

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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Outstanding Educators Honored

Submitted to NEW ERA

Talbot County Schools proudly recognized outstanding educator achievement during the Mar. 17 Board of Education meeting, highlighting the impact of dedication, growth, and commitment to student success.

Mrs. Sharleta Hall was recently awarded a \$200 donation at the Winter Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference in Atlanta, sponsored by KidsFirst. The award was designated to honor and support the "Most Improved Teacher" within the district—an educator who has demonstrated significant professional growth and a strong commitment to enhancing student learning outcomes.

During the board meeting, Ms. Betts, Regional Specialist with KidsFirst, formally presented the award to Mrs. Hall, commending her leadership in recognizing and uplifting instructional excellence within Talbot



County Schools.

Mrs. Hall selected Ms. Niya Ferguson, a third-grade teacher, as the recipient of the \$200 award. Ms. Ferguson was chosen for her notable improvement in instructional practices and her continued dedication to fostering student achievement in the classroom.

The monetary award will be used to support Ms. Ferguson's classroom, providing additional resources

to further enrich the learning experiences of her students.

Talbot County Schools congratulates Mrs. Hall and Ms. Ferguson on this well-deserved recognition and extends gratitude to KidsFirst for their continued support of educators across the region. This recognition reflects the district's ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

Talbotton Police to Host Easter Egg Hunt

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbotton Police Department has announced it will hold an Easter Egg Hunt event for all the children of Talbot County On Saturday, Apr. 4 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Talbotton Fire Department.

There will be golden eggs for children to find that will

contain nice prizes. There will be free food, games, prizes, fun and more.

An egg hunt for children ages one through three years of age will be held at 10:30 and parent may assist the children.

The egg hunt for ages 3-7 will begin at 11 a.m. Sorry, parents will not be allowed to assist children on this hunt.

A hunt for children ages 7-10 will begin at 11:30 a.m. and there will be no parental assistance allowed on this hunt.

Please be sure to bring a basket for all children participating in the egg hunt.

The Talbotton Police Department encourages all children to come out and enjoy the egg hunt event.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

CEHS LADY HAWKS PARTICIPATE IN ALL-STAR GAME - Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) Lady Hawk basketball players Darriona Leonard (#13) and Madison Daniels (#15) participated in the Taylor County High School Mid-South Georgia All-Star game in Butler this past weekend. Leonard participated in the freshman and sophomore game and Daniels participated in the junior and senior upper classman game.

CEHS to Hold Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) has announced dates and times for Pre-K and Kindergarten registration for students who are new to the system.

Registration will be held on the following dates between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.: Mar. 25, Apr. 15

and May 13.

The following items will be needed to register a student for Pre-K: a birth certificate; ear, eye and dental records; a Social Security card; an immunization certificate; a picture ID; proof of residency (utility bill); proof of income and proof of insurance (medicaid, private insurance, Peachcare

or Wellcare).

To register a student for Kindergarten the following items will be needed: a birth certificate; ear, eye and dental records; a Social Security card; and an immunization certificate.

Please note that all documents are required to register a child.



10 Pounds Only \$11 - Sale Ends Monday, Apr. 13

Help 4-H With a Vidalia Onion Purchase

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County 4-H has announced its annual Vidalia Onion Sale.

Talbot County 4-h is selling sweet Vidalia Onions to be delivered fresh from South Georgia by early May. A 10 pound bag of Sweet

Vidalia Jumbo Onions is only \$11.

Payment for the onions may be made at the Talbot County Extension Office located at 401 South Washington Avenue in Talbotton. Please make checks payable to: Talbot County Extension4-H.

The same for the onions will end on Monday, Apr. 13.

Please call Shamona Willis for more details about the onion sale by dialing (706) 665-3230 or by dialing (706) 575-0850.

Your purchase will help support the Talbot County 4-H'ers.

Temperatures Will Continue to Rise and Drop

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Editor's Note: This is a weather forecast and is subject to change. Please make sure to check for weather updates. This forecast taken from the Weather World extended forecast.



This week the weather man is calling for temperatures to be up and down like always during Spring. However, there is no rain in the forecast until Thursday, Apr. 2.

Here is what Weather World is predicting for the upcoming week.

On Thursday, Mar. 26,

expect cloudy skies with a high temperature of 77 degrees and low temperature of 47 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about five miles per hour and will be coming out of the South Southeast.

Friday, Mar. 27, skies will be sunny with the high temperature reaching around 82 degrees and the low temperature around 58 degrees. Winds will be coming out of the West at speeds of about 13 miles per hour.

Saturday, Mar. 28, expect partly cloudy skies with the high temperature expected to be around 61 degrees and the low temperature around 47 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 15 miles per hour and will be coming out of the Southeast.

Sunday, Mar. 29, the weather man is calling for a sunny Sunday with the high temperature expected to be around 66 degrees and the low temperature should be around 43 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 14 miles per hour and will be coming out of the East.

On Monday, Mar. 30, the skies are expected to remain sunny and the high temperature is expected to be around 66 degrees and the low temperature should be around 42 degrees. The winds will calm

some and are expected to reach speeds of about seven miles per hour and will be coming out of the East Southeast.

For Tuesday, Mar. 31, the skies will remain sunny and the temperature will jump up again with the high temperature expected to be around 73 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 46 degrees. Winds are expected to be coming out of the South at speeds of about nine miles per hour.

On Wednesday, Apr. 1, the skies are expected to remain sunny and the high temperature is expected to be around 76 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 52 degrees. The winds will pick up again and are expected to reach speeds of about 14 miles per hour and will be coming out of the Southwest.

On Thursday, Apr. 2, the weather man is predicting that rain will return with a 79% chance of the wet stuff. Temperatures are expected to continue to be mild with the high temperature expected to be around 76 degrees and the low temperature expected to be around 60 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 15 miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

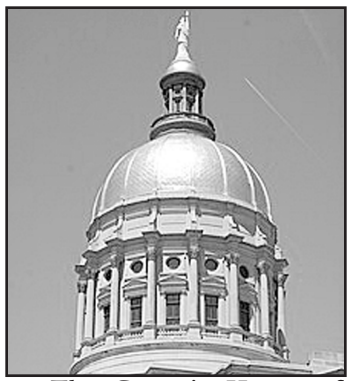


Photo Submitted

CORONER SPEAKS TO LIONS - On Wednesday, Mar. 18, the City of Talbotton Police Department participated in the Career Day event held at Central Elementary-High School. Officers with the department were present and provided information on how to become a Police Officer to students. The officers also answered questions from the faculty, staff, and students. Officers with the department also offered facility, staff and students the chance to use a simulator to see what it is like to have to make a split second decision through simulation on topics such as an active shooter situation in a school and dealing with people with mental illness.

Contact The New Era by calling (706) 846-3188 or emailing: starmercuryjohn@gmail.com





Under the Gold Dome

A Report on the 2026 Georgia General Assembly

State Representative Debbie Buckner

The Georgia House of Representatives reconvened on Monday, March 16, for Legislative Day 32 and the start of the 10th week of the 2026 legislative session.

One of the most notable measures that the House championed last week was House Bill 1199, which will temporarily suspend Georgia's excise tax on motor fuel for 60 days. This suspension comes at a critical time as Georgians have faced sharp increases in gas prices amid ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, placing added financial strain on families and business across the state.

