powell

Ellie Reeves



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Crime

## Businessman guilty of filing false tax return from amusement machine money

STAFF REPORT  
[news@covnews.com](mailto:news@covnews.com)

ROME, Ga. — Mohammed Ajmal, a Cartersville businessman, has been sentenced for making and subscribing a false tax return.

Ajmal failed to report income from over \$2 million in "kickback" payments from the use of coin-operated amusement machines in his service stations and convenience stores, the U.S. Attorney's office stated in a news release.

"Ajmal exploited his relatives in his plan to cheat the IRS out of hundreds of thousands of dollars," said U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Buchanan. "Ajmal is now headed to

federal prison and will be required to pay full restitution as part of his sentence."

James E. Dorsey, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Atlanta Field Office, said, "Consumed by greed, Mohammed Ajmal utilized his family members to hide income generated from kickbacks and filed a false tax return because he failed to report the income."

"IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to pursue anyone who commits tax fraud. Those harboring ideas on cheating the tax system, take note that prison time is a consequence

for such actions."

Michael J. Register, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said,

"The GBI Commercial Gambling Unit investigated this case along with federal and local partners. This defendant seeking to defraud the government by evading taxes is being held accountable."

According to Buchanan, the charges, and other information presented in court, Ajmal owned several gas stations and convenience stores in the Cartersville area through various corporations. Many of the stores contained coin-operated amusement machines, known as "COAMs." COAMs are regulated by the Georgia Lottery Corp.

Between 2013 and 2015, the Georgia Lottery Corp. issued administrative regulations under Georgia law, which resulted in Ajmal receiving less revenue from the COAMs. In response, Ajmal contacted the company holding the master license for the COAMs and conveyed that the company must pay him additional money, or kickbacks, if the company wished to continue operating COAMs on Ajmal's properties.

To disguise the kickback payments, Ajmal

told the company to write checks to his relatives. Ajmal then used the monies for his own benefit, including to build a new home. From 2015 through 2018, the amount of the kickbacks totaled \$2,292,847. Ajmal did not report any of this income on his tax returns for 2015 through 2017. So Ajmal paid less federal tax than he actually owed for those years.

Ajmal, 49, of Cartersville, has been sentenced to two years in prison to be followed by one year of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$734,232.05.

He was convicted of making and subscribing a false tax return on July 12, 2022, after he pleaded guilty.

The case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, with valuable assistance provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, Cartersville Police Department, Bartow County Sheriff's Office, and the Georgia Lottery Corp.

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# SPORTS

The Covington News



File Photo

Sharp Stadium was built in 1956 and is located in Newton County at 3109 Newton Drive, NE. It announced that the stadium will now have turf as its playing surface in 2022.

1

## Newton County School Board approves installation of artificial turf at Sharp Stadium

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — For the first time since 2019, Homer Sharp Stadium is getting a facelift beginning in December 2022. During a Newton County School System’s Board of Education on Tuesday, board members voted 4-1 in approval of artificial turf being installed for Sharp Field.

The vote greenlighted a contract for Sourcewell to do the job with Sports Turf being in the company providing the actual playing surface to be

installed.

Approving turf installation comes less than a month after the board’s Oct. 25 meeting in which board members approved the purchase of LED lights for the stadium.

The turf installation comes with a \$1.3 million price tag. It includes all tools, equipment and labor needed to complete the job. Goal posts, soccer goals, play clock and all maintenance are also accounted for.

According to Barr, installation of turf will begin

in December 2022 and will be completed in April 2023. Concerning the LED lights, that project will start in January 2023 and Barr said it “will take a few weeks to complete.”

Named after former Newton High principal Homer Sharp, Homer Sharp Stadium is an athletic facility located at 3109 Newton Drive NE and shared by Alcovy, Eastside and Newton high schools.

