

The Covington News

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 18-19, 2023



TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1865



Education, page A10

Follow us for
breaking
updates

and stay
informed on
local issues at
CovNews.com



Covington News makes its choices
for the top boys' basketball players.
Sports, Page B1

His Word

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

Newton County School System

'Emotional' farewell

Samantha Fuhrey retiring after decade
as Newton schools superintendent

By GABRIEL STOVALL

gstovall@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — After 10 years at the helm of Newton County Schools as its superintendent, Samantha Fuhrey announced her retirement from her position effective June 30.

The announcement came toward the end of Tuesday night's school board work session meeting.

"After much careful thought and consideration and reflection, I have decided to retire from K-12 pub-

lic education as of June 30, 2023," Fuhrey said in her remarks during the work session meeting. "One of the most fulfilling endeavors of my life has been to serve as the superintendent of the Newton County Schools system for the last 10 years.

"It's an emotional time because this is 31 years of my life that I've dedicated to the children of Georgia, and while I'm excited about the future, I'm also kind of sad that I'm

See RETIRING, A8



Special | NCSS

Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey and school board member Shakila Henderson-Baker pose for a photo with the 2021 GSBA Leading Edge Award.

GSBA to screen candidates for replacement

By GABRIEL STOVALL

gstovall@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — The search for a new superintendent for the Newton County Schools System has officially begun.

Shortly after current NCSS Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey announced her retirement from the position she's held for 10 years during Tuesday night's Board of Education work session, BOE chairperson Shakila Henderson-Baker provided the first pieces

See GSBA, A8

Restaurant Business



(Above) Special | Kelley Johnston; (bottom) Covington News file photo

From left, Zac Johnston and mother, Kelley Johnston, stand inside their new business in downtown Social Circle earlier this year before they began remodeling it. Below left, Elizabeth Wiley, Dorothy Wiley Parker and Fred Wiley show the plaque they received when Wiley's General Store closed in December 2014 after 95 years of operation.

Rivian to Stanton Springs

Judge denies effort to block buffering plan for Rivian site

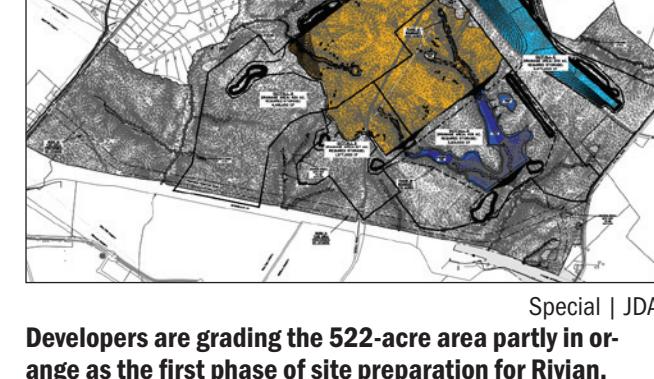
By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Office of Administrative Hearings has denied a legal challenge to the state Environmental Protection Division's (EPD) issuance of a state permit allowing development around on-site streams for construction of the Rivian project.

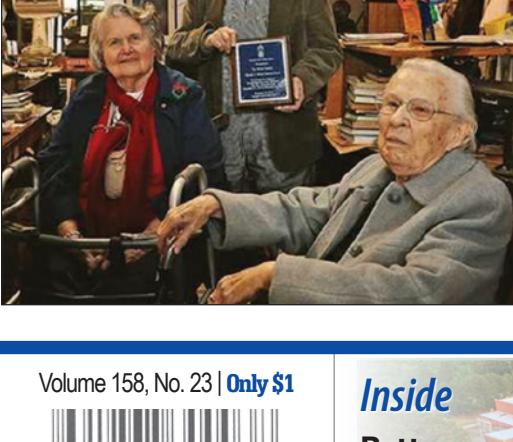
The Office denied petitioner and nearby resident Julie Jenkins' challenge to the EPD's issuance of a stream buffer variance.

The denial was ordered on the grounds that the application by the state and site developer Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, New- See JUDGE, A2



Special | JDA
Developers are grading the 522-acre area partly in orange as the first phase of site preparation for Rivian.

Bakery seeks to honor longtime store owner



See BAKERY, A6

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Kelley Johnston said she hadn't planned to open another location of her seven-year-old bakery and coffee shop outside Newton County — until a spot meaningful to her family opened up in downtown Social Circle.

Johnston recently announced she was expanding her Covington-based Bread and Butter Bakery & Cafe concept to a retail space that operated as a general store for the south Walton County town for almost a century.

See BAKERY, A6

Weekend Weather Forecast



Saturday, March 18
High: 53° Low: 28°
• Partly Cloudy



Sunday, March 19
High: 48° Low: 26°
• Partly Sunny

Index

Classifieds, B2
Business, B6
Legals, B2

Sports, B1
Obituaries, A2
Education, A10

VOLUME 158, NO. 23 | ONLY \$1

6 91868 30003 8

Subscribe! 770-787-6397

Inside

Battery recycler to officially open

Business, B6



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

SouthEastern Appliances and More
BUY WHERE THE BUILDERS BUY

FIND YOUR FRIDGE.

SAMSUNG

Fingerprint Resistant Selections:

\$1599.99

27.4 Cu.Ft. Stainless

\$1799.99

27 Cu.Ft. Stainless

\$1199.99

29 Cu.Ft. Stainless

5153 HWY 278 NE
COVINGTON GA
678-342-2202

Georgia General Assembly

Bill requires state to determine if degrees needed for some jobs

By REBECCA GRAPEVINE
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation this week to require the state to assess whether educational requirements for many state jobs are necessary.

The “Reducing Barriers to State Employment” bill also requires the Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) to “insofar as practicable” reduce the number of jobs for which a four-year college degree is necessary. The state could continue to require college degrees or other certifications for jobs that are deemed to require them.

“As you know, both the private and public sector right

now are in a war for talent, and we don’t want to place any artificial barriers in their way,” said Rep. Scott Hilton, R-Peachtree Corners, who sponsored the bill in the House.

“We want to make sure that we’re not requiring a four-year degree, advanced degree or certification that does not apply to the [state] job we’re currently hiring for and lose out on the opportunity to have our best and brightest apply for that job.”

Georgia experienced record-high turnover during the last fiscal year, according to a state workforce report published by the DOAS.

“What good is it to get people in the front door if they just

walk right back out of the back door for a job with more competitive pay?” said Rep. Jasmine Clark, D-Lilburn, during a brief debate on the bill.

Wages for state jobs are not on par with the private sector, which makes it tough to retain state employees, Clark said.

Gov. Brian Kemp has proposed a \$2,000 pay raise for most state employees in his fiscal 2024 budget. Law enforcement officers on the state payroll and employees in several agencies with particular high turnover would receive additional \$2,000 increases for a total pay hike of \$4,000.

The bill, which the state Senate passed last month, now moves to Kemp’s desk for his signature.

JUDGE:

Continued from A1

ton and Walton Counties was complete and that the EPD properly considered the application and the required criteria before lawfully issuing the variance, said a statement from the JDA.

“This decision will further enable expedited progress on grading the Rivian site, which will ultimately bring enormous investment and high-paying jobs to Georgia,” the JDA said in the statement.

Jenkins is among a group of residents near the site who have filed a series of legal actions seeking to delay or stop electric vehicle maker Rivian from building a production and research facility on 2,000 acres of vacant farmland straddling the line between Walton and Morgan counties.

Rivian plans to hire up to 7,500 for the massive facility on the state-owned site.

The judge’s decision “repeatedly” notes that impacts to the buffers around state waters have been avoided or minimized to the fullest extent practicable, a JDA spokesperson said.

“Further, the order notes that the application complied with all legal requirements and that the petitioner failed to demonstrate that the application was inadequate or deficient.

“The decision underscores the prudence and legality of the state’s and JDA’s approach to this important project, and it shows that the environmental regulators at EPD are thoroughly evaluat-

ing the project under Georgia’s environmental laws.”

The challenge to the state EPD-issued Stream Buffer Variance permit led to an automatic stay which prevented any construction work within the 25-foot buffers along the streams, said a JDA spokesperson.

Machinery used by grading company Plateau Excavating Inc. had been forced to sit idle — costing the state government millions of dollars — as the JDA and state of Georgia waited to grade portions of the 2,000-acre site.

Plateau is preparing the site — located on the north side of I-20 in Walton and Morgan counties — for the start of construction of the project planned for this year.

Obituaries

Helen Chalker Johnson

Beggs Funeral Home

Mrs. Helen Chalker Johnson, 93, formerly of Conyers, GA entered into rest on March 11, 2023 at Mt. Pleasant Alternative Care.

Mrs. Johnson born in Gibson, GA to the late Willie Walden Chalker and the late Addie Lee Hammock Chalker. She grew up in Gibson and was a member of Magnolia Baptist Church. Mrs. Johnson moved to Conyers and worked as lead packer for Lithonia Lighting. She loved music, dancing, going fishing and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Johnson was predeceased by her husband, Marvin Alton Johnson; son, Marvin Lewis Johnson; brothers, Clarence Chalker, Hollis Chalker, Russell Chalker, and sisters, Corene Todd and Christine Landrum.

Survivors include her daughter, Verna Faye Webb (Robert); brother, Winnard Chalker (Hazel); sister, Betty Johnson, Wilma Mathis (Olin) and Frankie Griswell (Moses); daughter-in-law, Paulette Blalock; grandchildren, Marci Lynn Bemus (Caleb), Gregory Clinton Johnson; great grandchildren, Madeline Bemus and Gavin Bemus.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at Magnolia Baptist Church with Rev. Tommy Harwell officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The Pallbearers for the service are Clint Johnson, Barney Johnson, Cull Chalker, Bob Hayes, James Chalker and Michael Gilmer, and the Honorary Pallbearers are Jeffery Chalker, Denny Landrum and Caleb Bemis. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Magnolia Baptist Church.

It is the family’s request that memorial contributions be made to the Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 3316 Magnolia Church Rd., Gibson, Georgia 30810.

Beggs Funeral Home, Thomson, Georgia is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Helen Johnson.

Ray Cason

Gray Mortuary

Ray Edward Cason, 90, husband of the late Katherine Elizabeth Norton Cason, passed away Sunday, March 12, 2023.

Born in Belton, he was the son of the late Rev. R.E. and Lila Bell Cooper Cason. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he served during the Korean War and was a graduate of Furman University. Ray served as Secretary to the Chief Engineer of Southern Railway and later retired as the owner of Harvest Realty in Mansfield, GA. He was a member of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 15, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Gray Mortuary. The funeral will follow at 3:00 p.m. in the mortuary chapel, with burial at Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Belton, SC, with military honors.

Gray Mortuary, Pelzer, SC
Condolences: www.graymortuary.com

LOOK TO

NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL

CANCER INSTITUTE

LOOK TO NORTHSIDE FOR ONE OF THE NATION’S LEADING BREAST CANCER PROGRAMS.

You are never alone with Northside’s community of care. As one of the nation’s leading providers of breast cancer diagnostic and treatment services, our experts are here to guide Georgia’s women through any cancer journey.

**BUILT
TO BEAT
CANCER**

Look to Northside at

BuiltToBeatCancer.com



REGIONAL REPORT

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

Covington man ID'd as driver in death of pedestrian

Georgia State Patrol says a Covington man allegedly was the driver of a motorcycle that struck and killed a pedestrian as the motorcyclist fled from Walton County sheriff's deputies March 9 in Monroe.

GSP released the names of the two individuals involved in the motorcycle and pedestrian fatality last week. According to the GSP incident report, DeAngelo Foster, 45, of Monroe, was the pedestrian who died on South Broad Street in Monroe. The driver of the motorcycle was given as Darrell DreAntoine Randolph, 26, of Covington. He was taken to Piedmont Walton Hospital by Walton EMS with serious injuries.

Randolph was allegedly fleeing police at the time. The accident is still under investigation.

Georgia State Patrol spokesperson Courtney Floyd reported that on March 9, Troopers were requested to investigate a crash in Walton County regarding a motorcycle and a pedestrian.

The investigation revealed that a Suzuki GSX-R1000 motorcycle was traveling south on Georgia (Hwy.) 11 at a high rate of speed, actively evading police and passing vehicles in a no passing zone.

"As the motorcycle passed vehicles, witnesses stated the driver was looking behind him. A pedestrian was crossing the street from the Marathon gas station near the intersection of Vine Street," Floyd said. "As the motorcycle was approaching the pedestrian, the motorcycle driver came into contact with the pedestrian."

—Monroe Local News

State Senate OKs \$1 billion tax rebate, sends to governor

The Georgia Senate overwhelmingly passed a \$1 billion one-time state income tax rebate Tuesday, sending it to Gov. Brian Kemp's desk for his signature.

The 46-7 Senate vote followed House passage of the legislation last month by a vote of 170-2.

The tax rebate will yield \$250 to single taxpayers, \$375 to heads of households and \$500 to married couples filing jointly.

Kemp and the General Assembly have provided

income tax rebates two years in row, using portions of a budget surplus that has reached more than \$6 billion. The only difference between this year's bill and the 2022 version is that the rebate also will go to students listed as dependents on their parents' tax form but who worked during the last tax year.

The rebate fulfills a promise Kemp made on the campaign trail last year.

"We're sending money back to the people because they know how to use it," the governor said Monday during a signing ceremony for the mid-year state budget.

But the rebate received pushback on the Senate floor Tuesday from Democrats who argued it isn't the best use of the state's surplus revenue.

Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, who voted for the bill, said he was doing so only because Georgia voters have come to expect tax rebates when the state builds up a large surplus. He said the money should be used to address the state's serious workforce shortage.

Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who voted against the bill, said Georgia's workforce shortage is partly a result of the state failing to live up its promise to fund promised 3% cost-of-living increases for state retirees.

Sen. Elena Parent, D-Atlanta, another of the legislation's opponents, suggested the surplus be spent on a state-level earned income tax credit for low- and middle-income families, an idea that has drawn some Republican support in the past.

But Sen. John Albers, R-Roswell, said the tax rebate was made possible largely because of one-time revenues – including federal pandemic assistance – that are not likely to reoccur.

After passing the tax rebate, senators followed with a unanimous vote ratifying seven executive orders Kemp issued last year temporarily suspending the state sales tax on gasoline and other motor fuels. The governor issued the first of those orders last March as pump prices spiked in Georgia and across the nation..