Prices at the pump will begin to reflect this change in the coming days as retailers receive new shipments of motor fuel. Georgia's excise tax on gasoline is currently 33.3 cents per gallon and 37.3 cents per gallon of diesel. After the House overwhelmingly passed HB 1199 with our gas tax suspension provision included, we immediately sent the amended legislation to our colleagues in the Senate, where they later agreed to the House's version of HB 1199, giving it final passage.

The Senate gave final passage to House Bill 1000, which Gov. Kemp also signed into law on Friday. The bill provides a one-time income tax refund to eligible Georgians who filed individual income tax returns for both the 2024 and 2025 tax years by the applicable deadlines.

Once a taxpayer files their 2025 return, the Georgia Department of Revenue will issue a refund equal to the lesser of the taxpayer's 2024 Georgia income tax liability or a set amount based on filing status: \$250 for single filers or married individuals filing separately, \$375 for heads of household and \$500 for married

couples filing jointly.

Amid ongoing shortages of healthcare providers in rural and underserved areas of Georgia, and as part of the House's continued focus through its work over the summer in the House Study Committee on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Underserved Areas, we passed Senate Bill 427.

The bill would create a structured pathway for certain internationally trained physicians to practice in Georgia under a limited provisional license. By expanding the pool of qualified physicians in rural communities, SB 427 would play an important role in improving access to healthcare for Georgians who need it most.

The House unanimously passed Senate Bill 523 to strengthen protections against acts of discrimination in Georgia's public education system. Under SB 523, complaints of discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion involving students, teachers or employees would be addressed through a standardized reporting and appeals process.

By strengthening reporting and enforcement of these incidents, SB 523 would provide greater accountability, helping ensure that instances of discrimination and harassment are not only identified but meaningfully addressed within Georgia's public education system.

The House also passed a life-saving measure to ensure every Georgian has rapid access to medical care with the unanimous final passage of Senate Bill 399, the Mason Sells AED Coordination Act. This legislation aims to expand access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and provide emergency call centers with both AED loca-



tion information and high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation (T-CPR) guidance for Georgians experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

Building on the House's efforts to combat human trafficking across our state, my colleagues and I passed Senate Bill 570, also known as the Georgia Human Trafficking Prevention Training Act, with bipartisan support on Thursday.

SB 570 would require hotels and third-party managed short-term rental properties' employees to complete annual training on identifying and reporting suspected human trafficking, with the initial training required within 60 days of hire and renewed each year.

Hotels and rental properties are often associated with human trafficking activity, making it essential that we equip staff with the knowledge and tools needed to recognize warning signs and help prevent vulnerable individuals from becoming victims.

Finally, on Friday, the House gave final passage to Senate Bill 170, a necessary measure to strengthen the resilience of Georgia's healthcare infrastructure. SB 170 would create a grant program to acquire and install backup generators for affected rural hospitals, which are acute care hospitals located in rural counties with fewer than 100 beds and located in any region where the governor declared a state of emergency after July 1, 2024.

By investing in reliable energy systems, SB 170 would help guarantee that essential medical services remain available during severe weather events, particularly for rural communities.

We will return to the Gold Dome on Monday, March 23, for the 11th week of the 2026 legislative session—our second to last week of this year's session. We are in the final stages of advancing legislation that could soon become law, and these closing weeks will be pivotal to ensure that we pass meaningful legislation for all Georgians.

As we count down to Sine Die on April 2, I encourage you to stay engaged and keep track of legislation that affects our community and your family.

Things to Do In Talbot County

Driver Safety Class

New Salem Baptist Church in Talbotton is hosting an AARP Driver Safety Class on Saturday, Mar. 28 at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Anyone interested in attending to save money on your auto insurance should call Marjorie Howard at 706 329-8764 to register. Please bring your driver's license and AARP membership card (if applicable). Membership is not required. Bring refreshments and snacks to enjoy. Onsite registrations will be accepted, so come and bring a friend! Free parking is available onsite. Classes are \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members, payable by check or money order. Anyone 25 years of age or older can attend.

Outreach Program

Fishing For Youth of America was founded in memory of Richard Nash's mother and father. The program provides fishing supplies for our youth. It is the hope of FFYA to encourage our youth to fish and do other wholesome activities and to stay away from drugs, guns, gangs and violence. If we can get our youth to appreciate the outdoors they make better young people. If you know of a child or grandchild that could benefit from this program we would love to hear from you. It's also a program that benefits children that would otherwise not get anything for Christmas. If anyone would like to support this cause you can give in Honor or in Memory of someone. For more information on how you can be a part of this much needed outreach you may call Richard 478-998-2996.

New Life Services

New Life Community Church invites everyone to fellowship with the church family on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The church is located at 9108 GAHWY 85 in Waverly Hall at the City Hall building. Rev. Desmond Thornton and associate pastor Rev. Solomon Terry presiding.

Church Pickup

Friendship Baptist Church located in Woodland is offering a Transportation Ministry free to any person who would like to attend the church. The transportation service will be available every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10

a.m. For more information please contact Clarence Leonard at 706-427-3443 or Scott Hope at 706-573-8231. A mask is advised and social distancing is required.

Free Produce

Geneva Baptist Church will be giving away free produce to everyone every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Produce will be given away while supplies last from FTV Food Bank.

Let Us Help You

Christ the King's Outreach Ministry welcomes Harris and Talbot County residents in need of short-term assistance with groceries, utility bills and rental payments and do what the church can to help. Christ the King's Outreach Ministry office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling the Ministry at (706) 663-0090.

Clothing Center

New Beginnings Outreach Ministry of Woodland has a special clothing center. All items are from community donations. We also have household items, baby accessories and furniture. EVERYTHING IS FREE. For more information contact Bro. Richard Crawl at 706-977-5469 or Pastor Searcy at 706-601-6776.

Free to Needy

Pastor William Searcy of The New Beginnings Church of Woodland announces that their Outreach Ministry's Center will be open two days a week from nine to five on Monday and Friday. This will be the last week. EVERYTHING IS FREE. They have clothing, miscellaneous items, including furniture. Remember, this is FREE to the public. Call 706-601-6776.

Change of Service

Valley Grove Baptist Church, Manchester (Tax), will have services on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. until further notice.

Help for Elderly

The River Valley Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging is ready to help senior citizens. If any senior citizen in the Talbot County Region has problems or needs help with utility bills or more, please call

Woodland Mayor and Board Member of River Valley Regional at 706-256-2900 or 706-256-2928 or Katie Howard at 706-256-2910.

Food Talk Series

UGA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program is offering free virtual and in-person classes with a series of sessions featuring meals in minutes called "Food Talk." If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Erica Chaney at 706-665-2397 or Erica.Chaney@uga.edu. You can also visit the Talbot County Extension Office at 401 S. Washington Ave. in Talbotton.

How to Submit Items

The Talbotton New Era gladly prints items of interest for the community as well as local church news and events by non-profit organizations.

Please note the deadline for items for the community and church events section of the newspaper must be received by 12 noon on Monday, prior to run date to be printed in that week's issue. Items received after the Monday deadline will not appear until the following week.

Please do not send items more than once. Items will continue to be printed in the newspaper until the event is over.

Sorry no flyers, items written in all capital letters or items sent as pdf files are accepted.

Please email items as an attached on a Word document or as email body copy. Jpegs, pdfs, etc. can not be used by the newspaper for news copy.

Please do not indent or double space between paragraphs and sentences.

Please do not use 2025 or spell out months of the year, simply use Sept. 10. Do not use times in this manner 5:00, please use 5 p.m.

Photographs can only be accepted in jpeg format and as an attachment to an email. Please do not attached them to Word documents. Such photographs do not work well.

