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Newton Citizen

Conyers, Georgia



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HOSPITAL HERO: Heather Lindsay

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 Heather Lindsay at Piedmont Newton Hospital. Here's what her coworkers have to say about Heather:

Heather Lindsay is a true Hospital Hero for Piedmont Newton Hospital. She is a housekeeper and leader for the Environmental Services Department. She also works as a patient sitter. Heather is compassionate and does all she can to help patients. She takes a personal interest in patients and makes them feel comfortable and cared for. As a leader in our Environmental Services Department, she has been invaluable in helping the team navigate through the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Olde Town Christmas party and parade on Dec. 3, 4

From staff reports

CONYERS — Conyers will kick off the holiday season on Friday, Dec. 3 with the Olde Town Christmas Party featuring the Trucks on the Tracks food truck event followed by the Conyers Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Sponsored by the city of Conyers, the Olde Town Christmas Party and Trucks on the Tracks will take place on Railroad Street in the historic business district on Dec. 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring their cameras for selfies with Santa and photos with special guests scheduled to appear. Guests will also enjoy complimentary marshmallow roasting, children's activities and live entertainment by musician Samer on the deck of the Conyers Depot.

Food trucks scheduled to participate at this time include Carnival

SEE CONYERS, A5

Plan to veto Newton county manager contract vote runs afoul of state law

By Alice Queen
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COVINGTON — A plan to veto a vote opposing renewal of Newton County Manager Lloyd Kerr's contract is contrary to state law governing contracts.

Kerr said Wednesday that, because a majority of the board did not vote to renew his contract, state law would not allow a veto to ratify the contract.

Unless the board takes action in the next seven weeks, Kerr's contract will expire Jan. 1. Kerr has said he will not continue to work past that date without a contract.

Commissioners voted 3-2 against renewing Kerr's contract on Nov. 2. The vote not to renew fell along party lines, with Democrats Demond Mason, District 2, Alana Sanders,



Lloyd Kerr

man Marcello Banes, who is a Democrat, said he would exercise his veto power to renew the contract. Under the county's charter, the chairman has the power to veto a 3-2 vote. However, commissioners subsequently learned that state law would not allow the contract to be ratified by veto.

The potential to be without a county manager comes at a time when the county is also looking to hire an in-house attorney. The board

District 3, and J.C. Henderson, District 4, voting no. Republicans Stan Edwards, District 1, and Ronnie Cowan, District 5, voted to renew.

Following the vote, Board of Commissioners Chairman Marcello Banes, who is a Democrat, said he would exercise his veto power to renew the contract. Under the county's charter, the chairman has the power to veto a 3-2 vote. However, commissioners subsequently learned that state law would not allow the contract to be ratified by veto.

The potential to be without a county manager comes at a time when the county is also looking to hire an in-house attorney. The board

rejected a contract with attorney Megan Martin in October by the same 3-2 vote. Martin had worked for the county for several years under contract with the law firm of Jarrard & Davis. When the county opted to move to an in-house attorney, Martin applied and was selected as the final candidate. Since the commissioners failed to agree on a contract with Martin, the county reopened its candidate search. In the meantime, the county has continued to be represented by Jarrard & Davis.

County Manager Kerr had the full support of the board when his contract was renewed last year. However, Commissioners Sanders, who took office in January, and Henderson recently expressed dissatisfaction with Kerr's handling of American

SEE VETO, A5



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Special Photo

Addison Freeman, Nancy Bailey and Ryver Bailey make their stage debut in The New Depot Players' production of "Stories from the Keepsake Box: Christmastime."

New Depot Players kicks off holiday season with variety show

By Alice Queen
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CONYERS — The New Depot Players is in rehearsal for an old-fashioned variety show, "Stories from the Keepsake Box: Christmastime," written and directed by Sylvia Veith. Audience members can expect traditional holiday music, original stories never before told, dance and lots of laughter. There may even be a sing-along.

Three young actresses, Nancy Bailey, Ryver Bailey, and Addison Freeman, will be making their stage debuts in such pieces as "Fighting at Christmas; Lucky

at Christmas" and "Hanukkah in Hyde County." The young ladies have brought their energy, acting skills, and lovely voices to other numbers as well. Veith says she has enjoyed watching them grow in their character pieces. "What a joy they are!" said Veith.

The frenzy and fun of the holiday season is also viewed from an adult perspective in such pieces as "The Brown and Serve Nativity," "Inside the Dressing Room: A Christmas Wedding," "A Snowy Night in Iowa: A Christmas Memory," and "Twas the Day After Christmas." A dance presentation, choreographed



Special Photo

Stephanie Wilkinson, Addison Freeman and Nancy Bailey are shown in "Fighting at Christmas," part of an original series of stories brought to the stage by Sylvia Veith.

SEE SHOW, A5

U.S. Congressional District 10 Race: Meet the Candidates

Swan answers call of duty to serve Georgia's 10th Congressional District

By Beth Slaughter Sexton
Staff Correspondent

Editor's note: This is the latest in a series of interviews with candidates seeking the 10th District U.S. Congressional seat. For the full Q&A with Col. Mitchell Swan, go to www.rockdalenewtoncitizen.com

After 30 years in the military, Col. Mitchell Swan was poised for a life of leisure. He was moving into a new home, making plans

to travel and spend time with his wife. But then duty called.

"I had several friends say, 'You've done your time. Travel. Enjoy your time with Leslie,'" Swan said. "That's a strong argument, but I realized this country wasn't established by time, but by sacrifice and maintained by sacrifice. This country will slide into the dust bin of history when good men and women refuse to sacrifice."

Swan is a Republican seeking to win Georgia's 10th District Congressional seat now held by Rep. Jody Hice, who is not seeking re-election to that post, but is now running to become Georgia's next Secretary of State.

In 2016, Swan wrote a book, "Broken Arrow: Christ's Last Stand,"



Mitchell Swan

ers, scholars or lawyers. They were established upon the principles of Jesus Christ. Nowhere is this truer than Western Civilization. While the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of a Jewish carpenter over 2,000 years ago effected the world more completely than any occurrence since creation, the continued inspiration

and fortitude of Christ's teachings require the lively conviction of all faithful followers. Today — by retreating Christian devotion and leadership—the influence, prosperity, and individual freedoms enjoyed by western nations are approaching the brink of ruin. This is a real threat. But there is a solution. And it starts in America.

"I had no ambition of running for office," Swan said. "I wrote a geopolitical book... People were calling me and saying, 'Mitch, you've got to get in the race.' The day that good men are unwilling to sacrifice is when this country falls apart."

Swan referenced the anger and fear that are becoming so prevalent

in society and said, "That's how Hitler came to power."

He said his military training puts him in a strong position to lead.

"A superior leader can motivate people on those virtues we hold dear — individual liberty, justice and belief that there's one system of government," he said. "...That's why the Patriot Act so concerns me. Anyone who tries to affect government can be a 'terrorist.'"

Swan says he is greatly concerned about the erosion of tolerance in the country.

"In my 30 years, I prided myself on defending a nation where we could live the way we wanted to live — but I get that right, too," he said.

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