

The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11-12, 2023



TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1865

COVINGTON CELEBRATES CHIEF COTTON

Story, page A6

Follow us for breaking updates



and stay informed on local issues at CovNews.com

Inside:

'BIG 3' HAVE EYES ON STATE TITLE

Seniors want to go out as champions in 2023

Sports, Page B1

His Word

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

Psalms 28:7 (KJV)

Seeing their future?



Phillip B. Hubbard | The News

Tour Manager Reginald Lagrone explains the various parts of the Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workshop to visiting students from Veterans Memorial Middle School during the Workshop's Thursday stop at Newton College & Career Academy. The workshop's stations allowed students to experience possible future occupations through game-like machines that simulated driving an 18-wheeler, analyzing human anatomy through augmented reality, and more. See story at covnews.com and in Wednesday's edition of The News.

Crime

Deputies: Woman impersonated student at school

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — A 19-year-old Conyers woman allegedly was able to impersonate a student and gain access to Newton High School with a taser before she and a female student threatened a male student Friday, Feb. 3. The action led to a "brief lock-

down" of the school and multiple charges against the female student and the woman, a school spokesperson said.

Gabrielle Randolph, 19, of Conyers, was arrested on charges of Carrying Weapons in a School Safety Zone, Criminal Trespass and Disorderly Conduct.

A 17-year-old student, Arianna

King of Covington, was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct and Terroristic Threats and Acts, both in relation to the 8 a.m. incident.

Sherri Partee, spokesperson for the Newton County School System, confirmed "an unauthorized

See DEPUTIES, A2

New Restaurants

Groundbreaking set for Whataburger at Town Center

By TOM SPIGOLON
tspigolon@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Whataburger will bring 150 jobs to Newton County when its new Covington restaurant opens later this year.

Officials with the restaurant chain, franchisee Made to Order Holdings LLC and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 15, to celebrate the first Covington Whataburger restaurant scheduled to open in 2023, a news release stated.

The event is set for 2:30 p.m. at the future site of the planned 3,746-square-foot restaurant at 11200 Town Center Drive.

"We could not be more excited to bring Whataburger's fresh, bold flavors and extraordinary hospitality to the Covington community," said Key Operator Scott Jordan-Wheeler. "The Atlanta market has been so incredible and welcoming. We look forward to continuing to serve the area and opening our doors in Covington later this year."

See WHATABURGER, A2



Prototype of a typical restaurant

Volume 158, No. 13 | Only \$1



Subscribe! 770-787-6397

Inside

County board should revamp its meetings

Column, A4



Weekend Weather Forecast



Saturday, Feb. 11
High: 46° Low: 35°
• Rain



Sunday, Feb. 12
High: 45° Low: 33°
• Rain

Index

Classifieds, B2
Opinions, A4
Legals, B2

Sports, B1
Obituaries, A2
Regional, A3

SINCE 1865

Get breaking news updates, manage your subscription, place an advertisement and read the e-Edition at CovNews.com

South Eastern Appliances and More

CLEARANCE OUTLET

HUGE DISCOUNTS
ON SCRATCH &
DENT, OPEN BOX
MODELS

NO CREDIT NEEDED
FINANCING!
\$49 DOWN PAYMENT
90 DAY PAYMENT OPTION



OPEN
MONDAY-FRIDAY
10AM – 6PM

10147 INDUSTRIAL DR NE • COVINGTON GA • 404-606-9102

ARPA:

Continued from A1

ness license in Newton County or a municipality within county lines.

That call was answered by commissioners voting 3-2 to, making that stipulation a county requirement.

The vote came after Newton Chamber of Commerce Debbie Harper used her time in the meeting’s initial citizens’ comments portion to make that recommendation.

“As the president of the Chamber, I represent 600 businesses in Newton County that equates to 20,000 employees in and around this area,” Harper said. “We know (a county business license) is not a requirement by the treasury, but it is a requirement in the county, and we feel that should be mirrored here.”

Harper cited other counties and cities near and around the Newton County area that have a similar policy —places such as Clayton, Henry and Cherokee counties, and the cities of South Fulton, Stonecrest, Conyers and Norcross.

When it came time for item No. 12 on the BOC agenda to be discussed, Commissioner Stan Edwards posed the question of how that Harper’s stipulation could be introduced for a vote.

District 3 Commissioner Alana Sanders objected to the requirement, stating that adding it would

“eliminate so many businesses that are in need right now.”

Beforehand, the only requirement needed for a local non-profit organization or business to receive ARPA funds was a license recognized by the state of Georgia to conduct business. When the question was asked by Edwards if it was a requirement in Newton County for businesses to have a license in Newton County, county attorney Patrick Jaugstetter provided the desired insight.

“As a general rule, yes, it’s required to pay an occupational tax in the county,” Jaugstetter said. “Some businesses have multiple locations and wouldn’t have to pay for a separate one in each county they operate in, but as a general rule, it’s a requirement.”

Harper said it was the right thing to do for the sake of congruency.

“The Chamber, as the voice of business in Newton County, felt strongly that since Newton County requires a business license to operate a business here, so should be the requirement to receive ARPA funds from the county,” Harper said.

“It’s not a federal requirement because some communities much smaller than ours don’t require a business license.”

Read the rest at covnews.com.

WHATABURGER:

Continued from A1

“Once open, the restaurant will feature an open-concept dining room and double drive-through, among other features, to best serve guests Whataburger’s bold flavors and fresh, never-frozen ingredients,” a news release stated.

Operating Partner Jerry Santana and Area Coach Keith Mason will lead the restaurant team of about 150, the release stated.

Hiring is in progress for restaurant managers, while hiring for team leaders and team members will begin in the coming weeks. “Whataburger’s unique leadership curriculum trains all employees in a way that automatically puts them on the path to career advancement,” the release stated.

For more information about working at the Covington Whataburger restaurant, email scottw@mtoh.com.

SITE:

Continued from A1

Brown Bridge Road over the objections of two commissioners, District 3 Rep. Alana Sanders and District 4 Rep. J.C. Henderson, who claimed both retaliation for unilaterally seeking a grant for the project and alleged racism on the government’s part.

The board voted 3-2 to select the site with Sanders and Henderson

voting against the plan.

But it wasn’t just the commissioners expressing dissension.

The site is adjacent to the Trelawney subdivision and backs up to a separate 11-acre tract the county government has owned since 2015. That drew the ire of Trelawney Home Owners’ Association president Annette Alston.

Alston said she, and some of the residents in the Trelawney subdivision, felt slighted because the decision was made without communicating with Trelawney residents.

“In July 2022, there was a meeting with a number of planners and Commissioner (J.C.) Henderson about a proposal to create a community park utilizing the common area of our subdivision,” Alston said. “We listened and made it clear that we were not interested at that time because there were too many unanswered questions.

“None of those questions were answered and there was no effort to have any further discussion with the community. Meantime, we find out that, without our knowledge, consultation, anything, that the Addison property

DEPUTIES:

Continued from A1

individual was reported on campus at Newton High School” Friday, Feb. 3.

“In response, the school was immediately placed on a brief lockdown,” she said. “The individual was quickly located by school administrators and school resource officers.”

Partee said “a search of the individual was conducted.” Officers found what was identified as a pink Vipertek two-pronged taser, according to an incident report.

“Newton High School resumed normal operations within minutes and notified parents of the situation via School Messenger call,” Partee said.

She said the “safety of our students and staff will always be our No. 1 priority.”

“As such, we appreciate the immediate support of local law enforcement, who together with school administrators, quickly located the unauthorized individual,” Partee said.

Randolph allegedly gained access to the Newton High School building without checking into the office, according to information on warrants and an incident report.

“She was carrying a book bag pretending she was a student at the school,” a warrant stated.

A school resource officer wrote in an incident report that Principal Shannon Buff called all administrators and SROs to her office at 8:40 a.m. and “advised us that a male student told her that a female approached him to fight in the hallway that’s not a student here at the school.”

He reported Buff later “pulled up the school’s security camera” with the male student present and discovered the location of the suspect in a bathroom on B hall.

After the suspect was taken into custody, she attempted to damage a cabinet in the SRO’s office, a warrant stated.

“The offender was yelling and

screaming very loud and using profanity against me and other deputies. She also was refusing to be escorted from my office to the patrol unit ...” the SRO wrote in a warrant.

King was charged after threatening “to use an act of violence against another by stating multiple times that she knew who told on her girlfriend about being on campus at Newton High School and she was going to ‘take care of him,’” a warrant stated.

“Ms. King said she knew where he lived and she would go take care of him,” the SRO stated in a warrant, in reference to the male student who was allegedly threatened.

“Ms. King made multiple statements in different ways that she knew who the student was that alerted school staff to an unauthorized person being on campus, causing the school to go on a preventative lockdown. The unauthorized person was Ms. King’s girlfriend, Gabrielle Randolph, who was also arrested.

“Ms. King stated multiple times in front of myself, Deputy Herbert and school staff that she would take care of him and she knew where he lived. Ms. King said she knows where he lives and she will find him and kill him.”

King also was charged with Disorderly Conduct when she “pushed against Deputy Simmons multiple times after being asked to sit down multiple times.”

“Ms. King had already been placed in handcuffs and was being told to stay in the principal’s office while it was determined if she had brought any illegal items on school campus or had any in her belongings. Ms. King yelled and began screaming to let her go so she can calm down her girlfriend. Ms. King also kicked the principal’s door.”

Randolph and King were each released from the Newton County Detention Center on bond Sunday, Feb. 5.

CITY OF PORTERDALE FISCAL 2023 BUDGET ADOPTION

The City of Porterdales will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm to take public comments on and review the proposed Fiscal 2023 Budget. The adoption of the Fiscal 2023 Budget and Resolution will be considered on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Both meetings will be held at the Porterdales City Hall at 2800 Main St in Porterdales GA.



BULLSEYE

ACCOUNTING SERVICES INC.

“Where Accuracy Counts”

762.435.7002 | bullseyeacct@gmail.com | Monticello, Ga.

Accounting | Payroll Services | Tax Preparation

I’m not sure our community would be totally averse to a Boys & Girls Club-type facility next door,” she said.

“But that’s the point. You didn’t ask us. And what makes this particularly sad is the appearance that the Trelawney Subdivision is being used in a sick, mean-spirited political game and we’re the pawns. We’re not in Sanders’ district. We’re in District 4.”

Henderson said he believed the county was forcing the facility on the area’s majority Black residents in a way that was similar to how majority white governments forced such projects on Black neighborhoods in the past in the U.S.

Sanders said she opposed it because residents told her in a meeting earlier this month they did not want it on the site.

The commissioner has lobbied for the facility for months and wanted it built on a separate 60-acre tract near Fairview Road in her district.

However, county officials said the sellers of the Fairview property wanted more than the appraised value of \$2.3

million, according to the Citizen.

Sanders accused the other commissioners of making her the victim of political payback for pursuing a \$4 million federal grant for the Youth Facility separately from the county government.

As far as the facility and the grant itself, other residents expressed comments fueled by earlier reports that the \$4 million grant was in jeopardy of being rescinded. That report proved to be inaccurate, but it didn’t keep residents from sounding off about it Tuesday.

“I’m standing up tonight for the youth of Newton County and the seniors of Newton County,” said Cecily Bell during the meeting’s opening citizens’ comments portion.

“We need the money for the youth. We need the money for the seniors. We need those finances here in Newton County. We need those community centers to be built. The ones who did not vote for this are causing us to fail.”

News Editor Tom Spigolon contributed to this report.



HOMETOWN REALTY CONSULTANTS, INC.™

2950 Summit Lane | Monroe, GA
3 Bedroom | 2 Bath
\$383,900
with Finished Bonus Room

Darlene Smallwood [Broker/Owner]
Kenneth Smallwood [Owner/Agent]

2135 Pace Street • Covington, GA 30014
(Morgan Plaza)
678-878-9811 • 770-786-7979



REGIONAL REPORT

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

Senate bill bars blocking access to government services based on vax status

The state Senate passed legislation Tuesday that would prohibit government agencies from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination to access government facilities or services.

The bill continues a long debate about what role COVID vaccinations should play in public life in Georgia after they first began to be administered in December 2020.

Last year, the General Assembly enacted a measure barring the use of a person's COVID vaccine status to prevent access to government facilities, services or licenses. The law included an automatic repeal date of June 30, 2023.

The new Senate bill would remove the repeal date, making the provision a permanent part of Georgia law. The bill passed the Republican-controlled chamber by a 31-21 party line vote.

"The fundamental question that this bill addresses ... is whether or not the government should deny services to its citizens based on their COVID-19 vaccination status," said Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, the bill's main sponsor.

"Ultimately, by voting 'no' for this [bill], you're not voting for public health. You're voting to allow government to deny a license to someone because they don't have the COVID-19 vaccine."

Senate Democrats opposed the measure, arguing the bill politicizes what should be a public health matter.

Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, said vaccines have driven the decline in the severity of the COVID-19 virus.

"Newsflash: That [decline is] because we developed a vaccine," Orrock said. "This nation should take public health measures to protect the population from a

dread disease."

"A permanent ban sets a dangerous precedent, which may lead to erosion of vaccine requirements for school attendance," added Senate Minority Leader Gloria Butler, D-Stone Mountain.

The Georgia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Physicians oppose the bill, Butler said.

Georgia has had more than 3 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 42,000 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center. About 58% of the state is fully vaccinated.

The bill now moves to the state House of Representatives."

—Capitol Beat News

VP touts Biden administration climate agenda

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Congress passed last year includes nearly \$370 billion to address climate change, enough to launch a "whole new industry," Vice President Kamala Harris said Wednesday on the campus of Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

"There are going to be a lot of new jobs, a lot of new work," Harris said during an appearance promoting the State of the Union message President Joe Biden delivered Tuesday night. Biden was promoting his speech to the nation almost simultaneously with Harris during a presidential visit Wednesday to Wisconsin.

Harris' remarks in Atlanta were focused on the portion of the State of the Union message in which Biden called climate change "an existential threat" that the IRA will begin addressing with "the most significant investment ever in climate change."

Harris, America's first Black vice president, said she approaches climate change from the perspective of the need for environmental justice.

"Some of the poorest air quality zones in our

nation are where people of low income and people of color live," she said.

Harris said the same dynamics are at play when it comes to water policy in America, citing the discovery in 2014 that the water supply in mostly Black Flint, Mich., was contaminated with lead.

"Access to clean water should be a right and not just a privilege to those who can afford it," she said. "Government should be paying to remove those pipes. We shouldn't be putting it just on the residents and homeowners in those communities."

The government is striking another blow for environmental justice in the tax rebates being offered to Americans who purchase not just new electric vehicles but used EVs, Harris said.

"Everyone should be able to participate in this new clean energy economy," she said.

Harris said the Biden administration feels a sense of urgency when it comes to dealing with climate change that is already causing a rise in droughts, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes.