Please note the newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject any submission for the things to do section or the newspaper.

We appreciate your continued support of the Talbotton New Era.

The Planet Priplanus

By ANDY KOBER

In 1965, the television series *Lost in Space* premiered.

Originally filmed and aired in black and white and taking place in 1997, the Robinson family along with a US Space Corps Major and a B-9 environmental control planet with the goal of reaching an Earth-like planet orbiting Alpha Centauri.

The mission goes awry quickly as a saboteur sabotages the robot's controls, but is then trapped on the spacecraft during launch. His weight, along with the robot smashing the spacecraft's controls, sends it off course and - as the name implies - lost in space.

The spacecraft, *Jupiter 2*, crashes onto the surface of a planet identified as Priplanus. The entire first season of the series deals with the castaways living on Priplanus.

Alpha Centauri is real. It is a three-star system that includes Rigil Kentaurus, Toliman, and Proxima Centauri, and visible to the unaided eye. Proxima Centauri is the closest to Earth, at a distance of just over four light-years. It is a faint red dwarf that cannot be

seen with the unaided eye.

Interestingly, Proxima Centauri has two orbiting planets and one is in the "habitable zone". Rigil Kentaurus may have an orbiting planet in the "habital zone" as well and is reported to be about the size of Saturn.

The planet Priplanus does not exist, and how the name came about is unknown. Further, while the planet was identified, the star it orbited never was.

Changing to what is real, our favorite amateur astronomer, Ms. Lynn, notes that on Mar. 31, 2005, astronomers Michael Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David Rabinowitz discovered the dwarf planet Makemake, located in the Kuiper Belt. The astronomers were working at the Palomar Observatory in California. To date, Makemake is the largest dwarf planet to have been discovered in the Kuiper Belt.

Keep your eyes on the sky for passing fireballs.

Meteors can flash across the sky anytime, day or night,

and extraordinarily bright meteors are often referred to as fireballs --- and they are spotted quite often.

On Monday, Mar. 16, 222 people across Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Ontario, Canada reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first reported at 9:01 am by a skywatcher in Olmstead Falls, Ohio. The fireball was seen as far north as Saginaw, MI, as far east as Tabernacle, NJ, as far south as Gibsonville, NC, and as far west as Geneseo, IL. The fireball appeared to be travelling from north to south.

Twelve people reported hearing the fireball make noise as it passed and 19 reported seeing it fragment into smaller pieces. The fireball was captured on five still pictures and five videos.

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

We will continue researching planets found in science fiction soon. In the meantime 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.

Happy skywatching!

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TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHILD FIND PROGRAM INFORMATION

In accordance with IDEA regulations, the Talbot County School District seeks to ensure that all children with disabilities (ages 3-21) within its jurisdiction are being served. Child Find is a federally established comprehensive system designed to ensure that each child, regardless of disability, has access to a free and appropriate public education.

The purpose of Child Find is to locate, identify, and evaluate children from 3 to 21 years of age who may have a developmental delay or other disabilities and provide appropriate services. Talbot County School District offers Special Education services to eligible students (ages 3 through 21) enrolled in the county schools, those who may be home-schooled, or enrolled in private schools and preschools, including religious schools.

All referrals are confidential, and services are provided at no cost to the family. If you know a child who may have a problem with learning, speech, vision, or hearing, or who has physical or health impairments, please notify:

Mr. James Short, Director of Federal Programs/Special Education
Mr. Clayton Teat, Special Education Assistant Director
Talbot County School District
Phone Number: 706-665-8528
jshort@talbot.k12.ga.us
cteat@talbot.k12.ga.us
Fax Number: 706-665-3620

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Why I Despise Time Change

The weekend of March 7th and 8th, we did the semi-annual ritual of advancing our clocks one hour, as Daylight Saving Time began. The result reminded me why I totally despise the entire idea of Daylight Saving Time.

First of all, we aren't actually saving anything.

The idea of setting our clocks forward one hour to "gain" an hour of daylight implies that there's extra light out there to grab. There isn't. What we're doing is making sunrise later, so sunset is later, or some such silliness as that.

It's like taking a blanket, cutting one foot off the end, sewing it onto the other end, and saying your blanket is a foot longer. (Thanks to my Native American brethren for that metaphor; I like it a lot.)

I can recall when the U.S. went to year-round Daylight Saving Time back in the 1970s. It was touted as a great idea - and weirdly, we're hearing the same idea being proposed once again. Well, either advancing the clocks all year round or not advancing the clocks all year round, one or the other. Back when I was in high school in the early '70s, though, the clocks were advanced all year.

It was a disaster.

Kids were waiting for school buses in the dark, throughout the entire school year. Families didn't even have the hope of sunrise coming earlier, because with the clocks adjusted, it didn't - not while school was in session, anyway.

Daylight Saving Time only provides "extra" daylight during the late spring, summer, and early fall. It doesn't do a blessed bit of good during the school year - which is fall, winter, and early spring.

People have a hard time adjusting to DST as well. (I'm going to use that abbreviation for the rest of this column; I'm tired of writing out Daylight Saving Time.)

For instance, I don't react well to it at all. The older I get, the harder it is for me to adjust my sleep cycle to the late/early onset of sunrise, depending on whether the clocks are set forward or not. It takes longer and longer for my circadian rhythm to catch up to the foolish adjustment of arbitrary time.

You know, back in our history, we didn't worry about things like time zones or DST or anything like that. Noon, for instance, was when the Sun was directly overhead, not when some bureaucratic muckey-muck said it was.

That meant, as you've already figured out, that noon in this part of Georgia was not the same as noon in another part of the state.



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

Curvature of the Earth and all that.

This was at a time when people were doing a lot of traveling - by stagecoach, then by train. It became important for schedules to be synchronized, so "time zones" were created.

Then came DST and it all went to heck in a handbasket.

Why can't we just follow the lead of, say, Arizona, which doesn't bother with DST at all?

Well, there's a major issue there too. (Follow along closely, because this is easily confusing.) See, the Navajo Nation of Native Americans does recognize DST, and that area spans Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Arizona doesn't participate in DST, but the other two states do.

So while Arizona doesn't change their clocks, the Navajo living there do, and as Mental Floss puts it, there's a doughnut in Arizona where the Navajo are an hour ahead of the land around it - and the land inside it.

Huh?

Yes, there's a section of the Navajo reservation that doesn't set their clocks forward. The Hopi reservation, which is fully within the Arizona part of the Navajo nation, does not participate in DST, so as to be in synch with the state of Arizona around it.

I told you it was confusing.

One of the silliest so-called compromises I've heard offered about the DST issue is a "meet halfway" idea, which calls for setting clocks ahead a half hour and leaving them there year round, thus basking in the DST glow (sort of) for the current time frame and being out of it (again, sort of) for the months in which we run on standard time.

Halfway? More like half-wit.

I just don't think changing the clocks twice a year is a good idea. It may have had some value to farmers when Benjamin Franklin proposed it back in the 1700s, but plants neither know nor care what time it is. They know sunlight, and darkness. Humans should adapt to that, not the other way around.

Besides, this year - for the first time - I forgot to set my clocks forward.

I overslept the next morning.

To Ban or Not to Ban; That Is the Senate Question

If you keep up with the news you have probably read or heard about House Bill 1009, a law that would ban students from having cell phones during the day at school.

The Bill has already passed the Georgia House and is moving to the Senate for a vote. The Bill is not without controversy however, and I'm going to explain why a little later. But here is what the Bill actually addresses.

