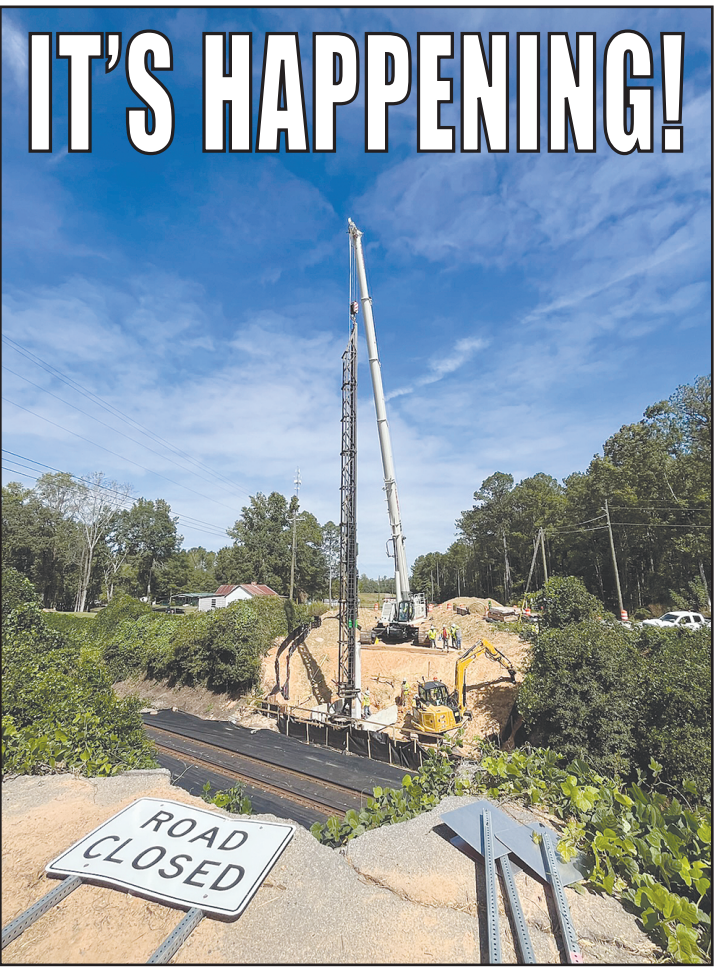


# THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

Serving the people of Talbot County since 1879

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Submitted Photo

**GORMAN ROAD BRIDGE WORK BEGINS** - It's been 10 years or longer since Gorman Road Bridge in Talbotton was closed but work is finally underway to replace it.

## Work Underway for Gorman Road Bridge

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

It has been 10 years or more since Gorman Road Bridge was closed but work to replace the bridge is underway.

Last week, cranes were moved to the site. According to David Arrington, Assistant District Manager with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the cranes were brought in to drive test piling for the bridge.

"They will move the cranes out while the test

results are being submitted," Arrington said. "Once the results are approved, they will be brought back for bridge construction. They will be utilized to drive piling, set beams, pour concrete, place steel, and perform other related tasks."

An exact completion date for the bridge has not been determined. Arrington said the process is still ongoing so GDOT has not established an exact date.

"The best we can estimate is around fall of 2026," Arrington said.

## Local Author to Hold Reading And Signing of Recent Book

Submitted to NEW ERA

Mark your calendars! Local author, Marjorie Howard will perform a reading of her most recently published book, "A Woman's Path Home" at "Between Friends Coffee" located at 1080 GA Highway 96 in Warner Robins on Saturday, Oct. 11, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

"Between Friends Coffee" is a unique literary themed coffeehouse, cafe, bakery, bookstore, and event center all rolled into one. They feature fantastic coffee, one-of-a-kind specialty beverages, fresh baked



goods (including delicious homemade biscuits) and a full brunch menu - with all the delicious items named after a famous author.

Those attending the Reading will have an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of a "Woman's Path Home" and get a small sampling of Ms. Howard's next literary endeavor. Come and bring a friend for an entertaining morning out."

## Barron Withdraws From Woodland Council Race

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Former Woodland council member Danny Barron has withdrawn his candidacy for a council post in the November election.

According to information provided by Election Superintendent Cynthia Powell and City Attorney Gary Byrd, Barron withdrew his candidacy from the race on Sept. 25.

The Talbotton New Era had reported that incumbent Mayor James Carter did not have any opposition in the election, but due to six candidates qualifying for the five council seats an election would be needed.

With Barron withdrawing his candidacy, that leaves only five candidates

leaving the remaining candidates without opposition. The five candidates will assume office on Jan. 1, 2026 and their terms will end on Dec. 31, 2029.

The five remaining candidates include: incumbent T.L. Carter, incumbent John Haralson, incumbent Allison Owens, incumbent Jeffery Mitchell and newcomer Cynthia Carter.

The city will hold an election on Nov. 4 due to a referendum that will ask residents whether fluoride shall be added to the city's water supply.

Advanced voting for the Woodland election will begin on Oct. 14 and end on Oct. 31. Advanced voting may be done by visiting Woodland City Hall located at 49 East Main Street during the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Oct. 14 through Friday, Oct. 17, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 18, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 24, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 25, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 27 through Friday, October 31, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Voters may contact the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration Office or visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov) to check your voter registration.