—Capitol Beat News

Governor signs mid-year state budget

Gov. Brian Kemp has

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

signed a \$32.5 billion mid-year state budget that includes property tax relief for Georgia homeowners and security grants for every public school in the state.

The mid-year budget, which covers state spending through the end of June, provides \$950 million in property tax relief, down slightly from the \$1 billion Kemp requested in January. It will save Georgia homeowners roughly \$500 on their property tax bills.

The legislature supported the governor's recommendation of \$115.7 million for school security grants, with \$50,000 going to each school. The Georgia House had increased the individual grants to \$60,000, but the Senate went back to Kemp's original proposal.

The General Assembly also backed Kemp's request to fully fund Georgia's Quality Basic Education k-12 student formula (QBE) and earmark \$128.2 million to cover student enrollment growth in the state's public schools since last year.

Also in the education arena, the spending plan provides \$5 million to help paraprofessionals obtain teaching certificates and \$3.5 million in grants to help nursing programs with waiting lists increase student capacity.

The mid-year budget adds \$105 million for a new electronic medical records system at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Lawmakers approved Kemp's request for \$73.1 million to help train workers for the electric vehicle manufacturing plants being built in Newton and Bryan counties.

The mid-year budget increases state spending by 7% over the fiscal 2023 budget lawmakers adopted last spring.

"Having a \$6 billion surplus allows us to fulfill a lot of needs," Lt. Gov. Burt Jones said Monday.

Kemp said the surplus also will protect Georgia taxpayers at a time when inflation and other "economic headwinds" threaten a recession.

—Capitol Beat News

State Senate approves school safety bill, sends to governor

The state Senate

passed legislation Monday that will require Georgia public schools to conduct active-shooter drills by Oct. 1 of each year.

Gov. Brian Kemp's "Safe Schools Act" also creates a school-safety and anti-gang certification for teachers and other school employees who complete a school safety and gang-deterrence training program.

"This modernizes school safety protocols for the year 2023," said Sen. Mike Hodges, R-Brunswick, the bill's Senate sponsor. "There's no greater priority than keeping our children, teachers and personnel safe."

Though the bill ultimately passed nearly unanimously, it drew criticism from Democrats.

"This bill highlights our failure year after year to make meaningful changes to address the gun violence that is plaguing our schools, our communities, our streets and our homes," said Sen. Elena Parent, D-Atlanta.

Parent, who ultimately voted for the bill, noted that several Democratic-sponsored gun control bills have not received committee hearings during this year's legislative session.

"Prevention of school shootings must involve a comprehensive approach if we are serious, including gun safety and gun violence prevention and mental health strategies," she said. "Instead, we're here with a bill that offers synthetic protection."

The bill's focus on gang-violence prevention also drew concerns.

"I'm concerned that identification-focused training could result in racial profiling of students, and it could increase their likelihood of being exposed to the criminal justice system," said Sen. Nikki Merritt, D-Grayson.

To address that concern, Merritt and other Democrats proposed amendments that would have struck language focused on deterring gang violence from the bill. However, majority Republicans rejected those amendments.

Sen. Jason Esteves, D-Atlanta, also proposed an ultimately unsuccessful amendment that would have required, rather than allowed, local

school districts to provide parents the ability to opt their children out of the intruder drills.

"We are disappointed, but we will continue to work as hard as we can to ensure that we minimize harm to Georgia students with regards to the racial profiling aspect and shooter drill trauma," said Francesca Ruhe, a Georgia State University student who is also a lobbyist for the Georgia

Youth Justice Coalition, an organization made up of high school and college students.

Ruhe and other students pointed to research from Georgia Tech that found active shooter drills are associated with increases in stress and anxiety among both students and teachers.

The bill now moves to the governor's desk for his signature.

—Capitol Beat News

Buying or Selling a home?

Find out your real options.

PickiVickiHomes.com

REAL ESTATE

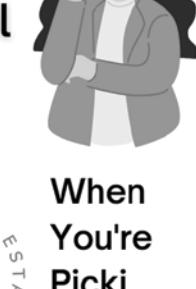
PICKIVICKI TEAM

Powered by:

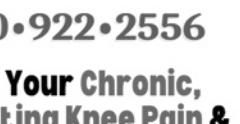
KW PREMIER

KELLER WILLIAMS

When You're Picki... Choose Vicki™



SAY GOODBYE TO KNEE PAIN



770-922-2556

End Your Chronic, Irritating Knee Pain & Stiffness Without Injections, Pain Medication, or Having to Wear Support

www.Multi-CareHealth.com

1650 Honey Creek Commons SE • Suite F • Conyers • Georgia • 30013

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.

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

Dogwood Hill Crematory

Lawnwood Memorial Park

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

www.CaldwellCowan.com

www.LawnwoodMemorialPark.com

www.DogwoodHillCrematory.com

www.CaldwellCowan.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

Trey Bailey columnist

Bailey to Fuhrey: 'Thank you'

I've had the privilege of serving alongside School Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey for the last seven years. Some pastors and theologians see the number seven as significant. In some ancient Near Eastern cultures, like the Biblical Israelites, the number



seven indicated "fullness" or "completeness." And for you to even consider retirement from this position, then the time must be complete.

You have fulfilled your mission with the Newton County Schools System.

It has been an honor to watch you lead at such a high level. It has been humbling to see how effortlessly you display the character of a true organizational leader. You have great integrity. A great family support system. And you've built an incredible team here, and together, you have produced incredible results.

You and I have not always agreed on every decision and not always aligned on philosophy, but you always listened and were open to my thoughts and ideas, even the crazy ones. I count you as a close friend and someone I admire greatly. We have led through trying economic times, education disruptions during a global pandemic, and we've grieved the tragic loss of faculty, students, and even one of our own board members, our friend and mentor Almond Turner. We've been through a lot of highs and lows, calm seas and stormy weather, and you have been a steady captain of this ship and crew.

Contrary to what some believe, you have led apolitically. In other words, you never made decisions based on political leanings, or the noise of media. You always did what you thought was best for the children. Your first thought is always, "what is best for our kids?" And people will never know all the times you personally gave your time, your energy, money out of your own pocket to help kids in our system. You didn't mind helping the one, even if you couldn't help everyone. Because you saw each kid individually. No one can ever question whether or not you cared. You care deeply. You have a huge heart for kids and for their future successes. And it has always been obvious to those around you.

Whoever is next for Newton County will have big shoes to fill. And I don't know if anyone will fill those ruby red slippers, make us think about

See BAILEY, A5

OPINIONS

The Covington News

Jeff Stahler cartoonist



Dick Yarbrough columnist

What's behind Fulton DA's probe of Trump?

Antonio Brown, 23, was recently indicted for the brutal stabbing and killing of 77-year-old Ellen Bowles last December inside a gated community in Northside Atlanta. He faces a host of felony charges in connection with that horrific event.



Chances are it will

be a long time before his case is ever adjudicated. While it is said the wheels of justice grind slowly, they have pretty much ground to a halt in Fulton County.

There are currently 15 judges in Fulton County that handle the majority of criminal cases. As of this writing, there are more than 4,000 pending felony cases. That's an average of almost 300 per judge! There are 484 criminal cases that include murder charges, an average of nine per judge. In addition, there are some 268 cases involving sex crime charges. That is an average of 18 per judge. Cases affecting what's known as the Seven Deadly Charges — murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy and aggravated sexual battery — number 881, or 59 per judge.

That means if, starting next week, one pending felony case could be disposed of every week for 52 straight weeks by each judge and that no new cases appeared on their dockets (an impossibility,

of course), it would take five years to clear their calendars.

Beyond the cold statistics is the human toll being exacted on impacted family members, friends and victims awaiting justice and wondering when or if they are ever going to get their day in court.

That's because Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis is busy at the moment investigating Donald Trump and his allies for trying to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia.

Most everyone knows I am not a Donald Trump fan, but I think the special grand jury that Willis convened last May is a waste of taxpayer dollars and that any perceived electoral misdeeds on the part of the former president and his supporters should be the responsibility of federal authorities, not Fulton County.

From the outset, I have viewed this investigation with suspicion. I have wondered what is behind the DA's motivation, if not to position herself on a national stage, raise her profile and enhance future

political aspirations.

The first alarm went off when Willis subpoenaed current Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, one of the 16 Trump electors who signed on to an "unofficial electorate certificate" in an effort to undo the Electoral College vote in the 2020 election. This, after she had held a fundraiser for Jones' Democratic opponent prior to the election and had donated money to his primary campaign earlier in the year.

Fulton Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney, who oversaw the special grand jury proceedings, criticized Willis for hosting the fundraiser and called it a "What are you thinking moment," and added, "The optics are horrific."

So, too, I suspect, are the costs of the special grand jury to Fulton County citizens. Many of the witnesses were flown in at taxpayer expense. Court insiders who tell me that Willis insists on being addressed as Madam District Attorney also say she has availed herself of bodyguards, publicists and even stylists. Who is paying for that?

Whatever significance the special grand jury may have had with me vanished like the morning dew when the foreperson, 30-year-old Emily Kohrs, made herself known to the world. Who let her loose and why are a mystery to me. Her inane comments and goofy facial expressions even got her lampooned on "Saturday Night Live."

Kohrs admits she has never voted but leans Democratic, is "between jobs," (i.e. unemployed) and is fascinated with witchcraft and the occult. Just what you want as the face of this special grand jury. In one media interview she admitted she thought it "cool" that she swore in a witness while holding a popsicle. Is this a great country, or what?

In my opinion, Emily Kohrs' clownish performance has seriously impacted the integrity of the special grand jury's efforts and made it look like The Original Amateur Hour. Some legal experts think her comments could jeopardize the DA's case against Trump. She may turn out to be Donald Trump's best defense.

In the meantime, Fulton County judges are waiting on Fani Willis to get back to work prosecuting the hundreds of felony cases awaiting trial. It may be mundane stuff after basking in the national spotlight, but it is what she was elected to do and should be doing. Ask the victims and their families.

Contact Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com

An open letter from the Metro Atlanta arts community

EDITOR'S NOTE: The leaders of 20 Atlanta-area live theater and arts venues recently penned this open letter about the difficulties their industry is facing in recovering from the negative economic effects of the pandemic.

On Tuesday, March 7, we were devastated to hear that the Atlanta Lyric Theatre has shut down after 42 seasons. Not only is its closing a loss for our vibrant industry, it is also an indicator that if left unchecked, the crisis in the theatre and arts sectors caused by the COVID-19 shutdowns will continue to ravage our community.

Atlanta is a great theatre city, unique from any other in the nation. Its theatrical ecosystem encompasses small entrepreneurial companies led by exciting young artists, a vibrant community of midsized theatres who specialize in creating programming that reflects the community in and around Atlanta, and large theatres nationally recognized as hot spots for producing new plays and Broadway tryouts. Through it all runs an entrepreneurial spirit, a commitment to new work, and the will to broaden audiences and expand what it means to be an artist, a southerner or even a person.

Our local theatre is a remarkable opportunity to hone the craft of artists. Steve Yockey, Danielle Deadwyler, Jennifer Garner, Donald Glover, Amy Adams, Julia Roberts, RuPaul, and Kenny Leon, among many more, started their careers on and around Metro Atlanta stages. It is this commitment to finding and supporting local southern talent that makes the theatre industry so vibrant and allows us to provide the strong foundation that the TV and film industry have built upon so spectacularly. Marvel Studios, Tyler Perry Studios, and Netflix have all found a home here in

and around Atlanta, in large part due to generous funding via tax breaks that they receive from the Georgia government but also because of the talent the local theatre cultivates year after year.

Our theatre community's vibrancy is mirrored across the city's non profit arts sector. Anywhere you look in Metro Atlanta you will find dancers, singers, musicians and visual artists creating and defining a new cultural vocabulary that is unique to our metro. Beyond the creativity and joy this industry brings to our city it is also an economic and job creating power house. The Atlanta Regional Commission in 2017 estimated that the non profit arts sector on its own was a \$719.8 million dollar industry that supported more than 23,000 full time jobs across the city, more than Home Depot, Piedmont Health Care or Publix, and that the Atlanta arts community contributes more than \$65 million to local and state government revenue through taxes every year. The economic impact of patrons who attend arts programming is even greater. Each patron spends between \$23 and \$48 every time they attend an event, almost all of which is spent at local businesses. In 2015 the Arts and Economic prosperity report estimated that the combined impact of the non profit arts sector and the patrons who attended events was more than \$600 million dollars in Metro Atlanta. This remarkable impact is in addition to the immeasurable cultural enrichment that theaters and arts venues provide to their communities, especially to students whose schools rely on theaters and cultural institutions across Atlanta to curate artistic programming that inspires children to dream, explore and reach for something new through art.

Arts and theatre companies across the country are at an

See LETTER, A5



Special | Atlanta Shakespeare Co.

The Atlanta Shakespeare Company performs at The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse in downtown Atlanta.

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 30015. 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.

OWNER

Patrick Graham

pgraham@covnews.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Lee Ann Avery

lavery@covnews.com

PUBLISHER and EDITOR

Gabriel Stovall

gstovall@covnews.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Cynthia Warren

cwarren@covnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Tom Spigolon

tspigolon@covnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Phillip B. Hubbard

phubbard@covnews.com

LEGALS CLERK

Alicia Goolsby

agooolsby@covnews.com

Georgia General Assembly

Bill targeting financial exploitation of seniors wins final passage

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

ATLANTA – The state House of Representatives gave final passage Wednesday to legislation aimed at preventing the financial exploitation

of Georgia seniors.

The bill, which the Georgia Senate passed last month, authorizes financial advisors to delay transactions involving their elderly or disabled clients if they suspect fraud.

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger backed the legislation, noting during a news conference in January that financial exploitation of seniors has been on the rise since the pandemic struck three years ago.

The Securities Division in the secretary of state's office processes complaints of financial exploitation.

The legislation now heads to Gov. Brian Kemp for signing.

LETTER:

Continued from A4

inflection point. Now is the time to act to ensure theatre and the arts stay at the center of Metro Atlanta communities.

COVID-19 was the biggest disruption to the American arts sector in history, and the most destructive since the Great Depression. And it is still threatening our industry. From the increased costs we have all seen since returning to work, audience members' ongoing health concerns, and rolling shutdowns as company members test positive for COVID-19, the industry is still in turmoil. Because of this turmoil, nationwide only about half of pre-pandemic audiences have returned — severely limiting earned revenue as the industry rebuilds its audience base.

