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The News-Reporter

Serving Wilkes County since 1896

Vol. CIV, No. 9 Washington, Georgia • Publication No. 387-580 • 14 Pages • Thursday, March 3, 2022

75¢ per copy sales tax included

GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

www.news-reporter.com

Three arrested and one at large after Citgo shooting

Submitted By PAT MORGAN
GBI Special Agent

Three arrests have been made and one suspect is still at large in connection with a shooting at the Citgo Convenience store.

According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Michael Wilkinson and store clerk Ashley Moore were arrested by law enforcement authorities, and each charged with one count of felony Tampering with Evidence.

Corey C. Danner III, 18, of Washington, has been arrested as of March 1 and is being charged with aggravated assault and possession of a firearm in the commission of a crime.

The GBI and the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office stated that Tuesday, February 22, at approximately 8:50 p.m., Wilkes County Sheriff's Deputies received a 911 call about a shooting that occurred at the Citgo convenience store at 117 East Robert Toombs Avenue in Wash-



Joshua E. Walton



Corey C. Danner III

ington. When deputies arrived, they found Michael Wilkinson, 41, of Washington, had been struck by shattered glass during the shooting incident, causing minor injuries. Wilkinson refused medical treatment.

A preliminary investigation revealed that three men entered the Citgo and began arguing. Wilkinson was a patron inside the

store but was not involved in the argument. Two of the individuals, identified as Corey C. Danner III and Joshua E. Walton, allegedly exited the store and began shooting at each other in the parking lot. Danner and Walton left the scene after the shooting. The third man involved in the argument was not charged.

The GBI stated that further

investigation revealed Wilkinson and the store's clerk, Ashley Moore, allegedly attempted to conceal evidence related to the shooting incident. Wilkinson and Moore, 30, of Washington, were each charged with one count of felony Tampering with Evidence and were taken to the Wilkes County Jail.

The GBI and Wilkes County Sheriff's Office are still searching for Joshua E. Walton, 23, of Washington. The suspect is wanted for Aggravated Assault and other charges relating to the shooting.

According to the GBI, the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call the GBI at 706-595-2575 or the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office at 706-678-2224. Tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS(8477), online at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online>, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.



Marion Tutt

Marion Tutt arrested for aggravated battery

By MICHAEL BOWEN
Publisher

Former city councilman and mayoral candidate Marion Tutt has been arrested by the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office, February 17.

44-year-old Tevegas Hunt of Marietta, Georgia, received only

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BOE lifts mask mandates, approves budget requests, and more at February meeting

By MORRIS BRANSON
Staff Reporter

COVID 19 mask restrictions, the approval of budget requests, and an update on athletics were on the agenda when the Wilkes County Board of Education met on February 28.

School Superintendent, Dr. Rosemary Caddell, revealed that all mask restrictions have been removed. She reported that the rate of infection and positive tests have been extremely low, so they felt comfortable making this decision, following CDC and Department of Health recommendations. Dr. Caddell stated that any student who is compromised and still feels the need to still wear a mask may do so.

The following allocations were requested by Dr. Caddell and all

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Parks and Rec elects new chairman and vice-chairman

By MORRIS BRANSON
Staff Reporter

Elections were held for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the February 28 meeting of the Washington-Wilkes Parks & Recreation Department.

When Chairman Larry Hill called for nominations, commission member Ed Geddings nominated Amy Johnston for chairman and Larry Hill for vice-chairman. Hill stated that he would not be able to serve as vice-chairman and then nominated himself to continue as chairman. Geddings then nominated commission member Matthew Denard for vice-chairman. Johnston and Denard were unanimously elected to their respective roles.

In other business:

Johnston had some exciting news about partnerships with

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Olivia Jackson



Warren Jackson



Clara Sutton



Linsey Grant

Lexington Avenue residents resist renaming the street at public hearing

By MICHAEL BOWEN
Publisher

Resistance met the public hearing regarding renaming Lexington Avenue last Wednesday, February 23.

While Mayor William deGolian, Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Denard, and City Attorney Adam Nelson were absent, the meeting still made quorum and proceeded.

Opposition stemmed primarily from the residents of Lexington Avenue. While they support honoring Martin Luther King Jr., the residents oppose renaming Lexington Avenue. Altering driver's licenses, account addresses, and other household information is considered by the citizens to be too much of a hassle, especially for elderly residents.

Several other arguments were made against the change. Attorney Sharon Jones made the point that Lexington Avenue is one of the few streets in Washington that retains its original name from the 1700s. Dick Wingfield and Clara Sutton, two elderly residents from Lexington Avenue, strongly oppose the name change because they consider the name synonymous with their home.

Wingfield stated that twelve years ago, he and his wife retired from their jobs in Atlanta and moved to Lexington Avenue. Considering 204 Lexington Avenue his home, Wingfield said he does not want to see the name changed. "I moved back here twelve years ago, and I really enjoyed it. I would hate to change that name, because that's why I moved, and that's where I want to die, on 204 Lex-



City Councilmen Maceo Mahoney, Nathaniel Cullars, and Andy Anderson welcome the public

ington Avenue," Wingfield said.

Clara Sutton declared that there are other streets that could be renamed instead of Lexington Avenue, such as Skull Shoals and Old Skull Shoals Road. She continued, telling the council to leave Lexington Avenue alone. "Leave Lexington Avenue alone," Sutton said. "I know y'all are going to do what y'all are going to try to do, but we are going to try to keep Lexington Avenue the same," she added.

Warren Jackson, who recently purchased a house on 405 Lexington Avenue, stated both Whitehall Street and Lexington Avenue are rich with black history success stories. Jackson explained that the history of Lexington Avenue and Whitehall Street remind him of the prosperity of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and hopes that the name will be left in place. He further stated that his main objection is to renaming only

a section of the avenue, instead of renaming the whole thing. He added that if Lexington Avenue must be renamed, it should be named after a local black citizen. He suggested Dr. Sessoms and Reese Booker as two prime candidates.

However, opposition was not the sole sentiment. Several Washington citizens supported the name change, including Olivia Jackson, Linsey Grant, and Henry Crew.

Jackson stated that while she does not live on Lexington Avenue, she agrees with Councilman Nathaniel Cullars view that Washington needs a street commemorating MLK. She deemed the name change "poetic," as Martin Luther King Boulevard would intersect with Robert Toombs Avenue. She added that Lexington Avenue would still exist in the history books.

Linsey Grant Jr., who identified himself as a retired Navy veteran and a national associate member

of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., stated that the measure of people is where they stand during times of controversy. "The true measure of anybody, whether they be man, or female, is where you stand, not during times of comfort and convenience, but where you stand in times of conflict and controversy. The question is 'What side of history do you want to be on, years from now,'" Grant said. He added that not all streets named after MLK are run down and crime ridden, and that if Lexington Avenue is not renamed, then another street will have to be renamed.

Henry Crew, stated that he supports the name change as well. He explained that he thinks the change will show more inclusiveness and be a great way to honor MLK's memory.

As the hearing progressed, several alternate ways to honor

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