## Meeting to Seek Input on New Superintendent Search

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County School System will hold a special meeting to allow stakeholders to have input in the search for a new school superintendent.

Dr. Jack Catrett retired on Aug. 29 after serving as superintendent of the schools for 13 and a search in underway to replace him.

The Board of Education is now involved in a search for a new superintendent and will be hosting a "listening session" for community stakeholders on Monday, Oct. 13 in the school cafeteria beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for community stakeholders to give input and

share thoughts with the board during this search process.

Tim Helms and Ricky McCorkle, Superintendent Consultants, have been working alongside the Board of Education, assisting in the search. Helms and McCorkle have both served as superintendents and have over 35 years experience in education.

The Board has been

involved in several Superintendent Search process trainings since July, after having received notification of Dr. Catrett's, then pending, retirement as Superintendent of Schools.

Helms and McCorkle will be facilitating the meeting, and will share the search procedure, as well as give updates on current progress and anticipated timeline.

## Talbotton National Night Out Event Rescheduled

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbotton Police Department rescheduled its second annual National Night Out event from Thursday, Sept. 25 to Friday, Oct. 17 between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Heritage Park.

This annual community event organized to build partnerships between law enforcement and residents to create safer neighborhoods and to promote community spirit.

The goal is to promote

crime prevention, neighborhood camaraderie, and community awareness.

Everyone is invited to come out and support this community event. There will be contests for prizes that include: corn hole, a 3-point contest, a free throw contest, musical chairs, bingo and more.

The event is sponsored and funded by Chief James Biggs and the Rosie Lee Thomas Biggs Foundation.

Heritage Park is located at 170 Park Street in Talbotton.



## Advanced Voting Begins On Tuesday, October 14

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County Elections Supervisor Sharita Trice has announced the Early Voting dates and times for the Nov. 4 General and Special Election.

Early Voting for the election will be held at the Talbot

County Board of Elections and Registration office located at 1761 Geneva Highway in Talbotton on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Oct. 14 through Friday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 27 through Friday, Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If you need to check your voter registration you may

do so online by logging into "My Voter Page" [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov) or you may contact the Talbot County Elections and Registration Office by calling 706-665-8270 or email the office at [elections-registration@talbotcountyga.org](mailto:elections-registration@talbotcountyga.org).

## Talbot County 4-H to Host Special October Events

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County 4-H has some special events planned for the month of October.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22 everyone is invited to join Talbot County 4-H for a fun and spooky Experiments Day. There will be music, games, food and lots of hands-on fun.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. at the Talbot County Extension Office located at 401 Washington, Avenue in

Talbotton.

Also, Talbot 4-H will hold a pumpkin decorating contest with all entries due on Oct. 30 by 5 p.m. .

All entries must be by residents of the county or attend school in the county.

A photo of the person entering the contest, name, age, grade and phone number must accompany entry.

Only one entry per student allowed.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place

Wednesday, Oct. 22 - Experiments Day  
Beginning at 4 P.M.

Thursday, Oct. 30 - Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
Deadline is 5 P.M.

for entries by grade level to include: kindergarten through first grade, second through fourth grades, fifth through sixth grades, seventh through eighth grades and ninth through 12 grades. There will be two pump-

kin categories. The first category is for a carved pumpkin. The pumpkin must have been cut for this category.

The second category is for decorated pumpkins. The pumpkin must be decorated and not cut.



Photo By Pres Hall

**MAYS FAMILY REUNION HELD** - Descendants of the Mays family recently gathered for a family reunion in Columbus and there was plenty of food, fun and fellowship to go around. **See Page 6-A for coverage.**









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## Have a Heart, and Have My Wallet, Too

I thought I had said all there was to say about my recent fun and frolic with a heart attack, but a conversation with a good friend last weekend reminded me of one very important aspect of the issue I had not addressed:

The cost of it all.

Now unless you have lived under a rock for the past few decades (or you're one of those who doesn't believe things you see and hear and read), you know that medical care is, to put it mildly, not cheap. A recent study showed that the number one reason people file for personal bankruptcy in the United States is outstanding medical bills, some so high that even if the patient paid every cent they made for the rest of their lives, they wouldn't make a dent in the overall amount owed.

It would be easy - very easy - to go political right now and point a finger of blame at one party or another and say, "J'accuse!" (Don't get the reference? Look it up. I quit being a teacher in 2016.) But I am not going to do that. I've made it a policy over the years in this column to avoid politics by any means necessary wherever possible, and I see no need to break that policy just to talk about the cost of health care. I have friends on both sides of the political aisle and I intend to keep it that way.

So I will address the issue of health care costs by looking at my own latest encounter with doctors and hospitals, and in the process share what I think is another very good thing I have going for me.

For those who came in late, I ran a series of five weekly columns describing what happened after I had a rather serious heart attack on the morning of July 31. I did touch on costs briefly during the final column, where the price of the medications I have to take was, to say the least, breathtaking. And since I didn't have much breath to spare at that time, I walked away looking for generic answers.

That brings me to today.