Coupling lower than average attendance with the fact that arts funding is the smallest fraction of philanthropic giving means that there are simply not enough resources available for the short term health and long term viability of the Metro Atlanta cultural arts community. Unfortunately, the challenge has been exacerbated post pandemic as community funders and foundation leaders who previously funded the arts have significantly delayed releasing funds, have not focused on the arts during the pandemic and recovery or have ended their arts support altogether. Midsize and small companies are even more challenged by the current funding landscape because they are less able to navigate disruption in funding.

We propose a five-pronged approach to fundamentally change how arts and culture are supported in the city and move the industry forward not based on scarcity but instead on a model designed to let the arts thrive as a core value of our city and state.

First, we will ask major philanthropic foundations and area philanthropists to make a transformational, one-time gift to every arts

organization in Metro Atlanta. In cities across the United States individual philanthropists and foundations have realized that now is the time to act to stabilize local communities of arts organizations. We need that leadership in Atlanta.

Second, we will propose doubling the grant making capacity of the city, county, and state arts offices across the metro while simultaneously cutting red tape so that awarded funds can be accessed quickly. According to ArtsATL, Georgia still ranks near the bottom of arts funding, ranking 49th out of all states. By adding less than 10 million dollars combined across all state, county and city budgets to the grant funding arm of arts agencies local organizations would have more consistent funding available, more organizations could receive funding and funding levels could be increased. This deeper investment is a win-win, funding provided to local arts companies comes back to the granting government agencies by a factor of at least 3 to 1.

Third, we will ask the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta to hire an arts program director quickly and give that person adequate staff and resources to develop new artistic resources from national funders, not just shepherd existing funds. For too long the arts have been relegated to an underfunded and understaffed department at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and at foundations across the city. To change the system we need a metro wide advocate who is active in the national philanthropic community while also being committed to a thriving local arts scene.

Fourth, we will ask that the production tax credit enjoyed by the film and television industry be extended to non profit arts organizations headquartered and producing live performing arts productions in Georgia.

Without us providing the training and year round opportunities, the film industry would not have the access to talent they so rightfully enjoy. By extending the tax credit to work produced on the stages across the state we will create a more holistic ecosystem.

Fifth, we will call upon production and media companies based in Georgia to join us as we advocate for increased arts funding while simultaneously creating deeper working relationships between for-profit and non-profit arts organizations. Strengthening the symbiotic relationship between the film and media industry and local artists will ensure that both thrive.

How can you help as a patron? If you have not attended since the shut down, come back, we need you. Ticket sales are vital to our health but so is word of mouth marketing and engaged audiences. If you can't afford a ticket please ask about discounts and special codes. Nearly every company in town has special performances and admissions that are discounted to ensure anyone who wants to can get in. We are all trying to keep our ticket prices low to remain accessible to the greatest number of people possible, even in the face of inflation and rising costs.

If you're someone who can afford a little more, consider adding a donation each time you purchase tickets so that we can continue paying artists fairly. Consider joining the thousands of people who have donated time and money to the arts throughout the shutdown and recovery. Without the remarkable support of donors large and small the arts would not have survived, we thank you for all that you have done for the industry.

If you have been coming, tell your friends and family about the work you see on stage. Advocate for the arts at your company, post to your social media accounts

and bring up the last show you saw when you are out with friends. The best marketing we have is word of mouth — and we need you to get the word out.

Discover new theatres. Explore a new genre. With more than 30 theaters and hundreds of arts companies in the city there are likely at least a dozen you have not attended, or a genre you have not seen recently. From puppets to improv and from Shakespeare to world premiere new works, you can find anything on stage in Atlanta. Not to mention choral music, modern dance, indie movies and lectures by famous artists.

What we promise:
With your support we will continue to produce work fueled by our community. Queer youth, a woman struggling with mental health, Black entrepreneurs, and young women seeking a closer relationship with God were all portrayed onstage last weekend across Atlanta stages and we pledge to continue to represent this city and all the facets that make it great.

We commit to amplifying exciting new voices and showcasing remarkable, diverse talent that reflects our region. The Metro Atlanta arts community's ability to nurture rising talent on local stages before launching it onto the national stage means that our next generation of tastemakers will have deep ties to Georgia.

And we promise to continue bringing our community together. To entertain, to explore and to sit a while in another world, in another person's truth, and maybe become just a little closer.

Your help is critical to our future, but together we can only go so far. We need community funders, philanthropic leaders, and political leaders to join us. With their support, we can chart a new path forward for the arts in Atlanta by seizing the opportunity presented during this challenging

time and to rewrite the way arts and culture are funded and supported. If we can accomplish even a fraction of what we propose here, we can write a new future for the arts in Atlanta and Georgia, solidifying our status as a center for arts and culture in America.

If you are interested in signing on to support this work, email marysa@actorsexpress.com.

If you are a funder interested in talking about how to make a transformative gift in the sector, please contact alex@actorsexpress.com, csa@truecolorstheatre.org, or mack@7stages.org.

If you are a government leader or can help advance the ideas around an arts tax credit or in creating local funding for the arts email stacey@dadsgarage.com or marysa@actorsexpress.com or lisa@horizontheatre.com.

If you are a patron and want to make a donation or attend a performance please visit the website of any of the cosigned companies.

If you have other ideas on how we can advance the arts in Atlanta or the state or Georgia, email alex@actorsexpress.com.

Thank you from all of us in the Metro Atlanta Arts Community.

This was signed by representatives of Actors' Express, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Young Singer, Atlanta Film Society, Ballethnic, Dad's Garage Theatre, Dance Canvas, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Horizon Theatre Co., Museum of Design Atlanta, National Black Arts Festival, 7 Stages, South Fulton Institute, Stage Door Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, Theatre du Reve, Theatrical Outfit, The Atlanta Shakespeare Company at The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse, True Colors Theatre Co., and Whole World Improv Theatre.

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



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



Stay Cool This Summer!

Your Comfort is Our Business

11290 Brown Bridge Rd.
Covington, GA 30016

www.dwairflow.com • 770-788-7700

High-Quality Air Conditioning Services Since 1986

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

Download on the App Store Get it on Google Play WWW.NITRO2GOBEV.COM

Since 1893

J.C. Harwell & Son

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CHAPEL

2157 East Street SE • Covington, GA 30014
 770-786-2524

A locally owned & operated funeral home offering: Funeral & Cremation Services as well as Pre-Arrangements Options.



Tommy & Mary Evelyn Davis
 Celebrating 128 Years of Service to the Community We Call Home

www.harwellfuneralhome.com

- 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

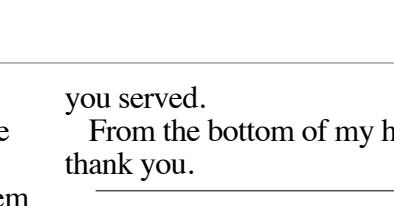
VIPER Security Technologies

Smart Home Security

Improve Security
Video Doorbell
Smart Lock
HD Video Cameras
24/7 Monitoring

Increase Home Value
Smart Thermostat
Smart Lights
Smart Plugs
iPhone/Android App

CALL: (678) 342-9110



Above All TREE SERVICE
770-922-5356

23 YEARS THANK YOU
 SERVING YOU SINCE 1999

BAKERY:

Continued from A1

She said she is now hiring for the new location at 109 Cherokee Road by the end of this month.

It will be the third location of Bread and Butter following its original Monticello Street bakery and drive-through location on U.S. Hwy. 278 — both in Covington.

The 2,000-square-foot space is at the corner of South Cherokee Road and West Hightower Trail in Social Circle and operated as the Claude T. Wiley Co. General Store through most of the 20th century and first part of the 21st.

Kelley Johnston is related to Claude T. Wiley and his family. Her father, the late Rev. Wiley

Stephens, was named for the Wiley family that operated a general store in the same location for 95 years.

Claude T. Wiley's General Store sold the items of daily life to residents of Social Circle and the surrounding communities from 1919 to 2014 — surviving the Great Depression of the 1930s and the numerous changes that came to the American retail industry in the latter part of the 20th century.

Upon its closing in late 2014, the mayor of Social Circle presented a plaque to Elizabeth Wiley, Dorothy Wiley Parker and Fred Wiley "in honor of their standing in the community

and the store's role in the history of the town," according to a story in The Covington News.

Through the years it was occupied by other businesses, including Sacred Grounds Corner Cafe, but kept the wording in gold lettering on a front window that bore the name of "Claude T. Wiley Co. General Store."

Kelley Johnston said she planned to keep that lettering on the front window in homage to her family's place in Social Circle business history.

She said it was "very important" to her that she continue a family tradition — begun by Claude T. Wiley — of operating a business at the corner of Cherokee and Hightower.

"I'm excited about honoring him," she said.

Bread and Butter began as a side baking business for Johnston and her husband, Ronnie, in 2013 while they owned and operated the popular Mystic Grill on the north side of the Covington Square.

She later decided to concentrate totally on baking and stopped operating the restaurant before opening Bread and Butter on the Square's west side in 2016. Johnston later added a drive-through location on U.S. Hwy. 278 featuring an

abbreviated version of its menu in early 2021.

The new location will feature the same down-sized version of her original location's menu and feature such items as breakfast croissants and bagels, a wide variety of sandwiches, salads, desserts, coffees and more.

Amber McKibben, Social Circle's downtown director, also serves as the staff person for the Social Circle Main Street Commission and the Social Circle Downtown Development Authority.

She said adding a locally owned business like Bread and Butter helps keep the downtown area vibrant and thriving.

"Businesses are the heart of any downtown, and we are very excited to have Bread and Butter joining in downtown Social Circle," she said.

"Having established businesses move here is a wonderful thing because they bring the people who are loyal customers to their business and that also helps the other businesses, because the patrons may see a store they have never visited and make an effort to check it out," McKibben said.

She also said successful businesses and owners willing to be plugged in to the community are a key component of a vibrant and thriving

downtown.

In addition, having spaces filled means "there are places to go and things to do" in the downtown area, she noted.

"Social Circle citizens can stay local and shop local without having to go another town over," she said. "Supporting local businesses is key to helping them be successful and stay in those spaces for years."

McKibben also noted Kelley Johnston and son Zac, a partner in the business, have "jumped right in here in Social Circle" by attending a merchants association meeting and participating in the town's annual Chocolate Crawl.

"(The Johnstons) have been all in from day one and their business isn't even open yet," McKibben said. "They are going to be a wonderful addition to Downtown."

Kelley Johnston said she has never purposely chosen any of her Bread and Butter locations because they were located in a city's historic downtown area.

"It just worked out that way," she said.

Rather, Johnston said she has always tried to make the most impact in a community wherever she is located.

"It's just important to get involved," she said.

Sports betting returns

By DAVE WILLIAMS

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Legislation to legalize sports betting in Georgia left for dead after Crossover Day in the General Assembly last week was brought back to life Thursday.

None of the four measures on sports betting introduced early in this year's session made it through the Crossover Day deadline for bills to pass at least one legislative chamber to remain alive for the year.

But on Thursday, the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee inserted a lengthy sports betting bill into a much shorter measure declaring the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby the state's official sports box derby.

The sports betting measure, introduced by freshman Sen. Derek Mallow, D-Savannah, would authorize the Georgia Lottery Corp. to oversee online sports betting in Georgia.



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



"The place where minds are developed to succeed"

8151 Hazelbrand Rd NE • Covington, GA 30014 • 470-444-1550

www.oreillyearlylearningcenter.com • info@oreillyearlylearningcenter.com



THE CHICKS ARE COMING!
 ALL CHICKS ARE PULLETS. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. BUY 1 OR MORE!

Dates are dependent on hatch and weather. Please check with us to be sure shipment arrived!

March 2nd

Americana

Amberlink

Blue Copper Maran

March 9th

Barred Rock

Production Red

Speckled Sussex

March 16th

Americana

Blue Laced Red Wyandotte

Cinnamon Queen

March 23rd

Barnevelder

Cornish Rock

Lavender Orpington

March 30th

Cream Legbar

Golden Comet

Black Australorp

April 6th DUCKS

Khaki Campbell

Mallard

White Pekin

April 13th

Columbian Rock Cross

Golden Cuckoo Maran

Lavender Orpington

April 20th

Black Giant

Buff Brahma

Rhode Island Blue

April 27th

Buff Brahma

Rhode Island Red

Welsummers

May 4th

Buff Orpington

New Hampshire

Olive Egger

May 11th

Cream Legbar

Golden Laced Wyandotte

Noir Maran

May 18th

Cuckoo Maran

Blue Australorp

Buckeyes

May 25

Black Sex Link

Blue Copper Maran

Dark Brahma

June 1st

Blue Rock

Brown Leghorn

Golden Comet

June 8th

Black Copper Maran

Silver Laced Wyandotte

Speckled Sussex

June 14th TURKEYS

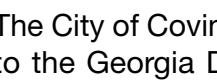
Artisan Gold

Broad Breasted White

Orlopp Mammoth Bronze

THE STOCK MARKET

4479 Hwy 20 SE, Conyers • 770-483-8620 • Mon-Sat 9am-8pm • Sun 10am-6pm



THE CITY OF COVINGTON PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Covington of Newton County, GA, is considering applying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$1,000,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at The Washington Street Center, 4138 School Street, Covington, GA on March 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application and to review progress on the previous CDBG grant (if applicable). The City of Covington, of Newton County, GA is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Randy Conner at 1143 Oak Street, Covington, GA 30014 prior to March 21, 2023, between the hours of (8:00 AM and 5:00 PM), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact us at our TDD number 770-784-2100. Applicants who do not have a TDD phone may consider using the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.]

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, March 18

• Community Emergency Preparedness Class, 10 a.m., Pathway Church, 33 N. Broad St., Porterdale. Class will teach how to make a plan for emergencies, stay informed during times of emergencies and more. Lunch will be provided. Hosted by Porterdale Police Chief Jason Cripps and the Porterdale PD in partnership with the Newton County Emergency Management Agency. For more information, call 770-786-2226.

Tuesday, March 21

• Emory Chamber Society concert featuring The Vega Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Oxford Chapel, Oxford College. For more information, email laura.gafnea@emory.edu.

Friday, March 24

• Oxford Lions Club Annual Pancake Supper, 5-7:30 p.m., Flint Hill Elementary School, 1300 Airport Road, Oxford. Plain or blueberry pancakes, Holfield sausage, and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 10. Proceeds support Flint Hill School and Lions sight projects.