"The clock is not just ticking," she said. "It's banging. It's requiring us to move quickly."

Republicans criticized Harris' trip to Georgia.

"While hardworking Georgians ... are burdened by the high cost of everyday goods, Kamala Harris' visit today proves just how out of touch this administration is," said Ronna McDaniel, chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, echoing Arkansas GOP Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' Republican response to the State of the Union address.

"Instead of spewing more of the same empty rhetoric that Biden delivered last night, Democrats need to take accountability for their failures on everything from rising prices to skyrocketing crime."

—Capitol Beat News

Supreme Court upholds referendum opposing Spaceport

The Georgia Supreme Court Tuesday upheld a lower court ruling verifying the validity of a voter referendum in Camden County last March that rejected plans to build a commercial spaceport.

In the referendum, Camden voters soundly defeated the county's plan to purchase land for the proposed Spaceport Camden. The county, which had gone to probate court before the referendum to try to block it, appealed to the state Supreme Court after the vote.

In oral arguments before the justices last October, lawyers for Camden County argued the Georgia Constitution's Home Rule Paragraph does not allow local voters to veto a county commission's resolution after the fact.

Lawyers for the project's opponents, registered voters who gathered petition signatures to force the referendum, countered that the vote was valid under a plain reading of Home Rule.

In Tuesday's unanimous ruling, the state Supreme Court agreed with Spaceport Camden's opponents, declaring that the county had no legal authority to try to block the referendum.

"The Home Rule Paragraph makes no provision authorizing a county, or any other party, to file a caveat, or any other form of opposition, to an electors' petition," Justice Carla Wong McMillian wrote for the court.

"With respect to challenging an election, the statute governing contests to elections ... limits the right to contest elections to 'electors.' Because the county is not an elector, it would not be authorized to contest the outcome of the special election."

Camden County's political leaders have sought to build a spaceport for years, claiming it would bring jobs and economic development

to southeast Georgia. The county has spent \$12 million pursuing the project.

Opponents say firing small rockets from Spaceport Camden over populated areas of Little Cumberland Island, just off the coast, would pose a major safety risk.

The National Park Service — which operates the Cumberland Island National Seashore — and environmental organizations worried about the spaceport's impact on a fragile coastal ecosystem have

also expressed reservations about the project.

Tuesday's ruling didn't bring to an end to the litigation surrounding Spaceport Camden. A federal lawsuit challenging the Federal Aviation Administration's issuance of a launch permit in December 2021 remains pending.

Opponents of Spaceport Camden also have filed a lawsuit in Camden County Court seeking the release of public records concerning the project.

—Capitol Beat News

At Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home, Dogwood Hill Crematory and Lawnwood Memorial Park our brand is built on trust. We treat each family we serve as if they were our own family: no hidden fees, no cookie cutter services, truly the best for your loved one.

trust

For more information about how we can serve your family call 770-786-7062 for Caldwell & Cowan OR 770-787-8314 for Lawnwood Memorial Park

VICKERS HEATING & AIR

Kourageous Outdoor Kids 50 YEARS

Family Owned and Operated for Over 50 Years

Residential HVAC Services 24/7 Emergency Service
Tune-Ups & Inspections A/C Installation & Replacement
Maintenance Programs Rheem Pro Partner
FREE ESTIMATES

770-483-9272

K&M APPLIANCES

Covington's #1 Appliance Store

ALL MAJOR BRANDS!

25 Juniper Ct • Covington, GA • 678-656-3176
Monday-Saturday 10AM-5PM
Sunday Appointment Only

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ORGANIZATIONS

UMPIRES NEEDED

Newton County, Henry County, Butts County

For Youth Baseball & Softball
Free Training Provided

678-294-9426

Ramsey's FURNITURE

Quality at Savings Since 1919

LA 2 BOY

REST • RELAX REJUVENATE™

1145 Clark Street • Covington, GA 30014
770-786-2635
www.ramseyfurniturecompany.com
Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm

We Proudly Carry UltraComfort Lift Chairs.

PROUDLY MADE BY AMERICANS

UltraComfort AMERICA

PROUDLY MADE BY AMERICANS

We provide the RightCare, allowing you to be the son/daughter again.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- Personal Care
- Fall Prevention
- Light House Keeping
- Shopping & Errands

Right at Home®
In Home Care & Assistance

Directors Mark Ross and Dr. Nicole Ross
A global network where most offices are independently owned.

2131 Pace Street | Covington, GA 30014
678-712-6636 | www.raheastatl.com

Letters to the Editor can be delivered by:

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

OPINIONS

The Covington News

Stephen Milligan columnist

Early to rise just makes me cranky

Benjamin Franklin was a great man, a brilliant scientist, statesman, writer, occasional raconteur and overall polymath in so many disciplines its hard to keep up with everything he did in simply one paragraph. One of his many gifts was in the form of the aphorism. He was very good at coming up with short, punchy phrases that expressed wise, pithy statements we still repeat today.

But I have to say, Founding Father or no, he wasn't always right. I just can't bring myself to agree with the following infamous idea:

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

It sounds good, I admit. For one thing, it rhymes, and poetry always makes us thing something is smarter than otherwise.

And since no one likes to get up early, our national concept of "things that you don't enjoy must be good for you" kicks in.

I suppose I can't actually argue against it's possible accuracy. Having done as little of either side of the equation, I can hardly say I've tested its efficacy personally.

And while I feel I'm in decent shape health-wise, I can hardly claim to be wealthy.

I'm not even to talk about the "wise" part lest I leave myself open to cracks from the peanut gallery. Just not going there.

Still, this past week, I had to spend a lot of time trying out the "early to rise" part, as various work commitments had me waking up earlier than my usual habit nearly every day.

I still didn't test Franklin's theory well, though, as I kept going to bed later than he would have preferred. But I have electric lights and he didn't, no wonder he kept going to bed early.

On Thursday, in particular, I was up early to make it to the Walton County Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet, which for some reason this year was an early morning breakfast affair instead of an evening formal event.

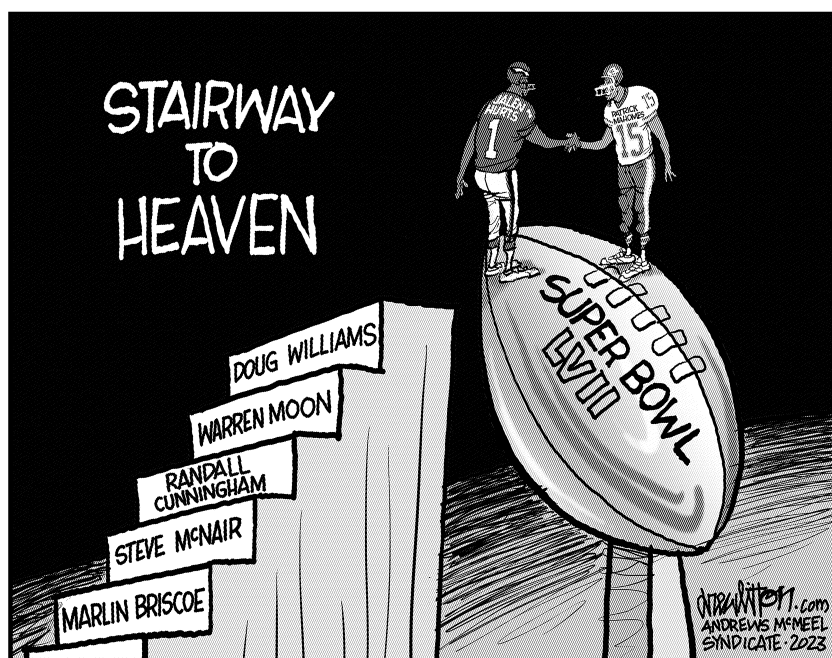
It took two cups of coffee for me to feel I could actually pay attention to the proceedings properly, and I still felt a bit fuzzy by the end of it all (especially since the coffee kept getting cold exceptionally fast).

Here's hoping this breakfast experience is a one-time thing.

I'm just not a morning person, really. I function much more readily in the

See MILLIGAN, A5

Drew Litton cartoonist



Gabriel Stovall publisher and editor

More efficient, citizen-friendly BOC meetings couldn't hurt

So, I have a question. Is there any way that we can make Newton County Board of Commissioners meetings a wee-bit more efficient?

Please know, this is not a "call out." This is not me trying to throw Chairman Marcello Banes or anyone else on that board or in our county under the bus. It really is a genuine question I have.

It's a question that's sort of always hung out in the deeper recesses of my mind. I've attended a few BOC meetings in person. I've also watched most of the others I didn't physically attend online, and, I don't know. It just feels as if it could run a little smoother — perhaps a bit (OK, a lot) shorter?

This question pushed all the way to the forefront of my mind after I spent almost four hours with BOC meeting work this past Tuesday night, including the almost three-and-a-half hours spent in the meeting itself.

Now, I am aware that I'm on the outside looking in on this. I know that each meeting is almost sure to be packed with pertinent and sometimes complex matters for the greater

good of our county that must be discussed. But there are two things I think could help make things operate a bit smoother while also helping the community members who come out to these meetings feel like they're being heard.

First, is there any way to group some of the matters that more than likely promise to contain discussion to the front part of the meeting to get those things out of the way first? It sometimes feels like the agenda flow is a bit helter-skelter. And I'm sure there are times when it's almost impossible to determine if a certain matter will spark major commissioner discussion. But I feel like the commissioners have enough familiarity with the topics at hand — or should — that they'll know what's likely to strike a few more conversational chords than other items.

I also feel that, since those agenda items are also most likely to be of greater interest to the citizens who come to the meetings, placing them toward the top helps them to be able to hear the discussion and see the turnout on voting matters without having to wait until almost 11 p.m. to hear discussion and decision on something that's of

See STOVALL, A5

Your Letters to the Editor

Show District 4 the same respect as others

Dear Editor:

Greetings Chairman Banes and Commissioner Mason, thank you for taking some minutes after the meeting to talk to me about the Boys & Girls Club. I'm glad Commissioner Sanders will have a park in her district. Though after all of the work that she's done, it's clear her district deserved more.

I understand that a vote was taken yesterday, Feb. 7, at a special call meeting to use the Addison property for the Westside Youth Center. But it appears this vote was out of order and it needs to be rescinded.

Though it was an open meeting, there was no space on that agenda for public comment. You voted to have this facility placed on a property without reaching out to the community and asking them what they wanted or involving them in any way.

To make matters worse, you shut out the community by voting to have this facility placed on the Addison property during a special session meeting, without to my knowledge, it ever having been an agenda item in a regular board meeting. And even if it was at some time an agenda item, this should have been voted on during the regular meeting. Then, when the community came out to the regular meeting, after sitting through listening to your vote, you forced them to wait more than three hours after the regular meeting to be heard in public comments.

The special called meeting public notice stated the subject as "land acquisition." It was not stated as "the West Side Youth Center location." This is deceptive. Decisions like this should not be kept from

See LETTERS, A6

Dick Yarbrough columnist

Wonder why we are sleepless in Georgia?

I know you are very busy and I don't want to take up a lot of your time, but I think you need to see this.

A firm called Diamond Rehab Thailand, which calls itself one of the leading luxury insomnia treatment centers in Asia (I'm not sure how many luxury insomnia treatment centers there are in Asia to begin with, but that's a story for another day), sent a list of the Most Sleepless States in the U.S. Georgia ranks 6th. I thought that would get your attention.

The study found that 35.8% of adults in our state are getting less than seven hours sleep each night. I'm not sure how someone in Thailand would know that. I guess luxury insomnia treatment centers know stuff the rest of us don't know, even in Thailand.

According to their study, Hawaii is the most sleepless state of all. It seems that 39.4% of its citizens get on average less than seven hours of sleep nightly and Hawaiians aged 45-64, get even less. Diamond Rehab Thailand doesn't go into detail as to the reasons why but I'm thinking they can't get the sound of ukeleles out of their heads. I'm sure I couldn't.

If you haven't dozed off by now, you may be interested to know that West Virginia ranks second. Since that state is in the Bottom 10 of just about everything measurable from health care to education to the economy, you can't blame them for not sleeping well.

Kentucky was third among sleepless states, according to the study. That one is easy. Their basketball team which is always expected to compete and win national championships every year is just a cut above mediocre this year (15-7, last I looked.) Being among basketball's commoners must have their fans walking the floor at night.

Coming in fourth was our neighbor, Alabama. While 38.3% of adults reported insufficient sleep, the rate was even higher with those aged 18-44 at 41%. My abacus tells me that more than four in ten adults skewed on the younger side of the demographic scale are losing sleep at night. Another easy one.

Alabama is all about football. I mean, what else is there in Alabama? Yes, the University of Alabama's basketball team is ranked No. 4 in the

nation — tying the state's sleeplessness score — but I doubt the majority of fans could tell you who the coach is. They can tell you, however, that they didn't make it to the College Football Playoffs last year, haven't won a national championship in two years and have won only six since Nick Saban showed up.

Auburn, on the other hand, goes through coaches like a box of Kleenex. I'm thinking the insomnia issue is due to Alabama fans wondering when they are going to win another national championship and Auburn coaches wondering when they are going to get fired.

Louisiana is the fifth most sleepless state in the nation. That's understandable. Those living in whatever part of the state that hasn't already been blown away by the latest hurricane are wondering when their turn is coming. The insomnia experts in Thailand don't elaborate but I suspect those pacing the floor in Louisiana are sporting snorkel masks and innertubes.

That brings us to the Great State of Georgia, which ranks sixth among the most sleepless states in the country. Really? What in the name of Tyrus R. Cobb could be keeping us awake at night? Our state has so much surplus money our political leaders are trying to figure out how much of it to give back to us. We are becoming the electric vehicle capital of the nation and plants and jobs are springing up all over the state.

We have the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains to our north and the Golden Isles to our south. In between are pecan and peach orchards. Our flagship university has two consecutive National Football Championships and 25 Rhodes Scholars. We are home to Coca-Cola and Augusta National. We possess the greatest state song in the history of the world, "Georgia on my Mind," as sung by Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia. So what's the problem? I say it's guilt.

We are so blessed to be living in Georgia that we lie awake at night feeling guilty wondering why we have it so much better than everybody else. I don't know if Diamond Rehab Thailand would agree but that's my story and I'm sticking to it. Good night and good luck.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com; at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dick-yarb

The Covington News

Newton Newspapers Inc.

Phone 770.787.6397 (NEWS) | Fax 770.786.6451

Online at covnews.com | email news@covnews.com

The Covington News (USPS 136140) is published bi-weekly on Sunday and Wednesday for \$60 a year for home delivery or \$80 a year for mail delivery by Newton Newspapers Inc., 1166 Usher St. NW, Covington, GA 30014. This newspaper is printed at the Jackson County Sentinel in Scottsboro, Alabama. Periodicals postage paid at Covington, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Covington News, P.O. Box 1249, Covington, GA 30015. Contents Copyright © 2022 Newton Newspapers Inc.

