

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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Photo Submitted

DISCUSSING CTAE WITH SENATOR HARBISON - Mr. Ricardo Lawrence, (right) Business Education Teacher at Central Elementary-High School, recently visited the Georgia State Capitol as part of the program. During his visit, Mr. Lawrence had the opportunity to meet with Senator Ed Harbison (left) to discuss the importance of CTAE programs and the opportunities they provide for students in rural communities.

Talbot Schools Represented at the Capital

Submitted to *NEW ERA*

Talbot County Schools were proudly represented at the Georgia State Capitol through participation in the LEAD CTAE program, an initiative designed to develop and support leaders in Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE).

Mr. Ricardo Lawrence, Business Education Teacher at Central Elementary-High School, recently visited the Georgia State Capitol as part of the program. During his visit, Mr. Lawrence had the opportunity to meet with Senator Ed Harbison to discuss the importance of CTAE programs and the opportunities they provide for students in rural communities.

During the meeting, Mr.

Lawrence shared information about the variety of CTAE pathways and learning experiences available to students in Talbot County Schools. He highlighted how these programs help equip students with valuable career-ready skills, real-world experiences, and exposure to future workforce opportunities.

“CTAE programs play a vital role in preparing our students for success beyond the classroom,” Lawrence shared. “They allow students to explore career interests, develop practical skills, and gain experiences that can lead directly to employment or continued education.”

While Representative Debbie Buckner was not available at the time of the visit, Mr. Lawrence left a

handwritten note along with a Talbot County Schools informational flyer with her office so she could also receive information about the district’s CTAE offerings and student opportunities.

The visit provided an opportunity to highlight the strong work taking place in Talbot County Schools and to advocate for the continued growth of career-focused education. Through programs like LEAD CTAE, educators across Georgia collaborate and share ideas that help strengthen opportunities for students across the state.

Talbot County Schools remains committed to preparing students for success through innovative academic and career-connected learning experiences.

CEHS Track Team Fares Well at Upson-Lee Invitational Meet

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Central Elementary-High School Track and Field team and the middle school team fared well in the Upson-Lee Invitational meet held on Mar. 12 in Thomaston.

Several schools, including Upson-Lee High School, Taylor County High, Crawford County High and CEHS, competed in the meet.

In the high school boys competition Brannon Bussey took two first place finishes. He took first place in the 110-meter hurdles and first place in the boys long jump competition.

Deshun Dozier finished seventh in the boys 100-meter dash.

In the girls discus competition Rihonna Neal finished second and eighth in girls shot put.

Darriana Leonard took second and third in the 100-meter dash finals

Madison Daniel finished fifth in the 100-meter hurdles and 10th in the shot put competition.

Quana Howe finished seventh in the girls shot put competition.

In boys middle school competition, JaQuan Wilson finished seventh in boys discus and sixth in boys shot put.

Brandon McCracken finished third in the boys discus and fourth in shot put.

Tyderius Bussey finished fourth in discus and fourth in shot put.

In the girls 100-meter dash competition, Aniya Rhodes finished fifth.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

BUSSEY TAKES TWO FIRST PLACE VICTORIES - Central High athletic standout Brannon Bussey (shown at left in the top photograph) took two first place finishes in the Upson-Lee Invitational Meet held in Thomaston on Mar. 12. Bussey won both the boys 110-meter hurdles and the boys long jump competition.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

NEAL TAKES A SECOND AND EIGHTH PLACE FINISH - Central High’s Rihonna Neal took second place in the girls discus competition at the Upson-Lee Invitational and eighth in the girls shot put competition.

Effective Teaching Practices and GaDOE Resources Shows Academic Growth

Submitted to *NEW ERA*

Central Elementary School in Talbot County is celebrating the success of third-grade math teacher Mrs. Khan, whose classroom has demonstrated significant academic growth through the intentional use of Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) learning plans.

Mrs. Khan integrates GaDOE’s mathematics learning plans into her daily instruction while incorporating hands-on manipulatives to strengthen students’ conceptual understanding and cognitive development. Her classroom approach emphasizes active learning, allowing students to engage with mathematical concepts in meaningful and practical ways.

In addition to her instructional strategies, Mrs. Khan regularly administers DRC BEACON interim testlets, a standards-aligned assessment used in grades 3-8 to measure student progress throughout the school year. The assessment data provides timely insights into student performance and allows teachers to adjust instruction based on identified needs.

Using this data, Mrs. Khan carefully analyzes student results to guide small-group instruction, reteaching opportunities, and enrichment activities. This data-driven approach ensures that each student receives targeted support and instruction aligned with their individual learning needs.

The results of these efforts have been significant. From the Beginning of Year (BOY) assessment window to the Middle of Year (MOY) assessment window, the percentage of students performing at Proficient or Above on the DRC BEACON mathematics assessment increased from 23 percent to



Photo Submitted

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS - Mrs. Khan, left, has used effective teaching techniques and learning plans provided by GaDOE to show growth in third grade Math at Central Elementary. In the bottom photograph, a student in here classroom is shown hard at work with some of the items Mrs. Khan uses to teach her students about Math.



73 percent. This represents a 50-point gain in students meeting or exceeding expectations.

School leaders note that this growth highlights the impact of aligned instructional resources, strategic use of assessment data, and

high-quality classroom instruction.

Mrs. Khan’s work serves as a strong example of how effective teaching practices and the thoughtful implementation of GaDOE resources can significantly improve student outcomes.

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.



As usual at this time of the year, temperatures are expected to rise and drop over the next week.

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

On Thursday, Mar. 19, the skies are expected to be sunny with the high temperature is expected to reach

about 67 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be 42 degrees and winds are expected to reach about five miles per hour coming out of the West Northwest.

Friday, Mar. 20, skies will be sunny with the high temperature reaching around 72 degrees and the low temperature around 48 degrees. Winds will be coming out of the South Southwest at speeds of about five miles per hour.