The Bill would amend the state's education laws and would require local school systems and public schools to enact policies and procedures for the use of personal electronic devices at school and school-sponsored events by students in grades nine through 12. Lawmakers say the Bill is an effort to create a distraction-free education environment and that removing the phones would improve academic outcomes and increased focus learning. Simply put, the idea is to allow teachers to teach.

A good idea in theory, right? However, the Bill is not without controversy and not just from students and parents but educators as well.

I read with interest a story by Bridget Spencer with WRDW-TV. Spencer actually

interviewed some educators who opposed the Bill. The educators basically said that banning the cell phones would shift enforcement of the ban onto teachers as well as limit communication during emergencies.

Spencer quoted educator Darryl Adams who said he worried that the Bill would put the burden on teachers and administrators to police cell phones and that he felt it was a task that could invite conflict. There is no doubt in my mind that teachers and administrators do not want to have that conflict with parents and students.

If you have ever tried to take a cell phone away from a teenager, then you could understand where Adams is coming from.

I remember writing about a case in Texas a few years back that involved a cell phone and a teenager. A Dad took the cell phone away from his daughter and ended up in court over it.

Back in 2013, Ronald Jackson took his 12-year-old's iPhone 4 after the girl reportedly texted mean messages to the daughter of his new wife.

The same day, officers from the Grand Prairie Police



John

Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

Department arrived at his doorstep and asked him to return the phone.

Michelle Steppe, the girl's mother, had called the police, considering the act of discipline to be property theft. She felt taking the phone was an act of theft.

Jackson received a citation in the mail three months later for theft of property under \$500, a Class C misdemeanor. He was offered a plea deal in January 2014 but requested a jury trial in municipal court.

The case was requested to be dismissed and refiled with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office as a stricter Class B misdemeanor, which can result in six months of jail time in addition to a \$2,000 fine.

A warrant was then issued and Jackson was arrested in the middle of the night in April 2015.

When the case went to

trial, his daughter took the stand to talk about her father taking her phone years earlier.

The judge later directed jurors to find him not guilty, which they did.

In theory, I guess taking a cell phone could be considered theft. In Georgia anything valued at less than \$1,500 or less is considered a misdemeanor and carries a jail time of up to 12 months and a fine up to \$1,000. So, I guess teachers and administrators do have concerns and why wouldn't they?

Today, shootings in schools are pretty common. During 2025 there were 18 school shooting incidents that resulted in injuries or deaths, which was the lowest number in five years. Not all of those incidents resulted in injury or death though, thankfully.

Don't get me wrong, I don't disagree with the phone being turned off in the classroom or not being in the classroom, but I'm not sure, if I were an educator this day and age, that I would be comfortable trying to enforce such a law.

The Senate will decide on House Bill 1009. But with the House passing it, I believe the Senate might as well.

Do Not Drink the Ink

Yet again I have been reminded of how truly ignorant too many young people have become.

Let's go back to the beginning.

Facing having to purchase a new printer, I spent months researching printers, features, options, ink costs, and of course - price.

This is not something I do very often as the printer I have been using is getting quite old, so a bit of back-ground first.

I have been using a color laser printer at least ten years, which is ancient when discussing technology and it wasn't new when I got it. It is a big, heavy color laser and the ability to print wirelessly has always been a bit flaky, which was not an issue to me, so I got it relatively cheap when the original owner upgraded and wanted to get rid of it. All these years later and the manufacturer is working hard to obsolete that printer series by charging a ridiculously high price for the toner cartridges. There

are less expensive aftermarket toner cartridges, but they do not calibrate properly. The increasing cost of the brand-specific cartridges, plus the printer finally starting to have some issues, prompted me to seek another solution, meaning exploring the purchase of a new printer.

Not having to make an immediate decision, I carefully weighed all the factors previously mentioned, including a relatively new feature of which I had been unaware that made a significant difference. So I finally pulled the trigger and bought a printer.

Setting up a new printer, or computer for that matter, has become easier than ever despite the fact the instructions were not written by someone that speaks or writes in English as a primary language. Still the setup and installation were easy.

This particular printer, which is inkjet, does not have those ridiculously tiny and



Andy Kober

Columnist

extraordinarily expensive ink cartridges. Instead, it has four separate ink wells and the ink is purchased in bottles, which is more cost efficient.

It was while looking at the documentation on the ink bottles and how to drain the contents into the individual ink wells that I spotted this line of warning printed in bold - Do Not Drink the Ink.

IT IS a sad commentary on the intelligence of people, primarily younger people, that such a warning must not only be included in the instructions but be printed in bold lettering, presuming

of course they actually read the material.

It should come as no surprise as this same group had to be warned not to drink acid out of car batteries, eat the gaily colored laundry detergent pods, or put plastic bags over their heads. And just last week a pre-teen girl died by suffocation while participating in one of those dangerous social media challenges.

In 1969, human intelligence and ingenuity put people on the Moon and brought them home safely. Yet 57 years later humans must be warned not to drink ink, acid, eat laundry detergent, or suffocate themselves.

As a species, humanity is supposed to be growing smarter, but that appears to have ceased. Instead, successive generations appear to be regressing, which should be cause for concern. That's my opinion.

Andy Kober can be reached by email at andykober@hotmail.com

Celebrating March Women's History Month

Viola G. Liuzzo & Viola F. Fletcher

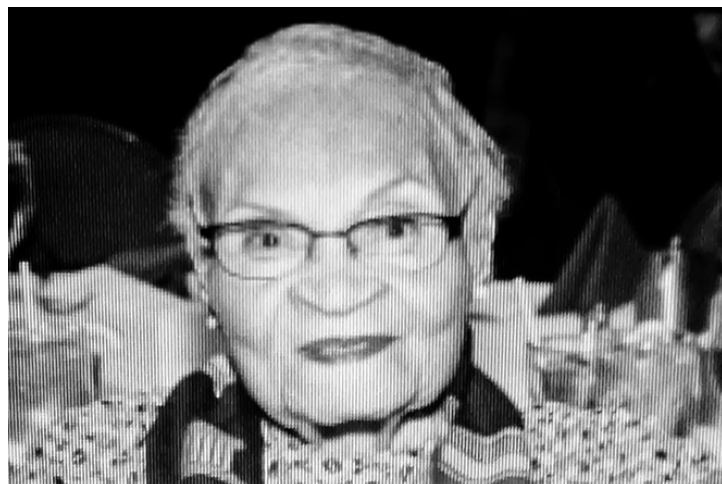
Greetings and blessings! It's an esteem honor and utmost privilege to recognize, acknowledge and honor our amazingly incredible and remarkable women on this platform. In fact, we often have the tendency to look down on women as less than, but not so. So, this month in the United States and other countries, we proudly celebrate women's contributions and achievements. However, today there are two women of many that I will share briefly of their courageous story. One is a beautiful white lady, Civil Rights Activist, Viola G. Liuzzo (1925-1965). She traveled from Detroit, Michigan to join the march to Montgomery, AL state's Capitol, better known as Bloody Sunday, which I wrote about just a few weeks ago as we celebrated its 61st anniversary. Ms. Liuzzo made the ultimate sacrifice when she was helping drive black people to vote. She was caught and brutally beaten and killed by Klu Kluz Klan, what a shame! And now there's another Viola, this time Fletcher, a black lady, one of the oldest living sur-



Pres Hall

Columnist

vivors of the Tulsa Massacre which I recently wrote about. This extraordinarily blessed lady celebrated her 111th birthday in May of last year. Unfortunately, she passed away on November 24, 2025. Her life's story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring fight for justice. Ms. Fletcher says, "I will never forget, the violence of the white mob when we left home. I still see black men being shot, black bodies lying in the streets. I still smell smoke and see fires. I still see black business being burned. I still hear airplanes flying overhead. I still hear the screams." Thank God for these two sacrificial Violas, may they rest in peace! Praise God!



THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA is published weekly by The Georgia Trust for Local News at 3051 Roosevelt Highway, Manchester, Georgia 31816. *The Talbotton New Era* is published proudly for the citizens of Talbot County and its goal is to produce quality, profitable, community oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

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Bible Thought of the Week

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his might power."

Ephesians 6:10

The "Lighter Side" of the News



Don't You Hate It When That Happens?

A Vermont fire department came to the rescue of a raccoon that got its head stuck in a peanut butter jar before fleeing to a high branch in a tree.

The Shelburne Fire Department said on social media that firefighters were tipped off to the raccoon's predicament by Shelburne Water Department personnel.

"Upon arrival, crews located the raccoon approximately 25 feet in a tree. It appeared to have had a little too much luck finding the peanut butter, but not quite enough luck removing the container afterward," the post said.

Firefighters used a ladder to reach the raccoon's position and were able to use a snare to pull the jar from its head, "restoring the raccoon's vision and, to some extent, its dignity."

The department said the incident should serve as a reminder to residents to properly dispose of trash.

"No injuries were reported, aside from a notable hit to the raccoon's pride," the department said.

Million Dollar Chicken Dinner

A Maryland man stopped at a grocery store for some fried chicken and ended up buying a scratch-off lottery ticket that earned him a \$1 million prize.

The player told Maryland Lottery officials he recently stopped at the Royal Farms store on Rock Spring Road in Forest Hill to buy some fried chicken, and while enjoying his meal he decided to buy two 100X the Cash tickets.

Those tickets earned him a total \$50, which he used to buy two more tickets -- winning \$50 again. The man said he felt emboldened and

bought one more ticket, winning the \$1 million prize.

"I was shocked," he said. "At first, I thought it was \$1,000, but when I looked closer, I realized it was \$1 million. I left the store laughing and in a rush. I even left my food behind because I was so happy. I ran to my car to call my kids."

The winner said he has been playing the lottery for more than 30 years, and has previously collected two \$50,000 prizes, as well as a \$10,000 prize just a few weeks ago.

"I'll always play," he said. "It's fun at this age, and I seem to be fortunate."

The winner said his prize money will go toward paying off his mortgage and saving for his children.

Grainy Day

Authorities in California said drivers faced major delays when a semi truck hauling two trailers overturned on a highway and covered the roadway in grain.

The California Highway Patrol's Stockton station said a semi truck hauling two trailers filled with grain overturned on State Road 99, just south of Yosemite Avenue, about 10:38 a.m. last Thursday.

The CHP said traffic was reduced to a single lane during clean-up operations and warned drivers to "expect major delays."

A second post about two hours later included a video of the truck being turned upright and stated that all lanes were reopened.

And That's No Bull

A Kansas sheriff's office is warning local residents to be on the lookout for an escaped bull spotted on the loose in Miami County.

The Miami County Sheriff's Office said on social media Thursday that the bull escaped its pen at the Paola Sale Barn and was spotted loose in the area of Stewart Lane and Harmony Road.

"The bull is considered aggressive and should not be approached," the post said. "If you see the animal, please call 911 immediately."

The sheriff's office said in an update that the animal's owners had located it and were working to capture it.

Ocean Post

A man walking with his dogs on the coast of Scotland found a message in a bottle that had been launched from off Canada's Prince Edward Island.

Mike Scott said he and his dogs were walking on the beach in St. Cyrus, south of Aberdeen, about two weeks ago when his Labrador retriever, Maggie, found a bottle in the shallow water.

Scott found the bottle contained a letter that was sealed in a plastic bag to protect it from leaks.

The letter, which was written in French, was dated August 2024 and said the bottle was being launched from a ferry traveling from Prince Edward Island to the Isles-de-la-Madeleine in Quebec.

The letter's author, Annie Chaisson, asked anyone who found the bottle to contact her through Facebook.

Scott said his wife found what she believes to be Chaisson's Facebook profile, but has not yet received a reply to her message. He said the profile did not show any recent activity, so the letter's author might not be on the social network anymore.

Another message in a bottle found last year took a much longer journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The message, dated Sept. 12, 2012, was launched from Newfoundland's Bell Island and washed up in July 2025 on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula.

That's Just Showing Off

A Pakistani athlete broke the same Guinness World Record for a third time by performing 66 thumb pushups with one leg raised in one minute.

Muhammad Arshad, who has broken more than 14 Guinness World Records for feats of athleticism, earned the title for the most thumb pushups with one leg raised in one minute for a third time in May 2025, the record-keeping organization said.

"Thumb push-ups are one of the most difficult and rare exercises, requiring exceptional strength, balance and mental toughness," Arshad told Guinness World Records. "This uniqueness is what drew me toward them."

He said keeping balanced on his thumbs with one leg bent at a 90-degree angle was one of the biggest challenges during training.

"Time is limited, the body becomes exhausted, yet maintaining balance and meeting the strict 90-degree bend requirement is extremely challenging," he said. "Even a small mistake can invalidate the entire attempt."

Safe Kittens

Animal care personnel in California's Los Angeles County rescued three kittens found taking shelter in the engine compartment of a vehicle.

The County of Los Angeles Palmdale Animal Care Center said on social media that a local resident visited recently to report meowing coming from under the hood of their car.

An officer "was able to pull each kitten out of the engine completely unharmed (but a little dirty)," the post said.

The kittens have been placed in a foster home while they recover from their "bumpy ride."

The center pledged to provide updates on the kittens, and whether they will be available for adoption once they are older.

There It Is

A British zoo's escaped capybara was caught on camera while relaxing on the shore of the River Itchen in the Winchester area.

The 9-month-old capybara, named Samba, escaped from a temporary holding pen at Winchester's Marwell Zoo on Tuesday, just one day after arriving at the facility.

Claudia Paddick spotted Samba while she was walking with her dog on the shore of the River Itchen. She recorded a video showing the capybara jumping into the water and swimming away after being spooked by the dog.

Paddick reported the sighting to the Marwell Zoo, which is sending a team to search the area. Capybaras, native to South America, are the world's largest rodents.

"Capybaras are intelligent gentle animals, with a taste for adventure. They do not pose a risk to the public, however we strongly advise against approaching Samba or disturbing any area she may be hiding, to prevent causing her stress. Under no circumstances should a member of the public try to capture her by themselves," zoo officials wrote on social media last week.

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TALBOTTON NEW ERA PUBLIC NOTICES

HOW TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE

EMAIL: starmercurylegals@gmail.com

For information regarding legal notices you may call 478-987-1823 or use the email address above.

DEADLINES FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Noon on Friday prior to run date.

If legal notice is past deadline a late fee will be charged. First affidavit is at no cost. There is a charge for each additional affidavit.

COSTS FOR LEGAL NOTICES

\$15 per 100 words times weeks published. A typing fee will be charged for legals not on a Word document or in regular email body copy. Cost depends on words in legal notice.