2

## Lady Tigers bring home the Region 3-AAAAAA championship, first in seven years



File Photo

The Alcovy Lady Tigers softball team runs off the field in celebration shouting “Al-co-vee” after capturing the Region 3-AAAAAA championship. It was the first region title for the Lady Tigers since 2015 and they went on to host the GHSA Super Regionals.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

HAMPTON, Ga. — It wasn’t anything fancy or flashy from the Alcovy Lady Tigers that propelled them to a 8-7, extra-inning win over Woodward Academy that netted them a region title.

It was the team’s ability to play small ball — and the ability to hold off a late Woodward rally — that earned them the win and, ultimately, the Region 3-AAAAAA crown.

It was a win that wasn’t without a fair share of drama as it took extra innings for coach Miranda Lamb’s squad to come out on top.

In the championship game, the top of Alcovy’s lineup was due up heading into the bottom of the eighth inning tied 7-7.

Three of the team’s biggest contributors all season made their way to the plate.

Ashlyn Hoy got things started with a lead-off walk that was followed up by Kaitlyn Williams’ sacrifice bunt that moved Hoy to second. Hoy remained aggressive on the bases as she advanced to third off a passed ball.

In the next at-bat, CeCe Williams faced a 1-2 count after fouling two pitches off. On the sixth pitch of the at-bat, CeCe got enough of the ball to center field that allowed time for Hoy to jet across home plate and score the winning run.

As Hoy made it home, the entire Lady Tigers team and coaches stormed Gerald Matthews Park in celebration of capturing the region title — the first for Alcovy since 2015.

All the adversity and speed bumps in the title game — not to mention the preceding seasons that led to the program’s rebuild — took a back seat to the postgame celebration when the Lady Tigers hoisted the region championship trophy.

3

# Social Circle girls soccer defeats Commerce 6-4 in OT to win first title

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

MACON, Ga. — Time and time again, the Social Circle Lady Redskins rose to the occasion when they needed to en route to a 6-4 overtime victory over Commerce to capture the 2022 GHSA Class A-Public State Championship.

The title match was littered with a plethora of ups and downs throughout the 100 minutes of action.

Every moment, though, led to the biggest one in the first half of overtime.

After not leading at all in the match, Kaylee Connell was fouled in the penalty box, giving Social Circle a penalty kick. With six minutes left in the first half of overtime, Tess Preston made the most of the opportunity, netting the penalty kick and giving the Lady Redskins their definitive lead of the night.

Social Circle's cherry on top came later from Peyton Brooks who netted her fourth goal of the match with a minute remaining in the second half of overtime. Brooks' goal officially sealed the deal for the Lady Redskins.

But Brooks did more than that for her team on the biggest stage. When-

ever the Lady Redskins needed a goal, Brooks delivered.

Less than two minutes into the match, Commerce's Chloe Diaz gave the Lady Tigers a 1-0 advantage. Commerce's lead stood for nearly 15 minutes before Brooks fired a shot and placed the ball in the top left of the goal, tying the score 1-1.

Then, Ivy Tolbert of Commerce scored back-to-back goals to stretch the Lady Tigers' lead 3-1 with 9:04 remaining in the first half.

As the closing minutes ticked away before halftime, it seemed like the two-goal lead would remain intact. But Brooks had other plans.

With 2:46 left in the opening half, Brooks found the back of the net to draw Social Circle to within one goal.

With 6:59 remaining in regulation, Brooks recorded a hat trick that tied the score back up 4-4, forcing overtime. When Social Circle finally captured the win, it stood as the school's first soccer state crown — and one of the signposts of how the entire athletic program's fortunes have shifted for the better over the last couple of years.



Tess Preston (15) battles for possession of the ball against Commerce's Ivy Tolbert in the Class A-Public girls soccer state championship game.

File Photo

4

# D'Anthony Bell drafted to Browns, first NFL player in Alcovy history



Special Photo

D'Anthony Bell (37) is now a member of the Cleveland Browns after he was signed onto the 53-man roster on Aug. 30.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Five years ago, D'Anthony Bell found himself out of football and pushing a wheelbarrow hauling rocks.