Saturday, Mar. 21, the skies once again be sunny and the high temperature is expected to be around 76 degrees and the low temperature around 53 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about nine miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest

Sunday, Mar. 22, the skies will remain sunny with the high temperature expected to reach 76 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 55 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 12 miles per hour and will be coming out of the Southwest.

On Monday, Mar. 23, you will need to make sure and have an umbrella because there is going to be about 75% chance of rain. The high temperature for the day is expected to be around 77 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around

51 degrees. It will feel cooler because winds are expected to reach speeds of about 15 miles per hour and will be coming out of the South Southwest.

For Tuesday, Mar. 24, the skies are expected to be overcast but the weather man isn’t calling for rain. However the day will be much, much cooler with the high temperature expected to be around 44 degrees and the low temperature expected to be around 42 degrees. Winds will make it feel cooler because wind speeds are being predicted to reach about 16 miles per hour and coming out of the East Northeast.

On Wednesday, Mar. 25, the rain will return with a 75% chance of the wet stuff. The high temperature is expected to jump to about 70 degrees and low temperature is expected to be around 43 degrees. Winds are expected to be coming out of the East Southeast at about 11 miles per hour.

On Thursday, Mar. 26, partly cloudy skies are being predicted but there is a very slight chance of rain. The high temperature is expected to be around 80 degrees with the low temperature at about 60 degrees. You can expect wind speeds of about 14 miles per hour and the wind will be coming out of the South.





Under the Gold Dome

A Report on the 2026 Georgia General Assembly State Representative Debbie Buckner

The House returned to the Gold Dome on Monday, March 9, following a long legislative day on Friday that stretched into the early hours of Saturday morning. By the end of the week, the Georgia General Assembly reached Legislative Day 31, meaning that only nine legislative days remain in the 2026 legislative session. Following a very busy Crossover Day, the House turned its attention to reviewing Senate bills that our counterparts passed out of their chamber. Most importantly we passed the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027) budget. Below, I will highlight several key components of the House's version of the FY 2027 budget, as well as other important pieces of legislation that the House passed this week.

Passing a balanced budget is the General Assembly's sole constitutional responsibility, and the FY 2027 budget appropriates funding for state operations for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026. House Bill 974, the House's version of the FY 2027 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$38.5 billion, an increase of \$738 million, or 1.95 percent, over the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026) budget. HB 974 makes significant investments in education, healthcare, medical education-especially

focusing on rural areas, public safety, transportation, veteran care, and agriculture. The budget passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and I am proud of all the work each member did to ensure our state is financially sound, while striving to meet the needs of our growing state.

The House also focused on addressing the rising challenges in prescription drug costs and accessibility. As these issues continue to affect patients, providers and pharmacies across Georgia, the House took steps to further examine the role of pharmacy benefits managers in the prescription drug marketplace with the adoption of House Resolution 948. HR 948 would create the House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications to investigate rising drug costs and how pharmacy benefits managers impact costs. Findings and recommendations to help address these concerns and ensure Georgians have reliable and affordable access to the medications they need.

The House also gave final passage to Senate Bill 420 to support Georgia's coastal fishing industry. Georgia relies primarily on federal surveys to assess



fish populations. These surveys evaluate fish stocks across the entire Atlantic coast and often do not accurately reflect conditions in Georgia waters. SB 420 would set an annual fee of \$10 for Georgia residents and \$20 for non-residents who participate in offshore fishing, and all funds would be retained by DNR. Revenue generated through the endorsement fees would allow the state to conduct its own fishery surveys in order to collect more precise data. Overall, this legislation seeks to protect our coastal fishing industry and allow for more accurate data collection. Now that the legislation has received final passage, it has now been sent to Governor Brian Kemp for consideration.

We return to the Capitol on Monday with a fast-paced agenda as we barrel toward Sine Die on April 2. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Things to Do In Talbot County

Bingo at Chamber

The Talbot County Chamber of Commerce is having one of three scheduled Bingo game nights. With the first one being on Tuesday, Mar. 17 at 6 p.m. Bingo cards will be \$1 per card. This event will be for adults. The next one, on July 21, will be for the kids and the last one on Nov. 17, will be for the families. We are trying to raise funds to help beautify the downtown square.

Parade March 21

A heritage, legacy and unity parade to honor Talbot County residents who have made meaningful and lasting impacts on the lives of people in Talbot County, will be held on Mar. 21 at 2 p.m. The parade will begin at the Courthouse and continued to Heritage Park. To register a float, please email DeMarco Mitchell at demarco.mitchell32@yahoo.com.

Church Anniversary

Open Door Ministry located at 4768 Highway 208 West in Waverly Hall will hold its 21st Church Anniversary on Saturday, Mar. 21 at 12 noon. Pastor Ann Leonard and the church family cordially invite you and your church family to come, participate and help celebrate this special memorable occasion. Guest Speaker will be Pastor Canady Matthew. We graciously thank you in advance for your presence and support! Thank again! To God Be The Glory!

CEHS Career Day

Greater Philadelphia Independent Methodist Church is honoring Women's History Month this Sunday, Mar. 22 at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker for the grand occasion will be Exhorter Siddie Willis of the Bluff Springs CME Church in Shiloh. Everyone is invited to join the church family as it celebrates Women's History Month with this outstanding speaker. Refreshments will be served. The church is located at 3571 Po Biiddy Road in Talbotton.