I was going over the bills from both WellStar West Georgia Medical Center, where I spent just over one day, and WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, where I was a guest in the cardiac intensive care unit for a little under a week. That seven-day "vacation" was, without a doubt, the most expensive thing I've ever done in life.

I thought buying a house or a car, or going on a cruise, was expensive. Rest assured they are, but compared to a week in the cardiac care unit of any hospital, those items



**Jack Bagley**  
**Musings of An Aging Mind**

are peanuts.

The total cost for a week (or just over) in cardiac ICU at two hospitals was just under (drumroll please) ...

\$400,000.00

Yes, you read that right. Four hundred thousand smackers just to get my tick-right and let it keep ticking. That's with the understanding, by the way, that at some point in the not-too-distant future, Dr. Rajeev is going to have to go back in there and put stents in two more arteries which are between 60% and 70% blocked. He wants to watch them for a while first. So there will be some more costs involved.

Now before you read any further, please understand that I am in no way, shape or form asking anyone for money. The bill was four hundred grand; fortunately, I have insurance. Medicare stepped in and paid all but \$2,070.00 of it. The hospital agreed to me paying \$100 a month until it's all taken care of.

Medicare is the "very good thing I have going for me" I mentioned earlier. Back in April, when I fell at the Renaissance Festival and broke my left arm in two places (well, stay out of those places!), I found out just how good Medicare can be, since I don't owe the Hughston Clinic anything today.

I read a lot of horror stories about how Medicare doesn't pay claims, doesn't do things in a timely manner, and so on. To that I say, poppycock.

In my (admittedly limited) experience, Medicare has been a godsend. I hit my annual out-of-pocket limit with the hospital stay, and the year isn't over yet, so any further things related to the heart - or any other issues - are going to be paid at a 100% rate by the insurance.

True, Medicare does not pay the cost charged by the provider; but then, nobody really does. There's a trade-off at some point that allows insurance companies such as Medicare to pay a percentage of the bill and the provider basically writes off the rest. So I got very lucky yet again.

Why is health care so expensive? Alas, I'll have to write a different column about that. Stay tuned.

## Georgia Home of Prolific Serial Killer

The State of Georgia has seen a number of serial killers over the years and some will never be forgotten like Wayne Williams in Atlanta, the Stocking Strangler in Columbus and others who will never be forgotten. However, there was one serial killer who was actually from Georgia who is believed to have claimed the most victims of any other serial killer in the United States.

Reynolds, a quiet and quaint rural town just happens to be the home of what the FBI believes to be the man with the highest number of murders.

Samuel Little was born in Reynolds in 1940. According to court records and Georgia history books, Little's mother was a prostitute who abandoned him. Authorities even believe his mother may have given birth to Little when she was in jail.

Not long after Little was born, his family moved to Ohio. There, Little was mainly raised by his grandmother.

Little told authorities he began to think about killing women when he was in kindergarten and as a teenager he collected crime magazines, especially magazines that depicted the strangulation of women.

tion of women.

You check all this out on the Internet, it's all there.

Little moved around the United States when he got older and was jailed many times. The first time he had law troubles was as a teenager and that trend continued throughout his life as an adult. At the age of 35, Little had been arrested 26 times.

Little was charged with his first murder in 1982 in Mississippi of a 22 year-old woman but a grand jury decided not to indict him on the charge. However, Little was extradited to Florida and tried for the murder of another woman, but was also acquitted of the charge due to jurors not believing or not trusting witness testimonies.

He was then off to California where he was arrested for beating and strangling two women. After serving two and a half years for those crimes, he was released, moved to Los Angeles where he murdered 10 women.

His story goes on and on. Eventually, Little confessed to 93 murders. However, law enforcement only connected him to 60 murders. However, he was only ever charged with and convicted of eight murders.



**John Kuykendall**  
**Publisher & Editor**

I'm not sure any person in his or her right mind could sleep at night knowing all those deaths were on their hands.

For years, the argument has continued of whether serial killers are a product of their environment or if they are simply born as killers. I'm not sure there is a way to make determination or if its a combination of the two and even possibly other reasons.

However, experts do believe there are contributing factors, according to some criminologists, such as child abuse. According to one study, the most common factor is child abuse it's in the background of almost all serial killers.

You may wonder how a person can get by with so many murders before being caught. That is a good question but not one that can be answered easily.

In most cases, the serial killer will make a mistake.

## Why Was a Plea Deal Offered?

Not only do the wheels of justice seem to turn very slowly, sometimes they appear to go terribly sideways.

No profession, white collar or blue collar, is exempt from attracting sexual predators preying upon our most innocent victims - our children. There are even preachers who succumb to such temptation.

Here is a case in point.

Robert Morris was a highly respected preacher and evangelist. He founded the Gateway Church, a huge megachurch in Southlake, Texas. Married with children, Morris was also an author and radio program host. He was the epitome of a trustworthy person -- a person the average family could trust their children to be around - and they did.

Years later it surfaced that in 1982 Morris began sexually abusing a 12-year old girl - the daughter of people who trusted him and allowed him to stay with them while traveling and preaching. With Morris warning her about telling anyone, the sexual abuse of this child continued for over four years. During those years the victim, too scared to tell anyone, kept this

horrible secret as the sexual abuse continued, and intensified, until she finally told her father.