Now, Bell is fulfilling his childhood dream of playing in the National Football League as he made the Cleveland Browns' 53-man roster on Aug. 30.

The infamous wheelbarrow Bell used to help his dad, Anthony, in the construction business remains in the backyard of his Covington home.

All of that is behind Bell now as he is officially in the NFL. It was made official after Bell received a phone call notifying him that he made it onto the Browns squad. Bell is one of the team's five safeties.

Bell's journey to the NFL began when he was just 8 years old playing football at the Newton County Recreation Department. He played there as long as he could until he joined Liberty Middle School's football team in the eighth grade.

After that, Bell moved to Alcovy High School where he played football all four years. Bell is the first Alcovy alumnus to make it onto an NFL squad.

Bell graduated from Alcovy in 2015 and signed to play college football at Albany State. He red-shirted a year there and transferred to play at Iowa Central Community College for a year.

Bell resumed his football career at Butler Community College in 2018 and then transferred to the University of West Florida to finish.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound defensive back recorded 63 tackles, forced two fumbles, had five pass break-ups and intercepted two passes in his final season. And, just like with Alcovy, Bell is the first player from West Florida to make it to the NFL.

Upon his college graduation, Bell threw his name in the hat for the NFL Draft on April 30.

Bell's name wasn't called on draft night, but he ended up signing a free agent deal with the Browns afterward. From there, it was all about Bell going out every practice and making a name for himself.

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File Photo

Eastside swim team set new school records during the GHSA State Swim Meet at Georgia Tech on Friday, Feb. 4.

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File Photo

Piedmont Academy won the GIAA State Championship on Oct. 22

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5

## Lady Eagles end season No. 6 in state

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

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Back in 2021, eight seniors played their final game for the Eastside Lady Eagles’ softball program. That left a lot of slots open for other players to step in and fill right away.

Of the replacements on the varsity roster, four juniors, four sophomores and five freshmen stepped up for the Lady Eagles.

Despite having a young squad, the Lady Eagles made a run in the 2022 Class AAAAA state playoffs and finished No. 6 in the state.

Eastside found itself in a few low scoring, defensive battles while in Columbus.

The Lady Eagles came out on the losing end on day one in a 1-0 loss against Harris County. The next day, on Oct. 27, they kept their season alive with a 2-1 win over Villa Rica.

But Eastside faced all-too-familiar foe Loganville — which won Region 8-A’s championship the past two seasons — on Friday. The Lady Devils eliminated the Lady Eagles 11-1.

Eastside’s had an up and down regular season competing in

Region 8-A’s. However, the Lady Eagles slid into the No. 4 seed with an 11-7 region record, which was two games better than fifth place Jefferson and one game behind third place Flowery Branch.

As the No. 4 seed, Eastside went to Cartersville for the Super Regionals. The Lady Eagles defeated No. 1 Cartersville 12-0 in the first game and turned around to defeat No. 2 Kell 4-1.

Bouncing back from an 11-9 defeat against Kell earlier on Oct. 21, Eastside won 8-3 to advance to Columbus.



File | The News

**Anslee Saunchevraw celebrates during one of Eastside’s games in Columbus.**

6

## Social Circle Redskins finish regular season 25-0

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

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. —

There are some coaches who aim to reward their teams for performing to the best of their ability every season. Most coaches use their own special methods to accomplish this.

For Social Circle’s head boys basketball coach Taylor Jackson, his reward comes through the dress code policy.

Normally, the Redskins would be required to dress up on game days in a shirt and bow tie. Jackson has adopted an exception to this rule since becoming head coach three seasons ago.

With their 91-33 win at Commerce on Feb. 11, the Redskins concluded the regular season

with a perfect 25-0 record along with a region-leading 12-0 record in Region 8A-Public.

As a result, none of this year’s players had to wear a shirt and tie on any game days.