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Job Description: Cafeteria Bookkeeper / Production Assistant

Job Title: Cafeteria Bookkeeper / Production Assistant
Reports To: School Nutrition Director or Cafeteria Manager

Job Summary

The Cafeteria Bookkeeper / Production Assistant is responsible for maintaining accurate financial and meal records while assisting with daily food production and kitchen operations. This position supports the School Nutrition Program by ensuring accurate documentation, compliance with program regulations, and efficient meal preparation.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Bookkeeping Duties

- Maintain accurate daily meal count records for breakfast and lunch
- Complete and maintain production records daily
- Record inventory usage and assist with inventory tracking
- Maintain temperature logs and required program documentation
- File and organize cafeteria records and reports
- Assist with ordering food and supplies as directed
- Verify deliveries and record received items
- Maintain accurate cash handling records if applicable
- Assist with monthly reports as required
- Ensure compliance with School Nutrition Program regulations

Production Duties

- Assist with daily food preparation for breakfast and lunch
- Follow standardized recipes and portion sizes
- Prepare food items such as fruits, vegetables, meats, and breads
- Assist with salad bar preparation when applicable
- Help with tray line setup and service
- Replenish food during meal service
- Assist with dishwashing and cleaning when needed
- Maintain a clean and sanitary work area
- Follow food safety and sanitation procedures

Recordkeeping Responsibilities

- Complete daily production records accurately
- Document prepared and leftover food
- Record substitutions when necessary
- Maintain temperature logs for food safety
- Assist with inventory documentation

Required Skills

- Basic math and recordkeeping skills
- Ability to complete forms accurately
- Ability to follow instructions and recipes
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Dependable and punctual

Physical Requirements

- Standing for long periods
- Lifting up to 40 pounds
- Bending and reaching
- Working in hot and cold environments

Work Schedule

Typical hours: School days as assigned (Example: 7:00 AM – 2:15 PM)

Qualifications

- High School Diploma or GED preferred
- Basic computer skills preferred
- Food service experience preferred
- Bookkeeping or clerical experience preferred

Special Requirements

- Must follow all School Nutrition Program rules and procedures
- Must follow food safety guidelines
- Must maintain confidentiality of program records

To apply for this position, please email all resumes to Andrea Mahone at: amahone@talbot.k12.ga.us

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16 Honda CRV, Maroon, \$9,800
18 Honda Civic, Black, \$8,900
21 Honda Accord, Black, \$12,900
21 Chrysler Voyager Van, White, \$7,900
18 Ford Fusion, Gray, \$6,900
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
15 Honda Pilot, Black, \$9,400
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
21 Chevy Equinox, Gray, \$8,900
18 Chevy Tahoe, Silver, \$13,900
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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ANNIVERSARY WISHES



Happy 45th Anniversary to the Carters

Photo Submitted
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF MARITAL BLISS - Happy 45th anniversary to T.L. and Cynthia Carter. The happy couple reached the milestone on March 7.

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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Danyale Starley, Interim Executive Director

DuBose Porter, Publisher Emeritus.

Pam Burney, General Manager

JOHN KUYKENDALL
PUBLISHER/EDITOR

JACK BAGLEY
LAYOUT EDITOR

BRYAN GETER
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Phone (706) 846-3188

starmercuryjohn@gmail.com

P. O. Box 426

Manchester, GA 31816
Official Legal Organ of Talbot County.

They Only Have to Be Wrong One Time

Last weekend, a major storm system developed and began heading in our direction. The weather system promised lightning, thunder, high winds, hail, and the possibility of a tornado or two.

After watching the development of this system and its movement, and consulting with whomever they consult in situations like this, our local school systems decided to close the schools the following Monday morning in anticipation of the severe weather. The storms would have hit about the time the school buses were running, and Meriwether County went to virtual learning while Harris and Troup Counties closed for the day.

This isn't the first time such an occurrence has taken place, of course. We all know of several times the weather was predicted to be something we'd rather not be out in, and the schools closed or delayed ... and then, nothing bad happened. That was the case this past weekend as well, as the severity of the storms seemed to peter out before they got here.

Sure, we did get lightning, thunder, rain, and some pretty gusty winds, but the damaging stuff and the tornadoes and all didn't develop as the bright people at the National Weather Service predicted.

Then, as day follows night, the Monday morning quarterbacks got onto social media and made amusement out of the school system officials who closed and/or delayed their schools, saying it was in essence just another "false alarm."

During my 27-year career as a teacher, I participated in more tornado drills than I care to think about. They became almost routine ... the bell would go off, the kids would grab a sturdy book, everyone would go out into the hallways and face the walls, and on a prearranged signal they'd all kneel down, bend forward, place the opened book over their heads, and wait for the all-clear to sound.

(If you wonder why we gathered in the halls, it's because the classroom walls were the most centrally-located, structurally sound areas of the building and the least likely to collapse should a tornado hit. That's the way it was explained to me, anyway.)

Toward the end of my career in the classroom, the kids were treating tornado drills like study halls - talking to friends, maybe talking to themselves, singing, etc. We teachers would exhort them to be quiet, to listen for instructions, but the kids knew it was just a drill and they didn't really take such things very seriously.



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

I can remember two times, however, when the drills weren't drills, but the real thing.

Once, at Greenville Middle School, we were advised of a storm with possible tornado development approaching the area. We dutifully grabbed books, got into the hall, and "assumed the position," ready to protect ourselves in the event the roof went flying off or whatever - because it could very well have happened that day.

Around the time we thought it might have passed us by, the doors at the end of the hallway blew open as a mighty gust of wind came by, and I am certain that even the most practical of our class practical jokers became converts to the cause. While a tornado had not struck anywhere near, that gust of wind was enough to put the fear of God and the Internal Revenue Service into the hardest of hearts.

I want to take this opportunity to say a couple of things to the Monday morning quarterbacks who get their jollies decrying the decisions of the school system when the forecast calls for severe weather:

First, weather forecasting is at best an inexact science. Sure, satellites and computer models can give you a very good idea of what is happening and what may happen next, but there's always a joker in the deck and in this case it's the atmosphere itself. As quickly as a storm can bubble up, it can dissipate, and even the best of our weather people can't tell you why it does that. If they predict bad weather and it isn't as bad as they predict, you should consider that a blessing, not curse at the people who run the schools.

