



**SATURDAY/SUNDAY,  
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# Rockdale Citizen

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Jennifer Smith, center, is shown here with coworkers and her therapy dog.



## HOSPITAL HERO: Jennifer Smith

The Rockdale Citizen and Newton Citizen are shining a spotlight on the Hospital Heroes at Piedmont Rockdale and Piedmont Newton hospitals who are giving their all to provide a high level of essential health care services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In this edition, we are honoring **Jennifer Smith**, staff RN ICU, at Piedmont Newton.

Jennifer is the cheerleader for dayshift in the ICU. She keeps the staff laughing when they would be crying. She plays music to lighten the mood for the patients and her coworkers and gets them dancing. She also has a pet therapy dog that she has brought to the hospital to lift employees' spirits. Jennifer is truly a light that shines through these dark times.

## Henderson's complaints about lack of legal advice derail BOC meeting

By Alice Queen  
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**COVINGTON** — The Newton County Board of Commissioners meeting was cut short Tuesday night after District 4 Commissioner J.C. Henderson repeatedly objected to the absence of the county attorney and said he could not make decisions without legal advice.



**J.C. Henderson**

County Attorney Megan Martin was absent from the meeting due to a family health issue. Due to a miscommunication between Martin and County Manager Lloyd Kerr, the county's law firm of Jarrad & Davis did not have another attorney present.

The board's agenda included at least nine items that were either not addressed by the board, were tabled or denied after Henderson said he "did not feel comfortable making any decisions" without an attorney present.

One of the items was a rezoning to allow applicant Jamie Humphries to add outdoor storage to the business on his property at

3185 and 3195 Ga. Highway 212 in a Highway Commercial zone in District 1. While District 1 Commissioner Stan Edwards and District 5 Commissioner said they saw no problems with the request, Henderson again said he could not make a decision without an attorney present.

"I think this is not good for Newton County. I think we should table the zoning to our next meeting when we have an attorney present," said Henderson.

It was explained to Humphries that if his rezoning request was denied, he could not resubmit for six months; if it was tabled, the request could come back before the board in two weeks.

"For other reasons, now I'm being punished," said Humphries. "That's not fair to me."

Humphries added that as long as Henderson has been on the board, he should know whether or not a rezoning was legal.

SEE **BOC**, A5



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## Three injured in Rockdale night club shooting

By Alice Queen  
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**CONYERS** — A Covington man who allegedly shot three people inside a Rockdale County nightclub is facing multiple charges of aggravated assault.



**James Simpson**

According to the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office, James Simpson, 28, got into a fight with one of the shooting victims at about 10:30 p.m. Sunday at Sudo's Bar and Grill on Salem Road and began firing a gun. An off-duty sheriff's deputy who was working security at the club was able to take Simpson into custody.

Three people sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to area hospitals.

Simpson has been charged with three counts of aggravated assault, reckless conduct, and possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crimes or felonies.



Staff Photo: Alice Queen

Sammy LeVert, of Rockin L. Mule Farm in Good Hope, drives the mule wagon bearing the casket of Roscoe Womack Jr. Womack was known to love his mules, and his family enlisted the help of the LeVert's for his funeral cortege.

## Mule-drawn wagon carries Oxford's former superintendent to his final resting place

By Alice Queen  
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**OXFORD** — Roscoe Womack Jr. was a hard-working man, which may be why he set such store by mules, which are also known to be vigorous workers.

Womack, 78, who worked as

superintendent of Oxford Utilities and Public Works for 48 years, was laid to rest Tuesday afternoon in a hand-made casket brought to Oxford Historical Cemetery aboard his mule wagon drawn by two red mules.

Rhonda Womack, Roscoe's wife of 16 years, said her husband would

have loved the spectacle of a funeral cortege including a mule-drawn wagon. "He was a ham," she said simply.

Womack owned the same two mules for 30 years — Nell and Bell — who were "his pride and joy," said

SEE **MULE**, A5

## Covington Police working rash of entering autos

From staff reports

**COVINGTON** — The Covington Police Department is working a rash of entering auto and auto theft incidents that occurred over the Labor Day weekend.

According to Capt. Ken Malcom, the department received 12 entering auto calls and four stolen vehicle reports. Two of the vehicles were recovered in the Covington Housing Authority — a Chevrolet Silverado stolen from an Ashley Drive residence and a Ford Edge taken from Dearing Street. Malcom said the CPD

believes three offenders were involved in the crimes reported in Covington Place subdivision and nearby neighborhoods. The offenders, who appear to be young males, possibly teenagers, made entry into several unlocked vehicles and took a variety of items of value.

"We are currently working on several leads that will hopefully produce arrests of those involved in these crimes," said Malcom. "We ask our residents to please remember to secure all items of value and remember to always lock your vehicle before going to bed."



The Covington Police Department is working a rash of entering auto and auto theft incidents that occurred over the Labor Day weekend.

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