

RCA launches new hands-on automotive program

OBITUARIES

From staff reports

CONYERS — Rockdale Career Academy (RCA) recently celebrated the opening of its new student enterprise for car maintenance, The Pit Stop, and the new Electric Vehicle/Hybrid Vehicle Dual Enrollment program with Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC).

The ribbon-cutting was held at RCA on May 15.

Rockdale Career Academy CEO/Principal Corey Williams thanked the businesses and community partners such as Georgia Power, Citizens of Georgia Power, the Development Authority of Rockdale County and Rivian for their donations and Georgia Piedmont Technical College for their support.

The Pit Stop student enterprise will provide car maintenance services such as oil changes and tire services while giving RCA students real-world, hands-on experience.

“We’re not stopping here,” Rockdale County Board of Education Chair Sandra Jackson-Lett said. “We’re incredibly proud to announce the launch of our Electric Vehicle and Hybrid Technology Dual Enrollment programs, a forward-thinking initiative that places Rockdale County Public Schools at the forefront of innovation.”

GPTC and RCA have about 16 students enrolled for the new EV/Hybrid Dual Enrollment program for the 2026-27 school year.

Lindsey Walker, dual enrollment coordinator for Rockdale County and Georgia Piedmont Technical College, said GPTC is committed to breaking down barriers for students.

“Something we’re extremely passionate and excited about is the EV program coming into RCA,” Walker said. “Hosting this program at RCA helps Dual Enrollment students with reducing barriers to taking this course, allowing them to gain those certifications before leaving high school to ensure they have the best pathway to



Special photos: Rockdale County Public Schools

Rockdale County Public Schools and Rockdale Career Academy celebrated the ribbon cutting of The Pit Stop, the new student enterprise for car maintenance, and the new Electric Vehicle/Hybrid Vehicle Dual Enrollment program with Georgia Piedmont Technical College at RCA on May 15.



Rockdale County Board of Education Chair Sandra Jackson-Lett and Superintendent Shirley Chesser talk with Rockdale Career Academy students.



Rockdale Career Academy CEO Corey Williams.



Rockdale Career Academy Instructor Mark Whittaker.



The Pit Stop is Rockdale Career Academy's new student enterprise for car maintenance.

employment on their way forward into adulthood.”

Community partners attending the ribbon cutting ceremony included Georgia Power, Citizens of Georgia Power, GPTC, the Development Authority of Rock-

dale County, Conyers Mayor Connie Alsobrook, Rockdale Soil and Water Conservation District.

RCA Automotive Career Pathway Instructor Mark Whittaker finished his first year teaching at the high



Conyers Mayor Alsobrook speaks with Rockdale Career Academy students.

school level but has a decade of experience teaching and preparing students at technical colleges for careers in the automotive industry.

“I’m used to career-ready programs,” said Whittaker. “That’s what I have focused

on: the ones who are in this to make a career out of this, giving them the tools and skills to do that.”

For more information about programs at Rockdale Career Academy, visit <https://rca.rockdaleschools.org>.

Barksdale student among winners of Youth Essay Contest

From staff reports

Barksdale Elementary School fifth grader Kristopher Hurst is among the 21 winners of Delta Community's 2026 Youth Essay Contest.

In 75 words or less, students were asked to describe a financial goal they could achieve through saving, encouraging them to explore responsible money management.

Hurst wrote about saving money for a trip to Universal Studios for his birthday.

“I know I can make it happen by saving my allowance every day,” he wrote in his essay.

Across all submissions, student winners described a variety of financial goals — some discussed large purchases like VR headsets, laptops and electronics, while others wrote about saving for college or helping the



Special photo: Delta Community Credit Union

Barksdale Elementary School's Kristopher Hurst with family and Donna Timms, assistant manager at Delta Community Conyers Branch, left.

homeless and families facing financial hardship.

“In addition, they demonstrated a strong understanding of the importance of saving,” a Delta Community Credit Union press release read. “Like Hurst, many planned to save their allowances, birthday and holi-

day money, as well as funds earned from chores.”

The contest was open to third, fourth and fifth graders enrolled in schools across the 20 metro Atlanta counties Delta Community serves.

Seven winners were selected from each grade level,



Special photo: Delta Community Credit Union

Delta Community's Conyers Branch Assistant Manager Donna Timms congratulates 2026 Youth Essay Contest winner, Kristopher Hurst, a Barksdale Elementary School fifth grader.

with each receiving a \$100 Delta Community Youth Savings Account.

The winners represent a

diverse group of students from 16 schools across nine metro Atlanta counties, the credit union stated.

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths.”

— Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Unearth a Story: Conyers-Rockdale summer reading program slated to kick off June 6

From staff reports

CONYERS — The Conyers-Rockdale (Nancy Guinn Memorial) Library's 2026 Unearth A Story Summer Reading Program begins June 6.

Early registration opens on the Beanstack app beginning June 1 for ages 0 to 19 at https://conyersrockdalelibrary.beanstack.com/users/sign_in.

The Summer Reading Kick-off Party is Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Activities include face painting, games, sidewalk chalk art, crafts, music and refreshments.

A glance at the summer reading program: For Kids (ages 0 to 12)
The Unearth A Story ad-

venture begins with performances, crafts, activities, prizes, and more.

Children can dive into books, track their reading minutes to earn badge and once they reach 30 hours, they'll be entered into the grand prize drawing.

Families can also explore eRead Kids, a digital library for children, at the library's website at <https://www.conyersrockdalelibrary.org/digital>.

Once there, click on the eRead Kids icon to have access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks available for free with your library card.

“eRead Kids makes summer reading easy — whether you're at home, on vacation, or on the go,” a press release from the library read. “It's a

perfect way to keep young readers engaged all summer long.”

For Teens (ages 13 to 19)
Teens can join the Summer Reading Program by participating in activities, earning prizes, and enjoying a welcoming space designed just for them in the Teen Area.

For more details and a full list of events, visit <http://conyersrockdalelibrary.org> or call 770-388-5040, ext.113. The library is at 864 Green St., Conyers.



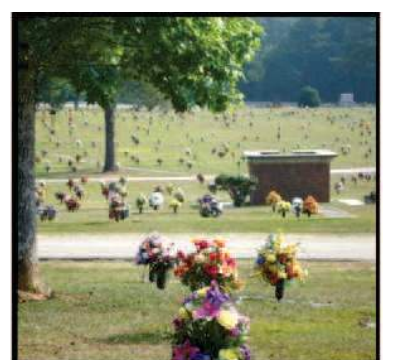
NOTICE

To All Owners of Property in Lawnwood Memorial Park

Dear Property Owner or Family Member, we are currently in the process of verifying and updating our records. Over the years, many families have changed address or phone numbers, and unfortunately, we've been unable to reach everyone. If you are a property owner with us and **have not been contacted within the last two years**, we kindly ask that you call at your earliest convenience.

It is important that you notify us if:

1. You are property owner with interment rights in Lawnwood Memorial Park
2. A family member is a property owner and you intend to be interred on the property.
3. You are an heir of a property owner and plan to use Lawnwood Memorial Park.
4. You are unsure if you or a family member are property owners or heirs to property at Lawnwood.



Please call us to set up a file review appointment today.

Also please be advised that current prices will be increasing, now would be a good time to lock in current rates!

Lawnwood Memorial Park
1111 Access Road, Covington, GA 30014
Office: 770-787-8314
www.lawnwoodmemorialpark.com