Second, unless you are a leader in the system, you can sit in the comfort of your living room and scoff at the school board. You don't have the responsibility for the safety of thousands of children and adults on your hands. You don't know what they know.

And remember this, always, when you think about such preventive measures: The call to close schools in the face of severe weather is always the right one.

They only have to be wrong once to prove it.

Dealing With Loss of Two Pets in Less Than a Week

On Sunday, two weeks ago, I was a patient at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus and struggling with serious infection after surgery. To say it was painful would be an understatement, but what followed hurt way more than the pain I was enduring.

While being tested, poked and prodded my wife announced that our 11-year old pet Dixie had gone into a bad seizure and our veterinarian, Lauren King was in route to our home. Later, I was told that she could not stop the seizures and that, the humane thing to do was to put Dixie down. That hurt me pretty bad but little did I know the hurt was just beginning.

After getting home from the hospital, our 12 year old Boxer, Georgia, couldn't stand, wouldn't eat and was in really bad shape. With the pain of losing Dixie the day before still in the forefront, I was off to Valley Veterinary Associates in Pine Mountain with Georgia.

I couldn't help but cry and Dr. Michael Schwitalla (Dr. Mike), who has been my veterinarian for years said he would do all he could for Georgia. She remained at the office and each day Dr. Mike

would give me an update on her condition and each day the hurt got worse. I couldn't help it, thinking about the loss of Dixie and Georgia being in such bad shape was wearing on me.

Finally, on Friday only five days after losing Dixie, Dr. Mike called and said he would like for my wife and I to visit Georgia on Saturday morning. We did and quickly realized the hurt was about to get worse.

Georgia had gotten so weak she couldn't stand, she was barely eating and it was easy to tell she was suffering. I couldn't handle that. Seeing her suffer was just unbearable so the decision was made to euthanize her as well and end the suffering. I'm not sure how many tears I shed but probably enough to fill a gallon bucket. It was painful to watch as Dr. Mike put the needle in and wait for her to take her last breath.

If you have a pet you love then you have to understand they are not an animal, they are a member of the family and it hurts when they pass away or when they are very sick. At our house, pets are not pets, they are our babies.

Georgia was very special



John Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

to me. When we first purchased Georgia I have to admit she was a handful, like any pup will be. But it didn't take long for her to win my heart. I spent time teaching her to sit, lay down, shake hands, give high fives and more. Her favorite thing to do with me was to put her paws around my neck asking for a hug and me telling her, "You are my sweet baby girl." I have to admit, it was one of my favorite things each day as well.

Dixie was a different breed. She did things her way. A sweet dog but not one to enjoy being petted a lot or learning tricks. However, she was always the loudest dog when a family member walked through the door. Dixie was going to welcome you home with barks, tail wagging and those incredible puppy eyes that you could just see the smile in.

Georgia would always run

up to you for a pet when you returned home. So, walking through that front door has been tough over the past two weeks for my wife and I, but just as bad as our other pets.

Yes, we have two other rescued pets and for people who do not believe that animals having feelings and can grieve, well they do. Georgia and Dixie had a routine every morning. We have a small barn and they loved to get under that barn every day. When they did not return the other two dogs for at least three days, would go to the barn every morning and stand there looking under it for Georgia and Dixie. They didn't eat much and it was easy to tell they were mourning just like we were.

It's going to take a while to get past the loss and, losing two pets in six days has been especially tough. I miss them greatly and I know I will for a while but they did have a good life and home for their short time on Earth and I'm thankful to have played a small part in their lives.

However, I want to thank Valley Veterinary Associates for all they did for our beloved fur babies and what they did to help make the loss a little easier.

Issues Involving Data Centers

Data centers can be cause for concern but attempting to separate real issues from hysteria or hyperbole can be difficult.

Last week we examined what data centers are, what they do, and why more of them are needed. This column will consider some of the negative aspects of data centers comparing those to other forms of development.

Electrical Demand - Data centers do use large amounts of electricity to power various computer systems, heating and cooling systems, and other needs. Climate control is critical to data centers, and the immense data systems put off heat, so large units are needed for cooling and large units for heating in the winter.

The volume of electrical need is determined by the size of the data center - not only the building's physical size but computer systems inside. There is no doubt that data centers will further strain electrical generating facilities and electrical grids, but so do other large commercial centers, large industrial plants, and major health care facilities that are comparably sized.

There have been discussions about solar power, wind power and battery systems, but the first two are not

dependable on a daily basis, and batteries only store energy that is generated elsewhere.

Noise Issues - There will be noise, especially during construction of the data center, but so does construction of yet another subdivision or apartment complex in your neighborhood. When construction is complete, there will be some noise from the computer systems. There will be noise from heating and cooling units, and from backup generators. Such noises are not unique to data centers as nearly all buildings have heat and air systems, and most public safety facilities, hospitals, other businesses, and even some private homes have backup generators.

Water Use - Some data centers do use large amounts of water, primarily for cooling purposes. At some data centers water is recycled, but a fair amount is lost to evaporation. Some data centers have water contained in a closed-loop system used for adjusting humidity and potential power generation in addition to cooling. The argument could be made that a data center drawing water from the Chattahoochee River might have far less negative impact on the river than Atlanta constantly dumping raw sewage in it.



Andy Kober

Columnist

At least one company has reported that some new data center designs will not use water for cooling.

THOSE appear to be the main concerns with data centers, but there are more.

Employment Concerns - One of the complaints with data centers concerns the low number of people employed at one.

Once completed and operational, most of the employees at a data center are computer systems technicians, maintenance staff, and security personnel. Compare that to any mall, enclosed or strip, and how many people they employ.