Debtors & Creditors Notice

26-023

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM BENJAMIN GILSON
 All creditors of the Estate of WILLIAM BENJAMIN GILSON late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 17TH day of March, 2026.
JOHN GILSON
PO BOX 1907
COLUMBUS, GA 31907
 Executor(s) of the Estate of **WILLIAM BENJAMIN GILSON, Deceased**
 (3:26, 4:2, 9, 16)

26-020

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DOROTHY ROSS MAZE
EST. NO. 2026-P-6
 All persons having claims against the Estate of Dorothy Ross Maze, late of Talbot County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby requested to present the same, properly itemized and verified to the undersigned for payment, and all persons indebted to said estate are hereby required to make prompt payment to the undersigned at the specified address.
 This March 6, 2026.
 David N. Maze, as Administrator for the Estate of Dorothy Ross Maze
 Cameron H. A. Saunders
 PAGE, SCRANTOM, SPROUSE, TUCKER & FORD, PC.
 PO Box 1199
 Columbus, GA 31902
 (3:19, 26, 42, 9)

26-018

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TALBOT
RE: MONTROSE WYNN LOVVORN, DECEASED
 All creditors of the Estate of MONTROSE WYNN LOVVORN, deceased, late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 2nd day of March, 2026.

EDWIN H. LOVVORN
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF MONTROSE WYNN LOVVORN
 c/o Tina M. Stephens
 Law Office of Tina M. Stephens, LLC
 134 W. Main Street
 Manchester, Georgia 31816
 (706) 846-8438
 (3:12, 19, 26, 4:2)

26-016

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 All creditors of the estate of Ronald Erskine Lee late of Talbot County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 12th day of March, 2026
 Name: Ronald Erskine Lee II
 Title: Administrator
 Address: Meyerson Law Firm:
 120 Village Circle,
 Senoia, Georgia 30276
 (3:12, 19, 26, 4:2)

26-019

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TALBOT
RE: JOHN GORDON LOVVORN, DECEASED
 All creditors of the Estate of JOHN GORDON LOVVORN, deceased, late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 2nd day of March, 2026.
EDWIN H. LOVVORN
EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN GORDON LOVVORN
 c/o Tina M. Stephens
 Law Office of Tina M. Stephens, LLC
 134 W. Main Street
 Manchester, Georgia 31816
 (706) 846-8438
 (3:12, 19, 26, 4:2)

Name Changes

26-014

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: Na?Kya LaShay Williams
Civil Action File No. 2026-CV-019
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY
 Notice is hereby given that Na?Kya LaShay Williams, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia on the 24 th day of February 2026, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Na?Kya LaShay Williams to Na?Kya LaShay Powell. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.
 This 24th day of February 2026.
 Na?Kya Williams
 Petitioner
 (3:5, 12, 19, 26)

Public Hearings

26-024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice of the Public Hearing and Request for Public Comment for the State of Georgia's Draft Annual Action Plan FY26

The State of Georgia, in compliance with applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, has prepared a draft version of the State's Consolidated Annual Action Plan for the Federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The State of Georgia will host a public hearing and webinar to present the 2026 Annual Action Plan. This FY26 Annual Action Plan is the fourth year of the five-year 2023-2027 Consolidated Planning period. The Annual Action Plan outlines the activities that will be undertaken in the program year (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027). The six federally funded HUD programs covered by the Action Plan are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Development Block Grant ? Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). The State of Georgia encourages citizens, public agencies and other interested parties to review the contents of its draft the Annual Action Plan and to submit their written comments. A draft of the Annual Action Plan will be available for review on April 1, 2026 by 5 PM by visiting our website: <https://dca.georgia.gov/affordable-housing/housing-development/community-initiatives/hud-planning/hud-planning-reporting>
 The report may also be obtained upon request from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs by emailing HUDPlanning@dca.ga.gov
 The public hearing webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 10:00 AM ? 10:30 AM. To participate in the webinar please, please register to attend using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yfb7eyay>
 If you have trouble with the link, please email HUDPlanning@dca.ga.gov to receive the registration link.
 All written comments should be submitted by email or postal mail no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Housing Development Division
Attn: Homeownership Development and Preservation Division
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
 (3:26)

Probate Notices

26-017

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF SHEVANTE CARREKER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-08
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: SHEVANTE CARREKER has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of THERESA SANDERS deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. ? 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified

to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **APRIL 6, 2026**.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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: NI?LEJA WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO BOX 157
TALBOTTON, GA 31827
706-665-8866
 (3:12, 19, 26, 4:2)

26-025

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF THELMA LOUISE ADAMS
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-11

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: JACKIE HOLLOWAY has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of THELMA LOUISE ADAMS deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. ? 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **APRIL 20, 2026**.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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: NI?LEJA WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO BOX 157
TALBOTTON, GA 31827
706-665-8866
 (3:26, 4:2, 9, 16)

26-015

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: Na?Kia Renee? Williams
Civil Action File No. 2026-CV-018
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY
 Notice is hereby given that Na?Kia Renee? Williams, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia on the 24th day of February 2026. Praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Na?Kia Renee? Williams to Na?Kia Renee? Powell. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.
 This 24th day of February 2026.
 Na?Kia Williams,
 Petitioner
 (3:5, 12, 19, 26)

26-022

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF MABLE L HOWARD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-10

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: VIVIAN HOWARD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of MABLE L. HOWARD deceased, of

said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. ? 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **APRIL 13, 2026**.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing,

setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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 hear-

ing.
SHATARA POWELL
Judge of the Probate Court
By: NI?LEJA WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO BOX 157
TALBOTTON, GA 31827
706-665-8866
 (3:19, 26, 4:2, 9)

A Haunting Picture: Another Ghost Story

The picture looked innocent enough. It was old, portraying a gray image of a young man in a suit, clean cut, hair neatly combed, on thick paper yellowed with age.

But the electromotive force meter, pointed at the innocuous portrait, was reading through the roof. Could this brittle, decaying photograph, tucked away in the attic of the office that is my windowless dungeon (where I hammer away at a keyboard crafting awe-inspiring sentences) be the source of other worldly occurrences? It would explain the strange noises, creaks and bumps often heard with no explanation.

This adventure had started as a lark one recent afternoon. At lunch a friend and colleague of mine commented on seeing an EMF meter, commonly used in ghost hunting, at a discount shop. No need to buy anything, I told him, and with a few clicks on my smart device, I was equipped to investigate the paranormal. Yes, there is an app for everything.

Back in the office, I put my telephone/spirit detecting device to work. At first everything appeared normal. Pointing the device upward, however, caused a great disturbance on the machine. The screen turned a bloody red color and indicated a reading related to the paranormal.

Assembling a small team, we mounted the old stairs into the building's attic. The meter led us around stacks of boxes, old furniture and the discarded tools of the newspaper trade, everything from ancient typewriters to old computer monitors, straight to the photo in question.

A haunted picture is nothing new in the events of human history. There are



Kyle Dominy
New Southern Dad

countless tales of supernatural happenings tied to great works or art and unexplainable images that have been captured on film.

One such masterpiece is "The Dead Mother" by Edvard Munch. The chilling work, painted in 1899, shows a small child, hands to her ears as if in a state of shock, standing before the lifeless body of her parent. The work has been in the collection of the Kunsthalle Bremen in Germany since 1918. The owners of the piece, current and past, report that the child is always watching. The eyes follow people nearby. The sounds of rustling sheets and footsteps emanate from the canvas. Some have reported

looking up to the artwork and the girl is gone altogether.

Back in the attic, we examined the portrait of the young man. He looked innocent enough, nothing in his appearance hinted at anything sinister. But looking closer, there was another picture underneath. We moved the young man aside and discovered another portrait.