• Special Olympics Week in Newton County featuring parade and opening ceremonies March 24 at around 10:45 a.m. to kick off the week of events with a parade between Legion Field and Covington Square. Opening Ceremonies follow at 11:30.

Friday, March 24-Sunday, March 26

• Special Olympics middle and high school athletes participate in track and field events at Legion Field March 27. The elementary schools' competition will be divided into two days, with Flint Hill, Fairview, West Newton, Porterdale, Oak Hill and Rocky Plains on Tuesday, March 28; and South Salem, Live Oak, Middle Ridge, East Newton and Mansfield on Wednesday, March 29. All events begin around 10 a.m.

Friday, March 31

• A Night of Live Music and Dance Performance, 7 p.m., Oxford College. Features the work of professors Corian Ellisor and Alejandro Abarca and The Atlanta Contem-

porary Ensemble. For more information, email laura.gafnea@emory.edu.

Saturday, April 14-Sunday, April 16

• "I Was Feeling Epic in Mystic Falls ... Again" convention featuring former cast members of "Vampire Diaries" and its spinoff shows at events around Covington. For tickets, visit <https://epic-events-entertainment2.ticketleap.com/>. For more information, visit <http://epic-cons.com/i-was-feeling-epic-in-mystic-falls-again/>.

Saturday, April 22

• Piedmont Newton's Concert for a Cause, 6:30 p.m., Legion Field, 3173 Mill St. Features the band Yacht Rock Schooner. Proceeds benefit the Piedmont Newton Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Tickets available at <http://give.piedmont.org/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=101221>.

Saturday, April 29

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 55" ROKU TV



COVNEWS
Sports

2023 MARCH MADNESS

500,000+ movies and TV episodes

ESPN+

HBOmax

Disney+

hulu

NFL NETWORK

SUBSCRIBE 6 MONTHS, GET 6 CHANCES

SUBSCRIBE 12 MONTHS, GET 12 CHANCES

Our March Madness Ultimate Gift Package is BACK

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND YOU COULD WIN

A 55" 4K SMART ROKU TV

It's almost March Madness time, and The Covington News is celebrating the biggest basketball event of the year by bringing back our March Madness Ultimate Gift Package!

To enter, simply pay for a 6-month or 12-month subscription, or you can pay to renew your existing 6-month or 12-month subsection to The Covington News anytime during the month of March, and you'll be eligible for this year's March Madness giveaway!

It's raffle style, which means your six or 12-month subscription purchase acts as raffle tickets. If you purchase or renew a 6-month subscription, you'll have six "entries" into the drawing. Purchase a 12-month subscription, you'll have 12 entries.

Paid subscriptions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday March 27, 2023 to qualify. You must be 18 years or older to enter, and you must be a resident of Newton County or reside within the newspaper's coverage area.

Employees of The Covington News and relatives of employees are ineligible to win.

The drawing for the March Madness Ultimate Gift Package will be held Wednesday March 29, 2023. The winner will be announced online at covnews.com on Friday March 31, as well as in that weekend's printed edition of The Covington News.

Go to covnews.com/subscribe to choose your plan. You can also fill in the form below and bring it to our office or call us at (770) 787-6397!

Got questions?

Email lavery@covnews.com for answers!

Happy March Madness!

MARCH MADNESS ULTIMATE GIFT PACKAGE

INCLUDES UNLIMITED ONLINE ACCESS

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

DROP OFF FORM OR MAIL COMPLETED FORM

ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO:

**THE COVINGTON NEWS
1166 USHER STREET,
COVINGTON, GA 30014**

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CASH CHECK

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

CC# _____ EXP _____

6 MONTHS \$30 (6 CHANCES)

12 MONTHS \$60 (12 CHANCES)

Newton County School System

Oak Hill's Dowdy named Media Specialist of the Year

STAFF REPORT

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Andrea Dowdy of Oak Hill Elementary School is the 2023 District Media Specialist of the Year, the school system announced recently.

Dowdy will now represent Newton County School System in the Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year regional competition.

"This is such a surprise," said Dowdy. "I am so honored to be a part of such a special group of hard-working media specialists."

"The Media Center is the hub, or central location, of all schools. The Media Specialists are able to touch the lives of all the students and teachers within the school. My hopes are that our impact goes far beyond the school, to have a lasting impact within homes and families throughout the community."

Dowdy earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Grades Education from Georgia College and State University

and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern State University. She later obtained an Education Specialist degree in Teaching and Learning from Piedmont College. She began her



Special | Newton County School System
Oak Hill media specialist Andrea Dowdy receives her award from Superintendent Samantha Fuhrey.

career in education with the Jasper County School System at Washington Park Elementary in 1997. She taught fifth grade there for four years before joining the Newton County School System team at Oak Hill Elementary.

Dowdy taught fifth grade at Oak Hill for over 20 years before moving to the media specialist position.

"I love the idea that I get to touch the lives of all of the students at Oak Hill," she explained. "Reading is such a universal

language that it can bring a bond between all that share it. We can teach love, compassion, hard work, and determination all through a good book!"

She added, "Being a positive impact on student and teachers is very important to me, sharing literacy can build lasting relationships for years to come."

According to Dowdy, reading is the foundation for success in all content areas.

"The more students read, the better they will become at it," she said. "The role of media specialist is vital in nurturing a love for reading, while encouraging students that they can accomplish anything in life. I also get the oppor-

tunity to enhance the instruction by teaching various technology programs to the students and teachers that will prepare the student not only for middle school but also for college and career readiness."

Dr. Jennifer Williams, NCSS Director of Instructional Technology and Media Services, said, "Andrea Dowdy is a spectacular media specialist who never ceases to amaze me with her love of

teaching literacy."

"Andrea goes above and beyond to make the media center the hub of Oak Hill Elementary school where all students feel her passion and conviction for learning. Ms. Dowdy weaves technology, STEM, and social studies into her academically focused lessons to ensure that reading is an engaging, hands-on experience for her students. In short, Ms. Andrea Dowdy rocks!"



**HOMETOWN REALTY
CONSULTANTS, INC.**
TM

2950 Summit Lane | Monroe, GA
 3 Bedroom | 2 Bath
\$375,999
 with Finished Bonus Room
 Darlene Smallwood [Broker/Owner]
 Kenneth Smallwood [Owner/Agent]

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

REGIONAL TEACHER JOB FAIR

Saturday, April 29, 2023 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Luella High School
603 Walker Drive, Locust Grove, GA 30248

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Those eligible for teaching certification for the 2023-2024 school year

WHAT TO EXPECT:

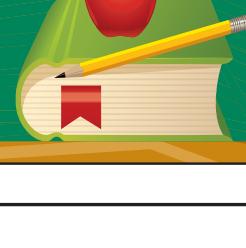
- Information about South Metro Suburban Region & Schools
- Meet staff and representatives from eight (8) South Metro Suburban School Systems representing 125+ schools and over 100,000 students
- Human Resources Staff from Regional School Systems including Henry County, Fayette County, Newton County, Spalding County, Upson County, Butts County, Pike County & Lamar County

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- At least 15 copies of a one-page resume to provide System Human Resources & School Reps

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - form is available at www.griffinresa.net. For more information contact Griffin Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) at 770-229-3247.

Come Teach in the Highest Performing &
Fastest Growing Region in Georgia



BULLSEYE

ACCOUNTING SERVICES INC.

"Where Accuracy Counts"

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

Accounting | Payroll Services | Tax Preparation



THE COVINGTON NEWS' PET OF THE WEEK



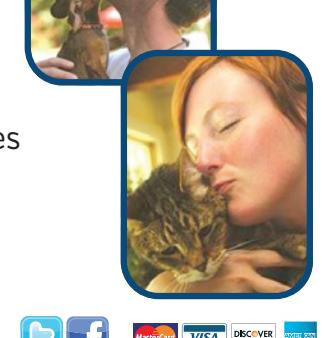
paws & whiskersSM
 YOUR PET CREMATORYSM

PawsWhiskersAndWags.com

- Same day service.** No waiting. You can take your pet's ashes home tonight.
- Each pet is cremated ALONE,** guaranteed by our exclusive Pet Tracker 360® system, that ensures you receive your pet's ashes.
- State-of-the-art facility** where families can plan, grieve and commemorate their pets.
- Available 24/7.**

Faithful Friends Campus

1591 Access Rd, Covington, GA 30016 • 770-999-9602



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

EDUCATION

The Covington News

Newton County School System

Alcovy High School names top 10 graduates of 2023

STAFF REPORT

news@covnews.com

Alcovy High School recently announced the names of the top 10 graduates of the Class of 2023.

Leading the way are valedictorian Theresa "Chantel" Boney, and salutatorian Natalie Henderson.

Each of the top 10 graduates have exciting prospects ahead of them as they prepare for life after high school.

Top 10 graduates include:

- Theresa "Chantel" Boney—The valedictorian of the Class of 2023, Boney plans to attend Louisiana State University as a major in animal science. She would like to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Boney selected Roberta Axson as her top teacher.

- Natalie Henderson — The salutatorian of the Class of 2023, Henderson plans to pursue an internship for a local manufacturing company. She would eventually like to combine her engineering experience with her love for animals and make prosthetics to help handicapped/disabled animals. She chose Zachary Pitts as her top teacher.

- Lucero Alvarado—Alvarado plans to attend a four-year college/university and major in Information Technology. She chose Pamela Consuegra as her top teacher.

- Cara Dougan—Dougan plans to attend college as a neuroscience major (pre-med) with the hopes of going to medical school to become

a surgeon. She chose Mack Hardwick as her top teacher.

- Danielle Foster—Foster plans to major in computer science in college with a minor in psychology. She would like to develop applications to aid those with mental health issues. She chose Heather Henderson as her top teacher.

- Suniyah Gibson—Gibson plans to attend Mercer University after graduation. Her career goal is to become an anesthesiologist. Gibson selected Mack Hardwick as her top teacher.

- Angel Goines—Goines plans to attend college and major in psychology. She would like to earn a doctorate degree and become a therapist. She chose Amy Fraser as her top teacher.

- Carltajah Jackson—Jackson plans to attend college and major in nursing. Her career goal is to become a pediatric registered nurse. She chose Miranda Lamb as her top teacher.

- Joash Petit-Frere—Petit-Frere plans to start a career in game design after graduation. He chose Michelle Nichols as his top teacher.

- Savannah Stanton—Stanton plans to continue her college education and work to obtain a master's degree in mathematics with an emphasis in actuarial science while continuing her job as a pharmacy technician. She chose Michelle Nichols as her top teacher.



Special | Newton County School System

Above, the top 10 graduates and, below, valedictorian Theresa Boney and salutatorian Natalie Henderson pose with Principal Kristopher Williams.



ed·u·ca·tion (ĕj'ĕ-kā'shĕn) n.

1. The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.

At Snapping Shoals EMC, we're always looking for ways to define our role in the communities we serve. To that end, we aim at giving more meaning to education by offering Bright Ideas grants to teachers with innovative ideas, shaping young lives with scholarships and building brighter futures for all students through Operation Round Up. Please visit us at www.ssemc.com or call us at 770-786-3484.

SNAPPING SHOALS
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

NCCA STEM student earns full-ride Stamps Scholarship to Mercer U.

STAFF REPORT

news@covnews.com

COVINGTON, Ga. — Newton High School and NCCA STEM Institute senior Dhakiya Knights has had a week to remember.

First, she was announced as the Newton High School Class of 2023 valedictorian. Then just a few days later she learned her college education would be fully funded as she was awarded the full-ride Stamps Scholarship to attend Mercer University.

The Stamps Scholarship program will pay both full tuition and fees plus room and board, and also provide Knights with a free Apple iPad. In addition, the Stamps Scholar benefit includes up to a \$16,000 enrichment stipend over four years to support study abroad, undergraduate research, unpaid internships, and conference fees and travel.

"I was shocked and excited to learn I had earned this scholarship," said Knights. "This really takes the weight off the financial pressures of college."

Knights explained how earning this scholarship would help return the favor for all of the support her parents had provided throughout her educational career.

"One thing I've always wanted to do since my parents worked so hard—they are immigrants—is I've always wanted to do better than they have in like advance," she explained. "So I see this as like a natural progression. OK, they got me this far now what I want to do is get them to the next step. I don't want them to have to help me take out loans or anything if that's possible so to really reach out and be independent and give back this thank you by basically saying hey I got it I can take it to the next level and you've done all you can do."

Knights admitted she hadn't considered Mercer at first — at least not until the campus visit.

"Mercer wasn't really on my radar until I went to visit," she said. "I just really liked the community; they were really welcoming and they just make sure you have a personalized experience. So it just felt really homely and it was the small size that I was looking for. And then I looked and they had all of the potential majors and also the potential minor so they had all of the things that I wanted in one place."

Knights plans to major in neuroscience with a minor in communication at Mercer. She would then like to pursue advanced degrees. She would like to have a medical degree and potentially a PhD. Ultimately, she would like to become a physician and a biomedical researcher and bridge the gap between research and

Special | NCSS

From left are NCCA principal Chad Walker; Jackie Atchison, Mercer University Senior Assistant Director Of Admissions and Scholarships; Dhakiya Knights and her mother, Herline Knights.