OWNER

Patrick Graham
pgraham@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR

Gabriel Stovall
gstovall@covnews.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Cynthia Warren
cbwarren@covnews.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Lee Ann Avery
lavery@covnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Tom Spigolon
tspigolon@covnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Phillip B. Hubbard
phubbard@covnews.com

LEGALS CLERK

Alicia Goolsby
agoolsby@covnews.com

Georgia General Assembly

Panel OKs raising truck weights after lengthy hearing

By **DAVE WILLIAMS**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Legislation to increase the limit on commercial truck weights in Georgia cleared a state House committee Thursday over the objections of local government officials, traffic safety advocates, and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The House Transportation Committee approved the bill 18-11 following an afternoon-long hearing that lasted more than five hours.

House Bill 189 would raise the legal limit on commercial truck weights in Georgia from 80,000 pounds to

90,000.

In reality, trucks weighing up to 95,000 pounds already are being allowed in the Peach State under an emergency order Gov. Brian Kemp signed nearly three years ago at the beginning of the pandemic, said Rep. Steven Meeks, R-Screven, the bill's chief sponsor.

While truck weights have been a contentious issue the General Assembly has debated for years, supporters said the three years of experience with the emergency order are good reason to approve higher truck weights permanently.

A coalition of Georgia's agriculture and timber industries support

the bill.

Will Bentley, president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, said the proposed increases in truck weights would let farmers move their products on fewer trucks, saving 172,000 truck trips per year, according to a University of Georgia study.

Fewer truck trips translate into savings for local businesses, said Toby McDowell, who runs a logging company in Butts County.

"I'm one of the few people who can say the pandemic saved my business," he said.

McDowell said his company was struggling before Kemp's executive order allowed him

to reduce the number of trucks he uses to haul logs from nine to five while carrying the same amount of freight.

But local government officials said the legislation would damage local roads and bridges that rural cities and counties on tight budgets would be hard pressed to repair.

"Rural counties have a hard time keeping our roads maintained," said Nancy Thrasher, a county commissioner in Lamar County. "I guarantee you local government officials ... are going to get more calls from citizens complaining about closed bridges [and] potholes."

Georgia Commissioner of Transportation

Russell McMurtry said his agency would be forced to redirect funds from critical highway projects to repair the damage the legislation would cause.

He put price tags on what House Bill 189 would cost the DOT: \$500 million a year to rebuild state roads that would be damaged because of the higher truck

weights and \$7 billion to replace 1,408 bridges that would be posted as unsafe for heavier trucks.

McMurtry said the projected growth of freight traffic in Georgia will more than offset any reduction in the number of trucks on the highways that would be possible with heavier trucks.

STOVALL:

Continued from A4

importance to them.

Also, I feel like the citizen's comments portions could be revamped some to help citizens feel more like their concerns are being heard and responded to. In this past Tuesday's meeting, I walked into a packed room with many people wanting to discuss the Westside Youth Facility and ARPA funding processes among other things. I quickly learned that there's no shortage of passion in our county on such matters, and that's a good thing.

I've worked in communities where, regardless of how important the matter, it almost always got discussed in a mostly empty room. The people just didn't care enough to show up and make their voices heard. That's definitely not so in Newton County. And while some may be annoyed about it, I hope it never changes, because community passion that shows up vocally is a sign that you live in a healthy, vibrant community that wants to grow the right way — even if everyone doesn't always agree on the methods to achieve it.

However, the way citizens comments is done now feels...incomplete.

For example, the citizens comments portion toward the beginning of the meeting limits citizens to comment on agenda items only. One individual stood to talk about a particular item on the agenda. Her

comments morphed into a matter regarding the Youth Facility that wasn't on the agenda. She was able to continue her comments.

A couple of people later, another person wanted to share on that same topic but was halted because it was said that the youth facility was not on the agenda.

"But the other person got was just talking about it," was that citizen's reply. And she was right. Therefore, I can see how that someone could've walked away feeling like one person was heard but the other was not.

Also, I'm not a fan of how commissioners are not allowed to provide at least some response to citizens comments — especially when a citizen is asking a particular question. I know that they make themselves available after the meeting to talk with people individually. But, again, when you're meeting goes almost to 11 p.m. in the middle of a work week, how many people can really afford to sit around for that long?

I know you can't answer everyone's concerns, and you certainly can't be exhaustive, because that would likely create a free for all that wouldn't be good for anyone. But I often wonder if the questions and issues that citizens bring up in the comments portion of meetings ever truly get resolved?

It just feels like they say their piece, the commissioners nod and smile, and that's it. My heart went out to one man in particular on Tuesday night who raised a question about being able to have more than one visitor at a time to inmates in the county jail.

He spoke of how his wife, who was in a wheelchair, had a hard time being able to see their son who was an inmate because the one person rule did not allow for someone to wheel her to the area to see her son.

His three-minute time limit came and went before he was fully able to articulate the concern, and it was, again, one of those matters where you just wonder: Does anyone ever pick these issues back up and try to bring resolution, or at least respond in such a way to where citizens feel seen and heard?

Perhaps a regrouping of agenda topics and a streamlining of discussion among commissioners may give a little more time for citizens to be listened to and responded to.

Perhaps adding more work sessions, sort of how the school board does, to allow commissioners opportunities to get some of the questions and discussion out of the way, would cause for a more crisply run Tuesday night with less citizens walking away from

a marathon meeting still unsatisfied with the answers and level of interaction they're getting from the board members who are supposed to be working for them.

As with anything, there's not going to be a perfect solution that makes everyone happy. But, if it isn't something that's already on the minds of our BOC members, I hope it is. It's never a good thing when those whom you work for feel they are being unheard. I know you'll never make anyone happy, but I don't think that absolves us from trying to make things better for the greater good of those who elected our government officials in the first place.

Gabriel Stovall is the publisher and editor of The Covington News. He can be reached at gstovall@covnews.com.

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

THE K Coleman TEAM



Kristin Coleman, Realtor®
Accredited Buyer's Representative
Seller Representative Specialist
C. 404-423-0375
O. 770-623-1900
info@kcolemanteam.com
www.kcolemanteam.com
10205 Industrial Blvd Ste. D
Covington, GA 30014

HENHOUSE RESERVE
WINTER CANDY APPLE



\$2.00 off
PER BLOCK
WHEN YOU BUY ANY BAG OF POULTRY FEED
Regular price \$14.89
With discount \$12.89
OFFER ENDS 2/28/2023

HENHOUSE RESERVE
WINTER CANDY APPLE



ANOTHER GREAT PRODUCT FROM KALMBACH FEEDS
FAMILY OWNED, GRAIN GROWN IN THE USA, MADE IN THE USA FOR 3 GENERATIONS!
AVAILABLE AT YOUR KALMBACH DEALER
THE STOCK MARKET
4479 HWY 20 SE, CONYERS 770.483.8620
OPEN MON-SAT 9 TILL 8 SUN. 10 TILL 6

VIPER Security Technologies



Improve Security
Video Doorbell
Smart Lock
HD Video Cameras
24/7 Monitoring
Increase Home Value
Smart Thermostat
Smart Lights
Smart Plugs
iPhone/Android App

Smart Home Security

CALL: (678) 342-9110

Above All TREE SERVICE
770-922-5356

23 YEARS THANK YOU
SERVING YOU SINCE 1999

- Large or Dangerous Tree Removal
- Articulating Loader to Protect Your Yard!
- Discounts Available (10 or more trees)
 - Stump Grinding
- Drug Free Work Environment
- FREE ESTIMATES

770-922-5356
ABOVEALLTREES.COM

DIRECTV

SAME GREAT TV EXPERIENCE
NEW 2-YEAR PRICE GUARANTEE

Contact your local DIRECTV dealer!

1-888-505-3785

DIRECTV DEALER

EQUIPMENT LEASE REQUIRED. \$19.95 ACTIVATION. EARLY TERMINATION FEE OF \$20/MO. FOR EACH MONTH REMAINING ON AGMT. EQUIPMENT NON-RETURN & ADD'L FEES APPLY. New approved residential customers only. Credit card req'd (except MA & FL). Rec't's apply. *Access HBO Max only through HBO Max app or hbo.com. Online account registration required. ©2023 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.


State Farm

Ayanna Ford-Bogan
Agent
678-212-5004
www.youragentayanna.com
13015 Brown Bridge Road
Suite 500
Covington, GA 30016



I AM CASA

TRACI MASK
Mom, Wife, CASA Volunteer
If not me, then who? I have always been passionate about helping children find their voice and be heard. As a two-time cancer survivor, I was no longer able to work, but I still wanted to make a difference. You don't have to have experience in child welfare, you just need to want to make a difference in a child's life. I mean, who wouldn't want to do that, right?



ASK ME WHY I VOLUNTEER

ALCOVYCASA.ORG

**MATTRESSES • ADJUSTABLE BASES
PILLOWS • ACCESSORIES**

Your New Mattress is guaranteed to make today a ...

TEMPUR
Georgia's Largest Selection of
Beautyrest
Products!
Sealy

Good Morning!

We carry today's top-rated brands with cutting edge cool to the touch technology and a wide variety of sleep accessories.

MattressChoice
770-728-1259

ASK ABOUT OUR PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE!

\$749 Free Sheet Set • \$1049 Free Pillows
\$1549 Free Sheet Set and Pillows
While supplies last. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

3112 Highway 278
Covington, GA 30014 (Newton Plaza)
4018 Atlanta Hwy
Loganville (Next door to TJ Maxx)
770-554-3886
www.mattress-choice.com

MILLIGAN:

Continued from A4

latter half of the day, after the sun has gone down and the night sets in. Unfortunately, the rest of the world insists on conducting business during daylight hours, more's the pity.

I suppose, to be fair, I should actually try Franklin's idea out

properly. I could surely use the wealth part of his results promise.

Then again, Franklin was a known carouser who spent time in places like Paris. Like all such sorts, he was probably better at giving advice than following it.

I think I'll continue to stay away from the early morning routine whenever I can.

Stephen Milligan is news editor of The Walton Tribune. Email comments to stephen.milligan@waltontribune.com.

Alexander
APPRAISING
Real Estate Appraisal Services
Paige Alexander
Owner/Commercial Appraiser
770-787-5135

D&W Air Flow
Your Comfort is Our Business
Stay Cool This Summer!
11290 Brown Bridge Rd.
Covington, GA 30016
www.dwairflow.com • 770-788-7700
High-Quality Air Conditioning Services Since 1986

Social Circle ACE Home Center
Serving Newton, Walton and the Surrounding counties since 1956
181 S. Cherokee St.
Social Circle, GA 30025
(770) 464-3354

RestEasy MATTRESS
Covington's Most Trusted & Respected Bedding Store
Always Fair Prices!
Always 100% New Products!
Voted #1 Mattress Store
2016-2022 Best of Newton
Readers Choice Award
770-786-8777
www.resteasymattress.com
2185 Pace Street • Covington GA
Mon-Sat 10am to 6pm - Later Hours / Sunday's by Appointment
Locally Owned For 30+ Years

NOW HIRING Express EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
10232 Industrial Blvd NE • Covington GA 30014
678-342-8244

Business | Auto | Home | Life & Group Health
PIEDMONT INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.
Since 1948
The right advice, the right coverage, at the right time.
10243 South Dearing St. • Covington, GA 30014
770-788-9000 • www.piedmontins.com
CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

O'Reilly Early Learning Center
"The place where minds are developed to succeed"
We offer the STEM program and the Creative Strategy Curriculum
Enroll Your child today!!
6 weeks-12 years
Monday-Friday
6:30am-6:30pm
8151 Hazelbrand Rd NE • Covington, GA 30014 • 470-444-1550
www.oreillyearlylearningcenter.com • info@oreillyearlylearningcenter.com

Covington Police Department

Chief's 25 years in job celebrated

STAFF REPORT
news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Covington Police Department celebrated its 2022 Annual Awards Ceremony Sunday, Feb. 5, where Mayor Steve Horton read a proclamation proclaiming Feb. 5, 2023, as "Chief Stacy L. Cotton Day" in honor of Cotton's 25 years of service as the city's police chief.

Cotton started his tenure at the Covington Police Department in January 1987 and after being promoted to sergeant, lieutenant, and assistant chief, he became the department's chief of police in 1997.

Throughout his service as chief, he has served as president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, was named "Outstanding Chief of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police



Special | City of Covington

From left, Covington Police Chief Stacy Cotton shows the proclamation for Chief Stacy L. Cotton Day with Mayor Steve Horton.

for 2012-2013, and is a "Life Member" of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. — Covington Police Department celebrated its 2022 Annual Awards Ceremony Sunday, Feb. 5, where Mayor Steve Horton read a proclamation proclaiming Feb. 5, 2023, as "Chief Stacy L. Cotton Day"

in honor of Cotton's 25 years of service as the city's police chief.

Cotton started his tenure at the Covington Police Department in January 1987 and after being promoted to sergeant, lieutenant, and assistant chief, he became the department's chief of police in 1997.

Throughout his

service as chief, he has served as president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, was named "Outstanding Chief of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police for 2012-2013, and is a "Life Member" of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb. 11

• Newton County Republican Party Precinct Caucus, 10 a.m., Canaan Baptist Church, 5581 Salem Road, Covington. All Newton County residents who are legally registered to vote and believe in the principles of the Republican Party are urged to participate in this process. For more information, email bcherry@newtongop.org.

Friday, Feb. 17

• Free showing of "Selma," a 2014 film partially shot in Covington, as part of the Magnolia Drive-In movie series. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. at Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. Presented by the city of Covington for Black History Month.

• The Oxford Sustainability Committee is hosting their Pull Invasive Plants event from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet

at the end of East Bonnell Street near the Oxford Organic Farm exit. The public is invited to attend and the committee will have knowledgeable people on hand to help show what to pull. Be sure to wear tennis shoes and gloves. For more information, call 770-786-7004.

Saturday, Feb. 18

• Newton County African American History Parade,

10 a.m., from Legion Field to Covington Square. Those wanting to register a group or groups to participate can email Ann Marks Bargie of the Newton County Historical Committee on Black Heritage Preservation at newtonhistoricalcommittee@gmail.com for an entry form. For more information, call 770-315-8949, 678-485-7540, 770-865-4973 or 404-861-0707.

LETTERS:

Continued from A4

community. I also find it incredible that three commissioners can vote to have a project placed in a district that is not their own, while the district commissioner whose district you are placing it in is against it.

I can't imagine doing this in District 1 or

District 5. In fact, when discussing the truck ordinance, no one dissented when Stan Edwards, District 1 commissioner, suggested taking it to his community. It was just understood that in a decision like this, you need to feel out what the community wants. Why was there not that same concern or respect afforded when it came to our community?