Traffic Issues - Again, after construction is completed and the data center operational, the impact of traffic is minimal and likely far less than a 300-house subdivision or 300-unit apartment complex with 2.5 cars per house-

hold for about 750 cars entering and leaving daily.

Environmental Harm - Data centers do impact the environment and most often those impacts are negative. There are methods to mitigate as many of the impacts as possible. Other developments, residential and commercial, negatively impact the environment as well. The airport in Atlanta recently dropped a significant amount of aviation fuel into the Flint River.

Infrastructure Costs - Data centers will create the need for additional infrastructure to include electrical, water, and other services. Those must not be allowed to burden other customers and taxpayers but rather should be borne by that company or the investors.

STOPPING the proliferation of data centers is unlikely because society has become too accustomed to, or possibly dependent on, the convenience of myriad electronic devices that drive their need. If objections are to be made to their locations, then let those objections be based on real issues and not claims by "social media experts".

That's my opinion.

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

The Louvre Heist: Planning a Museum Theft

On Oct. 19, 2025, a team of intrepid thieves donned the guise of humble construction workers and pulled off one of the greatest heists in human history.

At about 9:30 in the morning the apparent work crew parked a furniture lift against the wall of Paris' famed Louvre Museum. Using the vehicle to gain access to a balcony, the bandits used a disc cutter to enter the historic structure through a window. The alarm was triggered, but people outside suspected nothing, just another day on the busy streets of the City of Lights. Inside, however, unsuspecting guards were held at bay with power tools while several pieces of the French crown jewels, over \$100 million worth, were pilfered by the poachers.

The criminals left the same way they got in, and, again, no one thought anything of the work team that left the scene just as fast as they arrived. The whole event lasted less than eight minutes. It took authorities about a week to track down the suspects. Eleven people were arrested in connection with the heist, and so far, only five folks have been officially charged for the crime.

The crown jewels, however, remain at large.

Crimes like this always garner a lot of attention, with the lore behind the events reaching mythic proportions and the perpetrators often being grant-

ed hero status. Pop culture glorifies a good heist, with countless books and movies depicting them in fantastic fashion.

Now it's time for me to plan my own. I have become aware of an artifact in need of deliverance, and I cannot rest until it is liberated from its climate controlled archival safe glass enclosure.

Nestled near the Pagan River in southern Virginia is the Isle of Wight County Museum. In the quaint structure housing the history of one of our nation's oldest communities is believed to be the world's oldest ham.

This slab of still-edible meat is believed to be about 120 years old. It is a "Smithfield Ham," cut was the carcass of a peanut-fed hog slayed, cured, treated and smoked in the town of Smithfield, a small town east of Norfolk, Va. and just south of the legendary Chesapeake Bay.

I must eat that ham. But freeing it from the eyes of the public will be no easy task. It is under constant supervision, in the form of a 24-hour livestream called the Ham Cam. A recent study of the footage doesn't reveal a lot of foot traffic near the exhibit. Being the home to the world's oldest ham probably does not bring as many visitors to Smithfield as it used to. In fact, production of genuine Smithfield Hams ceased not too long ago, in 2024, due to



Kyle Dominy

New Southern Dad

reduced consumer demand. So, replicating the livestream online will be a simple task. AI can help me with

that now. Taking care of the guards could be more difficult, but the video shows little surveillance outside the webcam.

On second thought, this job might just be a piece of cake, or rather, ham.

I'll have it out in time for Easter.

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

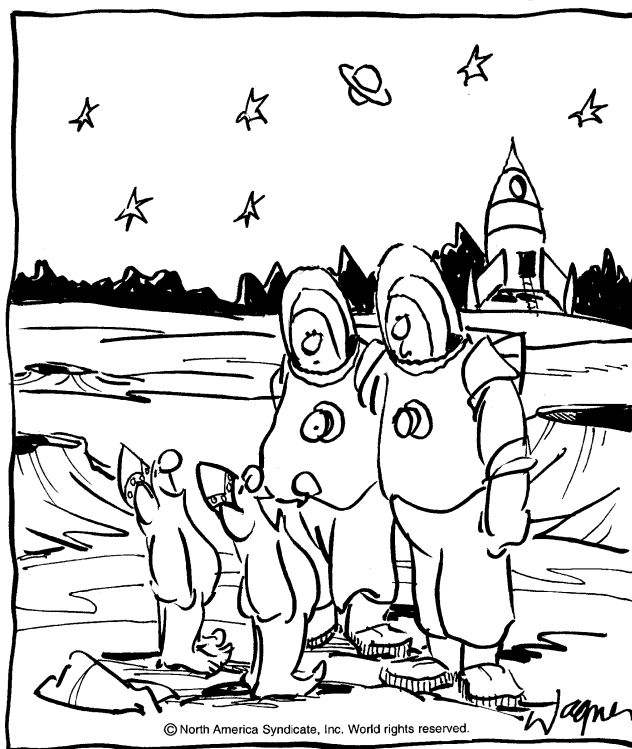
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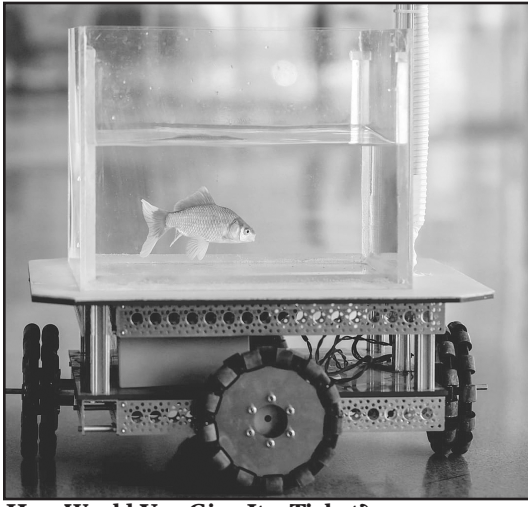
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GRIN & BEAR IT



"You guys really wear diapers?"