See NCCA, A9

SPORTS

The Covington News

Prep Basketball

HOOPS HEROES

The News honors area basketball players with special team



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Stephon Castle
Newton Rams

2022-23 STATS

20.2 ppg
9.5 rpg
3.0 spg
4.8 apg
2.0 bpg

COVNEWS
Sports



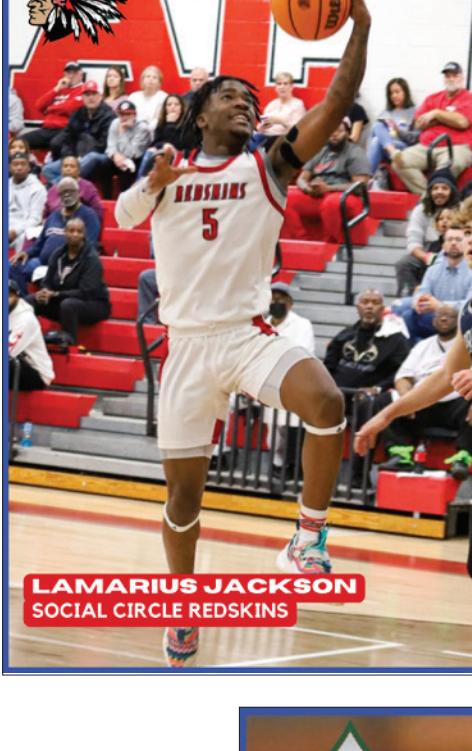
NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Andre Jernigan
Alcovy Tigers

2022-23 STATS

7.8 ppg
2.0 rpg
1.9 apg
2.0 spg

COVNEWS
Sports



MOST IMPROVED

Lamarius Jackson
Social Circle Redskins

2022-23 STATS

22.8 ppg
6.4 rpg
2.2 spg
3.8 apg

COVNEWS
Sports



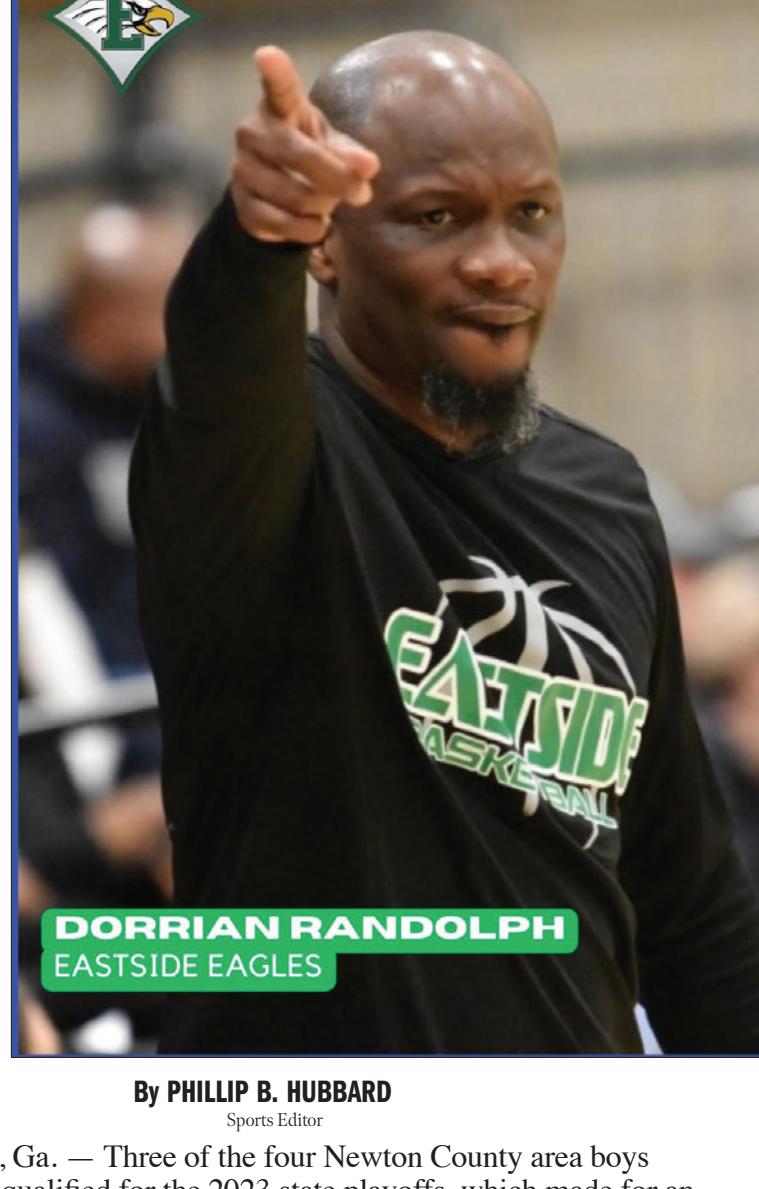
SHARP SHOOTER

Kassen Saunders
Eastside Eagles

2022-23 STATS

14.0 ppg
61% FG
48% 3-point

COVNEWS
Sports



COACH OF THE YEAR

Dorrian Randolph
Eastside Eagles

2022-23 STATS

Led Eagles past the first round of playoffs for the first time ever

Eastside had its best record (23-7) since 2013-14 season

COVNEWS
Sports

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

Sports Editor

COVINGTON, Ga. — Three of the four Newton County area boys basketball teams qualified for the 2023 state playoffs, which made for an exciting season.

The Social Circle Redskins won the Region 5A-Division I title to claim the No. 1 spot, the Newton Rams were Region 4-AAAAAAA runners up and the Eastside Eagles earned the No. 3 seed out of Region 8-AAAAA.

On top of that, the Eagles made it to the Sweet Sixteen and the Rams made it to the Elite Eight.

Throughout all of the 2022-23 season's action, there were a lot of individuals whose play shone bright on the hardwood. So, *The Covington News* compiled the list of top performers in the area and voted on an All-Cov News Boys Basketball Team.

The staff at *The News* believes these hoop stars had some heroic performances.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Stephon Castle, Newton

The list of accolades for Stephon Castle grew tremendously this season.

He was voted McDonald's All-American, earned Region 4-AAAAAAA Player of the Year for the second straight season and, before the season even

started, won a gold medal with Team USA's U18 team over the summer.

Not only that, but the 5-star UCONN commit was named to the All-Tournament teams for the City of Palms, King Cotton Classic and Hard in the Paint tournaments.

Throughout the season, Castle averaged a near double-double with 20.2 points and 9.5 rebounds as well as 4.8 assists, two blocks and three steals per game.

The back-to-back All-Cov News MVP led the Rams to being region runners up this season, too, along with an Elite Eight appearance in the Class AAAAAAA playoffs.

SHARP SHOOTER

Kassen Saunders, Eastside

All season long, Kassen Saunders seemed to be shooting lights out from beyond the arc for the Eagles this season. And, not only his shooting ability, but it seemed like whenever Eastside needed a bucket in a game, Saunders delivered.

At the end of the year, Saunders' shooting ability set him apart as the clear Cut Sharp Shooter recipient.

Saunders averaged 14 points per game and shot 61% from the field along with a 48% shooting percentage from three-point range. Throw in his 90%

See HEROES, B8

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

The Covington News

CLASSIFIEDS

Items for Sale

Cemetery Lots

FOR SALE
COLUMBIARIUM CREMATION Site LOCATED AT Lawndown 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, \$100/deposit. No Pets 678-558-5478

Transportation

Cars/Trucks/Vans

FOR SALE

2013 CAMARO SS CONVERTIBLE

HOT WHEELS EDITION 6.2 L, AUTOMATIC W/ PADDLE SHIFT, AC,

HEATED SEATS, BACKUP CAMERA, PS MANY EXTRAS AND FEATURES

10,400 MILES.

\$45,000 OBO

SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY WILLIE (770) 653-9532

LEGALS

Public Notices

Abandoned Vehicles

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT
YOU ARE hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Newton County to foreclose liens against the vehicle(s) listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicle(s) is : 9179 Aaron Dr. Covington, GA 30014.

ANYONE WITH AN OWNERSHIP interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition or before 3/30/2023

ANSWER FORMS may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerks office located at: Newton County Court House

FORMS MAY also be obtained online at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

2014 CHEVROLET CAPRICE 6G3NS5U35EL002434

23-1082AV

2005 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 5LMFU2755LJ25103

23-1085AV

2005 FORD F150 1FTPW125X5KC85409

23-1081AV

2001 HONDA ACCORD 1HGCG56451A024159

23-1803AV

1998 BUICK LESABRE 1G4HP52K7WH500964

23-1084AV

2006 BMW 325i WBAVB13586KX66601

23-1079AV

2004 GMC BOXTUCK 1GDGG31V641913556

23-1080AV

PUBLIC NOTICE #500402

3/19,26

ABANDONED VEHICLE

LOCATION: GRAY Motor Company 3995 SALEM rd COVINGTON GA 30016

YEAR: 2004

MAKE: MITSUBISHI

MODEL: ECLIPSE

COLOR: MAR

VIN# 4A3AC74H84E063745

PUBLIC NOTICE #500383

3/19,26

Bids

INVITATION TO BID

PART 1. GENERAL COMPETITIVE COST

SEALED BIDS

SEALED BIDS for construction of the FY 2019 CDBG will be received until March 30, 2023 at 3:00 pm local time. Bids must be submitted electronically through QuestCDN.com. No paper submissions will be accepted. Any bid received after said time and date will not be considered by the Owner.

No bid may be withdrawn after the closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days except as specifically may be provided in the Instructions to Bidders and/or by State law.

1.2 SCOPE OF WORK

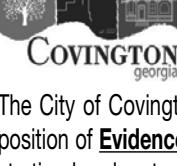
BIDDER AGREES to furnish all materials and equipment and to perform all labor necessary to install approximately 5,400 LF of 8" DIP water main and approximately 2,900 LF of 6" DIP & PVC water main, including but not limited to mobilization/demobilization, bonds, insurance, clearing and grubbing, piping, fire hydrants, valves, service lines, driveway replacement, earthwork, grading, soil erosion and sedimentation control measures, and all other work and appurtenances necessary to provide a complete installation.

TIME ALLOTTED for completion of work is 180 consecutive calendar days. An administrative Notice to Proceed will be issued for 240 consecutive calendar days before construction contract times commence to allow for project submittals review and approval and equipment and materials ordering. All Work shall be completed in accordance with the plans and

Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

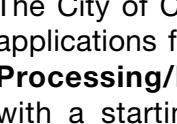
Run your classified ad in 124+ Georgia newspapers reaching over 1 million readers for only \$350

Call Georgia Newspaper Service - 770-454-6776



CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for the position of **Evidence Technician** in the **Police Department** with a starting hourly rate of **\$20.49** to a maximum hourly rate of **\$36.97** depending upon qualifications. Qualified applicants **MUST** apply via our website by downloading a Public Safety Application packet at www.cityofcovington.org or may apply in person at the City of Covington, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, 2023**. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



CITY OF COVINGTON JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications for a **Meter Reader** in the **Data Processing/Meter Reading Department** with a starting hourly rate of **\$16.10** to a maximum hourly rate of **\$21.64** depending upon qualifications. Qualified applicants **MUST** apply on our website by downloading an application packet at cityofcovington.org, or may apply in person at Covington City Hall, 2194 Emory Street, Covington, Georgia 30014. This position will remain open until **4:00 PM on Wednesday March 29, 2023**. The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

specifications. The Work will be awarded in one (1) Contract.

1.3 SECTION 3 COVERED CONTRACT

THIS PROJECT is covered under the requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract. Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply. Section 3 documents are required prior to Notice of Award. The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701 u (Section 3). The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by Section 3, shall to greatest extent feasible, be directed to Section 3 residents and businesses in the area especially low- and very-low income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing. Neither the United States nor any of the departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party of any contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid.

1.4 PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

COMPLETE DIGITAL specifications and contract documents are available at www.QuestCDN.com. Bidders may view the digital plan documents for free by entering the Quest project number 8409614 on the website's project search page. Bidders can download the digital documents for a fee of \$75 for PDF file payable through the website at [HTTPS://QCPI.QUESTCDN.COM/CDN/POSTING/?PROTYPE=ALL&PROVIDER=7206216&GROUP=7206216](https://QCPI.QUESTCDN.COM/CDN/POSTING/?PROTYPE=ALL&PROVIDER=7206216&GROUP=7206216).

BIDS MUST be submitted electronically at QuestCDN.com. There will be an additional \$40.00 submittal fee. Please contact QuestCDN customer support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading and working with digital project information. All other questions may be directed to the issuing office, Carter & Sloope, Inc., Watkinsville, GA, 706-769-4119.

1.5 CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

BIDDERS MUST complete the Qualifications of Bidder (Section 00470) in order to be evaluated for award of the Contract. Refer to the specific requirements outlined in the referenced Section.

1.6 CONTRACTOR LICENSE

THE SCOPE of Work as described herein is defined as "utility contracting" in accordance with O.C.G.A 43-14-2(17) so the Contractor performing the work must provide proof of a valid license by the State of Georgia as a "Utility Contractor" and must also employ a "Utility Manager" certification holder who will have oversight of all the utility work. See Instruction to Bidders for additional bidding requirements.

1.7 BONDS

BIDS SHALL be accompanied by a bid bond or certified cashier's check in an amount not less than 10% of the base bid. All bonds shall be by a surety company licensed in Georgia with an 'A' minimum rating of performance and a financial strength of at least five (5) times the contract price as listed in the most current publication of "Best's Key Rating Guide Property Liability". Performance and Payment Bonds, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price shall be required of the successful bidder if contract is awarded. Each Bond shall be accompanied by a "Power of Attorney" authorizing the attorney-in-fact to bind the surety and certified to include the date of the bond.

1.8 PERMITS

THE STATUS of Federal, State, and /or Local permits for this project are as follows:

PERMITS/AGENCIES STATUS

A.	LAND Disturbance Permit	Submitted
B.	NPDES GAR 100002 (Stormwater)	To be submitted by Contractor
C.	GA Environmental Protection Division	Approved
D.	Newton County Transportation Department	Approved
E.	BUILDING Permit	N/A

1.9 EASEMENTS & RIGHTS-OF-WAY

ALL EASEMENTS and rights-of-way for permanent installations have been obtained or will be obtained by the Owner prior to issuing the Notice to Proceed.

1.10 GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT AFFIDAVIT

ALL QUALIFYING Contractors and Subcontractors performing work with the City of Oxford must register and participate in the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program, to verify the work eligibility information of new employees. In order for a Bid to be considered, it is mandatory that the Bidder's Affidavit of Compliance with O.C.G.A. §13-10-91 be completed and submitted with the Bid.

1.11 FUNDING SOURCES

FUNDING IS to be provided by the Community Development Block Grant Program which is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and by the City of Oxford.

1.12 RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

OWNER RESERVES the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, the rights to reject any or all nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced or conditional Bids and to reject the Bid of any Bidder if Owner believes that it would not be in the best interest of the Project to make an award to that Bidder, whether because the Bid is not responsive or the Bidder is unqualified or of doubtful financial ability or fails to meet any other pertinent standard or criteria established by the Owner.

CITY OF OXFORD OWNER

PUBLIC NOTICE #500335

3/5,19

THE CITY of Covington is accepting sealed bids from qualified vendors to provide telecommunications hardware that includes installation and support as described in Exhibit "A" of the bid packet.

SEALED BIDS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Friday, March 24th, 2023. Bids will be opened at 10:30am.

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 #500365

3/12,19

THE CITY of Covington is accepting sealed bids from qualified vendors to provide telecommunications hardware that includes installation and support as described in Exhibit "A" of the bid packet.

SEALED BIDS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Friday, March 24th, 2023. Bids will be opened at 10:30am.