So there are a lot of questions that our community has. Please answer them. I have sent them to open records. Can you vote to place a community center on property you do not own? Who owns the Addison property

now?

You said that the Boys & Girls Club will be facilitating the youth center. Is there an MOU between the Boys & Girls Club and the County? When was the MOU agreed to and signed by the commissioners? Can I have a copy of that agreement? It's important that we have an understanding of how our community will be impacted by your decision.

You assured me on Tuesday that there would be multiple hearings in our community so that we would have input on the planning of the facility and the common areas that are

part of our Trelawney community.

As mentioned earlier, these meetings should have been had before the vote was taken at the special call meeting. It is for this reason we are asking you to rescind the vote that was taken on February 7 at the special call meeting to use the Addison property for the Westside Youth Center. Show District 4 the respect that you afford District 1 and 5.

Thank you.

Annette Alston,
President,
Trelawney
Homeowners'
Association

THANK YOU, COVINGTON NEWS READERS
FOR RECOGNIZING UNITED BANK AS

Best Bank
2023
Newton County
Covington

BACK-TO-BACK WINNER!
2022 & 2023

7200 Highway 278 NE • Covington
678.342.7211 • accessunited.com

UnitedBank

Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC

Congress



Phillip B. Hubbard | The News

U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson listens to federal Border Patrol officials during a recent trip to El Paso, Texas.

Congressman visits border

STAFF REPORT
news@covnews.com

EL PASO, Texas — U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Stonecrest, recently toured El Paso and the border as part of a delegation led by U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas.

Johnson traveled to Texas Feb. 4 to get a comprehensive look at the challenges migrants and federal law enforcement agents face along the border.

“It was important for me to see for myself the impact of an outdated immigration system affecting both migrants and law enforcement as Democrats continue the fight for meaningful reform in Washington,” he said.

Johnson represents Georgia’s 4th Congressional District that includes part of Newton County.

Escobar said she was “thrilled that 10 members of Congress joined me in El Paso to see firsthand how our immigration policies are affecting communities along the southern border.”

“Bringing so many of my col-

leagues to my community is an incredible opportunity to not only show off the important and often overlooked work on the ground going on in border communities but to also continue urging meaningful immigration reform, including investment in the infrastructure at our ports.”

As part of the Congressional delegation, Johnson visited the Paso Del Norte Port of Entry to meet with law enforcement, including Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents, and discuss much-needed infrastructure investments, including that provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

He also toured a Central Processing Center and the El Paso County Processing Center, where the delegation had the opportunity to speak with migrants who made the journey to the U.S.

They also met with several stakeholders managing the migrant arrivals, including regional leaders, advocates, business leaders and faith leaders.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Disaster Recovery Center open at Boy Scout Camp

STAFF REPORT
news@covnews.com

ATLANTA – A FEMA disaster recovery center opened Feb. 2 in Newton County to provide one-on-one assistance to people directly affected by the Jan. 12 severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes, the federal agency announced.

Recovery specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration will provide information on available services, explain assistance programs and help survivors complete or check the status of their applications. The disaster recovery center location is Bert Adams Scout Camp, Ashley Leaders Center, 218 Scout Road, Covington, GA 30016.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

People directly affected by the severe storms and tornadoes may visit the recovery center, apply with FEMA online at DisasterAssistance.gov, call 800-621-3362 or download FEMA’s mobile app (select Disaster Resources and click on Apply for Assistance Online).

For needs directly related to the Jan.12 weather systems, FEMA may be able to provide Individual Assistance grant money that does not have to be repaid for:

- Rental Assistance if you need to relocate because of storm-related damage
- Personal Property that was damaged or destroyed by these weather events
- Lodging Reimbursement if you had to stay in a hotel temporarily
- Basic Home Repairs for homeowners whose primary residence was damaged by these weather events
- Other Serious Needs caused by the recent storms. Please note only one application per household; and FEMA does not pay for lost or spoiled food.

For information on Georgia’s disaster recovery visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4685 or on Twitter at [Twitter.com/FEMARegion4](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion4).

Homeowners That Own Two or More Vehicles

Better Coverage for Lower Rates

Obtain Assistance from an Expert

Text the Word QUOTE to 678-679-6542

Buying or Selling a home?

Find out your real options.

PickiVickiHomes.com

When You're Picki... Choose Vicki™

State of the Union

Newton reps’ reactions vary widely

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
news@covnews.com

WASHINGTON — As expected, Newton County’s two congressmen had widely varying reactions to President Joe Biden’s State of the Union address Tuesday with one highly critical and the other saying it was “forceful” and “positive.”

Biden exhorted Congress to work with him to “finish the job” of rebuilding the economy and uniting the nation as he delivered the address aimed at reassuring a country beset by pessimism and fraught political divisions.

The backdrop for the annual address was markedly different from the previous two years, with a Republican speaker now sitting expressionless behind Biden and newly empowered GOP lawmakers in the chamber sometimes shouting criticism of him and his administration.

In his speech, Biden sought to portray a nation dramatically improved from the one he took charge of two years ago: from a reeling economy to one prosperous with new jobs; from a crippled, pandemic-weary nation to one that has now reopened, and a democracy that has survived its biggest test since the Civil War.

U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, R-Jackson, of Georgia’s 10th Congressional District, released a statement after hearing his first State of the Union address as a member of Congress following his November election.

“Two years of Biden’s failed leadership and

America last policies have devastated our country, and no amount of lipstick is going to make this pig pretty,” Collins said.

“With historically high inflation, an out-of-control southern border, and energy prices remaining stubbornly high, the Biden administration can only be characterized as an abject failure with no intention of changing course.”

U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Stonecrest, of Georgia’s 4th Congressional District, said, “Despite the unfortunate and unprecedented level of Republican heckling, (Tuesday) night President Biden delivered a forceful, positive and inspiring message to American people that the state of our union is strong, but there is a lot more work to be done.

“If Republicans and Democrats come together like we did last session, we can finish the job.”

News Editor Tom Spigolon contributed to this report.

NEED LIFE INSURANCE?

Let me be your life insurance agent!!

No medical exam!!
We cover pre existing conditions!!
Term or Whole Life
Call me today for a quote!!

*Same day coverage available

KRYSTAL NOLLEY
678-767-5657

NITRO 2 GO BEVERAGES

GREAT PRICES ON SPIRITS, WINE, BEER & CIGARS

9135 Dr M L King Jr Ave • Covington, GA 30014

470-205-3600

Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm • Fri-Sat 9am-9.30pm • Sun 12.30pm-7.30pm

WWW.NITRO2GOBEV.COM

THE COVINGTON NEWS’ PET OF THE WEEK

Your pet is part of your family...

OUR MISSION:
To provide gentle and dignified cremation services for the beloved pets you entrust us to.

WHEELER PETUARY

Our Family Serving Yours
78 Chamisa Rd, Covington, GA 30016
www.wheelerpetuary.com

470-205-3000

SERVING 6 COUNTIES

A Proud Contributor to Our Local Humane Society

Hi, my name is Bruno!
You can adopt me from
Pound Puppies N’ Kittens Inc.,
located in Social Circle.
Call 770-464-3393 to learn more.



FEBRUARY 2023 EVENTS

***FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023**

Magnolia Drive-In at Legion Field (3173 Mill Street NE, 30014) presents *Selma*, a movie filmed in Covington! Gates open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. **Admission is FREE.**

***SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

Black History Month Parade through Downtown Covington: 10 a.m.

***NCSS STUDENT ART EXHIBIT: "I AM BLACK HISTORY"**

Visit the Covington Welcome Center (1143 Oak St. SE, 30014) to view local students' artwork themed "I AM BLACK HISTORY." Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday.

***CRICKET FROG TRAIL**

Walk the Cricket Frog Trail between Pace St. & West St. to read signs featuring facts relative to Covington and Newton County's black history.



CELEBRATE
BLACK
HISTORY

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Basketball

ON A MISSION

“Big 3” has eyes on state title in senior seasons



Garrett Pitts | The News

(From left) Jakai Newton (0), Stephon Castle (2) and Marcus Whitlock (22) are the top three senior leaders for the Newton Rams this season. Their goal since before the season started has been to hang a state championship banner in Newton’s gymnasium.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Hanging at the top of Newton High School’s gymnasium are region championship and state playoff banners.

There is an array of Elite Eight and Sweet Sixteen banners in the rafters, but only one lonely state title banner from Newton’s boys basketball team — the 1964 state crown won by the Rams.

Nearly 60 years later, Newton’s star players — Stephon Castle, Jakai Newton and Marcus Whitlock — want to be responsible for giving that banner some company.

In fact, that’s been their main mission since day one at Newton

“It’s our last year,” Newton said. “It feels like yesterday we came in as freshmen, but the time went by quickly. It’s our last go round at it.”

The trio has seen the program steadily inch closer and closer to capturing a state championship.

At the end of their freshmen seasons, the Rams finished in the Sweet Sixteen. A year later, Newton progressed to the Elite Eight before being eliminated. And just last season, the Rams were knocked out in the Final Four.

Now, Castle said they’re ready to get over the hump.

“I think we can go all the way,” Castle said.

Castle is a 5-star combo guard committed to UConn basketball while Newton is a 4-star Indiana signee. Meanwhile, Whitlock seems to be the most overlooked of Newton’s current “Big 3.”

Nevertheless, Whitlock is considered a vital part to the Rams’ chances at state supremacy. So much so that, unlike last season, Whitlock is in the starting five.

“I’ve got a heavier load this year,” Whitlock said. “I just come into every game ready to play. This time I feel like I’ve got to come in and fight more because it’s my last year. We want to win.”

Meanwhile, Jakai Newton has dealt with a knee injury in his senior season. As a result, he’s missed out on most of this year.

But Newton had his triumphant return to the court on Friday, Feb. 3, at Archer. He had a few high intensity dunks that got the crowd on its feet.

Now back from being sidelined, Newton is eager to help the Rams the rest of the way.

See BIG 3, B5

Prep Girls Basketball



Garrett Pitts | The News

Mehkyla White (5) has led the Lady Eagles all season with her calm demeanor. She is also second on the team in scoring, averaging 10 points per game.

White takes leadership role to heart

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — When faced with a 17-point deficit against Jefferson on Jan. 27, the Eastside girls basketball team didn’t seem to panic. In fact, it stayed the course and eventually overcame the Lady Dragons 66-61.

Taking them over the top was Mehkyla White who connected on a three-pointer down the stretch to give her team the only lead the Lady Eagles needed.

At that moment, White didn’t celebrate or show any big emotion. She remained cool. But that was nothing new for the senior guard.

“I’m naturally a laid back person, and that carries over onto the court,” White said. “I am also very calm and focused when the game starts.”

Displaying such a tranquil spirit has been one of the reasons for Eastside’s hot stretch to end the regular season.

Eastside finished the year winning six straight games, which included a one-point victory at Flowery Branch, two wins over Social Circle and its big-

See WHITE, B6

Prep Basketball

Redskins remain unbeaten in region play



Cassie Jones | The News

Lamarius Jackson (5) goes up for a highly contested layup in the second half of Social Circle’s 54-41 region victory against Prince Avenue at home on Tuesday.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — For the past few seasons, the Social Circle Redskins have relied heavily on their offensive prowess. Tuesday night was all defensive, which led Social Circle to a 54-31 win over the Prince Avenue Wolverines.

And, while it breaks head coach Taylor Jackson’s offensive heart, he is glad to see the Redskins step up on the other end.

“We were really packing it in, making it tough to get the ball to No. 5,” Jackson said. “We tried to contest shots as best we could and hope they missed. Then that led us into some transition buckets where the twins are elite in transition.”

“The twins” Jackson referenced are Quin and Lamarius Jackson.

Tuesday’s pivotal moment came in the latter half of the third quarter.

Trailing 22-15 at the half, Prince Avenue went on a 15-8 run in the first four and a half minutes of the second half. As a result, the score was tied for the first time since the opening moments of the game.

Jackson proceeded to call a timeout for his team to regroup — and regroup they did.

In the final minutes of the third quarter, Social Circle’s defense applied more pressure — which resulted in turnovers and missed shots by the Wolverines — and provided easy buckets on the other end.

When the third frame closed, the Redskins’ 11-0 run stretched their lead 41-30.

Social Circle never looked back from that point on.

Lamarius led his team with 24 points with his brother Quin trailing as No. 2 for the Redskins with 17 points.

Coach Jackson couldn’t say enough positive things about the twins’ play, not only last night, but all season.

But there is one major stat that coach Jackson focused on and has had concern throughout the year. And that is a consistent third, fourth and fifth scoring option.

Dashon Hyman, AJ Vinson and Jammecus Hodge, Justin Russell were three candidates to help fill those roles, but the next step for them, coach Jackson stressed, is consistency.

“If we can just find a way to get two to three buckets from other guys, guess what, it’s going to be wide open for Lamarius and Quindarius,” Jackson said. “Lamarius and Quindarius are recording their numbers and they’re getting doubled and triple teamed every time they touch the ball. If we can flow more on offense to other guys, we’ll be at our best.”

Only three other players scored a combined nine points outside of Lamarius and Quin on Tuesday.

However, the Redskins’ defense provided enough transition points for them to come out on top.

See REDSKINS, B6

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

Items for Sale

Cemetery Lots

FOR SALE
COLUMBARIUM CREMATION Site
LOCATED At Lawnwood Memorial
Park \$1500.00
770-786-7998

Real Estate

For Rent

APARTMENT FOR RENT
CONYERS- IN-LAW apartment,
completely furnished, 1BR,
1BA, kitchen & living room
area, Utilities included.
Nicely decorated in Very Nice
neighborhood. \$975/month, \$200/
deposit. No Pets 678-558-5478

LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

ABANDONED VEHICLES

MIKE'S KUSTOM COLORS
9231 C HWY 278

2011 INFI G37
JJN1C6VEL1BM261124

OWNER SHELIA Foster

PUBLIC NOTICE #500210
2/5,12

PUBLIC NOTICE:

THE BELOW listed vehicle is a
repossession and currently stored
at Insurance Auto Auction, 125 Old
Hwy 138, Loganville GA 30052. 770-
784-5767 and if not claimed will be
sold at public auction on 3-3-23, 10:
AM.
VEHICLE DESCRIPTION and
Vehicle Identification Number:
2014 HYUNDAI Azera
KMJFH4JG4EA412781
PUBLIC NOTICE #500245
2/12

SELLARS WRECKER SERVICE
295 HWY 162
COVINGTON, GA 30016
770-786-1869

NOTICE OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES:

• **2001 HONDA ACCORD**
1HGCG22581A016425
• **2015 FORD FUSION**
3FA6P0H93FR309226
• **2006 HONDA CIVIC**
1HGFA16566L117297
• **1999 MAZDA 626**
1YVGF22C6X5870472
• **2006 FORD TAURUS**
1FAFP53U06A128023
• **2004 MITSUBISHI**
ECLIPSE 4A3AE45G04E037347
• **2018 FORD FUSION**
3FA6P0H73JR118199
• **2002 INFINITI 135**
JNKJDA31A32T001764
• **2008 BMW 328i**
WBAVA37568NL44188
PUBLIC NOTICE #500216
2/5,12

Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

THE CITY of Covington is soliciting
competitive bids from qualified
contractors for a commercial roof
replacement.