We cannot imagine the mental and physical torment the victim suffered as a result of this. We also cannot imagine the guilt suffered by the parents who trusted Morris, and the anger they felt at the betrayal. We do know the victim had to seek professional help, and can only guess how hard it must have been for her to trust anyone else.

That is not the end of the story.

As an adult, the victim sought legal redress and restitution. Attorneys for Morris offered relatively small amounts of money but only if the victim would sign a non-disclosure agreement which would have served to protect Morris's reputation, which could provide him an opportunity to prey on other girls. The victim refused and the sexual abuse charges went public and to court.

Prior to the sexual abuse charges going public, Morris had left Gateway Church and assumed a position with a megachurch in Alabama, from which he quickly resigned as the allegations surfaced.



**Andy Kober**  
**Columnist**

**FAST** forward and the case was prosecuted in Oklahoma with Attorney General Gentner Drummond being quoted as saying, "There can be no tolerance for those who sexually prey on children. This case is all the more despicable because the perpetrator was a pastor who exploited his position of trust and authority. The victim in this case has waited far too many years for this day."

Based on those words one would expect the full weight of the law to come crashing down on Morris - except that it didn't.

Instead, according to news reports last week, a plea deal was made in which Morris, now 64, was sentenced to 10 years in jail but will only spend a paltry six months in the county jail, be required to register as a sex

Also, it takes a great deal of work and profiling by law enforcement to put together a profile that might lead to the arrest of the killer, and law enforcement has to have enough evidence to make a case. So, there are many reasons.

Profiling is on of the most common procedures used by law enforcement in most serial killer investigations. A trained profiler will analyze evidence, look at the crime scene to determine actions taken by the killer, use the victim's background to shed light into the killer's motivation and other things and much more. Does profiling work? According to what I've researched, profiles are useful in solving a case between 50 and 85% of the time.

All that data, studies and criminology is great, but I believe a serial killer just likes the thrill of the kill.

I once sat on the jury of a murder trial. The question was proposed to the defendant in the case, if he had the opportunity to kill again if he would. He didn't hesitate to answer and his reply to the officer who asked the question during his interrogation was, "Yes I would, it's was better than sex."

Enough said, I believe.

offender, pay court costs and restitution to the victim.

Is this justice?

The sexual predator spends a whopping six months in the county jail while the victim is scarred for life though apparently she was satisfied that Morris was convicted. We can only imagine the anguish she suffered when recounting the years of sexual abuse.

There is definitely something wrong with this picture.

**WE** might imagine that in years past sexual predators caught abusing children were dealt with quickly and harshly. Likely in such a manner there would be no chance of the perpetrator sexually abusing another child. But today we are more civilized, or are we?

Perhaps in becoming more civilized, we have pampered the sexual predator while failing to account for the lifelong damage to the victim.

When the courts fail to truly punish those who commit such vile acts, it emboldens others to follow suit.

*That's my opinion.*

Andy Kober can be reached by email at [andykober@hotmail.com](mailto:andykober@hotmail.com)

## \* Prayer For Our Nation's Government Shutdown \*

**Greetings and blessings!** Unfortunately, America, our nation is paralyzed once again since in 2018 for an historical 35 days under the same now Trump Administration. Yes, simply because of cowardly, simple selfish childlike people in Congress. In fact, they all literally get their paychecks while the people they represent sadly goes without. So I'm petitioning you to join me daily in this spot on "prayer to the nation" from Bible Broadcasting Network (BBN). "Heavenly Father, You are the one true Lord and You alone are worthy of all our devotion. We confess that as a people, we have loved many things other than You. We love our comfort, we love our possessions and we love doing things our own way. Yet, Your command remains, to love You with all our soul, with all our mite. Lord, write this command on our hearts. Today we lift up our nation and those who's going

through the government shutdown. We think of our senior citizens and those most vulnerable who depends on offices and services that have gone silent. Provide for them O Lord and remind them that You are a Father in times of refuge and that You do not forget His children. We remember our military men and women, those who are serving this great nation at great cost. So many are missing their paycheck and losing their benefits because of the [senseless uncalled for] shutdown. Lord they bear the burden of protecting our freedom and now they have to worry about their own families, surround them with peace and honor their service with provision and turn their hearts to see that every good gifts comes from Your hands. We pray for our economy under the pressure of rising cost and strange housing mortgage as mortgage rates climb and families struggles to find sta-



**Pres Hall**  
**Columnist**

bility. Show us that our true security is not in interest rates or physical policies. [Lord please] Restore hope to families that are feeling the crushing weight of expenses. Lord, we also lift up our leaders who seem to be paralyzed by their own division. Congress fails to fund, politicians pushing their own agendas while ordinary people are paying the price. Break through the hardness of hearts, humble them to recognize that it is their duty to serve the people You have placed under their authority and care. And more than

that, call them Lord to serve You above all else that their decisions might flow from faith in You. Let the shutdown and economy strain remind us that earthly systems cannot sustain us but that we are sustained only by Your grace. Keep us humble, teach us to love You and in lean time and in time of abundant. Let this word [prayer] be true for America. "The Lord Our God Is One!" In the name of Jesus, we pray! Amen! Amen!"