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 #500256

3/5,12,19,26

THE CITY of Covington is accepting sealed bids from qualified vendors to provide telecommunications hardware that includes installation and support as described in Exhibit "A" of the bid packet.

SEALED BIDS must be delivered to City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014, Attn: Scott Cromer no later than 10:00am on Friday, March 24th, 2023. Bids will be opened at 10:30am.

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.

LEGALS:

Continued from B2

COURT ON or before APRIL 3 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET-148
COVINGTON, GA 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500287
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

MICHAEL JOSEPH has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of SHARON ELIZABETH JOSEPH 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 as to why said petition should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

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

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500371
3/19

CITATION

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

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET-148
COVINGTON, GA 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500350
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

PEGGIE L. ELEBY has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of JIMMY R. ELEBY 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 as to why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3 2023, next, at ten o'clock a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, GA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500407
3/19

CITATION

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

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET-148
COVINGTON, GA 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500254
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

RE: ESTATE of ANN PATRICIA NEWMAN

CHRISTOPHER JOHN NEWMAN, EXECUTOR has petitioned seeking Discharge from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before, Court on or before APRIL 3 2023 at ten o'clock am.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, GA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500372
3/19

CITATION

RE: ESTATE of BOBBETTE S. KLAASSEN

GINA KAY ROGERS, EXECUTRIX has petitioned seeking Discharge from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before, Court on or before APRIL 3 2023 at ten o'clock am.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, GA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500326
3/19

CITATION

RE: ESTATE of WERNER KURT GRUENHUNT, Deceased

BENJAMIN MILLER, EXECUTOR has petitioned seeking Discharge from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before, Court on or before APRIL 3 2023 at ten o'clock am.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, GA

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE
COURT
1132 USHER STREET
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500326
3/19

CITATION

RE: ESTATE of DORIS HIGHSMITH Deceased

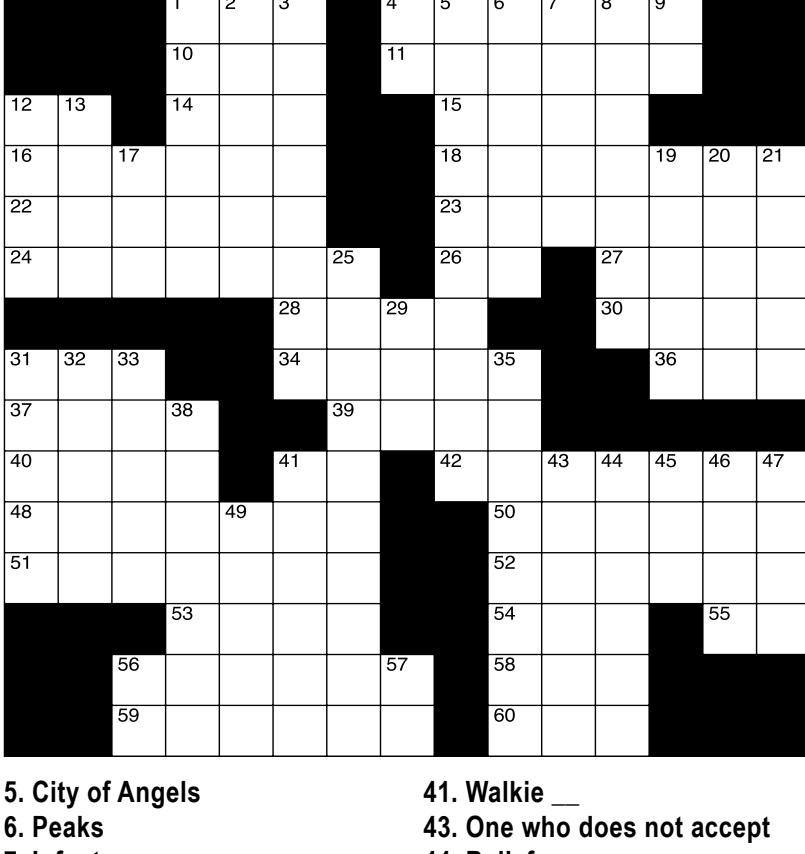
JOHN HIGHSMITH, EXECUTOR has petitioned seeking Discharge from Office and all Liability. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objection must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before, Court on or before APRIL 3 2023 at ten o'clock am.

MELANIE M. Bell, Judge By: Marcia Wynne, Clerk Probate Court Newton County, GA

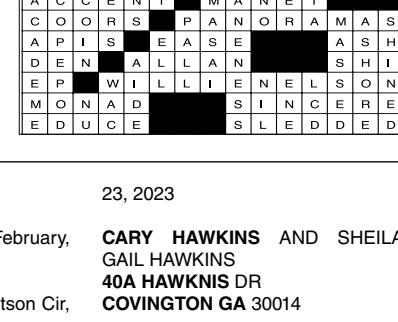
NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Belonging to a thing
4. Pass or go by
10. Partner to cheese
11. Subjects
12. U.S. State (abbr.)
14. Bits per inch
15. Forest-dwelling deer
16. Illinois city
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. Wholly unharmed
23. Cuddled
24. Bane
26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- C 27. Oh my gosh!
- R 28. Arrive
- O 30. Famed Spanish artist
- S 31. Home of "Frontline"
- S 34. Group of quill feathers
- W 36. Keyboard key
- O 37. Army training group
- R 39. Detail
- D 40. Pole with flat blade
- P 41. Football play
- U 42. Makes unhappy
- Z 48. Island in Hawaii
- Z 50. Back in business
- Z 51. Of an individual
- L 52. Painful chest condition
- E 53. Tropical American monkey
54. Matchstick game
55. For instance
56. Even again
58. Popular beverage
59. Evaluate
60. Time units (abbr.)
- CLUES DOWN
1. Stain one's hands
2. Nocturnal hooved animals
3. Back condition
4. Popular movie alien



5. City of Angels
6. Peaks
7. Infantry weapons
8. Left
9. Atomic #99
12. Told a good yarn
13. Vale
17. Resistance unit
19. Aquatic plant
20. Bluish greens
21. About some Norse poems
25. Reinforces
29. Egyptian mythological goddess
31. Supportive material
32. Subatomic particle
33. Expired bread
35. Cereal grain
38. Goes against

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3, 2023 at ten o'clock am

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #500323
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

THE PETITION of GWENDOLYN D. HAYES widow of JAMES R. HAYES deceased, for Twelve Month's Support for having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause as to why said petition should not be granted. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3, 2023 at ten o'clock am

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE #500325
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

TO: ANTONIO JUAREZ-REYES

PRISCILLA BONNER FAULKNER has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) STEVEN JESUS-JUAREZ minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before March 27, 2023, 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,
ROOM 148
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500385
3/12,19

CITATION

TO: JOSHUA TRAMMELL

MISTY DELLA SHELL-PURCELL has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) ALEXANDRIA DELLA-JEAN SHELL, minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before March 27, 2023, at ten o'clock, a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500387
3/12,19

CITATION

URSULA NICOLE KAY has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of LARRY JAKE DAVIS 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 as to why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3 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 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500289
3/5,12,19,26

CITATION

WADE H. SMITH has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of ANNE M. SMITH 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 as to why said application should not be granted. All objection must be in writing, and filed with this Court on or before APRIL 3 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 3001

PUBLIC NOTICE #500325
3/5,12,19,26

NOTICE

TO: UNKNOWN Heirs and all interested parties

BE NOTIFIED THAT: Kathy Irene Zyger has filed a Petition for the Court to determine the right of disposition of the remains of the FRED I. STONE, Deceased. A hearing has been set by the Court on March 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Probate Courtroom, Newton County Judicial Center. All heirs or interested persons may be and appear before the Court at such hearing and be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

MELANIE M. Bell
JUDGE OF the Probate Court

MARCIA WYNNE, Clerk of the Probate Court
1132 USHER Street
COVINGTON GA 30014

770-787-2045

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE

COURT
1132 USHER STREET

COVINGTON, GA 30014

3/12,19

CITATION

TO: UNKNOWN Heirs and all interested parties

BE NOTIFIED THAT: Kathy Irene Zyger has filed a Petition for the Court to determine the right of disposition of the remains of the FRED I. STONE, Deceased. A hearing has been set by the Court on March 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Probate Courtroom, Newton County Judicial Center. All heirs or interested persons may be and appear before the Court at such hearing and be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

MELANIE M. Bell
JUDGE OF the Probate Court

MARCIA WYNNE, Clerk of the Probate Court
1132 USHER Street
COVINGTON GA 30014

770-787-2045

NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE

COURT
1132 USHER STREET

COVINGTON, GA 30014

3/12,19

CITATION

TO: UNKNOWN Heirs and all interested parties

BE NOTIFIED THAT: Kathy Irene Zyger has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) ALEXANDRIA DELLA-JEAN SHELL, minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before March 27, 2023, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell
JUDGE OF the Probate Court

MARCIA WYNNE, Clerk of the Probate Court
1132 USHER Street
COVINGTON GA 30014

3/12,19

CITATION

TO: UNKNOWN Heirs and all interested parties

BE NOTIFIED THAT: Kathy Irene Zyger has filed for Temporary Letters of Guardianship of the Person(s) ALEXANDRIA DELLA-JEAN SHELL, minor. All objections must be in writing and filed with this Court on or before March 27, 2023, at ten o'clock, a.m.

MELANIE M. Bell
JUDGE OF the Probate Court

MARCIA WYNNE, Clerk of the Probate Court
1132 USHER Street
COVINGTON GA 30014

3/12,19

<

LEGALS:

Continued from B3

2023	2023
VERONICA BACOTE 1809 YAUPON COURT CONYERS GA 30094	JACOB POPE PO BOX 203 SAINT MARIE VALLEY, MT 59231
PUBLIC NOTICE #500320 2/26-3/5,12,19	PUBLIC NOTICE #500319 2/26-3/5,12,19
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS	NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 7TH day of MARCH , 2023

VERONICA WILLIAMS
310 QUEENSLAND LANE
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500420
3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **EUGENIE MINOTT** 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 MARCH , 2023

RENNART MINOTT, SR
349 BALD ROCK RD
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #500392
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **FERNANZA LORENZO FAVORS** 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 13THday of MARCH , 2023

CRISTAL FAVORS
275 FOREST BROOKS DR
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500415
3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **GEORGE WILSON BANKS** 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 9TH day of MARCH , 2023

ELSIE BANKS
278 COUNTY LINE ROAD
MANSFIELD, GA 30055

PUBLIC NOTICE #500418
3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 14TH day of MARCH , 2023

PAMELA WIMPEY
1085 COOPER RD
SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025

PUBLIC NOTICE #500421
3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 7th day of MARCH 2ND, 2023

TYLER REDDICK
1850 WEE KIRK ROAD
ATLANTA, GA 30316

PUBLIC NOTICE #500390
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 21ST day of FEBRUARY 2023

JOEL CALVIN GREGORY
109 FORTSON CIRCLE
ATHENS, GA 30606

PUBLIC NOTICE #500317
2/26-3/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 21ST day of FEBRUARY , 2023

2023	2023
JACOB POPE PO BOX 203 SAINT MARIE VALLEY, MT 59231	JANIE THOMPSON 255 PARK PLACE TRAIL SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025
PUBLIC NOTICE #500319 2/26-3/5,12,19	PUBLIC NOTICE #500416 3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 15TH day of FEBRUARY 2023

ERICA FRANKLIN
2502 RIVERTON DR
CONYERS, GA 30013

PUBLIC NOTICE #500290
2/26-3/5,12,19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **LOTTIE SHROPSHIRE PORTWOOD** 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 23rd day of FEBRUARY 23, 2023

DIANNE P. DANIEL
1191 CORNISH MOUNTAIN
CHURCH RD
OXFORD, GA 30054

PUBLIC NOTICE #500368
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **NADINE DOUGLAS** 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 23rd day of FEBRUARY 23, 2023

JEROME ST. MARTIAN DOUGLAS
45 HOMESTEAD DR
COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500391
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 7th day of MARCH 2ND, 2023

TORRIE SUNSTROM
190 LANEY COURT
MCDONOUGH, GA 30252

PUBLIC NOTICE #500388
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 7th day of MARCH 2ND, 2023

JAMES RICHARD KITCHENS
4313 SWEET WATER COURT
COVINGTON GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500389
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **ROBERT NEAL HADAWAY** 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 28th day of FEBRUARY 23, 2023

PAMELA WIMPEY
1085 COOPER RD
SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025

PUBLIC NOTICE #500366
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **ROY JOHNSON JR** 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 10TH day of MARCH , 2023

IRIS F. AKWARA
10609 HICKORY WAY
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705

PUBLIC NOTICE #500419
3/19,26-4/2,9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **SUE CARLENE 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 14TH day of MARCH , 2023

2023	2023
JANIE THOMPSON 255 PARK PLACE TRAIL SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30025	PUBLIC NOTICE #500416 3/19,26-4/2,9
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS	NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

THIS THE 21ST day of FEBRUARY 2023

TONI OWENS DANIEL
23422 PINEY CREEK DR
ATHENS, AL 35613

PUBLIC NOTICE #500315
2/26-3/5,12,19

NOTICE TO Debtors and Creditors
ALL CREDITORS of the estate of
Connie Charlene Denney

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 12TH day of March, 2023

NAME: RONALD Reece C/O Meyerson Law Firm

TITLE: ADMINISTRATOR

ADDRESS: 820 Ebenezer Church Road, Suite 105, Sharpsburg, GA 30277

PUBLIC NOTICE #500336
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **Rhonda Reece** 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 12TH day of March, 2023

NAME: RONALD Reece C/O Meyerson Law Firm

TITLE: ADMINISTRATOR

ADDRESS: 820 Ebenezer Church Road, Suite 105, Sharpsburg, GA 30277

PUBLIC NOTICE #500337
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **Rhonda Reece** 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 12TH day of March, 2023

NAME: RONALD Reece C/O Meyerson Law Firm

TITLE: ADMINISTRATOR

ADDRESS: 820 Ebenezer Church Road, Suite 105, Sharpsburg, GA 30277

PUBLIC NOTICE #500338
3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

NOTICE IS hereby given to the debtors and creditors of the Estate of **CHARLOTTE TRUETT ODNEAL** 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 DAY, March 2, 2023,

JACQUELINE LEWIS Williams, Administrator of the Estate of Hardy Lee Lewis, Brad Sperr, Attorney, 2350 Prince Ave., Ste. 21, Athens, GA 30606.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500360
3/5,12,19,26

STATE OF Georgia Newton
County NOTICE TO DEBTORS
AND CREDITORS

ALL CREDITORS

LEGALS:

Continued from B4

HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$55,900.00), 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 April, 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.