A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting
will be held at 10:00 am Thursday,
February 16th, 2023 at City of
Covington Council Room/Court
Room located at 2116 Stallings St
NW Covington, GA 30014.

SEALED BIDS must be delivered
to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW,
Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott
Cromer no later than 10:00 am
Thursday, March 9th, 2023. Bids will
be opened at 10:30am.

A 5% bid bond will be required with
bid. A Payment and Performance
Bond in the amount of 100% will be
required from awarded vendor.

REQUEST FOR Bids and additional
information may be obtained by
accessing the request for proposals
on the City's website at https://
www.cityofcovington.org/index.
php?section=business-opportunities
THE CITY of Covington reserves the
right to reject any and all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500140
1/29-2/12

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST
FOR PROPOSAL FOR
DESIGN SERVICES – Community
Waterpark
RFP #23-20

NEWTON COUNTY Board of
Commissioners will be receiving
separate sealed proposals for Design
Consultant Services for the new
Community Waterpark electronically
until 10:00 AM local time, Thursday,
March 16, 2023. ALL PROPOSALS
MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH
BONFIRE'S ELECTRONIC
SUBMISSION PORTAL.

THERE WILL be a MANDATORY Pre-
Submission Conference on Tuesday,
February 28, 2023 , at 1:30 PM at
the Turner Lake Park – Community
Center, located at 6185 Turner Lake
Rd NW, Covington, GA 30014

NOTE: DESIGN Consultant and
all subconsultants must obtain a
business license and be fully insured.
The successful Proposer shall secure
and pay for all permits, assessments,
charges, or fees required in
connection with the proposed project.

INSURANCE:
CONSULTANT SHALL maintain the
following insurance:

A) COMPREHENSIVE General
Liability, including blanket contractual,
covering bodily injuries with limits
of no less than \$1,000,000.00
per occurrence, and property
damage with limits of no less than

Georgia

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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

Call Georgia Newspaper Service - 770-434-6776

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

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 2/12/23

CELLULAR

Switch and save up to \$250/ year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer – get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

HEALTHCARE

Caring for an aging loved one? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-651-1231

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BCI Walk In Tubs are now on SALE! Be one of the first 50 callers and save \$1,500! CALL 833-928-4865 for a free in-home consultation.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. PLUS 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-735-0477.

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote * Call now before the next power outage: 1-877-318-8496

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 1-877-420-5722.

PROFESSIONAL LAWN SERVICE: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration and mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! 855-962-5189.

MISCELLANEOUS

FIFTY YEARS LIVING IN JAPAN WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE ADVENTURE TO THIS ALABAMA FARM BOY. READ MY WEBSITE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND MISSIONARY STORIES. INVITE EVERYONE TO READ THEM:

www.Christ-is-all.us

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 866-994-1146.

PROBLEM CREDIT REPORT? Lexington Law helps work to challenge inaccurate negative items including: identity theft, collections, late payments, liens, and more from your credit report. Call for a free consultation 877-324-2388. John C. Heath, Attorney at Law, PLLC, dba Lexington Law Firm.

Need IRS Relief \$10K - \$125 K+ Get Fresh Start or Forgiveness Call 1-877-702-7854 Monday through Friday 7AM-5PM PST

Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443

PETS

Are you a pet owner? Do you want to get up to 100% back on Vet Bills? Physicians Mutual Insurance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call 1-877-361-1181 to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/gsc.

TV/INTERNET

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor

Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-833-342-4633

DISH Network. \$64.99 For 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-866-369-1468

Get DIRECTV for \$84.99/mo for 24 months with CHOICE Package. NEW 2 YEAR PRICE GUARANTEE. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-505-3785

Choose EarthLink Fiber Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-917-3436

WANTED

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie Star, D'Angelico, Stromberg and Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. Call 866-398-1867.

PAYING TOP CASH for MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 866-398-1867.

\$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

B) COMMERCIAL Automobile Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per accident.

C) STATUTORY Worker's Compensation Insurance, including \$1,000,000.00 employer's liability insurance.

ALL INSURANCE shall be provided by an insurer(s) acceptable to the County and shall provide for thirty (30) days prior notice of cancellation to the County. Upon request, Contractor shall deliver to the County a certificate or policy of insurance evidencing Contractor's compliance with this paragraph. Contractor shall abide by all terms and conditions of the insurance and shall do nothing to impair or invalidate the coverage.

EACH PROPOSAL will be considered by the Newton County Board of Commissioners, taking into consideration specific evaluation factors, as set forth in the Request for Proposal. The County reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitation, the right to reject any Proposal that the County believes would not be in the best interest of the Project.

DIGITAL COPIES of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the Purchasing office at no charge by visiting www.co.newton.ga.us or contacting Randi Fincher at 678-625-1237 or rfincher@co.newton.ga.us. Hard copies of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained upon a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 for each set. The County is not obligated to consider the contractor's proposal if they are not on record with the issuing office as having received complete Proposal Documents.

FEBRUARY 14, 2023
NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners

PUBLIC NOTICE #500240
2/12

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST
FOR PROPOSAL FOR
DESIGN SERVICES – Westside
Community Park & Southside
Community Park
RFP #23-19

NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners will be receiving separate sealed proposals for Design Consultant Services for the new Westside & Southside Community Parks electronically until 9:00 AM local time, Thursday, March 16, 2023. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BONFIRE'S ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PORTAL.

THERE WILL be a MANDATORY Pre-Submission Conference on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 , at 2:30 PM at the Turner Lake Park – Community Center, located at 6185 Turner Lake Rd NW, Covington, GA 30014

NOTE: CONTRACTOR and all subcontractors must obtain a business license and be fully insured. The successful Proposer shall secure and pay for all permits, assessments, charges, or fees required in connection with the proposed project.

INSURANCE:
CONSULTANT SHALL maintain the following insurance:

A) COMPREHENSIVE General Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

B) COMMERCIAL Automobile Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

C) STATUTORY Worker's Compensation Insurance, including \$1,000,000.00 employer's liability

insurance.

ALL INSURANCE shall be provided by an insurer(s) acceptable to the County and shall provide for thirty (30) days prior notice of cancellation to the County. Upon request, Contractor shall deliver to the County a certificate or policy of insurance evidencing Contractor's compliance with this paragraph. Contractor shall abide by all terms and conditions of the insurance and shall do nothing to impair or invalidate the coverage.

EACH PROPOSAL will be considered by the Newton County Board of Commissioners, taking into consideration specific evaluation factors, as set forth in the Request for Proposal. The County reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitation, the right to reject any Proposal that the County believes would not be in the best interest of the Project.

DIGITAL COPIES of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the Purchasing office at no charge by visiting www.co.newton.ga.us or contacting Randi Fincher at 678-625-1237 or rfincher@co.newton.ga.us. Hard copies of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained upon a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 for each set. The County is not obligated to consider the contractor's proposal if they are not on record with the issuing office as having received complete Proposal Documents.

FEBRUARY 14, 2023
NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners

PUBLIC NOTICE #500241
2/12

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST
OF PROPOSAL
DESIGN-BUILD SENIOR Services
Enrichment Center
RFP #23-18

NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners will be receiving separate sealed proposals for Design Build Services for the new Senior Services Enrichment Center electronically until 11:00 AM local time, Thursday, March 16, 2023. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BONFIRE'S ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PORTAL.

THERE WILL be a MANDATORY Pre-Submission Conference on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 , at 11:00 AM at the Turner Lake Park – Community Center, located at 6185 Turner Lake Rd NW, Covington, GA 30014

NOTE: CONTRACTOR and all subcontractors must obtain a business license and be fully insured. The successful Proposer shall secure and pay for all permits, assessments, charges, or fees required in connection with the proposed project.

INSURANCE:
CONSULTANT SHALL maintain the following insurance:

A) COMPREHENSIVE General Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

B) COMMERCIAL Automobile Liability, including blanket contractual, covering bodily injuries with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and property damage with limits of no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

C) STATUTORY Worker's Compensation Insurance, including \$1,000,000.00 employer's liability

EACH PROPOSAL will be

considered by the Newton County Board of Commissioners, taking into consideration specific evaluation factors, as set forth in the Request for Proposal. The County reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitation, the right to reject any Proposal that the County believes would not be in the best interest of the Project.

DIGITAL COPIES of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the Purchasing office at no charge by visiting www.co.newton.ga.us or contacting Randi Fincher at 678-625-1237 or rfincher@co.newton.ga.us. Hard copies of the PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS may be obtained upon a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 for each set. The County is not obligated to consider the contractor's proposal if they are not on record with the issuing office as having received complete Proposal Documents.

FEBRUARY 14, 2023
NEWTON COUNTY Board of Commissioners

PUBLIC NOTICE #500242
2/12

THE CITY of Covington is accepting Requests for Qualifications for Professional Services for the design of the **Turner Lake Road Widening Project**. Sealed proposals must be delivered to the Purchasing Department Attn: Scott Cromer at City Hall, (2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA) no later than 10:00 AM March 10, 2023. No cost proposals shall be submitted for the submittal of qualifications. Scope of Project

THE SCOPE of this project is to provide all required professional services to prepare concept alternatives for the roadway widening of Turner Lake Road from US 278 to SR 81. Once an alternative is selected by the City of Covington, the consultant will prepare construction plans in order for the city to let this project for construction.

THE CITY will select the best qualified consultant(s) based on the information received from interested firms as a result of this solicitation.

REQUEST FOR Proposals and additional information may be obtained by accessing the request for proposals/bids on the City's website at <https://www.cityofcovington.org/index.php?section=business-opportunities>
THE CITY of Covington reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500243
2/12,19

Citations

CITAION

TO MATTHEW Hibbetts

RHONDA GARNDER has filed for Temporary Letter of Guardianship of the Person (s) **Bentley James Webb**, minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before **February 27, 2023**, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne, Clerk, Probate Court
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #500252
2/12,19

CITAION

TO DAVIDSON A. OESTERLE

RHONDA GARNDER has filed for Temporary Letter of Guardianship of the Person (s) **EASTON LEE ALLEN WEBB**, minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before February 27, 2023, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge
BY: MARCIA Wynne, Clerk, Probate

Court
NEWTON COUNTY, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #500253
2/12,19

CITATION

CRISTAL DENISE FAVORS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **FERNANZA LORENZO FAVORS** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500198
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

DOUGLAS E. ANDERSON has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **ELAINE A. ANDERSON** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500202
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

JULIA S. PHILLIPS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **JANE ELLEN FLEMING** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500226
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

LATRICIA JONES has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **RICHARD JONES** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500225
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

PEGGY ANN BURNS has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **KEASHAWN SHAWNAE WASHINGTON** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500201
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

TE'ORA JOYCELYN GREEN has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of **WAYNE DOUGLAS MIMS** deceased. (The applicant has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A 53-12-232). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before MARCH 6 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 #500227
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

THE PETITION of **CROSSLEY BROWN** widow of **GEMA YVONNE BROWN** 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 MARCH 6, 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
COVINGTON GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #500204
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

THE PETITION of **JOHN JULIUS GARST** widow of **PATRICIA GAIL GARST** 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 MARCH 6, 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
COVINGTON GA 30014-2435

PUBLIC NOTICE #500196
2/5,12,19,26

CITATION

THE PETITION of **KANTEERA ATTHAKORN** widow of **ADISORN ATTHAKORN** 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

LEGALS:

Continued from B2

ESTATE OF TAURUS J. ANDREWS

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 **MARCH 6,2023** 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 #500224
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE

RE: PETITION of MELVIN WOODS To Petition to Petition for Letters of Administration, Estate of **CLAUDIA TURNER STRONG UPON WHICH AN ORDER FOR SERVICE WAS GRANTED BY COURT ON OCTOBER 10, 2022**

TO KATHY FLETCHER

THIS IS to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition of **MELVIN WOODS** to Petition to Letters of Administration Estate of **CLAUDIA TURNER STRONG**

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 **MARCH 6,2023** 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 #500203
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE

RE: PETITION of OCIE FRANKLIN to Petition to Petition for Letters of Administration, Estate of **HIBBLER GODFREY UPON WHICH AN ORDER FOR SERVICE WAS GRANTED BY COURT ON JANUARY 6, 2023**

TO DEBORAH KAY

THIS IS to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition of **OCIE FRANKLIN** to Petition to Letters of Administration Estate of **HIBBLER GODFREY, SR.**

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 **MARCH 6,2023** 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 #500199
2/5,12,19,26

Corporations

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby certify that they are conducting a business at 11600 Town Center Dr. in the City of Covington, County of Newton, State of Georgia under the name of Dental Care at Town Center, and that the nature of the business is general dentistry, and that said business is composed of the following corporation: Georgia Dental Professionals, PC, 1200 Network Centre Dr., Effingham, IL 62401.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500213
2/5,12

Debtors Creditors

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **MAE ALICE ROBINSON** 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: **DELVER CHARLES ROBINSON**
EXECUTOR ADDRESS:

DELVER CHARLES ROBINSON
720 COWAN ROAD
COVINGTON, GA 30016

THIS 6TH day of **FEBRUARY, 2023**

DELVER CHARLES ROBINSON
BY SHANNON D. SNEED
ATTORNEY AT LAW
WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE # 500239
2/12,19,26-3/5

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON

ESTATE NO. 2023-ES-007
IN RE: ESTATE OF RICHARD LANIER WHEELER, DECEASED

ALL DEBTORS and creditors of the estate of Richard Lanier Wheeler, deceased, late of Newton County, are hereby notified to render their demands and/or make your payments to the undersigned according to law.