Howbeit, yes again, we are in troubled times in this sin sick world but yet still, there is God's Word for such a time as this found in **Chronicle 7: 14**. "If my people, would humble themselves and pray... and turn from our sinful ways, then will I hear from Heaven and I will heal the land [nation]." **Fervent prayer is the ultimate source to sustain us and make the necessary difference that we cannot make! Praise God!!**

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Orionids Meteors Being Spotted

By ANDY KOBER

For early risers, the dark sky has been incredible.

About 6 am, the planet Jupiter is easily seen. Look along a heading of about 132 degrees, or southeast and about 64 degrees above the horizon.

Venus is also visible. Look along a heading of about 110 degrees, or just south of east and just above the horizon.

Finally, according to our favorite backyard astronomer, Ms. Lynn, Uranus is located along a heading of about 224 degrees, or southwest, and about 75 degrees above the horizon. Uranus is on the edge of being seen with the unaided eye but conditions have to be nearly perfect with no light pollution, a very dark night, and very good night vision. Ms Lynn's favorite planet is Uranus.

A host of stars are visible about 9:30 pm on a clear night and among them is Epsilon Persei.

To find Epsilon Persei, look along a heading of about 70 degrees or east-northeast, and about 38 degrees above the horizon and there is Epsilon Persei.

What we see and identify as Epsilon Persei is actually a binary star. This that from our point of view with two stars appearing as one. The dominant star, Epsilon Persei, is about 640 light-years from Earth. There is some conjecture that Epsilon Persei is a triple-star system, but that debate is ongoing. Nothing is known about the companion star, or stars.

Epsilon Persei is a massive star estimated at 12 to 16 times the mass of our Sun



and about eight times the size. Researchers suggest it is near or possibly slightly beyond the end of core hydrogen fusion. It is producing about 28,000 times the light from our Sun, which has a blue-white hue.

Epsilon Persei is part of the Perseus constellation, which was identified by second century astronomy Ptolemy, and named Perseus for the Greek mythological hero.

Due to its distance from Earth, not much more is known at Epsilon Persei.

THE SOUTHERN Taurids Meteor Shower has started but the meteors are rarely seen from the Northern Hemisphere.

The Orionids Meteor Shower will be starting Thursday, Oct. 2, with peak

activity during the overnight hours of Oct. 20-21. At peak activity the Orionids shower typically produces 10 to 20 meteor an hour though some years it is considerably more. The best time to view the Orionids will be just before dawn and the waning crescent moon should not interfere with viewing.

KEEP YOUR eyes on the sky for passing fireballs. Meteors can flash across the sky anytime and extraordinarily bright meteors are often referred to as fireballs --- and they are spotted quite often.

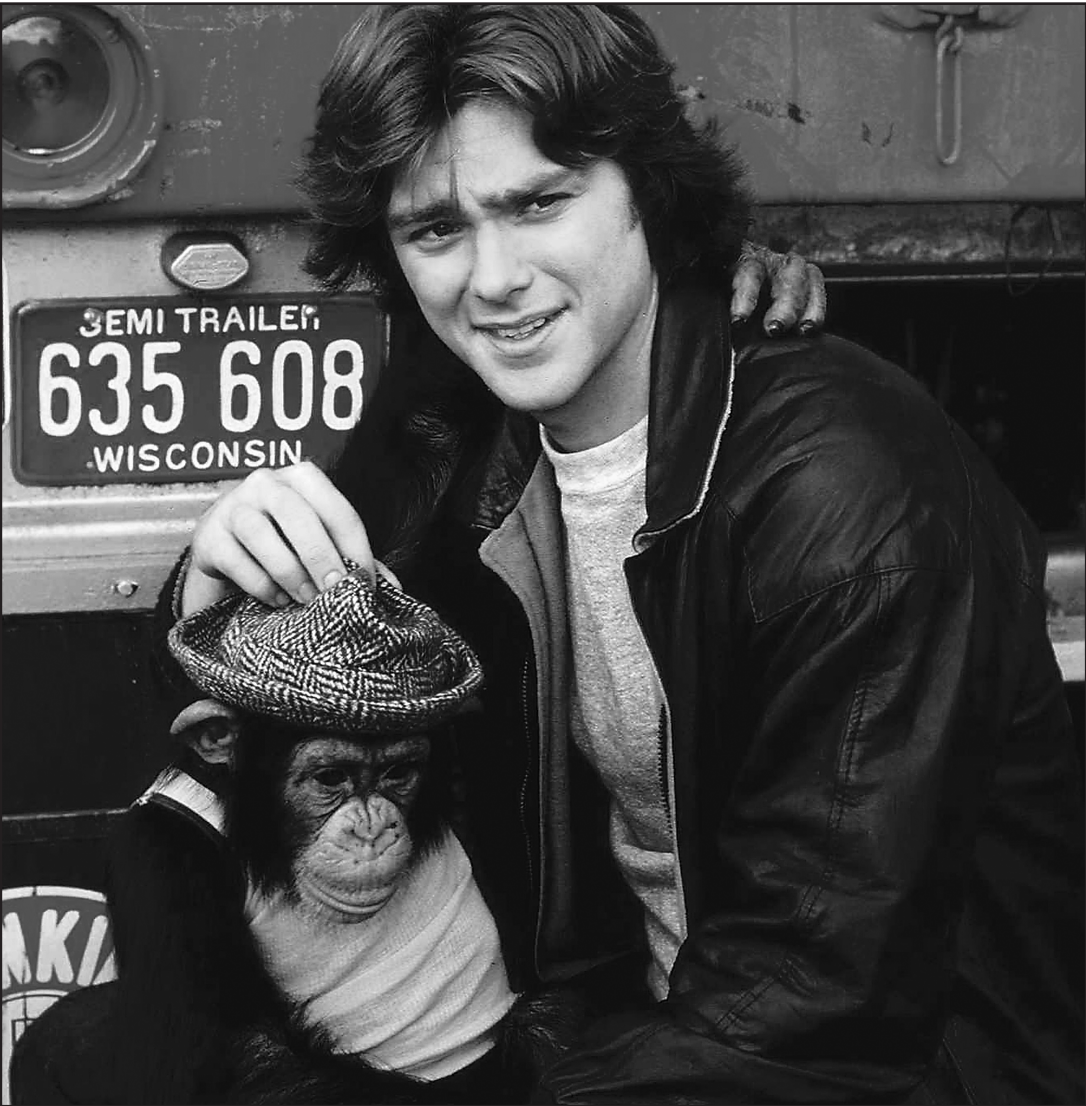
On Saturday, Sept. 27, five people in Georgia and Tennessee reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first reported at 8 pm by a skywatcher in Marietta, GA. The fireball was seen as far north and west as Taft, TN; as far east as Sandy Springs, GA; and as far south as Camilla, GA. The fireball appeared to be moving from northwest to southeast.