LOANCARE, LLC

IS THE holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

THE ENTITY that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: LoanCare, LLC, 3637 Sentara Way, Suite 303, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, 800-909-9525. 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 Virgil Riggins, Lakishaw Tawanda Riggins and Estate of Virgil Riggins or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **35 Summer Walk 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 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.

LOANCARE, LLC

AS ATTORNEY in Fact for **VIRGIL RIGGINS** and Carolyn Byrd Riggins

MCCALLA RAYMER Leibert Pierce, LLC
1544 OLD Alabama Road
ROSWELL, GA 30076
WWW.FORECLOSUREHOTLINE.NET

EXHIBIT "A"

ALL THAT tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 168, 10th District, Newton County, Georgia, being Lot 165, Unit Two, Summer Walk Subdivision, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 31, Page 66, Newton County Records, reference to said plat is hereby made for a complete description of the property herein described.

A.P.N. 0012C-000000-052-000
MR/JAY 4/4/23

OUR FILE no. 5223117 - FT7

PUBLIC NOTICE #500308
3/5,12,19,26

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF NEWTON

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

PURSUANT TO the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by **JOSEPH LEWIS HINDS AND JULIE ANNE HINDS** to **MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.** AS NOMINEE FOR **HOMESTAR FINANCIAL CORP.** in the original principal amount of \$172,812.00 dated June 11, 2021 and recorded in Deed Book 4214, Page 132, Newton County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to **PLANET HOME LENDING LLC** in Deed Book 4486, Page 522, 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 May 02, 2023, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 217, 9TH DISTRICT, NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AND BEING SHOWN AS LOT 18, CEDAR CREEK SUBDIVISION, UNIT TWO, ON A PLAT OF SURVEY RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 23, PAGE 236, PUBLIC RECORDS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND SAID PLAT BY REFERENCE THERETO BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPTIONED PROPERTY.

SUBJECT PROPERTY IS IMPROVED WITH A DWELLING KNOWN AS 60 APPIA WAY, COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING HOUSES IN NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.

SAID PROPERTY being known as: **60 APPIA WAY COVINGTON, GA 30014**

TO THE best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are **JOSEPH LEWIS HINDS AND JULIE ANNE HINDS** 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:

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC
321 RESEARCH Parkway, Suite 303 MERIDEN, CT 06450 1-855-884-2250

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.

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC,

AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT for

JOSEPH LEWIS HINDS AND JULIE ANNE HINDS

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ,

Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC

10700 ABBOTT'S Bridge Road

SUITE 170

DULUTH, GA 30097

PHONE: 470.321.7112

FIRM FILE No. 23-095392 - TIT

PUBLIC NOTICE #500413

3/19,4/2,9,16,23

Juvenile Court

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:
M.C.B. SEX: Male D O B :
03/20/2014 Case #107-23J-0141

CHILD UNDER 18 Years of Age

SUMMONS

TO: BRITTANY LYNN SCHOOLER, Mother and CHRISTOPHER BISHOP, Legal Father

A PETITION to Terminate Parental Rights was filed in this Court on February 16, 2023, by the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, concerning the above child. In accordance with O.C.G.A. §15-11-281, you are hereby notified that this proceeding and the hearing specified herein is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights and to place permanent custody of said child with the Georgia Department of Human Services, by and through the Newton County Department of Family and Children Services, pending adoption. The Court shall mail a copy of said Petition to the last known address of the above-named parent(s) within fifteen (15) days of filing of the Order of Service by Publication. This is a summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

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

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT GEORGIA LAW provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed requesting the Court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A copy of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights can be obtained from the Clerk of the Newton County Juvenile Court. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for the 18th day of May, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr. Judicial Center, 1132 Usher Street, NW, Covington, Georgia 30014.

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

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

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

EVEN IF your parental rights are terminated:

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

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

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

your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

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

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

WITNESS THE Honorable Candice Branche, Judge of said Court, this 16th day of February, 2023.

/S/ JANELL Gaines

CLERK, JUVENILE Court of Newton County, Georgia

PUBLIC NOTICE #500294

2/26-3/5,12,19

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
ALISHA NICHELLE TURNER

PETITIONER,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2023-CV-403-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

NOTICE IS hereby given that **RENÉE YVETTE BUNDY** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on MARCH 2 2023 to change the name from **RENÉE YVETTE BUNDY** to **YAHMINA LEE BUNDY COLLINS** Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition

THIS 2ND day of MARCH 2023

RENÉE YVETTE BUNDY

110 TAMALYNN TRAIL

COVINGTON, GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500374

3/12,19,26-4/2

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
HORACE HEARD AKA HORACE GRIER

PETITIONER,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2023-CV-519-5

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

NOTICE IS hereby given that **HORACE GRIER** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on FEBRUARY 2023 to change the name from **HORACE GRIER** to **ASA TURNER** 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 16TH day of FEBRUARY 2023

ALISHA NICHELLE TURNER

TIMBERLAKE TERRACE

COVINGTON GA 30016

PUBLIC NOTICE #500313

2/26-3/5,12,19

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE the Name Change of:
JHONIESHEA HERBERT

PETITIONER,

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2023-CV-395-3

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

NOTICE IS hereby given that **JHONIESHEA HERBERT** filed a petition in the Newton County Superior Court on FEBRUARY 2023 to change the name from **JHONIESHEA ALEXANDREA NATASHA HERBERT** to **LIBERTY HERBERT** 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 1ST day of MARCH 2023

HOARACE HEARD/ AKA HORACE GRIER

121 LONGSTREET CIRCLE

OXFORD, GA 30054

BUSINESS

The Covington News

Residential Construction

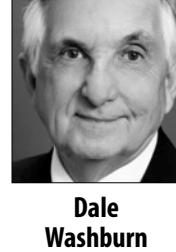
Moratorium ban bill expanded to include all housing

By REBECCA GRAPEVINE

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A state Senate committee Thursday widened the scope of a bill that would prohibit local governments from imposing moratoriums on the building of housing for longer than 180 days.

As passed by the state House earlier this month,



Dale Washburn

the bill only barred such local government moratoriums on single-family housing. On Thursday, the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee approved an amendment broadening the bill to include all housing.

Sponsored by Rep. Dale Washburn, R-Macon, the bill also would prohibit local governments from continually renewing moratoriums and instead require a 180-day break between such moratori-

ums.

The bill provides some exceptions to the bar on lengthy moratoriums, such as in the case of natural disasters or other emergencies.

The bill would also let local governments extend moratoriums if they need more than 180 days to allow for the completion of studies on topics such as land use or infrastructure, whether those studies are completed in house or by third-party contractors.

Local governments

would be allowed to waive impact fees for housing that is smaller than 2,500 square-feet in order to incentivize construction. Local governments sometimes impose impact fees to cover the infrastructure costs of new housing developments.

The bill has drawn the support of a newly formed housing coalition made up of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Home Builders Association of Georgia, the Georgia Association of Realtors and

Habitat for Humanity.

"We think it's a small, modest step in the right direction," said Austin Hackney of the Home Builders Association of Georgia. "Unfortunately, some local governments are using those development moratoriums to put a hard stop on new housing, in their local area, in a blanket manner."

The bill now moves to the Senate Rules Committee to schedule a vote of the full Senate.

Newton Chamber of Commerce

Chamber changes leadership

By TOM SPIGOLON

tspigolon@covnews.com

OXFORD, Ga. — The Newton Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual meeting and awards dinner March 9 at Emory University's Oxford College.

The 2023 Chairperson, Jay Bailey of SteelCo, led the annual meeting of members who formally approved the board of directors.

They include Bailey and:

- Incoming Chair, Lanier Sims, DualDeko Marketing.

New board members:

- Greg Herring, Big House Payment Solutions.

- Jessica Lowery, Vampire Stalkers & On Location Gifts.

- Roxie Simon, General Mills.

Continuing board members:

- Samantha Fuhrey, Newton County School System.

- Reed Beard, Newton Federal Bank.

- Joe DeCocco, Verescence North America.

- Barbara Morgan, Morgan Plaza.

- Ted Cummings, Onyx Media Services.



Tom Spigolon |The News

Above, from left, 2023 Chamber Board of Directors
Chairperson Jay Bailey of SteelCo receives the gavel from 2022 Chairperson David Kent of Piedmont Henry Hospital. Below, Bailey presents Kent with a token of appreciation for his 2022 chairmanship of the organization. Kent formerly led Piedmont Newton Hospital.



Continued from B5

CONTACT:

MS. LAURIE Ashmore
CHIEF ENGINEER
NCWSA
11325 BROWN Bridge Road
COVINGTON, GA 30014

PUBLIC NOTICE #500403

3/19/24

PUBLIC AUCTION: 36 Storage LLC will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Georgia Self Storage Facility Act, Georgia Code 10-4-210 to 10-4-215. The personal effects belonging to the following Tenants, having been properly notified, will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners lien for rent due online at <http://www.storageauctions.com> on or thereafter, March 26, 2023.

H2, H4, L4 Peter Statia III, E2 E12 Harrison Knowles, H8 Elizabeth Becknell, G32 Virginia Lemons., E11 Lamont Allen., D27 Lolita Marshall., C35 Stacey Hale, C31 Bridgette Flewellen, D8 Gavin Castle, E47 Taris Jackson, G29 Lawrence

Cobb., H30 Natasha Green.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500380

3/12/19

Public Sales Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

IN ACCORDANCE with the GA Self Service Storage Facilities Act notice is hereby given that the undersigned will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder in order to satisfy lien of the owner. Bidding to take place on lockerofox.com ending Tuesday the 28th day of March, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Said property is Space Shop Self Storage, 10211 Hwy 278 E., Covington, GA, 30014 Lewin, Ian W. 126 Desk, File Cabinets, Boxes, Perez, Elizabeth M. 106 Cabinets, Bikes, Skateboard, Box, Vacuum, Chairs. The auction will be listed and advertised on lockerofox.com. Space Shop Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes

CHRISTINA PARKER, Unit 083 appears to contain; mattresses, box springs, & bed frames.

TAKESHA SMITH, Unit 195

possession of the personal property.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500328

3/12/19

NOTICE OF Public Sale of Personal Property: Notice is hereby given that Covington Stor-It, located at 8165 Washington St SW, Covington, GA 30014; intends to sell the personal property according to the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner's lien.

ALL BIDS will be accepted online through www.storageauctions.com. The auction will end on or after 24 March 2023, 10 AM. Covington Stor-It reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash or money order only.

DOMINIQUE VICTOR, Unit 289 appears to contain; TVs, mattresses, bed frame, dressers, misc. boxes, exercising equip., baby furniture, & misc. items.

ALTON JACKSON, Unit 219 appears to contain; TVs, swivel chair, landscaping equip., chairs, mattresses, nightstands, misc. boxes.

MICHAEL ASHLEY, Unit 430 appears to contain; TVs, filing cabinets, landscaping equip., mattresses, bed frames, plastic containers, & misc. items.

AMBER COPELAND, Unit 115 appears to contain; couches, mattresses, & misc. boxes.

PUBLIC NOTICE #500534

3/5/19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A PUBLIC Auction for the non-

PAYMENT OF storage fees at

Speedy Storage will take place

on Saturday, March 25, 2023 AT

10am located at 2222 HWY 212,

Covington, GA, 30016 The personal

appears to contain; painting supplies, misc. boxes, shelving, microwave, & decor.

GOODS BELONGING to the following

TENANTS, HAVING been properly notified, Will be sold for CASH to the highest Bidder to satisfy the owner's

lien for Rent due, in accordance with the Georgia Self Storage Act, Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215

The personal effects and household goods belonging to The following tenants.

EARL BENJAMIN...UNITS 67, 173

JON JOHNSON.....UNITS 224,

KIMBERLY BULLARD.....UNIT

196

PUBLIC NOTICE #500382

3/12/19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A PUBLIC Auction for the non-

PAYMENT OF storage fees at

Speedy Storage will take place

on Saturday, March 25, 2023 AT

10am located at 2222 HWY 212,

Covington, GA, 30016 The personal

effects, business property and

household

GOODS BELONGING to the following

TENANTS, HAVING been properly

notified, Will be sold for CASH to the

highest Bidder to satisfy the owner's

lien for Rent due, in accordance with the Georgia Self Storage Act, Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215

The personal effects and household goods belonging to The following tenants.

EARL BENJAMIN...UNITS 67, 173

JON JOHNSON.....UNITS 224,

KIMBERLY BULLARD.....UNIT

196

PUBLIC NOTICE #500382

3/12/19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A PUBLIC Auction for the non-

PAYMENT OF storage fees at

Speedy Storage will take place

on Saturday, March 25, 2023 AT

10am located at 2222 HWY 212,

Covington, GA, 30016 The personal

effects, business property and

household

GOODS BELONGING to the following

TENANTS, HAVING been properly

notified, Will be sold for CASH to the

highest Bidder to satisfy the owner's

lien for Rent due, in accordance with the Georgia Self Storage Act, Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215

The personal effects and household goods belonging to The following tenants.

EARL BENJAMIN...UNITS 67, 173

JON JOHNSON.....UNITS 224,

KIMBERLY BULLARD.....UNIT

196

PUBLIC NOTICE #500382

3/12/19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

A PUBLIC Auction for the non-

PAYMENT OF storage fees at

Speedy Storage will take place

on Saturday, March 25, 2023 AT

10am located at 2222 HWY 212,

Covington, GA, 30016 The personal

effects, business property and

household

GOODS BELONGING to the following

TENANTS, HAVING been properly

notified, Will be sold for CASH to the

highest Bidder to satisfy the owner's

lien for Rent due, in accordance with the Georgia Self Storage Act, Section 10-1-210 to 10-4-215

The personal effects and household goods belonging to The following tenants.

EARL BENJAMIN...UNITS 67, 173

JON JOHNSON.....UNITS 224,

KIMBERLY BULLARD.....UNIT

Prep Baseball

Redskins riding four-game win streak

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

Sports Editor

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Social Circle is only 13 games into its 2023 campaign and, already, the Redskins have had two separate four-game winning streaks.

The first streak opened the season up at 4-0. The Redskins had back-to-back wins over Heritage by a combined 26-5. Then, Social Circle won the next two games against Putnam County with a combined 26-1 result.