In the 2021-22 season, Social Circle has experienced a lot of wins and most wins came in a big way.

Throughout the year, the Redskins have defeated region opponents by an average of 34 points per contest.

There were some notable performances along the way, too.

On Jan. 22, Social Circle defeated Commerce 107-44 marking the most points ever scored in a single contest in program history.

Additionally, Social Circle has

gone up against higher classification schools 11 times and earned wins in all matchups. As a matter of fact, the Redskins downed three Class 7A schools in three days to claim the 2021 Hounds Holiday Hoops Championship at Pope High School on Dec. 30, 2021.

The postseason was just as adventurous for the Redskins, as they fell 70-66 to eventual state champion Drew Charter in a game marred by a scoreboard error that provided Drew Charter with four “phantom” points. The mishap garnered statewide attention and provided high school sports fans yet another reason to chastise the Georgia High School Association’s policies.



File | The News

**Tyrell Branch was instrumental in Social Circle’s historic basketball season last year.**

7

## Newton Rams stun Parkview in 20-18 defeat

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

LILBURN, Ga. — In late October, Newton Rams decided to celebrate Halloween 10 days early with all the trick plays they dished out against Parkview. However, on a night that featured a savvy offensive showing, it was Newton’s defense that made the play to give the Rams the treat of a 20-18 stunner win in the Big Orange Jungle — its first victory over Parkview..

Trailing 20-12 with less than two minutes left and no timeouts, Parkview had the ball at its own 11-yard line. A few plays later, the Panthers found the end zone for just the second time of the night off a 32-yard touchdown pass. “The Blue Swarm” may have bent, but it didn’t break.

On the ensuing two-point conversion and 5.5 seconds remaining, the Panthers ran a play action, roll out pass with the

running back slipping out of the backfield. Jamarcus Presley was not fooled and stuffed the play at the three-yard line.

Presley’s tackle preserved Newton’s first Region 4-A’s win of the season.

For this win, it was Marcus Calwise getting the party started. With 2:01 remaining in the first quarter, he took a bubble screen pass from quarterback Deron Benson and appeared ready to run. All of sudden, he geared up for a pass and found Gabriel Williams all alone for a 61-yard touchdown reception.

The Rams weren’t finished dealing tricks.

On second and goal at the four-yard line almost at halftime, Deion Lewis took the snap and handed the ball to Calwise. Again, the junior wideout played quarterback and found Lewis who snuck out of the backfield

for a touchdown.

Lewis’ touchdown reception extended Newton’s lead to 13-3 at halftime.

While Newton’s offense had a full bag of tricks, “The Blue Swarm” was busy getting timely defensive stops.

Numerous times, the Rams’ defense bent but very seldom did it break.

Two times, they surrendered 33 and 27-yard field goals. But one of the most timely stops came on a fourth and goal from the 1-yard line. A swarm of Newton defenders swarmed Parkview’s scoring attempt and didn’t allow a single yard.

The only other touchdown Parkview scored came less than two minutes into the fourth quarter when the Panthers pounded it in from two yards out. But they missed the extra point — a miss that ultimately decided the game’s outcome.



File | The News

**Newton quarterback Deion Lewis (2) scores on a catch from a halfback pass from Marcus Calwise.**

8

## Vaughn inducted into Dixie Boys Baseball Hall of Fame

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — Growing up in a sports family set the course for Ricky Vaughn to work with the Newton County Recreation Department for more than 55 years. Part of his work includes beginning the recreation department’s relationship with Dixie Boys Baseball.

On Aug. 17, Vaughn was celebrated for his efforts by being selected as a Class of 2022 Hall of Fame member for the organization.

Vaughn was instrumental in bringing Dixie Boys Baseball to Newton County in 1979 when he was just 26 years old. Since then, his involvement with Dixie

Boys Baseball includes his work as an umpire, coach, assistant state director. Currently, Newton County hosts five World Series.