Anyone seeing a fireball is urged to report the sighting to <https://amsmeteors.org>

Going outside and looking at the sky, especially the night sky, can be fun and educational for the entire family.

There are a number of free apps available to help identify stars and constellations, and some of the apps will show satellites.



File Photo in Public Domain

TRUCK DRIVER AND CHIMPANZEE - Greg Evigan is born this week in 1953. A talented musician and actor, one of his notable roles was in the television series *B.J. and the Bear* with the two always helping attractive young women.

This Week in History  
1953 - Actor Greg Evigan is Born

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• Oct. 9. On this day in 1635, America is but a colony when Roger Williams is banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Williams was a vocal advocate for the separation of church and state, religious liberty and fair treatment of Native Americans. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was strictly Puritan. Williams had been a Puritan minister but would later become Baptist and still later did not identify with any specific church. When banishing Williams, the Puritans accused him of sedition and heresy, but he would go on to found Providence Plantations which became Rhode Island.

• Oct. 10. In 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns from office after being charged with federal income tax evasion. Former Governor of Maryland, Agnew had been elected to the Vice President position in 1969. After resigning from office, Agnew kept a low profile and died from undiagnosed leukemia in 1996 at the age of 77.

• Oct. 11. Today in 1985, Michelle Trachtenberg is born in New York City. When only three years old she stars in a television commercial which launches an acting career. She would be featured in a number of roles, most notably on the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. She died in 2025 at the age of 39, after undergoing a liver transplant.

• Oct. 12. In 1918, sparks from a train amid very dry conditions ignites a fire in Carlton County, Minnesota. The fire will burn

about 250,000 acres, devastating much of western Carlton County most notably Moose Lake, Cloquet, and Kettle River. The fire will be responsible for the deaths of 453 people with about 52,000 more suffering various injuries.

• Oct. 13. Today in 1892, astronomer Edward Emerson Barnard becomes the first person to discover a comet by photographic means. That comet was subsequently "lost" until 2008 when it was spotted again. The comet bears the name Comet Barnard 3.

• Oct. 14. On this day in 1953, actor Greg Evigan is born in South Amboy, New Jersey. At an early age, Evigan began playing the piano, organ and saxophone and performed in various small rock bands. His first acting roles were in productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1971. Evigan still enjoys a successful career and is remembered by many as B.J. McKay in the television series *B.J. and the Bear*.

• Oct. 15. In 1950, the Korean War Battle for Pyongyang begins. Republic of Korea (ROK) forces along with UN and US forces have not only driven the disorganized remnants of the North Korean military back north of the 38th Parallel, they are rapidly approaching Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. The US had apparently received warnings that China would enter the war if US forces crossed the 38th Parallel. UN Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur had demanded the unconditional surrender of North Korea, but no such surrender was forthcoming. As a result, four ROK Divisions along with US and British units of the I Corps are racing to be the first to reach Pyongyang.

