

# REWARDING JOURNEY

Newton grad Hobbs reaping benefits of USMA education, football, Page B2

Conyers,  
Georgia

# Rockdale Citizen

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## Newton chair would have highest base salary under proposed pay formula

By Alice Queen

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**COVINGTON** — Newton County commissioners heard a proposal Tuesday night to restructure the way compensation is calculated

for county officials, but not all of the commissioners were sold on the plan and no consensus was reached. A key objection for some was a proposal to make the base salary for the chairman's position the highest in the county.

County Attorney Megan Martin presented the new formula for the calculation of compensation for the Probate Court judge, sheriff, clerk of courts, chairman of the Board of Commissioners and tax commissioner. The formula begins with

minimum base salaries for each position that are tied to a county's population. On top of these base salaries, officials may receive cost-of-living increases, state and local

SEE SALARY, A5



Special Photos

**Left:** Jesse Smith, who teaches at the Rockdale Career Academy, was surprised Wednesday to learn that he is one of three finalists for Teacher of the Year. **Right:** Dr. Imani Bailey expresses her excitement upon learning that she is a top three finalist for Rockdale Teacher of the Year. Bailey teaches at Rockdale County High School.

## Rockdale names finalists for Teacher of the Year

By Alice Queen

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**CONYERS** — Three finalists for this year's Rockdale Teacher of the Year were given the surprise announcement at their schools Wednesday morning.

Superintendent Dr. Terry Oatts, school board Chair Mandy North, Vice Chair Pam Brown, board members Sandra Jackson-Lett and Tony Dowdy, and cabinet members and staff brought the good news to each of the three finalists.

Competing for the top teacher award this year will be Jesse Smith from Rockdale Career Academy, Dr. Imani Bailey from Rockdale County High School, and Dr. Lynette Clark from the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology.

The RCPS Teacher of the Year Virtual Celebration will be held Dec. 1, where all school-level Teachers of the Year will be recognized and the district winner will be named. Each school-level teacher of the year is chosen by their peers as an educator who goes above and beyond for their students, colleagues and community. For the list of all of this year's school-level Teachers of the Year, please visit [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).



Special Photo

Dr. Lynette Clark is congratulated by Superintendent Dr. Terry Oatts. Clark teaches at the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology.

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## A new, improved way to read the Rockdale Citizen and Newton Citizen is here

From staff reports

Access to read the Rockdale and Newton Citizen print editions just got easier.

To continue to provide access to quality local journalism in Rockdale and Newton counties, the Rockdale and Newton Citizen recently launched its replica e-edition.

The e-edition platform will allow Citizen subscribers to read the print edition using their personal computer, laptop, tablet

or mobile device.

Here are a some of the subscriber benefits to the new platform:

- ◆ Choose to read the news directly on the page or as a feed of news.
- ◆ Download and print pages to complete puzzles or share features.
- ◆ Enlarge the text of the articles.
- ◆ Sign up for emails that

SEE NEW, A5

## TSPLOST on Nov. 3 ballot in Newton County

By Alice Queen

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**COVINGTON** — Intersection improvements, bridge replacements and road widening projects throughout Newton County are on the ballot in the Nov. 3 General Election.

Newton County voters are being asked to support a 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for transportation — or TSPLOST — to cover a wide range of road projects in the county.

The tax will be collected over five years and is expected to generate \$56 million. Most of the revenue — \$42

million — will go to Newton County, but municipalities will also receive a share, as follows:

- ◆ Covington — \$10,361,670
- ◆ Mansfield — \$1,153,430
- ◆ Newborn — \$465,630
- ◆ Oxford — \$1,694,220
- ◆ Porterdale — \$1,150,050
- ◆ Social Circle — \$2,075

Newton County will use its portion of funds for the following proposed projects recommended by the SPLOST Oversight Committee:

- ◆ Intersection improvements,

SEE TSPLOST, A5

## October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month GROWING AWARENESS to SAVE LIVES

*In the battle against breast cancer, early detection is a woman's most powerful weapon. As we recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we remember those who have lost their lives to the disease, and we voice our support for those in the fight of their lives.*

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Join the Clayton News, Henry Herald, Jackson Progress-Argus, and Rockdale-Newton Citizen in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness.

Contact Mary Ann Holland, [maryann.holland@henryherald.com](mailto:maryann.holland@henryherald.com)