The "Lighter Side" of the News



How Would You Give It a Ticket?

A Netherlands engineer built a car for his pet goldfish, Blub, who drove the vehicle a distance of 40 feet in one minute to break a world record.

Thomas de Wolf constructed a four-wheeled vehicle with a water tank for a driver's seat. The vehicle is steered by analyzing the movements of the goldfish inside the tank.

"Normally my job is quite monotonous, so I wanted to create something that would entertain people, turning my 'serious' job into something fun," de Wolf said on Guinness World Records' Italian TV series *Lo Show dei Record*.

De Wolf said that while a car driven by a goldfish might not be particularly practical, the motion-sensing technology that it runs on could prove to be very useful to people with disabilities.

"The objective is to show people what is possible to achieve with this kind of technology, even when it's not necessarily something 'serious,'" he said. "I would love to maybe one day be able to help people with mobility issues."

Blub the goldfish was placed into the car and drove it for a distance of 40 feet and 3.46 inches,

setting a new Guinness World Record for the greatest distance covered in a motion-sensing vehicle by a goldfish in one minute.

"How am I going to explain to Blub now that he has a world record title?" de Wolf mused.

Cheetozard?

Guinness World Records said the auction of Cheetozard – a Flamin' Hot Cheeto shaped like the Pokémon Charizard – resulted in a new record.

The record-keeping organization said Goldin Auctions' March 2025 sale of Cheetozard ended in a final price of \$87,840, earning the highly-specific record for the highest price paid for a video game likeness corn snack.

The 3-inch-long Cheeto is affixed to a custom "Cheetozard" Pokémon card and encased in a transparent box.

"Goldin specializes in rare and one-of-a-kind collectibles, and the Cheetozard is exactly this," Goldin Auctions Head of Consignment Dave Amermanat told NBC's Today. "Part of what makes this item so fun and unique is that it bridges two fandoms – Pokémon and Cheetos."

The Cheeto was originally purchased on eBay for \$350 by Paul Bartlett, owner of sports memorabilia company 1st & Goal Collectibles, sometime between 2018 and 2022. Images of the snack went viral on social media in 2024.

A Record I Don't Want to Break

An Indiana man who was asked to fill in for the local gravedigger in 1952 is now retiring after a record-breaking 73 years and 75 days on the job.

Allen McCloskey, 92, got his start as a grave digger at Galveston Cemetery in Galveston, Ind., when he was asked to cover the previous grave digger's shifts for a week in 1952.

The temporary gig, which started with him digging graves by hand, turned into a career, and in 2021 he earned the Guinness World Record for the longest career as a grave digger, with 68

years and 191 days on the job.

McCloskey's son, Dean, confirmed his dad finally retired in November 2025 after extending his record to 73 years and 75 days of grave digging.

"He was planning on digging for a few more weeks, but after a spell of not feeling well (even though he is feeling better now), we believe he has accepted his decision, both mentally and physically," Dean McCloskey wrote on a Facebook page dedicated to his father's work.

Lost & Found

The Los Angeles Metro revealed some of the most unusual items in its Lost & Found, including a surfboard, a prosthetic leg and a 55-inch TV.

Los Angeles Metro Lost & Found office, located off Pasadena Avenue in Montecito Heights, said about 1,000 items are left behind on the transit system's trains and buses each month.

Patrick Diaz, communications manager for Metro's customer experience department, said many of the items are expected, such as cell-phones, backpacks, glasses, musical instruments and sporting equipment.

"We see a large volume of recovered items coming through our bus operations, for example bicycles that are typically left on the front bike rack," Diaz told The Los Angeles Times.

He said some of the most unusual items currently housed in the office include a prosthetic leg, a surfboard, a 55-inch TV, blowtorches, large electrical generators and a case filled with VHS tapes.

"Maybe they get up too fast, or they're afraid to miss their stop, and they just get up without checking their seat," Diaz told Secret Los Angeles.

He said about 30% of the items that pass through the Lost & Found are eventually returned to their owners.

"We see a large volume of recovered items coming through our bus operations, for exam-

ple bicycles that are typically left on the front bike rack," he said.

Morning Commute Win

A Michigan man made a quick stop on his way to work and won a \$533,646 lottery jackpot on his morning commute.

The 19-year-old Lapeer County man told Michigan Lottery officials he was on his way to work when he stopped at Mobil X on Van Dyke Road in Almont.

"I stopped and bought a Fast Cash ticket on my way to work and looked it over later that day," the player said. "My mom has the Michigan Lottery app on her phone, so when I saw I'd won the jackpot, I had her scan the ticket to make sure it was real. We started screaming and jumping up and down when \$533,646 came up on the scanner!"

The Double Win Wild Time game scored the Fast Cash progressive jackpot.

The winner said his prize money will go into savings.

Just Thinking of Enrolling

Police and firefighters responded to a Kansas high school where an escaped bull decided to take advantage of an open field and get some exercise.

The Eudora Police Department and Eudora City Fire Department responded to Eudora High School on Thursday when a bull was spotted wandering loose in an open field.

"While 'livestock wrangling' isn't in the police academy curriculum, teamwork prevailed! With help from Eudora City Fire Department, the bull was safely escorted back into its trailer – no injuries, no tickets, and thankfully, no one got bullied in the process," police wrote on social media.

Police joked the bull was slapped with a "mooing violation."

The bull was safely returned to its owner.

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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

26-020
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, SCRANTON, SPROUSE, TUCKER & FORD, P.C.
 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, 42)

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, 42)

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, 42)

General Legals

26-021
GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS
 TALBOT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
 MARCH TERM, 2026

The Grand Jury of TALBOT COUNTY convened on the 9th day of March 2026 with twenty (23) members present and sworn.