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NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS  
GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY  
All creditors of the Estate of Phillip Wayne Drummond late of Talbot County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment to me.  
This 17th day of September, 2025.  
Linda B. Drummond  
Executor of the Estate of Phillip Wayne Drummond  
Deceased  
Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC  
Attorney at Law  
P. O. Box 119  
Hamilton, GA 31811  
(10:2, 9, 16, 23)

Probate Notices

25-095  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELDA WHITTLE BLACKMAR. DECEASED  
ESTATE NUMBER: 2025-P-42  
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT  
The petition of THOMAS KNOX K. BLACKMAR, for a year's support from the estate of MELDA WHITTLE BLACKMAR deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse)(and)(minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before OCTOBER 27, 2025 why said petition should not be granted. All objec-

tions to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be (scheduled at a later date). If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
SHATARA POWELL  
Judge of the Probate Court  
BY: NITLEJA WILLIAMS  
Dep. Clerk of the Probate Court  
PO BOX 157  
TALBOTTON, GA 31827  
706-665-8866  
(10:9, 16, 23, 30)

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# The “Lighter Side” of the News

**“Bummed” Lottery Player Finds He’s Jackpot Winner**  
A Michigan man said he was disappointed to see someone had won the lottery’s \$564,219 Club Keno The Jack prize – until he found out the winning ticket was his own.  
The 45-year-old Otsego County man told Michigan Lottery officials he bought a Club Keno The Jack ticket from the Gaylord South EZ Mart on South Otsego Avenue in Gaylord.  
“I play Club Keno every now and then, but I only play The Jack when it gets over \$100,000,” the player said. “I bought a ticket for 30 draws, and when I got home, I decided that if the draws were still going, I would go somewhere to have a drink and watch the rest.”  
The player said he was initially upset when he used his phone to check the status of the drawings.  
“I got on the lottery app to see what draw it was on and was bummed when I saw someone had won The Jack. I scanned my ticket to check it and was stunned when I found out I was

the big winner! All I could think was: ‘What am I going to do with all this money?’ It was a good feeling!”  
The winner said he ended up deciding to use his \$564,219 prize to invest.  
**Not a Nice Swan**  
A black swan that took up residence in a British town is being relocated after attempting to drown some of the native mute swans.  
Cyril Bennis, volunteer swan warden for the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare, said locals were initially excited by the presence of the Australia-native black swan in the town.  
Bennis said the swan got along with the native mute swans at first, and locals dubbed him Reggie.  
“Everyone was coming to Stratford to see the black swan. On the one hand, it was great. On the other hand, it caused a

bit of nervousness in a sense, because we didn’t want it to settle in and we didn’t want it to get too familiar with our mute swans,” he told The Independent.  
The swan warden renamed the visitor Mr. Terminator after he started showing another side.  
“In the evening time, it had a different side to it,” Bennis told CBC News. “Listen, it was a nightmare. An absolute ruddy nightmare.”  
He said the swan would attack the native male swans and try to mate with the females.  
“Violence, yes. Trying to drown them,” Bennis said. “Quite horrendous, really. And it’s natural, you know. These animals are wild animals and they’re not ornaments.”  
Town officials secured a new home for the swan at the Dawlish Waterfowl Center in Devon, England, where he will be among other black swans.  
Bennis said Mr. Terminator did not give up without a fight.



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It's All About the Family...

Photographs and story by Pres Hall

**MAYS' FAMILY REUNION HELD** - Thank You Lord! What a blessed time! What a mighty good time! Descendants of the Mays family recently gathered for their family reunion that was held at the Columbus, GA Fire Station Association Bldg. Praise God, there were a very large attendance that was made up of families from across the country, locally and abroad. Yes indeed, this amazing, beautiful Mays Family again came together; better, bigger and stronger than ever. In fact, there were perhaps more than four generation of family descendants. The extraordinary event began with a well organized and planned program with each participant at their very best. Furthermore, there was no shortage of food of choices, down home country cooking; so much so, that you could have it your way. There was entertainment for all to enjoy and the building was phenomenally decorated with the purple color scheme which the Mays family attendants dressed as such. Descendants sincerely expressed hope that the tradition of honor, connection and remembrance will continue for generation to come. However, the Mays families genuinely thank friends and everyone for helping to make this Mays reunion an unforgettable experience. Your presence made a significant difference! "If it is possible, as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."[especially family] (Roman 12:18). God Bless! Thank You Lord!

The Did You Know Column is Nine Years Old This Week!

By JACK BAGLEY  
didyounowcolumn@gmail.com

In October of 2016, I had a problem - I was laying out a newspaper and had a "hole" in a page with nothing to fill it. Frantically thinking (the only way I know how), I finally remembered that I had a collection of odd facts which I'd used during my career as a teacher to entertain students, and figured, "What the heck. I'll try putting some of that here."

The result got a lot of notice, and it led directly (the next week, in fact) to the birth of "Did You Know...?" And this week, we celebrate nine years of bringing this silliness to you!

I can not thank you all enough for being with me these past nine years. You are the reason I do this. It means the entire world to me that you read this stuff each week, that you seem to like it, and that you want more.

Nine years. Shall we shoot for ten?

*Did you know ...*  
... about half of the world's pigs live on farms in China? (But can they oink in Chinese? Hmmm?)

... the word "quiz" is wrongly thought to have not existed before 1800? Its origins are somewhat murky, but the best story about the creation of the word comes from Dublin, Ireland. In 1791, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Richard Daly (1758-1813), bet his friends that within 48 hours he could make a nonsense

word be spoken all through the city. Seeing some easy money, his friends took Daly up on the bet, and that evening Daly sent his employees out to write the word "quiz" in chalk on doors, windows, and walls throughout the city. The appearance of the word caused people to be talking about it all through Dublin, thus winning the bet for Daly. Serious linguists doubt the story for a lot of reasons, not the least of which that the tale was first written down 44 years after it supposedly happened. Also, if you look hard enough, you will find examples of the word "quiz" in print prior to 1791. So, while Daly's employees may indeed have written "quiz" all over the city, the stunt had nothing to do with the word's origin. (I hope you took notes. There will be a quiz later.)