After suffering two straight losses in a doubleheader against Eastside Feb. 25, the Redskins responded with two consecutive wins over Morgan County and George Walton Academy 8-3 and 6-1, respectively.

In an intriguing matchup against Stony Brook of New York, the Redskins came out on the losing end 6-1, but beat the Newton Rams 11-2 in response, which began the second four-game winning streak.

On March 7, Social Circle enjoyed a 10-1 home victory over the Alcovy Tigers followed a day later with a 13-1 triumph at Monroe Area.

Last Saturday, the Redskins traveled to former Region 8A-Public foe Commerce and brought home a 7-4 victory.

It has been a multidimensional offensive attack with numerous players contributing.

In the past four games, Mason Moore has batted .706 with seven RBIs followed by Brayden Mitchell's .625 batting average and nine RBIs. Lucas Langley, Luke Smith, Landon Harpe and Paul Kendall have each hit three RBIs along with Logan Cross' two.

Will Atha, Smith and Mitchell have each held their own on the mound, too.

Collectively, the trio has only given up 11 hits in 21 innings pitched and have struck out 28 opposing batters in the process.

Next up for the Redskins are two straight games against George Walton Academy next week. On Tuesday, Social Circle will travel to George Walton Academy and will play each other again on Wednesday. More non-region games will be upcoming for Social Circle, too, with Commerce, Morgan County and Pepperell. All three of those games will be played at home, too.

Social Circle's Region 5A-Division I schedule commences at Oglethorpe County on Monday, April 3. The two teams will wrap up the season series that same week on Wednesday, April 5 and Friday, April 7.



Phillip B. Hubbard | The News

Logan Cross (3) connects on a single against Alcovy on March 7 at home in a non-region matchup between the Redskins and Tigers.

Rams experiencing up and down year

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

Sports Editor

COVINGTON, Ga. — Fifteen games into the 2023 campaign, the Newton Rams stand at 7-8 overall coupled with a 1-2 record in Region 4-AAAAAAA.

One thing is seemingly evident based on the Rams' schedule: It's been an up and down year.

On Feb. 6, the Rams began with a 6-3 win over Morrow that was followed by a 4-3 loss to Southwest DeKalb and 19-4 defeat against Alcovy during the Newton Cup on Feb. 18.

Newton bounced back that same day, however, with a 7-4 win over Eastside to get back to .500 at 2-2.

More of the win, loss, win, loss pattern ensued after that.

Midtown came to Newton and beat the Rams 9-6 on Feb. 20 and, two days later, the Rams flipped the script against Rockdale County, downing the Bulldogs 9-6.

That same week, though, Newton went to Monroe Area and endured its only shutout loss in 2023, losing 3-0.

Just like February, the Rams began March off with a 8-7, nine-inning win at Dutchtown to improve their record to 4-4.

Then, the largest loss of Newton's season so far came on March 3 when the Rams suffered a 26-6 defeat versus

Decatur. Social Circle got the better of Newton the next day 11-2 to drop the Rams to 4-6.

Once again, Newton got back in the win column, this time in a big way.

First, the Rams shutout Woodland on the road March 6 11-0. Newton, then, put together its first two-game winning streak, dominating Mundy's Mill 19-6 on March 8.

However, this past week, the more important, Region 4-AAAAAAA commenced with a three-game series against Brookwood. And, similar to its non-region slate, Newton's outings against the Broncos were up and down.

In game one, the Rams lost 14-4, but it won the second game 3-2. But, Brookwood's offense exploded to close out the series, winning 21-1.

Rome Mays leads the Rams with a .385 batting average while five other players are also batting .250 and above. Anthony Bynum has the most RBIs with nine.

On the mound, Cross Redden has registered a team-high 11.2 innings with a 3.00 ERA while Miguel Barbis, in 10.1 innings pitched, has 17 strikeouts, which is the most for the Rams.

More region action is coming up for Newton next week playing against Archer (6-7, 3-0) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Phillip B. Hubbard | The News

Jordan Nolley (5) throws the ball across the field to get the out at first base against Brookwood in Tuesday's Region 4-AAAAAAA game.

Tigers' Region 3-6A schedule underway

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

Sports Editor

COVINGTON, Ga. — Region 3-AAAAA play began this past week for the Alcovy Tigers with back-to-back matchups against Mundy's Mill. The Tigers went 1-1 in the two matchups.

On Monday, Alcovy won at home 12-2 — a win that halted a two-game losing streak — but, two days later, it traveled to Mundy's Mill and lost 4-2.

One of the main differences was the Tigers' play at the plate.

In game one of the series, the team had a .448 batting average — its highest single game batting average of the 2023 season to this point — along with eight RBIs.

Rodgis Ponder led the charge going 4-for-4



Phillip B. Hubbard | The News

Rodgis Ponder (8) slides in to score a run for the Tigers in Monday's matchup against Mundy's Mill at home.

along with five RBIs. Reece Payne went 4-for-4 with an RBI as well. Connor Merritt batted an additional two runs to assist in the Tigers' run.

On the mound, Hunter Parker threw a complete game and gave up four

hits, two earned runs and had six strikeouts.

Meanwhile, Alcovy's average drastically dropped in round two with a team .231 batting average and only mustered one RBI.

CJ Salmon had the Ti-

gers' lone RBI after going 1-for-3 at the plate.

Payne once again went perfect batting 2-for-2 along with Cooper Duncan's 2-for-3 outing, which also featured a double.

Cooper Duncan regis-

tered 5.2 innings on the mound, gave up three

earned runs and had seven strikeouts.

As a result, the Tigers begin their Region 3-AAAAAA schedule at .500 with their two-game series with Mor-

row up next.

Alcovy's overall record is 7-5, which features wins against Jasper County, Loganville Christian, Southwest DeKalb, Eastside, Newton and Apalachee. It also dropped two close games against Athens Academy, losing each matchup by three or fewer runs.

Nevertheless, the Tigers' season is still young and they have six more Region 3-AAAAAA series left with a few more non-region tests sprinkled in during the second half of the season.

The Tigers' two-game series against Morrow will begin at home Friday, March 17 at 5:55 p.m. and next Monday, March 20, Alcovy hits the road to close the series out.

Prep Basketball

Gibbons' impact in four-year tenure as Rams' coach

By PHILLIP B. HUBBARD

Sports Editor

COVINGTON, Ga. — Early Tuesday morning, news broke of Charlemagne Gibbons' resignation as Newton Rams' head basketball coach. Gibbons will take the helm of the Gainesville Red Elephants' boys basketball program beginning in the 2023-24 season.

Newton's program has accomplished a lot on Gibbons' watch the past four years.

First, he compiled a 76-36 record overall and went 8-4 in the postseason. Gibbons was also awarded 2022 Region 4-AAAAAAA Coach of the Year honors. He led the Rams to appearances in the Sweet Sixteen and Final Four plus two Elite Eight appearances, one of which was this past season.

Coaching at Newton was one of many stops along Gibbons' journey, which includes stints at Starrs Mill, Florida Atlantic University and, most notably, Morgan County High School where he became a state championship winning coach.

But one thing made Newton unique from Gibbons' perspective.

"Newton has natural talent," Gibbons said. "There have been some outstanding players who have been here over the years, plus the homegrown guys we've had have been great. The depth of talent you have here at Newton is just better."

A part of that "natural talent" has been players like 5-star, McDonald's All-American Stephon Castle, 4-star Indiana signee Jakai Newton as well as Overtime Elite star TJ Clark, who was a 3-star player before entering the OTE League.

Gibbons labeled the opportunity of coaching such talent as a "great experience."

"It has been an absolute joy as a coach to be able to have that level of talent in our program," Gibbons said. "It has been a great ride for me."

Another aspect of the Rams' program that has changed has been the level of competition.

Over the course of the past four seasons, Newton has played a national schedule competing against some of the top ranked high school programs in the country.

Just this past season, Newton traveled to face then-No. 1 Duncanville High School in Texas and then against IMG Academy in the HoopHall Classic played in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Rams also won the City of Palms Tournament in Fort Myers,



Elijah Bowman | The News

Charlemagne Gibbons watches the Rams compete against Norcross in the Elite Eight of the state playoffs.

Florida, after beating teams like Charlotte and Tampa Catholic — both based in Florida.

That's not to mention last season when the Rams claimed the 2022 Sugar Bowl National Prep Classic tournament championship in Westwego, Louisiana.

Doing so, Gibbons believes has placed Newton on the map.

"I think over the four-year period, I would say we've been one of the top programs in the state, and I think we've gained more national recognition from the way these guys have played when we have traveled," Gibbons said. "I'm very proud of the fact that what these guys have been able to do for the name of Newton basketball on a national level."

Newton took on this caliber of a schedule while also going up against the Grayson's, Archer's and Parkview's of Region 4-AAAAAAA.

By constantly seeking to play the high school game at its highest levels, Gibbons is hopeful for the future of Rams basketball.

"You may not have the star power of the Castle's, Newton's and the TJ Clark's, but I think they're going to have a really good team for the next couple of years here that is still going to compete at a state and national level and continue to be the team to find that elusive championship," Gibbons said.

Nevertheless, there is one aspect of the program that Gibbons often shared as one of the reasons he came to Newton in the first place: The fans.

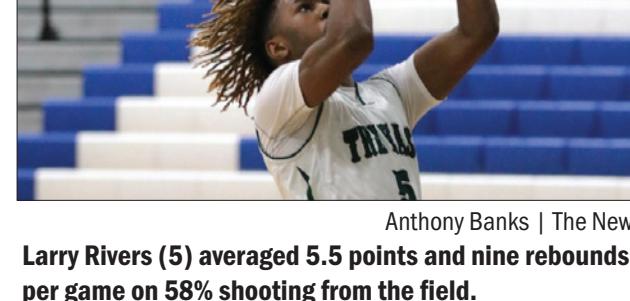
And, now that he is departing from the Rams and going to Gainesville, Gibbons shared how he's going to miss the support from the Rams' fans the most at his next stop.

"The crowd, whether it's a Tuesday night, Friday night or Saturday night, packs the gym and makes it a really tough place to play and makes it a really fun place to play," Gibbons said. "One of the things that I'm going to miss is having that packed crowd every night that you walk out here at 1 Ram Way. This has got to be the best fanbase in the state."



Anthony Banks | The News

Marcus Whitlock (22) averaged 13.7 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game this past season.



Anthony Banks | The News

Larry Rivers (5) averaged 5.5 points and nine rebounds per game on 58% shooting from the field.



Jason Mussell | The News

Quin Jackson (3) averaged 15.8 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game his senior year.

HEROES:

Continued from B1

free throw percentage as another reason he's received this accolade.

Saunders' contributions helped lead the Eagles to one of the program's best seasons ever. In fact, Saunders' 23 points in the first round of the Class AAAA playoffs helped punch Eastside's ticket to the program's inaugural Sweet Sixteen appearance.

At the end of his senior campaign, Saunders earned First Team All-Region honors from Region 8-AAAA.

MOST IMPROVED

Lamarius Jackson, Social Circle

Lamarius Jackson being named Most Improved for this year's team is not a knock to his performances prior to this season. He simply, in the past, had a loaded lineup in last year's senior class that made it difficult for Jackson to see much playing time.

But this season as one of the Redskins' leaders, Jackson took full advantage of his opportunity.

The senior guard averaged 22.8 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.2 steals and 3.8 assists per game for Social Circle. He also led the Redskins to their second straight region championship winning the Region 5A-Division I crown — the first time in program history Social Circle won back-to-back region titles.

Jackson was awarded for his efforts toward the end of the season, too, earning Region 5A-Division I Player of the Year. He also received All-State recognition from Georgia Basketball Coaches Association.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Andre Jernigan, Alcovy

Prior to the season starting, Andre Jernigan had already popped up on Alcovy basketball's radar as a potential star. And, though he was only a freshman, Jernigan had some noteworthy performances.

By season's end, Jernigan averaged 7.8 points, two rebounds, 1.9 assists and two steals. Jernigan's points average made him the third leading scorer for the Tigers this season, too.

On top of that, Jernigan is expected to be one of the six returners to next year's Tigers squad looking to get the program back in the Class AAAA playoffs.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Dorrian Randolph, Eastside

Choosing a Coach of the Year can be difficult, especially as prominent basketball is in the Newton County area. But the job Dorrian Randolph did with the Eastside Eagles made him the clear choice for this year's honor.

For starters, Randolph pioneered the Eagles to a 23-7 overall record, which was the best mark the program had seen since the 2013-14 season when Eastside finished 20-10.

The Eagles also returned to the Class AAAA playoffs this year after a one-year absence and made considerable noise.

As the No. 3 seed from Region 8-AAAA, Eastside went on the road to face the No. 2 seed Calhoun Yellow Jackets and won in what many people considered an upset by the Eagles.

Beating Calhoun, though, pushed the Eagles past the first round of the state playoffs for the first time in program history.

All of this was accomplished on Randolph's watch.

First Team

Frontcourt

Larry Rivers, Eastside

- 5.5 ppg, 9 rpg and 58% fg

Jabez Jenkins, Newton

- 7.0 ppg, 4.3 rpg and 2.0 apg

Backcourt

Nick Durham, Alcovy

- 19.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.8 apg and 2.7 spg

All-Region

Marcus Whitlock, Newton

- 13.7 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.1 bpg and 1.5 spg

First Team All-Region

MVP of Hoophall Classic

All-Tournament Team for Hard in the Paint tournament

Quindarius Jackson, Social Circle

- 15.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.4 spg and 3.7 apg

First Team All-Region

GBCA All-State

Second Team

Frontcourt

Saabir Berrian, Eastside

- 4 ppg, 8 rpg and 53% fg

AJ Vinson, Social Circle

- 7.9 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 1.5 bpg and 1.2 spg

All-Region Honorable Mention

Backcourt

Brentarious Reid, Eastside

- 7.5 ppg, 3.0 apg, 1.5 spg and 38% 3pt

All-Region Honorable Mention

Ashton Pennamon, Newton

- 5.6 ppg, 3.5 rpg and 3.8 apg

Kendarrius Spear, Alcovy

- 16 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 3.5 apg and 2.8 spg

Honorable Mention

Alcovy: Jakori Pinnelle

Eastside: Trebor Edwards

Newton: Tim Prather

Social Circle: DaShon Hyman

Sports Editor Phillip B. Hubbard and correspondent Garrett Pitts were the panel to select the All-Cov News Boys Basketball Team.

Anthony Banks | The News