This the 23rd day of January, 2023.
Michelle Faith, Executor 125 Ewing Dr, Social Circle, Georgia 30025

PUBLIC NOTICE #500160
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO Debtors and Creditors

ALL CREDITORS of the estate of **Keith Lawan Chambers** 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 22ND day of January, 2023

NAME: LATANDRIA Chambers
TITLE: ADMINISTRATOR
ADDRESS: 609 N. Crossing Way,
Decaturl, GA 30033

PUBLIC NOTICE #500092
1/22,29-2/5,12

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of **MYRTIE KATE REEP** late of Newton County Georgia, 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 10TH day of January, 2022

DAVID PAUL Dill, Executor
ESTATE OF Myrtie Kate Reep
2583 CLUBHOUSE Lane SE
CONYERS, GA 30094

PUBLIC NOTICE #500124
1/22,29-2/5,12

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 20TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

GERALDINE MOORE
7168 LASETER STREET SW
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500187
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 20TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

GERALDINE MOORE
7168 LASETER STREET SW
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500189
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 30TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

DAVID FORDHAM
309 HORIZON COURT
CONCORD, NC 28027

PUBLIC NOTICE #500228
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **FRANCES RAINEY PARTEE** 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 27TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

LINDA STEPHENSON
3773 CLUB DRIVE
ATLANTA, GA 30319

PUBLIC NOTICE #500188
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **GLADYS MALLARD SHEETS** 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 19TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

RODNEY WAYNE SHEETS
695 SKYLINE DR
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500180
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 20TH day of **JANUARY**

CLUES ACROSS

- River in Tuscany
- A way to represent
- Rocker's guitar
- Civil Rights group
- Brew
- Scratch
- W. Asian country
- The Eye Network
- Clarified butter
- Part of the Cascade Range
- Downwind
- A way to steer
- Loop
- Not ingested
- Swampy coniferous forest
- Musician
- Signing
- Containing iron
- Part of a theorem or proof
- Veterans battleground (slang)
- Of enormous proportions
- Italian city
- Come before
- Balm
- Undergarments
- Male parent
- Ropes
- Ear part
- Investment vehicle
- Dictator
- Cain and ____
- A type of code
- Border river along India and Nepal
- It's what's for dinner
- Consume
- Christian __, designer

CLUES DOWN

- Cuckoos
- Skin issue
- City in central Japan
- Sorrels
- Twinned diamond
- Canadian province

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14			15			
16					17	18				19		
20						21				22		
				23		24			25			
26	27	28	29				30					
31							32					
33									34	35	36	37
				39	40	41		42	43			
					44	45		46				
	47						48					
49					50			51		52	53	54
56					57			58				
59					60				61			
62					63					64		

- Monetary units
- Head honcho
- Goddess of wisdom
- Part of a play
- Get rid of
- Applicant
- Bowling alleys have many
- Explosive
- “The Say Hey Kid”
- Ultrahigh frequency
- No (Scottish)
- Make a mistake
- Credit card term
- Keyboard key
- Woman (French)
- In the middle of
- Score perfectly
- Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- Deadly disease
- A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- Belch

- Member of U.S. Navy
- “In ____”: separate from others
- Examine extensively
- Adjust
- Tattle
- Actor Pitt
- Gulls
- Within
- Exceptionally talented performer

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION:

U	S	E	S			E	C	G			C	S	C
C	A	B	A	L		L	A	R		P	A	C	A
A	L	B	E	E		A	R	A		E	B	A	N
E	S	K	E	R		I	N	N		E	L	B	A
						R	E	N	E	G	A	D	E
S	P	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	R			
S	U	R	P	A	S		S	T	R	I			
E	L	G	I	N						S	P	U	T
						U	M	P		C	R	E	E
						B	A	L	L	O	O	N	R
						O	V	E	R	E	A	T	S
C	U	B	A			G	A	T		S	O	C	A
E	L	E	A			I	S	H		C	A	B	E
B	A	A	L			N	E	E		A	N	U	B
U	N	H				S	S	R			S	T	A

2023

DELLA TAYLOR ROYSTON
109 MEADOWGLEN CIR
DALLAS, TX 75019

PUBLIC NOTICE #500229
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 20TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

JEANNE JORDAN COOK
2643 HIGHWAY 11 S
MANSFIELD GA 30055

PUBLIC NOTICE #500181
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **LAURA LEE SANDERS** 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 6TH day of **FEBRUARY 2023**

ERIC SANDERS
3611 ACORN CT. NE
CONYERS GA 30012

PUBLIC NOTICE #500250
2/12,19,26-3/5

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **MATTIE PEARL HENDERSON** 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 27TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

CHARLIE JEFFERIES
245 WYNFIELD DR
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500230
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **MICHAEL FULTON MCCOLLUM** 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 18TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

ROCHELLE A. MCCOLLUM
471 FINCHER RD
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500185
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **NOEL STARR SMITH** 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 19TH day of **JANUARY**

2023

JUNE E. CLARK
PO BOX 638
POWDER SPRINGS, GA 30127

PUBLIC NOTICE #500183
1/29-2/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **RONALD KEITH FULLER, 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 2ND day of **FEBRUARY 2023**

VIVAN C. FULLER
825 HIGHWAY 212 SOUTH
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500251
2/12,19,26-3/5

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **TERRY WAYNE PATTON** 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 4TH day of **JANUARY 2023**

ANTHONY W. PATTON
10284 FLAT SHOALS RD
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500136
1/22,29-2/5,12

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS of the Estate of **William Brannon Inman**, late of Newton County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are hereby notified to make immediate payment.

THIS 29TH day of January, 2023.

JUDITH KARNES Crockett Inman, Administrator of the **ESTATE OF** William Brannon Inman, (deceased)
920 ALCOVY Trestle Road
SOCIAL CIRCLE, Georgia 30025

ATTORNEY FOR the Estate of William Brannon Inman
MELISSA M. Shannahan, Esq.
1901 WEST Spring Street, Suite 203
MONROE, GEORGIA 30655

PUBLIC NOTICE #500149
1/29-2/5,12,19

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 **Gene R. Scott** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. dba Silverton Mortgage dated September 17, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 3752, Page 338, 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 \$92,250.00, 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, March 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 3 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORG

LEGALS:

Continued from B3

PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 336, PAGE 278, NEWTON COUNTY RECORDS, SAID PLAT BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO.

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

YOUR MORTGAGE servicer can be contacted at 800-603-0836 - Loss Mitigation Dept., or by writing to SN Servicing Corporation (Servicer), 3323 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

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

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Jeffrey Maben; Jeffrey Maben; Katrina A. Maben; or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **435 Berkshire Drive, Covington, GA 30016.**

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

U.S. BANK Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust as Attorney in Fact for Jeffery Maben a/k/a Jeffrey Maben and Katrina A. Maben.

QUINN LEGAL, P.A.
19321 US Hwy 19 N, Suite 512
CLEARWATER, FL 33764
PHONE: (727) 474-9603
ESERVICE@QUINNLEGAL.COM

BY: /S/ Erin M. Rose
Quinn
ERIN M. Rose Quinn, Esq.
GEORGIA BAR Number 547833

PUBLIC NOTICE #500233
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Vincent Clemons and Carolyn Clemons** to Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated June 30, 2000, and recorded in Deed Book 942, Page 1, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Cabana Series III Trust by assignment recorded in Deed Book 3805, Page 240 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ninety-seven thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars and 00/100 (\$97,750.00), 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 March 7, 2023, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 72 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 6, UNIT ONE OF DOVE POINT SUBDIVISION, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 26, PAGE 53, NEWTON COUNTY RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS 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).

YOUR MORTGAGE servicer can be contacted at 800-603-0836 - Loss Mitigation Dept., or by writing to SN Servicing Corporation (Servicer), 3323 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

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

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Vincent Clemons; Carolyn Clemons; or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **540 Oak Hill Road, Covington, GA 30016.**

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

U.S. BANK Trust National Association, as Trustee of Cabana Series III Trust as Attorney in Fact for Vincent Clemons and Carolyn Clemons.

QUINN LEGAL, P.A.
19321 US Hwy 19 N, Suite 512
CLEARWATER, FL 33764
PHONE: (727) 474-9603
ESERVICE@QUINNLEGAL.COM

BY: /S/ Erin M. Rose

Quinn
ERIN M. Rose Quinn, Esq.
GEORGIA BAR Number 547833

PUBLIC NOTICE #500232
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **John H. Anderson, Jr.** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Real Estate Mortgage Network, Inc., dated November 5, 2009, and recorded in Deed Book 2771, Page 94, Newton County, Georgia Records, subsequently modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded January 21, 2020 in Book 3951, Page 355 in the amount of Sixty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Six and 46/100 (\$64,346.46) Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust by assignment recorded on January 25, 2019 in Book 3796 Page 255 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Fifty-Six Thousand and 0/100 dollars (\$56,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Newton County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on March 7, 2023, the following described property:

ALL THAT tract or parcel of land, with house and all other improvements located thereon, lying and being in Land Lot 121 of the 10th District of Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 79 of Buck Creek Subdivision as shown on plat of Buck Creek Subdivision, as same is recorded in Plat Book 21, page 188, Newton County, Georgia Records. The description of said property as contained on said plat is hereby incorporated herein and made an essential part hereof by reference.

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).

THE ENTITY having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Selene Finance they can be contacted at (877) 735-3637 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to 3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5 th Floor, Suite 500, Coppell, Texas 75019, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

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

TO THE best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Pamela Marie Anderson Mayo or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **30 Buckeye Circle, Covington, GA 30016.**

THE SALE will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust as Attorney in Fact for John H. Anderson, Jr.

BROCK & Scott, PLLC
4360 CHAMBLEE Dunwoody Road
SUITE 310
ATLANTA, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S FILE no.: 19-01551

PUBLIC NOTICE #500218
2/5,12,19,26

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

UNDER AND by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Nancy N Christian** to Academy Mortgage Corporation, dated July 7, 2014, recorded in Deed Book 3246, Page 410, Newton County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Georgia Housing and Finance Authority by assignment recorded in Deed Book 3246, Page 427, Newton County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND NINETY AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$98,090.00), 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 March, 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.

GEORGIA HOUSING and Finance Authority 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: State Home Mortgage, 60 Executive Park South, Atlanta, GA 30333, 404-679-4908/-3133. 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 Nancy N Christian or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **40 Aiken Court, 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 a 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.

GEORGIA HOUSING and Finance Authority
AS ATTORNEY in Fact for **NANCY N** Christian
MCCALLA RAYMER Leibert Pierce, LLC

1544 OLD Alabama Road
ROSWELL, GA 30076
WWW.FORECLOSUREHOTLINE.NET

EXHIBIT "A"
ALL THAT tract or parcel of land, with house and all other improvements located thereon, lying and being in Land Lots 127 & 128 of the 9th Land District of Newton County, Georgia, being shown as Lot 15 of Cotton Field Subdivision as shown on Plat of Survey prepared by Mark D. Patrick, Georgia R.L.S. No. 2791, said plat being recorded in Plat Book 36, pages 253-258, Newton County, Georgia Records. The description of said property as contained on said plat is hereby incorporated herein and made an essential part hereof by reference.

MR/MEH 3/7/23
OUR FILE no. 22-10257GA - FT17

PUBLIC NOTICE #500169
2/5,12,19,26

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 **DEBBIE HARRIS** to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS") AS NOMINEE FOR PREMIER MORTGAGE CAPITAL, INC. , dated 12/07/2007, and Recorded on 12/18/2007 as Book No. 2545 and Page No. 62 79, NEWTON County, Georgia records, as last assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021 G, MORTGAGE BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021 G (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$141,500.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the NEWTON County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2023, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOTS 62 AND 67 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 37 OF SPRINGSIDE COMMONS, PHASE I AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY MADE OF SPRINGSIDE COMMONS, PHASE I, OF RECORDED AT PLAT BOOK 39, PAGES 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249 AND 250, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY AS CONTAINED ON SAID PLAT OF SURVEY IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART HEREOF. 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).

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021 G, MORTGAGE BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021 G holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. GREGORY FUNDING LLC, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021 G, MORTGAGE BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021 G (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, GREGORY FUNDING LLC may be contacted at: GREGORY FUNDING LLC, P.O. BOX 230579, TIGARD, OR 97281, 866 712 5698. 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 **170 GREEN COMMONS DR, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30016** is/are: **DEBBIE HARRIS** 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. U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021 G, MORTGAGE BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021 G as Attorney in Fact for **DEBBIE HARRIS. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT.** ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000009642018 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500220
2/12,19,26-3/5

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER IN DEED TO SECURE DEBT

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of that Power of Sale contained in a certain Deed to Secure Debt from **CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON** in favor of RAY W. HILL dated July 26, 2018 and recorded at Deed Book 3729, pages 503-508, Public Records, Newton County, Georgia, the undersigned, RAY W. HILL, as Attorney in Fact for CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door in Newton County, Georgia, during the legal hours of sale, on the first (1st) Tuesday in March, 2023, namely March 7, 2023, the following described property to-wit:

ALL THAT TRACT or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 135 of the 9th Land District of Newton County, Georgia and being shown as 0.81 acres off Georgia Highway 36 on that Plat of Survey prepared for Ray Hill by Patrick & Associates, Inc., and certified by Louie D. Patrick, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1757, said plat being dated September 3, 1998 and recorded at Plat Book 32, page 90, Public Records of Newton County, Georgia and said plat by reference thereto being incorporated herein and made apart hereof for a more particular description of the captioned property.

SAID PROPERTY being known as **14652 Highway 36, Covington, Georgia** in accordance with the present system of numbering properties in Newton County, Georgia.

ALSO CONVEYED hereby is the right of ingress and egress across that 12-foot strip as shown on the plat of said property.

TAX MAP and Parcel No.: 0090000000009000

THE DEED to Secure Debt herein foreclosed securing a Purchase Money Promissory Note dated July 26, 2018, in the original, principal amount of \$75,000.00. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt being in default by, among other possible events of default, failure to pay said indebtedness as the same fell due, and the debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt and evidenced by said Note has been and is hereby declared due and payable in full because of said default. This sale will be made for the purpose of paying the remaining principal indebtedness and accrued interest as accelerated. The proceeds thereof will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all charges and expenses in connection with said foreclosure in accordance with the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and the balance, if any, will be applied as provided by law.

SAID PROPERTY will be sold as the property of CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON, subject to any outstanding and unpaid real estate taxes (ad valorem taxes) or assessments, street improvements, easements, restrictive covenants, and any and all other assessments appearing of record, if any.

NOTICE HAS been given in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2.

NOTICE WAS also given in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 13-1-11 of intention to collect attorney's fees.

THE UNDERSIGNED will execute a Deed Under Power of Sale to the Purchaser at sale as attorney-in-fact for CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt herein foreclosed, and Georgia Law.

THE PROPERTY is or may be in the possession of CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON, successors or tenants.

THE DEED to Secure Debt herein foreclosed is a purchase money deed to secure debt securing a purchase money promissory note.

RAY W. HILL is the person who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor. His address is 1201 Newton Road, Madison, Georgia 30650 and his telephone number is 404-520-7048. In addition, he can provide a current payoff amount for a day certain at any time.