On crumbling paper, blackened around the edges, was the photo of an old man. His hair was disheveled, pointing from his balding head in every direction, his chin was adorned with a long beard and his eyes were wild, rife with what looked like a peer of pure hatred.

The EMF reader, still pointed at the previous picture, returned to normal. I moved it toward the old man. The screen turned blood red ...

You can reach Kyle Dominy at: k.l.dominy@gmail.com or write to 115 South Jefferson St. Dublin, Ga. 31021

Central Elementary-High School Junior Varsity Baseball Schedule for 2026

March				
26	Crawford	Away	4:30	
31	Furrow Charter	Home	4:30	

A Word About New Era Deadlines

The normal deadlines for items for the *Talbotton New Era* are:

News, sports, obituaries, feature material, and church announcements: Noon on Monday of the week the item is to run.
Advertisements other than legal ads: 5:00 p.m. on

Monday of the week the item is to run.

Legal advertisements: Noon on Friday of the week before the item is to run. This includes *all* "pulls" or cancellations of legal ads.

These are *firm* deadlines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE is NOON MONDAY. To place a classified advertisement simply call: 706-846-3188 or e-mail starmercurynews@gmail.com



How long did it take to shoot the 45-second shower scene in 1960's "Psycho"?

By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

Now we are ensconced in spring! The time of year when the robins return, the sap flows, and the leaves bud and turn green.

Days get longer, nights get shorter, and we progress toward the next part of the year. I kind of like the rhythm in that, don't you?

It certainly beats the arrival of spring on, say, Venus - 800° in the morning, and sunset doesn't come for 245 days. Yeah, I'll take spring on Earth any day of the week.

Just like I'll share trivia any day of the week ... especially today! Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... an episode of *Pokémon* in Japan sent hundreds of children to the hospital? On December 16, 1997, an episode of the cartoon show was shown on Japanese television, and in that episode the character of Pikachu uses a "thunderbolt attack" to ward off a foe. The attack was depicted with rapidly flashing colors on the screen, causing some 685 children to go into seizures and be transported to hospitals nationwide. Scientists examining the issue believe the flashing colors may have triggered undiagnosed epilepsy in some of the children, but no one is certain why so many were affected. (Mass hysteria has been suggested.)

... the capital of the nation of Haiti was named after a ship? Port-au-Prince was founded in 1749, and it was named for the French ship *Prince* that was at anchor in the bay. (As good a reason as any, I suppose.)

... one of the most iconic scenes in cinema history lasted less about 45 seconds on screen, but took seven days to shoot? Warning: spoilers ahead. In the 1960 thriller *Psycho*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980), the infamous "shower scene" featuring the murder of Marion Crane by Norman Bates lasts about 45 seconds. But shooting the scene took an entire week. In the scene, Crane, played by Janet Leigh (1927-2004), is stabbed to death by Bates, portrayed by Anthony Perkins (1932-1992), while she takes a shower in her room at the Bates Motel. Hitchcock used 78 rapid cuts and special rigs for water and the chocolate syrup that simulated blood in the scene, as well as a specially constructed shower set



with removable walls. Leigh, who had to spend an inordinate amount of time in the shower as the water poured down, said it was kept warm so she was comfortable. The scene was shot using extreme close-up shots with swift edits, and Hitchcock filmed several takes of each short scene portion to get the exact look he wanted. *Additional trivia note:* Leigh, though on set for the entire week's filming, was not filmed in the close-ups with the knife. That honor went to her body double, actress Marli Renfro (born 1938). Neither woman was nude in the shower during the scene, though the camera shots suggested otherwise. And Perkins was not on the set at all; he was in New York starring in a play on Broadway.

... the first self-service restaurant was in New York? Opened in 1885, the Exchange Buffet was rather Spartan by today's standards. Only men were allowed to eat there. The restaurant opened directly across the street from the New York Stock Exchange and catered to the stockbrokers. Customers could either get their food and eat it at the counter standing up, or take it to a table - there were no servers on staff. The restaurant closed in 1963. (Tipping was easy.)

... there are no direct descendants of William Shakespeare living today? The great British playwright (1564-1616) had three children - son Hamnet (1585-1596) and daughters Susanna (1583-1659) and Judith (1585-1662). Hamnet died at the age of 11. Judith had three children, but all died before she did and none had any children of their own. Susanna had one daughter, Elizabeth (1608-1670), but she died childless. (To be or not to be?)

... a Soviet agronomist created the world's largest collection of plant seeds? Nikolai Vavilov (1887-1943) devoted his life to studying cereal crops that could sustain the entire world's popu-

lation. His work led to the largest collection of plant seeds ever made, but he ran afoul of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin (1874-1953), who had him arrested and imprisoned. Apparently Vavilov's work was the opposite of that done by a scientist whom Stalin liked, Trofim Lysenko (1898-1976), and Stalin - who was not the kind of guy to admire opposite sides of an issue - removed Vavilov from his post. (I guess under Communism, science is what the leaders say it is.)

... the first projection of an image on a screen was made two hundred years before cameras were invented? In 1646, German priest Athanasius Kircher (1602-1680) used a candle or oil lamp to project hand-painted images on a white screen. The first actual photographic camera was created in 1827 by Joseph Niépce (1765-1833) in France. (And an industry was born.)

... it would take a lot of particles of fog to fill a teaspoon? How many, you wonder? Try seven billion. (Now that's a lot of fog.)

... the youngest soldier to serve in the Civil War was only nine when he joined? Edward William Black (1853-1872) was a drummer for the Union Army with the 21st Indiana Infantry Regiment. Black is also the youngest soldier ever wounded in battle; he was 12 when an exploding shell shattered his left hand and arm. He died at the age of 19. The oldest soldier to serve on active duty was Curtis King (1783-1863), who was mustered into the 37th Iowa Volunteer Infantry at the age of 80. He served for four months, being discharged on March 20, 1863, and died four months later.

... if you added up all the land masses of Earth together, it would be smaller than the mass of the Pacific Ocean? (Which begs the question - why do we call our planet Earth instead of Water?)

Now ... you know!
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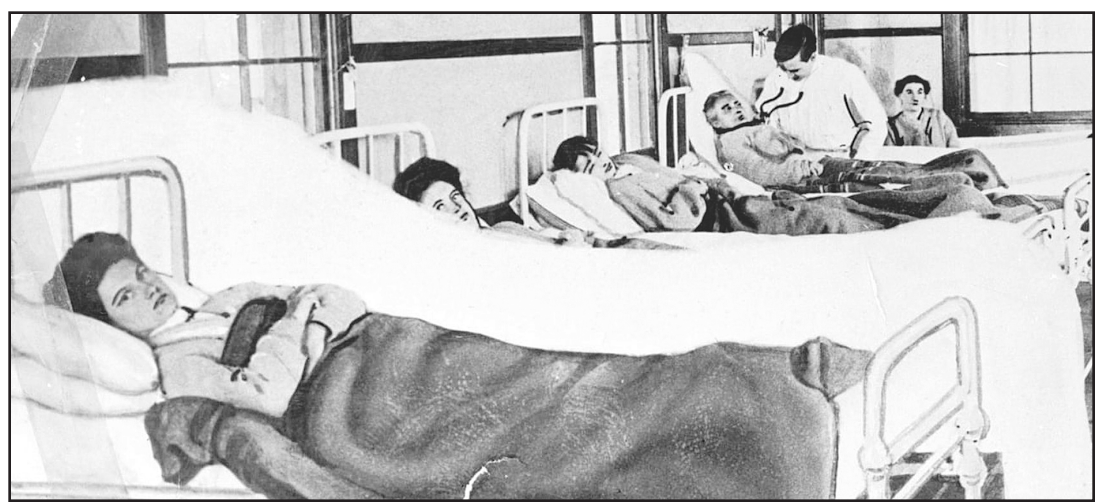


Photo from Public Domain

DUBIOUS DISTINCTION - Mary Mallon, known along the halls of history as Typhoid Mary, is shown in the foreground. Placed in quarantine this week in 1915, it is unknown how many people she infected with typhoid fever or many how many of those she infected ultimately died from the disease.