The following officers were elected:
 Barbara Stagliano, FOREPERSON
 Deborah Thornton, SECRETARY

The Grand Jury Returned 12 TRUE and 2 NO Bills.

The Grand Jury made the following reappointments to the Board of Tax Equalization:
 1. Vicky Brown January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028
 2. Kathy Howard January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028

Inspections

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-12-71, a committee of the Grand Jury inspected and examined the Talbot County holding cell facilities. Based on this inspection, the Grand Jury makes the following findings:

Talbot County Inspection Suggestions:
 Talbot County Jail: committee members include Angela Sauve?, Shannon A. Farrell, Allen B. McCrory and Jerrylene Pugh. The Sheriff walked the committee through the jail area and administrative offices. He explained in detail his standard safety procedures that respect both inmate and staff needs. Video cameras are in each area. Storage areas are neatly organized.

Outdoor and indoor areas are very well kept and clean. Needs include a staff nurse, phone access in all areas, outdoor recreation for inmates and the establishment of the original jail as a historic landmark. The medication dispersal is organized in distribution packets, yet a nurse us not on staff. The administrative office has poor or no phone reception. The outdoor recreation area is presently used for impounded automobile storage. The original jail-house should be considered for renovation and to be considered a county Historic Landmark.

The Grand Jury Recommends that these presentations be published in the Talbotton New Era News.

The Grand Jury wishes to thank the Honorable John T. Martin for his charge and the District Attorney Don Kelly and his staff for their service and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Barbara Stagliano FOREPERSON
 Deborah Thornton SECRETARY
 (3:19)

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)

Probate Notices

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 hearing.

SHATARA POWELL
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: NIPLEJA WILLIAMS
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 PO BOX 157
 TALBOTTON, GA 31827
 706-665-8866
 (3:19, 26, 42, 9)

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)

26-017
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: NIPLEJA WILLIAMS
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 PO BOX 157
 TALBOTTON, GA 31827
 706-665-8866
 (3:12, 19, 26, 42)



Were Neanderthals really just brute cave men?



By JACK BAGLEY
didyounowcolumn@gmail.com

Mark your calendars! This Friday, at 10:46 am Eastern Standard Time, spring begins!
 It's the vernal equinox, the time of the year when the duration of day and night are just about the same length (as close as they ever get, anyway) and we see the annual renewal of the world - in the Northern Hemisphere, anyway. Down below the Equator, things are heading toward winter.

Here's hoping your spring goes exactly the way you want it to! For me, it always does, since the trivia flows nonstop. Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... the brother of a notorious gangster was a Prohibition officer? While Chicago mob kingpin Al Capone (1899-1947) was keeping his city afloat in bootleg booze during Prohibition, his older brother James (1892-1952) was one of the top enforcement officers in the country. James Capone changed his name to Richard James Hart following World War I in an effort to distance himself from his Italian ancestry and from his notorious younger brother. He became an agent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Nebraska in 1926, and later became a top Prohibition agent until Prohibition itself was repealed in 1933. Later in life, the elder Capone became a justice of the peace, even while his more famous younger sibling was serving time in Alcatraz for tax evasion. (Family ties, indeed.)

... packaged baby food is not the most nutritious baby food out there? It's actually only about half as nutritious as an equivalent meal made from scratch at home. (Yeah, that packaged baby food pork chop is a real doozy.)

... the Nazis tried to teach dogs to talk and read? In 2011, it was revealed that the Nazis had tried to teach dogs to speak, read and spell - and even conducted experimental research in man-to-dog telepathy. Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) was a well-known dog lover, and he instructed that the research be undertaken hoping that dogs would learn to communicate with their SS masters. According to an article in the *Daily Mail*, some dogs were said to have been able to imitate the human voice, with one apparently able to say, "Mein Führer." (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... opossums do more than just "play dead" when confronted with danger? Sure, we all know where the expression "playing possum" came from. But these remarkable little critters, when cornered, also can foam at the mouth voluntarily to try to convince the predator that it is toxic or sick. If that fails, they can also produce a fluid that smells almost as bad as a skunk's spray. (Amazing little ones, aren't they?)

... scientists now think Neanderthals were not really stupid cavemen? For a long time, people thought of our early human cousins as dumb brutes because their skeletal remains led to that belief. Neanderthals had ridges of bone above

their eyes, they were short, and their bones gave the appearance of having supported very muscular bodies. But recent research has shown that Neanderthals - who disappeared about 30,000 years ago - had a more complex life than that of just brute cave-men. The tipoff was a burial site, which held a Neanderthal skeleton, some tools, and the remains of food and flowers. That indicated a belief in an afterlife - something that had to be communicated verbally, meaning Neanderthals had language and, presumably, intelligence.

... two major milestones in human history happened less than a century apart? In 1903, the first powered flight of a heavier-than-air machine took place at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, by the brothers Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur Wright (1867-1912). Just 65½ years later, Neil Armstrong (1930-2012) stepped onto the surface of the Moon. (That, friends, is known as progress.)

... a popular comic strip was born out of office politics? *Dilbert*, the office-based comic strip created by Scott Adams (1957-2026), was originally based on the experiences he was having at his place of employment. It must not have been a great place to work for Adams; rather than fire him, his bosses gave him meaningless work in an effort to get him to quit. Adams used the meaningless work as a basis for the office in the strip. (It worked.)

... four future presidents attended the inauguration of the 16th President? On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was sworn into office as the 16th President of the United States. Attending the inauguration were future presidents Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893), James A. Garfield (1831-1881), Chester A. Arthur (1829-1886), and Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901), the 19th, 20th, 21st and 23rd Presidents, respectively. (A rather august grouping, no?)