RAY W. HILL as Attorney-in-Fact for CRYSTAL LEEANN HARMON

BY: DAVID A. Henderson*
Attorney at Law

6169 ADAMS Street, NE
Covington, Georgia 30014
(770) 787-2946

***THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FILE NO.: 21-274(N)**

PUBLIC NOTICE #500211
2/5,12,19,26

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF NEWTON NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

PURSUANT TO the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by **JUANITA HARRIS** to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR HOME AMERICA MORTGAGE, INC. in the original principal amount of \$143,497.00 dated August 19, 2005 and recorded in Deed Book 1994, Page 99, Newton County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to SELENE FINANCE LP in Deed Book 4456, Page 527, Newton County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on March 07, 2023, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 90 OF THE 10TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 103, OAK HILL, PHASE 3, AS PER PLAT RECORDED AT PLAT BOOK 41, PAGES 229 THROUGH 231, NEWTON COUNTY RECORDS, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING THE SAME AS A PART HEREOF.

SAID PROPERTY being known as: **20 WILDCAT WAY COVINGTON, GA 30016**

TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are **JUANITA HARRIS** or tenant(s).

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

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

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

THE NAME, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
SELENE FINANCE LP
3501 OLYMPUS Boulevard, 5th Floor, Suite 500
DALLAS, TX 75019
877-768-3759

NOTE THAT pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.

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

SELENE FINANCE LP, AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT for **JUANITA HARRIS**

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
10700 ABBOTT'S Bridge Road
SUITE 170
DULUTH, GA 30097
PHONE: 470.321.7112
FIRM FILE No. 22-061088 - DaG

PUBLIC NOTICE #500126
1/22-2/5,12,19,26

STATE OF GEORGIA NEWTON COUNTY

UNDER AND by virtue of the power of sale contained in Security Deed and Agreement from **Matt Burley** to Newton Federal Bank, said Security Deed and Agreement dated December 13, 2013, filed for record and recorded December 16, 2013 in Deed Book 3194, Page(s) 407-419, as modified by a Loan Modification Agreement, dated June 24, 2016, filed for record July 6, 2016 at Deed Book 3454, Page(s) 3-5, Newton County, Georgia records; securing a note from Matt Burley to Newton Federal Bank, in the principal amount of \$42,000.00, will be sold by the undersigned in front of the Courthouse door in Newton County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in March, 2023 during the legal hours of sale, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property, to wit:

ALL THAT tract or parcel of land lying and being in Newton County, Georgia, and being a part of the Tenth Land district and being a part of Land Lot 93, and being more particularly described as Tract One containing 1.54 acres in accordance with a survey dated June 1, 1993, prepared by Louis D. Patrick, GA. R.L.S. No. 1757, for Thomas M. Moss and said survey is recorded in Newton County, Plat Book 27, Page 32, and said survey is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference thereto.

THE DEBT secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of failure to comply with certain terms and conditions in said Deed to Secure Debt. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness

including all accrued and unpaid interest thereon, and attorney fees and all expenses of said sale, and the remainder, if any, shall be applied as provided by law.

TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief the property is in the possession of Matt Burley, and said property will be sold as the property of Matt Burley. Notice of the initiation of proceedings to exercise the said power of sale and to collect attorney fees as provided in said note has been given to Matt Burley, as provided by law in Section 44-14-162.2 and Section 13-1-11, respectively, Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
THIS 31ST day of January, 2023.

NEWTON FEDERAL BANK, AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT FOR **MATT BURLEY**
STRICKLAND & Strickland, LLP,
P.O. BOX 70
COVINGTON, GA 30015-0070
770-786-5460 PHONE
770-786-5499 FAX

PUBLIC NOTICE #500215
2/5,12,19,26

Juvenile Court

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF ROCKDALE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
K.N. SEX: Male D O B :
10/03/2015 Case #107-23J-0105
MINOR CHILD Under 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES OF PETITION FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP

TO: ANGELICA NOLLEY, MOTHER; **DONALD MANNING,** PUTATIVE/BIOLOGICAL FATHER; **JOHN DOE,** AND ANY OTHER PERSON(S) CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED CHILD

YOU ARE hereby notified that a Petition for Permanent Guardianship was filed in the Juvenile Court of Newton County by the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through its agent Newton County Department of Family and Children Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Department") regarding the child named above born to Angelica Nolley on the date above-listed.

A COPY of the Petition for Permanent Guardianship in reference to the above-named child may be obtained from the Clerk's office located at the Newton County Judicial Center, during business hours. The Department has nominated Shakanna Dyer to be appointed as the permanent guardian of the child, K.N., pursuant to O.C.G.A. §15-11-240. The Department is also seeking to have Shakanna Dyer granted with additional powers set forth in O.C.G.A. §29-2-22(b) for the child, K.N.

IF YOU have any objection to either the establishment of a permanent guardianship, or to the selection of the Petitioner as permanent guardian, or both, you must file a written objection setting forth the grounds of any such objection with this Court within ten (10) days of the date you are personally served; or within fourteen (14) days of the date that notice was mailed to you; or within ten (10) days following the date of the second publication of this citation. All pleadings must be signed before a notary public or the Clerk of this Court. A hearing on this Petition shall be held in the Juvenile Court of Newton County located at the Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr. Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, N.W., Covington, Georgia 30014, on the 20th day of April, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

THE PERMANENT guardianship order(s) shall remain in effect for said child until the child reaches the age of eighteen (18), becomes emancipated, or until further order of the Court. The permanent guardianship order(s) will not be subject to review by the Court except as provided in O.C.G.A. §15-11-244 and a parent's right to visitation may be restricted. The permanent guardian shall have the rights and duties of a permanent guardian as provided in O.C.G.A. §29-2-21, O.C.G.A. §29-2-22, and O.C.G.A. §29-2-23 and shall take the oath required of a guardian as provided in O.C.G.A. §29-2-24.

Prep Wrestling

Tigers send four wrestlers to state sectionals

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

COVINGTON, Ga. — The Alcovy Tigers wrestling team competed last weekend in the Region 3-AAAAAA

traditionals tournament. When all was said and done, four individuals punched their tickets to the state sectionals next weekend.

The top finisher was Michael Boyd who placed second in the 150-pound weight class. In the 215-pound weight class, Makhai Jones finished in third.

To close out the Tigers’ qualifiers, Christopher Mace placed fourth 113 pounds while Austin Hook finished fourth at 190 pounds.

BIG 3:

Continued from B1

“The nine months I’ve been out have given my body the rest that I needed,” Newton said. “But how much I want to win doesn’t change. The goal was to win before I got hurt and it still is.” Castle, though, is the player who has people debating whether or not he’s the best to ever do it at Newton.

In his four years, Castle has earned numerous individual accolades including but not limited to: Team USA U18 Gold Medal, 2023 McDonald’s All-American and Region 4-AAAAAAA Player of the Year as a junior.

None of that will matter to Castle if he graduates without a state title.

“Our main focus is to win the state,” Castle said.

Newton has gone up against some heavyweights across the nation during its 2022-23 season. The Rams have faced teams like Duncanville (Texas), IMG Academy and, most recently, Wheeler as part of an ESPN broadcast.

That’s aside from the Region 4-AAAAAAA competition with teams like Grayson, Archer and

Parkview.

Every player believes their region and non-region slate has prepared them for the upcoming region and state tournaments.

“Our schedule has put us in position to go on that late run in the playoffs,” Castle said. “All those good teams we’ve been playing, we’re going to show that against these lower level teams in Georgia.”

Not only has the Rams’ tough schedule groomed them for a deep postseason run, but they feel like the shortcomings of the past few years have, too.

All three players stressed an important lesson the entire squad learned the past three years.

“Make sure every practice and game, you give 100%,” New-

“Our main focus is to win the state.”

Stephon Castle

ton said. “Because if you don’t, toward the end of the season it’s going to show.”

Giving 100% day in and day out goes right along with a specific word — a variation of it — that has been floating around the program all season: Hungry.

Head coach Charlemagne Gibbons used it in the preseason, and each of the “Big 3” stressed how hungry they are for the state title.

But, at this point, it’s only a word. With the state playoffs upcoming, the Rams hope to turn that word into an action.

If Newton accomplishes that goal and hangs another state championship banner in the rafters of Newton High’s gymnasium, it’ll be a dream come true for each player.



File | The News

Charlemagne Gibbons recognized his team’s hunger for a state title in the preseason.

“Being in the history books as the first team to win a state championship here [in 59 years] would be a big accomplishment for us,” Castle said. “It’ll be like all of our hard work has paid off.”

LEGALS:

Continued from B4

CHILD(REN):
VICTORIA MARIE OWENS

PETITIONER,
V.

RESPONDENT.

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2023-CV-117-4

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME OF CHILD

SHAWNDAE MARTIN filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on JANUARY 17 2023, to change the name of the following minor child from: **VICTORIA MARIE OWENS** to **VICTORIA MARIE MARTIN**

ANY INTERESTED party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within the time prescribed in O.C.G.A. §§ 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

SHAWANDA MARTIN
WINDCREST DR
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500158
1/29-2/5,12,19

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
GABRIELLE WYATT
PETITIONER,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2023-CV-144-3

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

NOTICE IS hereby given that **GABRIELLE JEAN-ANN WYATT** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on JAN 20 2023 to change the name from **GABRIELLE JEAN-ANN WYATT** to **GABRIELLE JEAN-ANN FOX** 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 20TH day of JANUARY 2023

GABRIELLE WYATT
6142 FOREST DR S.E.
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500207
2/5,12,19,26

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON
COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
JARRED ANTHONY Johnson
PETITIONER.

CIVIL ACTION Case Number
2023-CV-248-2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

JARRED ANTHONY Johnson filed a petition in the Superior Court of Newton County on February 1, 2023, to change the name from **Jarred Anthony Johnson** to **Jarred Anthony Tucker**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30

days after the Petition was filed.
DATE 01/27/23

NAME: JARRED Anthony Johnson
ADDRESS: 80 Pebble Lane
COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500234
2/12,19,26-3/5

Public Hearings

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP23-000001) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: **LITTLE SPRINGS FARM LLC C/O CORO REALTY ADVISORS** **WHOSE SUBJECT** PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS 92 MOORES FARM RD **CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY** 2586.97 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCELS 0068 006. **APPLICANT IS** REQUESTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH LANDSCAPING BUSINESS WITH OUTDOOR STORAGE. **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE: **28TH DAY** OF FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 7:00PM **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE: **21ST DAY** OF MARCH, 2023 AT 7:30 PM **BOTH MEETINGS** WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 3RD FLOOR BOARDROOM. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500246
2/12

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP23-000002) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: **GREENLEAF INVESTMENT PARTNERS L078 LLC C/O FELLERS, SCHEWE, SCOTT & ROBERTS** **WHOSE SUBJECT** PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS 90 CHAMISA RD **CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY** 2.32 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCELS 0024 - 077E. **APPLICANT IS** REQUESTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH LANDSCAPING BUSINESS WITH OUTDOOR STORAGE. **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE: **28TH DAY** OF FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 7:00PM **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE: **21ST DAY** OF MARCH, 2023 AT 7:30 PM **BOTH MEETINGS** WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 3RD FLOOR BOARDROOM. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500249
2/12

FUTURE LAND USE PETITION
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A FUTURE LAND USE PETITION (FLU23-000001) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: **MICHAEL M ALLEN JR** **WHOSE SUBJECT** PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS AT 6580 HWY 212 CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 34.41 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCEL 0008 02J. **THE OWNER** HAS INITIATED A FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT FROM RES (RESIDENTIAL)/ PRC (PARKS, RECREATION, CONSERVATION) TO COM (COMMERCIAL) FOR 2.10AC. **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE: **28TH DAY** OF FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 7:00PM **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE: **21ST DAY** OF MARCH, 2023 AT 7:30 PM **BOTH MEETINGS** WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 3RD FLOOR BOARDROOM. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500248
2/12

Public Notice

CITY OF COVINGTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS hereby given, per the City of Covington's Code of Ordinances Chapter 16.52.270, that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 @ 6 PM at the City Hall Council Chambers, 2116 Stallings Street, Covington, GA. Purpose of this meeting is for the HPC to consider the submitted application below for a Certificate of Appropriateness at the following property:

A. COA# - PMOD23-0001
REQUEST: SCREENED Porch Addition
LOCATION: 4130 Middlebrooks St.
TMP# C009 0012 006
OWNER/APPLICANT: CALLIE Carter-Whitworth
B COA# - PMOD23-0002
REQUEST: REAR renovation to provide a service entrance for current and future tenants.
LOCATION: 1115 Washington St.
TMP# C026 0017 003
OWNER/APPLICANT: SOUTH Covington Square, LLC c/o Lee & Kendra Mayfield
ALL INTERESTED parties are invited to participate, meeting will be held in person. For additional information, contact Renee Criswell, at rcriswell@cityofcovington.org, or 770-385-2178.
HEARING WILL by hybrid format, either in person or
VIA ZOOM Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3374447881
DIAL IN 1-646-558-8656 – Meeting ID: 337 444 7881

PUBLIC NOTICE #500244
2/12

FUTURE LAND USE PETITION
GEORGIA, NEWTON County

A FUTURE LAND USE PETITION (FLU23-000002) HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE BOARD OF

COMMISSIONERS ON THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO: **JERRY & HILDA C PROSSER STEPHEN & CAROL ANN BIGGERS NEWT** **WHOSE SUBJECT** PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION IS AT POPLAR HILL RD CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 20.99 ACRES BEING ON TAX MAP & PARCEL 0118 040C. **THE OWNER** HAS INITIATED A FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT FROM AF (AGRICULTURAL FORESTRY) TO RR (RURAL RESIDENTIAL). **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE: **28TH DAY** OF FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 7:00PM **A PUBLIC** HEARING WILL BE HEARD BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE: **21ST DAY** OF MARCH, 2023 AT 7:30 PM **BOTH MEETINGS** WILL BE HELD IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, 3RD FLOOR BOARDROOM. THOSE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PETITION SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500247
2/12

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF
NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

THE ENCLAVE AT GROSS LAKE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,
PLAINTIFF,

V.