1915 - "Typhoid Mary" Placed in Quarantine

This Week In American History

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **Mar. 26.** On this day in 1979, President Jimmy Carter brokers a peace treaty between President of Egypt Anwar al-Sadat and Prime Minister of Israel Menachem Begin, with all three signing the treaty document. Both Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize, when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded for actually doing something. Because of the treaty, Egypt would be suspended from the Arab League and Sadat would be assassinated in 1981. However, the peace treaty continues to be honored.

• **Mar. 27.** In 1915, Mary Mallon is placed into quarantine for the second time and will remain in isolation the remainder of her life. Born Sept. 23, 1869, in Cookstown, County Tyrone, northern Ireland, and immigrates to the US when she is about 15 years old. She established a reputation as a hard worker and cook, and history indicates she earned a good living. Between 1897 and 1900, Mallon was serving as a private cook when she contracted typhoid fever, apparently exposed to the disease by a person visiting the family for which she was working. While she did not suffer from the disease, Mallon became a carrier of typhoid fever. From then on, many of the people Mallon worked for or with, contracted the disease. In 1907, Mallon was quarantined on North Brother Island, New York, where she stayed for three years. It was during this time, Mallon was tagged with the nickname "Typhoid Mary". In 1910, the Commissioner for Health in New York released Mallon from quarantine. However, typhoid outbreaks continued following Mallon with the result she was banished to North Brother Island for the second and final time. She died Nov. 1938 at the age of 69.

• **Mar. 28.** Today in 1950,

lasting just five days in the Korean War, Operation Courageous comes to an end. The goal of Operation Courageous had been to trap large numbers of Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army and North Korean Peoples Army troops while also reaching the Imjin River. Despite some operational mishaps and impacts from minefields laid by the PVA and KPA, South Korean, UN and US forces move forward. For the most part, opposition from communist forces was described as "minor and sporadic". Units of the 64th Tank Brigade, 15th and 65th Infantry Regiments occupied the 38th Parallel and in some cases were north of it. There was still unconfirmed reports of the PVA and KPA building up forces north of the fighting. Meanwhile, President Harry Truman is seeking to end the fighting at the 38th Parallel. This information was supplied to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who favored a military solution to the war instead of a political one. MacArthur advises Gen. Matthew Ridgway of this development.

• **Mar. 29.** On this day in 1984, the Baltimore Colts football team relocated under the cover of darkness. The Colts had played at Baltimore Memorial Stadium beginning in 1953, sharing the facility with the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. In 1969, the city sought a substantial rent increase from the football team though the facility had previously been termed as "antiquated". Even a committee established by the city found the stadium in very poor condition. The Colts threatened to not renew the lease, which expired in 1972. Among the political squabbles, rumors surfaced indicating the city might seize ownership of the team via

eminent domain. During the night, Mayflower moving trucks secretly transported the Baltimore Colts to Indianapolis. Fearing they might be intercepted by the Maryland State Police, each of the 15 moving trucks took different routes, avoiding major highways. Once crossing the Indiana state line, the trucks were escorted by officers of the Indiana State Police. Before news broke of the clandestine move, Maryland Governor Harry Hughes signed a bill allowing to seize the team but by then it was too late.

• **Mar. 30.** In 1949, Naomi Ruth Sims is born in Oxford, Mississippi. After a difficult childhood, she was awarded a scholarship to the Fashion Institute of Technology at New York University. Sims becomes an incredibly successful supermodel featured on the covers of *Ladies Home Journal*, *Life*, and other magazines. She dies of breast cancer in 2009.

• **Mar. 31.** Today in 1992, the last active battleship in the US Navy, the USS *Missouri*, is decommissioned in Long Beach, California. She was commissioned in June 1944, and the Japanese surrender documents were signed on her deck to end World War II. Today *Missouri* is a museum ship and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

• **Apr. 1.** April Fools Day. No joking, this is the 91st day of 2026 and there are 274 days remaining in the year. On this day in 2004, Google launches its own email service known as Gmail.

Literacy Club for CEHS Pre-K Students Up to Sixth Grade

Woodland Mayor James Carter has announced that his Literacy Club at Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) will be for students in Pre-K through sixth grades.



Easter is a day of great joy for faithful Christians. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is detailed in the New Testament. Easter is what's known as a moveable feast, which means it's not celebrated on the same date each year. Easter also is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches. Orthodox Christians do not celebrate Easter on the same day as non-Orthodox Christians. History.com notes Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar when determining when to celebrate Easter. Orthodox Easter will take place between April 4 and May 8, following the first full moon after Passover. Non-orthodox Christians follow the Gregorian calendar, which was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Under the Gregorian calendar, churches determined Easter will be held on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. These disparities are why Orthodox churches, which are primarily located in Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, and Bulgaria, observe Easter on a later date than non-Orthodox churches. In 2026, Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on April 12.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Regarding: 2026 Community Development Block Grant
Where: City of Woodland Town Hall, 49 East Main Street, Woodland, Georgia 31836
When: April 1st, 2026 at 11 a.m.

The City of Woodland is considering applying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Fiscal Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant of up to \$1,000,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at City of Woodland Town Hall, 49 East Main Street Woodland, Georgia, 31836 on April 1st, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application and to review progress on the previous CDBG grant (if applicable). The City of Woodland is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Woodland Clerk, Allissa Gresham, prior to 4:30pm, March 27th, 2026. Allissa can be located at the City of Woodland Town Hall at 49 East Main Street, Woodland, Georgia 31836.

Call 706-674-2200 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday or between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact us through the Georgia Relay Service, by dialing (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.



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- 14 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, 4x4, Gray, \$12,900
- 21 Ford Explorer, White, \$12,900
- 20 Honda Accord, Gray, \$14,400
- 20 Toyota Camry, Blue, \$12,900
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- 16 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$9,600
- 11 GMC Canyon, Ext. Cab, White, \$6,400
- 18 Chevy Equinox, Black, \$7,900
- 22 Nissan Altima, White, \$10,400
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- 19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$10,800
- 18 Kia Optima, White, \$6,900
- 15 Jeep Renegade, Black, \$6,400
- 21 Chevy Equinox, Black, \$8,900
- 15 Honda Odyssey Van, Gray, \$7,400
- 15 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, 4x4, Blue, \$14,400
- 14 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, Black, \$11,900
- 17 Ford Explorer, Blue, \$7,900
- 17 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, Silver, \$13,900
- 13 Ford F-150, 4x4, Crew Cab, Blue, \$12,400
- 18 Honda Civic, Black, \$9,600
- 11 Jeep Wrangler, Black, \$8,900
- 18 Jeep Renegade, Gray, \$7,900
- 16 Honda CRV, Blue, \$10,600
- 14 Ford F-150, 4x4, Crew Cab, Gray, \$13,400

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