

BIN LADEN'S DEMISE, 4A

US rejoices after a decade of hunting for terror mastermind



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King calls Cobb overtures 'private matter'

Rumors now have King out of consideration to head county's school system

BY ALICE QUEEN
Editor

CONYERS — Unconfirmed reports that Rockdale's school superintendent

might leave to take the helm of the Cobb County school system may no longer be in need of confirmation.

Several media outlets reported last week that

Samuel King was rumored to be the sole finalist in Cobb County's superintendent search. Local school board officials declined to comment on the rumor.

By the weekend, another unconfirmed report indicated that King was no longer considering the job. The Marietta Daily Journal reported Friday that sources close to the

search said that King had withdrawn his name during salary negotiations.

King, who has not

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Samuel King

Man arrested after car chase



Staff Photo: Erin Evans

A Rockdale County Sheriff's Office deputy leads a man to a nearby patrol car Monday afternoon following a car chase involving a stolen vehicle. The man was arrested in the westbound lanes of Interstate 20, just east of the Salem Road exit in Rockdale County. The man was identified as Terrold Layon Hodges, 24, of Lithonia. The Georgia State Patrol took the man into custody and took him to the Rockdale County Jail.

Man beats the odds after full cardiac arrest

BY JAY JONES
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CONYERS — Michael Blake met with EMTs and firefighters last week to say thanks for giving him "a second, third and fourth chance."

Blake, 45, considers himself fortunate after suffering a cardiac arrest April 13 at Hill Phoenix, where he has worked as an electrician for 15 years. A National EMS ambulance and Rockdale County Fire and Rescue unit arrived at the scene eight minutes after the call. They found Blake unresponsive and not breathing.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them," he said.

Blake was on the assembly line when he collapsed. EMTs Mike Spivey and Paige Riggs said they immediately started CPR and used a plastic tube to establish a clear breathing pathway.

The firefighters joined in treating Blake. Eventually, Blake was stable enough to be placed in the ambulance and taken to Rockdale Medical Center. Within an hour he was on his way to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Huie Atkins, National EMS director of operations, said a full cardiac arrest call is rare in Rockdale County and even rarer for someone to recover without serious after-effects.

"Less than 10 percent of those patients who go into cardiac arrest are brought back, and even less percentage than that are the ones who come back with their full faculties," Atkins said. "A lot of people we get back are in a vegetated state."

Response time was key in Blake's case. A National EMS ambulance was stationed at Fire Station No. 1 at Sigman Road near Ga. Highway

•See Cardiac Arrest, Page 5A

Spring concerts return to Square

BY CRYSTAL TATUM
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COVINGTON — In these tough economic times, free family-oriented events are more needed than ever, and the Arts Association in Newton County's Spring Concerts on the Square fit the bill.

The Arts Association, this year joined by sponsor Honda of Conyers, will present four concerts in downtown Covington at noon each Thursday in May.

"As usual, these are fun and community building in terms of being the central happening spot during the work and school day," said Arts Association Executive Director Buncie Lanners. "It's so wonder-

IFYOUGO

- **What:** Concerts on the Square hosted by the Arts Association in Newton County and Honda of Conyers
- **When:** Each Thursday at noon in May
- **Where:** The Square in downtown Covington
- **Cost:** Free
- **Alternative location:** In case of rain, the May 5 concert will be held in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. All other concerts will be held at Turner Lake Complex

Performers:

- **May 5** — Mariachi Ranchero
- **May 12** — Alcovy High School and Newton County Honor bands
- **May 19** — The Shane Millwood Band
- **May 26** — Lou's Rhythm and Blues

ful to see families and the elderly as well as business people come out to enjoy good music in the community."

The series will kick off Thursday with a celebration of Cinco de Mayo featuring Mariachi

Ranchero. On May 12, the Alcovy High School Band and Newton County Honor Band, comprised of top band students at the three local high schools, will perform. The Shane Millwood Band will follow on May 19. The band leader

is president of SteelCo.

"That's an example of a local band doing an awful lot of performing these days," Lanners said. "I think it's fun to see business people in this community showing their artistic talents as well, and we like to celebrate local artists."

The series will wrap up May 26 with Lou's Rhythm and Blues.

"We like these concerts to be a mix of genre so that people will get a taste of all different kinds of music," Lanners said.

In the event of rain, this Thursday's concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. The remainder of the concerts will take place at Turner Lake Complex on rain days.



Staff Photo: Jay Jones

Michael Blake, third from right, stops by National EMS headquarters Friday to personally thank the EMTs and Rockdale County firefighters for saving his life. Blake suffered a full cardiac arrest the week before at his workplace. National EMS officials said good timing was key to getting Blake stabilized and transported to the hospital. From left to right: RCFR Engine 1 firefighters Josh Carr, William Townsend and Keith Dunn, Blake, and National EMS EMTs Mike Spivey and Paige Riggs.

Toddler found naked, wandering in Days Inn parking lot



BY BARBARA KNOWLES
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COVINGTON — The manager of the Days Inn motel on Alcovy Road called the Covington Police about 4:30 a.m. Friday to report a 2-

year-old girl who was found wandering in the parking lot without any clothes on.

According to CPD Public Information Officer Capt. Ken Malcom, it took officers more than two hours to locate the child's mother, who was arrested and charged in connection with the incident.

Crystal Gail Conner, 24, who, according to Newton County Detention Center booking records, lives at 488 Henderson Mill Road, was charged with reckless conduct, child neglect and deprivation of a minor.

Malcom said officers were able to track down Conner's

family from her room registration information.

"The grandmother was contacted. The family didn't realize the baby had been left alone," Malcom said. "About 6:30 (a.m.) a vehicle pulled into the parking lot and the driver was identified as the mother of the child."

Malcom said it appeared that the child was left alone in the motel room and was able to leave the room and go outside.

The little girl was turned over to the custody of the Newton County Department of Family and Children's Services.

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WEATHER

Windy. Highs 70 to 76. Chance of rain 80 percent. Lows in the mid-40s.

More weather, 2A

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