... a house in Poland is incredibly narrow? The Keret House, in Warsaw, is exactly four feet wide at its widest point. Despite this, the Keret House contains a bedroom, a bathroom, and a kitchen in its three-story confines. What it lacks in width, it apparently makes up for in height. (And claustrophobia.)

... a Swedish warship sank less than a mile into its maiden voyage because of faulty measurements? The *Vasa* was built and launched in 1628. Less than a mile from its dock - in full view of the King of Sweden and his court - the *Vasa* rolled over and sank. Archaeologists studying the raised hulk of the ship discovered four rulers that had been

used by workers who built the ship. Two of the rulers were based on the Swedish foot, which is 12 inches long; the other two were scaled to the Dutch or Amsterdam foot, which is 11 inches long. The ship was thus built asymmetrically, which caused it to capsize quickly and sink. (See why the metric system is such a good one?)

... a fad called "red out" took place among high school students in 1948? It had to be one of the silliest ever. Participants would kneel, breathe deeply ten times, close their lips around their thumbs, then blow - without actually exhaling. They would then turn red and pass out. Regaining consciousness, many reported they believed they had been chased by monsters while unconscious. (The value of a high school education, folks.)

... a lawyer gambled on inheriting an elderly woman's house - and lost? In 1965, French lawyer Andre-François Raffray (1900-1977) agreed to pay the elderly woman a "rent" of \$500 a month on her home in Arles, France, on the condition that he would inherit the house when she died. When Raffray died in 1977, however, the woman was still alive - and she would be for a while. The woman was Jeanne Calment (1875-1997), who was 122 years old at the time of her death and documented as the oldest person who ever lived. Raffray's family kept up the payments and eventually did get the



house, but in the end they paid more than twice what it was worth for it. (Subtle. Very subtle.)

... the life's work of a mathematician turned out to be meaningless? It happens to a lot of us, I know, but in the case of English mathematician William Shanks (1812-1882), it's extra egregious. In the days of yore, before calculators and computers were invented, Shanks computed the value of  $\pi$  to 707 places. But a review of his work in 1944 showed that Shanks had made an error at the 528th place, and the rest of the calculation was wrong. (Thanks to Mason for the tip!)

... the German parliament is literally walked over by its people? Inside the Reichstag building in Berlin, the chamber in which the assembly meets has a domed ceiling, above which is a glass dome and a walkway open to the public. The setup reminds politicians that government should be transparent, and that the people are always above them. (Not a bad idea, at that.)

... placing the national motto on U.S. coins was objected to by a president? "In God We Trust," the national motto of the country, has been placed on U.S. money in one way or another since 1864, but President Theodore



Roosevelt (1858-1919) objected to its use. T.R. felt using the motto on money was sacrilegious.

... about 10,000 new species of insects are discovered each year? (Usually when they bite or sting you.)

... the Bible may be biased against left-handed people? The right hand is mentioned 100 times in the Bible, all positively ... yet the left hand only gets 25 mentions, and all of them are negative. (Make of that what you will.)

*Now ... you know!*  
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Jack Bagley

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NOTICE								
The City of GENEVA does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the CITY HALL, 301 SCHOOL HOUSE RD, GENVA, GA 31810 on OCTOBER 14, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.								
CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY								
INCORPORATED AREA	INCORPORATED		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	VALUE	Real & Personal	2,792,260	3,177,124	3,767,719	3,702,621	4,080,059	3,816,665
		Motor Vehicles	36,730	25,280	21,140	20,850	16,420	11,690
		Mobile Homes	84,162	83,881	108,551	117,614	111,060	108,775
		Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Gross Digest	2,913,152	3,286,285	3,897,410	3,841,085	4,207,539	3,937,130
		Less Exemptions	123,310	65,877	96,516	109,472	162,484	184,215
	NET DIGEST VALUE		2,789,842	3,220,408	3,800,894	3,731,613	4,045,055	3,752,915
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	13.8800	12.1130	11.9480	15.7340	7.9660	7.7560
Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)		7.8800	6.6200	6.5300	10.2900	3.0200	2.7600	
NET M&O MILLAGE RATE		6.0000	5.4930	5.4180	5.4440	4.9460	4.9960	
TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$16,739	\$17,690	\$20,593	\$20,315	\$20,007	\$18,750
TOTAL COUNTY		TOTAL COUNTY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		TOTAL DIGEST VALUE	2,789,842	3,220,408	3,800,894	3,731,613	4,045,055	3,752,915
		TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$16,739	\$17,690	\$20,593	\$20,315	\$20,007	\$18,750
		Net Tax \$ Increase		\$951	\$2,903	(\$278)	(\$308)	(\$1,257)
		Net Tax % Increase		5.68%	16.41%	-9.58%	110.79%	408.12%