He played Little League baseball in the 1960’s and later played one year of baseball and basketball in high school. Vaughn graduated from Newton County Comprehensive High School in 1971.

Upon graduation, Vaughn coached his first recreation team at 18 years old in 1971. He umpired for a few years and coached a team from 1971-1990. Vaughn captured his first state championship as a coach in 1976 when the department was affiliated with Georgia Recreation & Parks Association (GRPA).

In 1990, Tommy Hailey, who was friends with Vaughn from childhood, was hired as the Newton County Recreation Department Director. Vaughn had a two-hour discussion with Hailey about a job, and Hailey hired Vaughn to be the department’s athletic director.

Vaughn served as athletic director for 24 years and retired in 2014 from his full-time post. But that hasn’t stopped him from providing help to the department as a volunteer.

To this day, Vaughn still coaches football, basketball, baseball and softball. And, like his time as athletic director, Vaughn goes above and beyond to assist any way he can.



File | The News

**Ricky Vaughn speaks during a special celebration held at the Newton County Recreation Department Aug. 17.**

9

# Benton flips, signs with Houston on early National Signing Day



Justin Benton signed his NLI to University of Houston at Newton High School on National Signing Day while surrounded by friends and family.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD  
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The best kept secret lately in Newton County came to light the Wednesday before Christmas at Newton High School when the question, “Where is Justin Benton signing to play college football” was answered.

In a ceremony in Newton High’s auditorium commemorating the early period for National Signing Day, Benton made it official, committing and signing to play for the Houston Cougars.

The 3-star defensive lineman’s decision to go to Houston sent minor shockwaves as it caused him to flip from his six-month long commitment to West Virginia’s football program, while spurning offers from the likes of Georgia, where his father played, Arkansas and Arizona State

among others. Houston’s program labeled its defensive line group the “Sack Avenue.”

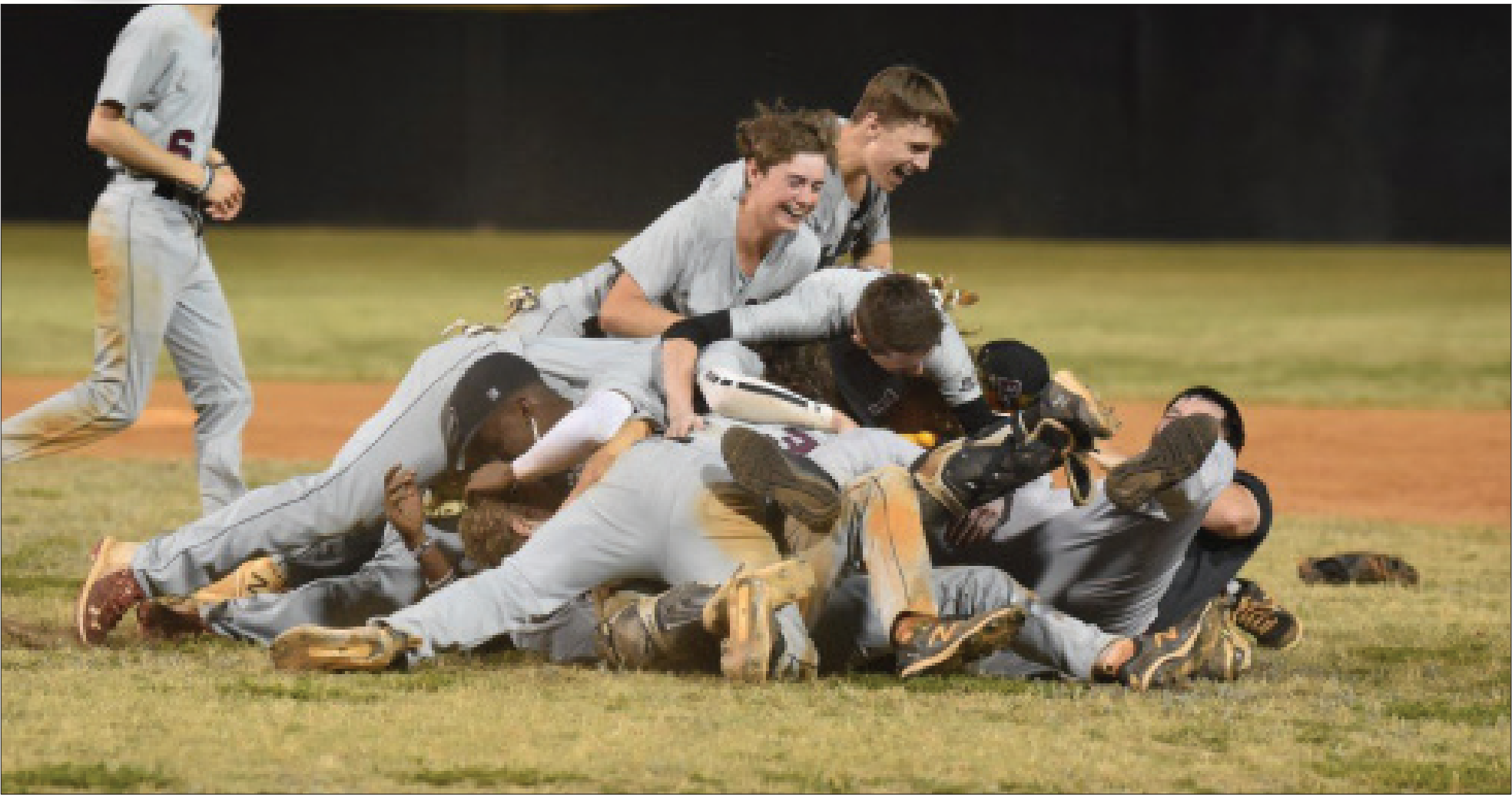
At the end of his senior football season, Benton was voted Region 4-A-A-A-A-A-A-A Co-Defensive Player of the Year. He tallied 68 tackles, five sacks and 14 tackles for loss. That’s in addition to Benton’s five rushing touchdowns.