LLOYD JACKSON, JR. AND

SANDRA E. JACKSON,

DEFENDANTS.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 22-373CS

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION AS TO DEFENDANT SANDRA E. JACKSON ONLY
BY ORDER for Service by Publication dated the 5th of January, 2023, all interested parties are hereby notified that on January 25, 2022, Plaintiff The Enclave at Gross Lake Homeowner's Association, Inc. filed its Complaint for Money Owed against Defendants Lloyd Jackson, Jr. and Sandra E. Jackson, said case being filed in the Magistrate Court of Newton County and assigned Civil Action File No. 22-373CS. **DEFENDANT SANDRA E.** Jackson is hereby directed and required to file with the Clerk of the Magistrate Court of Newton County, Georgia and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an Answer to this lawsuit, in writing, within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication. **WITNESS THE** Honorable Tami Wells Thomas, Judge of the Magistrate Court of Newton County. **THIS 5TH** day of JANUARY , 2023

DEPUTY CLERK, Magistrate Court of Newton County

PUBLIC NOTICE #500138
1/22,29-2/5,12

Public Sales Auctions

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 02/20/2023 @ 11:00AM
SHAWN MORRIS
1001
TV, BAGS, TOTES, TIRES, FAN, PILLIOW
DEIDRA JONES
1033
ARMOIRE,CHAIRS, DRESSER, TABLE, WASHER, DRYER, BOXES, TOTES, LADDER, POWER WHEEL, BASKET BALL GOAL, HEAD BOARD, LUGGAGE
DAONA DEMERY
1043
CHAIR, MATTRESS, BOXES, TOTES, DOLL HOUSE, HOME DECORE, NIGHTSTAND, LAMP
PISCILLA COST
1159
MIRRIOR, WOODEN BEDROOM SUIT
AMANDA VOOGD
2011
TV, BAGS, BOXES, POSTERS
STACEY MUENCHOW
H13
DRESSER, DRYER, BOXES, SAW POWER TOOLS, RAZOR SCOOTER, TODDLER BED
BRETT CLARK
K04
CHAIR, TABLE, BOXES, CLOTHES, TOTES, TOYS, DOLL HOUSE, OVEN, SPEAKER, GRILL
VERNARD WILLIAMS
L22
CHAIRS, BOXES, TOYS, COLUIMS, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, TODDLER AND MATTRESS
BILLIE PALMER
N06
COUCH, LOVE SEAT, HEADBOARDS
THE AUCTION will be listed and advertised on www. storagetreasures.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 #500153
2/5,12

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY In accordance with the GA Self Service Storage Facilities Act notice is hereby given that the undersigned will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder in order to satisfy lien of the owner. Bidding to take place on lockerfox.com ending Tuesday the 28th day of February, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Said property is Space Shop Self Storage, 10211 Hwy 278 E., Covington, GA, 30014 Jackson, Anthony 526 Mattress, Box Spring, Lawnmower, Bags, Lamp, Pictures. The auction will be listed and advertised on lockerfox.com. Space Shop Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500220
2/5,12

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE AUCTION will be held at: **KINGS AUTO PARTS & BODY SHOP INC.** 102 COWAN RD **COVINGTON, GA 30016**
TELEPHONE: 470-441-5100
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 2023
AUCTION WILL be held at 10.00am.

2006 FORD F150

1FTPW14V46KD22503

PUBLIC NOTICE #500217
2/5,12

THE FOLLOWING vehicle to be sold in auction on 2/19/2023 at 2:00 AM at Aikens Diesel 41 Hwy 212 Covington, Ga. 30016

2015 FORD F450
1FT8W4DT3FEC11685

PUBLIC NOTICE #500238
2/12,19

Trade Names

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF NEWTON

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby certifies that they are conducting a business in the City of Covington, County of Newton, State of Georgia under the name of: VIP Petcare and that the nature of the business is Veterinary Services and that said business is composed of the following: **(LIMITED LIABILITY)** Business address: **COMMUNITY VETERINARY** Clinics, LLC
230 E. Riverside Dr.
EAGLE, ID 83616
THIS AFFIDAVIT is made in compliance with Georgia Code Annotated Title 10 Chapter 1 Section 490.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500162
2/5,12

TRADE NAME

REGISTRATION

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: Please be advised that **MAN IN SMALL VAN DELIVERS, LLC** whose address is 25 CLEAR SPRING LN OXFORD GA 30054 whose address and whose address N/A is/are the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 25 CLEAR SPRING LN OXFORD GA 30054 the following trade name, to-wit: THE SMALL VAN COURIER and that the nature of said business is: COURIER VAN SERVICE FOR PACKAGES This statement is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.

THIS 12TH day of JANUARY 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE #500209
2/5,12

TRADE NAME

REGISTRATION

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY

TO WHOM It may Concern: Please be advised that **SIDDHIVINAYAK HOTEL, LLC** whose address is 10166 ALCOVY ROAD COVINGTON GA 30014 whose address and whose address N/A is/are the owner(s) of the certain business now being carried on at 10166 ALCOVY ROAD COVINGTON GA 30014 the following trade name, to-wit: DAYS INN OF COVINGTON and that the nature of said business is: HOTEL This statement is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. §10-1-490 et seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.

THIS 4TH day of JANUARY 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE #500206
2/5,12

Prep Basketball

Durham emerges as a sophomore star for Tigers



Garrett Pitts | The News
Nick Durham (2) has risen for the Tigers squad as a leader, even as a sophomore.

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Before the season started, Alcovy boys basketball head coach Mack Hardwick wanted to establish a different culture. Leading the charge this year is sophomore star Nick Durham.

As the year played out, Durham has even noticed a change.

“Last year it was just selfishness and not a good combination,” Durham said. “This year we actually bonded with each other.”

Developing a good chemistry has paved the way for Alcovy (9-16, 6-8) to finish fourth in the Region 3-AAAAAA standings..

Even so, Durham feels like there is still room for improvement.

“The season has been going OK,” Durham said. “It hasn’t been as planned but not too bad. I feel like we lost a lot of close games and games we should have won.”

A peek at Alcovy’s game results seems to support his sentiment. The Tigers lost six games during the regular season by four points or less. Granted, all but one of those — a 78-74 loss at Morrow on Jan. 20 —

were non-region contests. But if the Tigers find a way to win those games, perhaps the confidence level is higher heading into region play.

Nevertheless, Durham has a lifetime’s worth of experience that has helped him to lead the Tigers now and moving forward.

He first picked up a basketball at 4 years old. Since then, the game has been ingrained into his personality.

“Basketball has always been with me ever since I was a baby,” Durham said. “Plus, most of my family played, so it runs in my family.”

Having many family members play in the game has helped Durham develop his individual skill set.

But now in his high school career, Durham wants to take it up a notch.

“Really, I’m just learning how to lead a team and be a leader and show that I can be that guy,” Durham said. “Personally, I would say I’m working on locking people down and scoring.”

Improving his own game isn’t what drives Durham to excel, though. It’s something that transcends basketball.

“My family motivates me,” Durham said. “Nobody in my

family went big so I want to be the first and really wanna look out for them.”

Alcovy plays in the Region 3-AAAAAA tournament on Saturday, Feb. 11 against Rockdale County at 1:30 p.m. The Tigers bested the Bulldogs in the teams’ first regular season matchup with Rockdale getting the win in the second go round.

Despite the ups and downs, being part of the team this season has been a thrill for Durham.

“Really, I enjoy just being able to play with my brothers and people I’ve been playing with most of my life,” Durham said. “And we have a good coaching staff.”

Even so, Durham and the Tigers are eager to extend their season, not only in the region tournament, but also advancing to the state tournament.

Durham highlighted how he believes Alcovy basketball can accomplish both.

“It’s going to take dedication and focus mainly as a team,” Duham said. “Moving forward I can get better at really everything but the most I’m really working on is my athleticism and getting bigger, stronger and faster.”

Saunders leads Eagles with sharp shooting ability

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD
phubbard@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Eastside’s boys basketball program has had possibly one of the best seasons in recent memory. Part of the success has been the fact that the Eagles receive contributions from all over the floor.

There is one player, though, whose play stands above the rest — Kassen Saunders.

Saunders’ take on what makes this Eagles squad better is simple.

“The biggest difference from last year with my new team is we come together as a team,” Saunders said. “We figure out tough battles as a group and we have great chemistry.”

It is not a far stretch that one of Saunders’ favorite basketball players is Stephen Curry of the NBA’s Golden State Warriors. Like Curry, Saunders is a three-point maestro.

At season’s end, Saunders ranked third in Class AAAAA with 46 made three-pointers. His practice regimen isn’t anything elaborate, either. Saunders said he aims to shoot 50 three-pointers in practice and before each game.

Throughout his senior season, though, Saunders has been working to improve his ability to penetrate the paint and finish at the rim.

Long before Saunders was

leading the Eagles on the hardwood, he was already hooked on the game.

“I have been playing basketball for 13 years,” Saunders said. “I started off at the YMCA and playing with the Choice Management Knights when I started to start loving the game.”

There is one person, in particular, that Saunders credits for getting him involved in the sport he now loves and excels at.

“My pops got me interested in basketball,” Saunders said. “We played basketball outside all the time and just grew to love it and work harder.”

Saunders continued by saying his parents and grandparents are his biggest motivations to do well on and off the court.

The senior guard leads his team in scoring averaging 12.8 points per game with a team-high 49% three-point shooting efficiency.

His performance has played a pivotal role in Eastside’s 20-5 overall record and 9-3 Region 8-AAAAA mark, which places the Eagles in third place and one game out of first in the region.

One of Saunders’ favorite things about this season has nothing to do with the games themselves.

“I love my teammates and coaching staff,” Saunders said. “It feels like home off and on the

court.”

The relationships he’s built has kept Saunders’ interest high in basketball overall, too. That doesn’t mean this season has gone flawlessly.

Saunders recognized they have had some trying times, but he feels that’ll make the Eagles better.

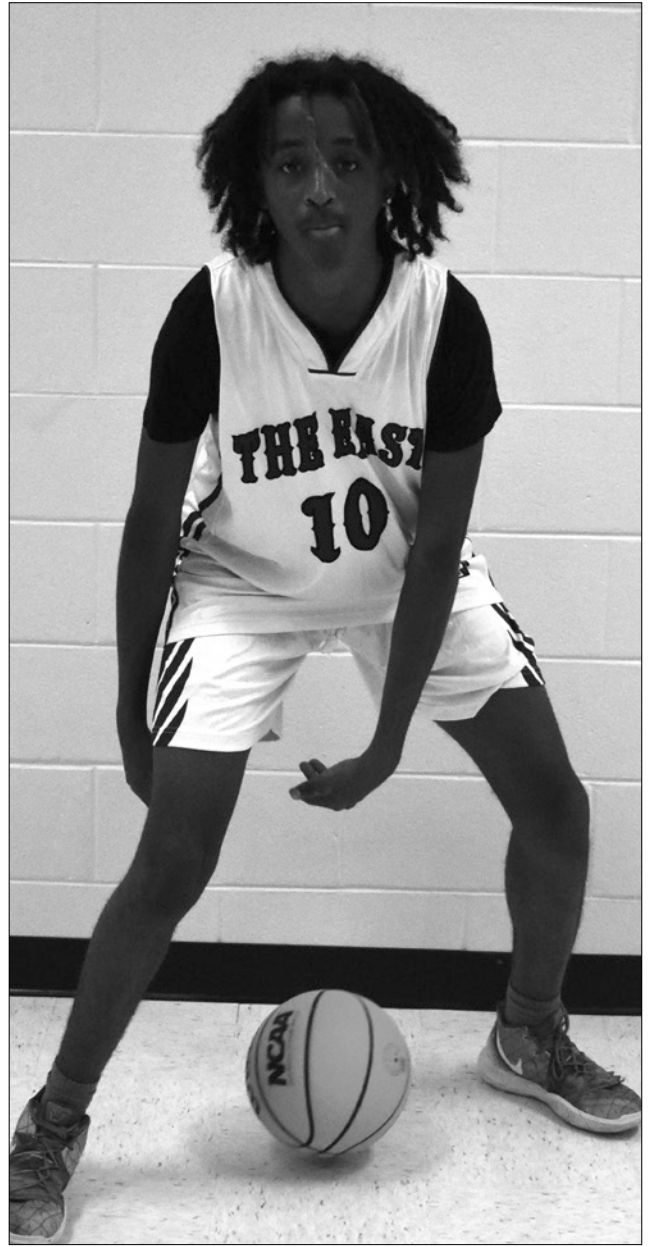
“This year we have been through a lot of ups and downs and hard work with a great record of 20-5,” Saunders said.

Eastside’s 20 wins is the most in a single season since the 2015-16 season when the Eagles finished 20-10.

As a result of their successful regular season, the Eagles enter the Region 8-AAAAA tournament as the No. 3 seed. They’ll face the winner between Loganville and Clarke Central — both teams Eastside swept in the regular season — on Monday, Feb. 13 at 8:30 p.m. The tournament will be played at Winder-Barrow High School.

Saunders pointed to a specific phrase the Eagles adopted this season as a catalyst for accomplishing their goals moving forward.

“For our team this year we have to come into the playoffs with ‘benengry’ and a focused mindset to win,” Saunders said. “We want to beat anything that gets in front of us as a team.”



Garrett Pitts | The News
Kassen Saunders (10) is third in Class AAAAA with 46 made three-pointers in his senior season.



DaShon Hyman (2) penetrates Prince Avenue's defense toward the baseline in Social Circle's 54-41 win over the Wolverines on Tuesday at home.

Cassie Jones | The News

REDSKINS

Continued from B1

With the win, Social Circle improves to 14-10 overall and remains undefeated in Region 5A-Division I at 5-0. The Redskins’ season finale is at home versus Oglethorpe County and then it’s region tournament time at their place next week.

Searching for “extra points” will be the key to winning the region and making another deep run in the state playoffs.

“For the court to open up, we’re going to have to have threes from other people,” Jackson said. “I know it’s in them. We play three-point shootout everyday in practice and kids will go 5-for-5, but I told the players at halftime, ‘We don’t do that just to do it at practice. We do it for when the lights are the brightest, bleachers are full and now I’m ready.’”

WHITE

Continued from B1

biggest win of the season beating Winder-Barrow by 40 points.

As a result, the Lady Eagles rose up the region rankings from sixth place to fourth heading into the Region 8-AAAAA tournament next week.

Overall, White is proud of her team’s progression in her final year with Eastside.

“The season has been great for my team,” White said. “We are working diligently to go to region playoffs and hopefully state.”

Eastside ended the regular season at 13-10 overall and 6-6 in region play — both records better than last year’s result.

Seeing the turnaround from last year to this year

is one of White’s favorite parts about her senior season. Additionally, White has seen progression in her individual game.

“I like to compete and make myself better and test my skills,” White said. “My biggest motivation is becoming a better all around player.”

The senior is the second leading scorer for the Lady Eagles this season with 10 points per game — just 0.8 points behind Jailyn Williams.

White has been working on developing her skills since she started playing the game 13 years ago. She was first interested when she watched her older brothers play basketball.

Growing up, White has also admired the play of WNBA star Candace Parker and Stephen Curry of the NBA.

But before this season even started, White was issued a challenge by her coaches. And it was a challenge that she took to heart.

“I’ve become more vocal this year,” White said. “This year I was also asked to step up and become a leader by my coaches, and this was a role I took seriously on and off the court.”

Now, the Lady Eagles’ focus shifts to the region tournament next week at Winder-Barrow High School. With Eastside as the No. 4 seed, it will face Heritage in the first

round on Monday, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m.

The two teams split their regular season matchups.

Still, White and the Lady Eagles feel like they have the team to make some noise.

“I think that everyone has found their roles and where they fit in order to become cohesive,” White said. “It’s going to take everyone being on the same page and being focused on the same goal to [make the state playoffs.]”

Full coverage of Eastside’s region tournament can be accessed at covnews.com/sports.