Benton is an alumnus of Veteran’s Middle School where he began garnering attention from college football programs.

Now, after a four-year winding journey with many destinations, Benton will graduate from the Rams early and be a student on Houston’s campus beginning in January where plans to major in either pre-medicine or business.

10

# Peachtree Academy baseball dynasty is born



File | The News

By GARRETT PITTS  
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Peachtree Academy swept both games of a doubleheader May 5 to take down Cherokee Christian and claim the Division 2 Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools (GAPPS) state championship. It is the third title for the Panthers in the past five seasons.

Peachtree Academy accomplished this behind two solid outings from Amman Dewberry and Dillon Whitfield.

Dewberry took the mound for the Panthers in game one and got into a rhythm immediately. Af-

ter giving up one run on an RBI single from Brandon Scavelli in the first, Dewberry surrendered only one more hit on his way to five full innings.

Dewberry took the mound for the Panthers in game one and the left-hander got into a rhythm immediately. After giving up one run on an RBI single from Brandon Scavelli in the first, Dewberry surrendered only one more hit on his way to five full innings.

Dewberry finished game one by pitching five full innings while allowing only two hits and striking out 11 batters. He had a solid game at the plate, too with two hits, two RBIs, and two walks.

In addition to his solid outing on the mound,

Dewberry had a solid game at the plate. He finished with two hits and two RBIs, as well as two walks.

Whitfield put together a good game at the plate in game one, as he tallied three hits, three RBIs, and one walk.

Peachtree Academy did not stop there as they were able to bring across six total runs in the opening inning of game two.

With Gothard on the mound in the bottom of the fifth, the Panthers got the final three outs to force a second straight mercy rule victory to put Peachtree Academy back on the mountain top with another baseball championship.

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**The Indian Creek Middle School softball team claimed the 2022 NewRock Championship on Sept. 24**

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