... an improvement on the bicycle was invented in 1932? Called the cyclometer and invented in Paris, the new bike was designed to operate on land and water. It had hollow wheels and attached floats, but didn't work as planned. The cyclometer wasn't able to get any kind of good traction on land, and in the water it would float but wouldn't move very well, no matter how hard you pedaled. (Well, nobody said it was a good improvement.)

... a future First Lady wanted to be an astronaut? In 1961, when she was fourteen, Hillary Rodham Clinton (born 1947) wrote to NASA and asked about how to become an astronaut. The space agency replied, "Girls cannot become astronauts," and her dreams were dashed. (I'd say she more than made up for it.)

... the Great Wall of China was once considered a source for building materials? During the period of the "Great Cultural Revolution" from 1966 to 1978, the Communist Party labeled the Great Wall a sign of despotism. People were urged to remove bricks from it to use in their farms and homes. (History? Who needs it?)

Now ... you know!

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BURNED REMAINS - A training exercise turned into a horrific tragedy this week in 1994, when two aircraft collided in the airspace over Pope Air Force Base. One of the damaged aircraft crashed into this C-141 Starlifter before hurtling into a crowd of soldiers preparing for a training exercise.

1994 - Two Aircraft Collide Over Pope AFB

This Week In American History

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **Mar. 19.** On this day in 1918, Congress establishes time zones across the country and as part of the same measure approves daylight saving time, which led to the inane idea of resetting the time twice a year.

• **Mar. 20.** In 2000, Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown and past member of the Black Panthers, is captured by US Marshals in Alabama after a four-day manhunt. Al-Amin, or Brown, was wanted for the murder of Georgia deputy sheriff Ricky Kinchen and critically wounding Georgia deputy sheriff Aldranon English. Almost a year earlier, Al-Amin or Brown, had been arrested on various charges including speeding, auto theft, and impersonating a police officer. When he failed to appear in Court, the deputies executed a search warrant at his home in Fulton County. The officers spotted Al-Amin driving a car and pulled in front of the car to block it. Deputy English approached Al-Amin only to be shot four times with a rifle. Kinchen was shot twice, once with the rifle and then with a handgun. Kinchen would die of his wounds the next day. Al-Amin, or Brown, would die of multiple myeloma while incarcerated in FMC Butner in November 2025, at the age of 82.

• **Mar. 21.** Today in 1949, Edward Joseph Mahoney is born in Manhattan, New York. At the age of 11 he becomes a street singer and as a teenager performs in rock bands. After high school he obtains employment with the New York City Police Department, but quits soon after to pursue a career in music. In 1968 he moves to California, studies under vocal coach Judy Davis and begins using the stage name Eddie Money. His career in music had its peaks and valleys but he does well in the genres of rock, pop rock and hard rock. He also wrote songs for various movies and television programs. Money died from complications of esophageal cancer in Sept. 2019. He was 70 years old.

• **Mar. 22.** On this day in 1950, Operation Ripper continues in the Korean War. Seoul and Hongcheon have fallen to ROK, UN and US forces. US Army 2nd and 4th Ranger companies drop north of Chuncheon, the next target, while IX Corps approaches from the south. Once again, the Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army and North Korean Peoples Army has largely fled the battlefield. A US armored task force met little resistance and became the first to enter Chuncheon. With the capture of Chuncheon, all major objectives of Operation Ripper had been achieved. However, the fleeing communist forces had taken supplies with them and generally avoided fighting when possible. While Operation Ripper gained much ground, it did not inflict the number of casualties or destroy

the amount of supplies anticipated. Still, Chinese and North Korean forces suffered over 7,000 dead with thousands more wounded or captured. Allied and US forces suffered less than 600 killed in action and 3,200 wounded. Military intelligence is obtaining some information about buildups of Chinese and North Korean forces north of the battle zone, but the information is far from complete. In an effort to stem the withdrawal of communist forces and supplies, Gen. Matthew Ridgway expands Ripper calling the next supplemental action Operation Courageous.

• **Mar. 23.** In 1994, it was early afternoon at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina and 500 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division were preparing to board several US Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-141 Starlifter aircraft to participate in a training exercise. Quite a number of aircraft were in the air and another C-130 Hercules was on approach to land. A two-seat F-16 Fighting Falcon was conducting a simulated flameout approach when it collided with the C-130, severing the larger aircraft's right elevator. The C-130 pilots aborted their landing, circled the field while examining the aircraft's damage and landed without further incident. When the two aircraft impacted, the F-16 pilot engaged full afterburner in an effort to regain control, but the aircraft was disintegrating and the crew ejected. The F-16 crashed among aircraft on the ground preparing for the training exercise. It struck a C-141 parked on the ramp and continued into a group of soldiers preparing for exercise. Twenty-three soldiers and airmen die and more than 80 are injured. The death toll might have been much higher had it not been for paratroopers and members of Delta Force pulling injured soldiers from the flames.

• **Mar. 24.** Today in 1934, the Philippines becomes a self-governing commonwealth as the Tydings-McDuffie Act is passed by Congress. The Philippines had been under US control as a result of the Spanish-American War.

• **Mar. 25.** On this day in 2006, about 7 am Kyle Huff leaves an overnight party held after a "Better Off Undead" event at the Capitol Hill Arts Center in Seattle, Washington. Huff is not friends with anyone at the party and no one notices him leave. Huff goes to his truck and retrieves a 12-gauge shotgun and 40-caliber handgun along with about 300 rounds of ammunition. He walks to a neighboring house where he shoots five people in the yard, two on the steps, and more on the porch. He enters the home and shoots three people on the first floor. A nearby police officer hears the shots and proceeds toward the house finding a victim in the yard still alive. The officer puts himself between the victim and house. Huff exits the house, sees the officer, and commits suicide. Five people ranging in age from 14 to 32 are killed and two more are wounded. Huff's motive has never been determined.

The Night Sky is Fascinating

By ANDY KOBER

Jupiter remains incredibly bright in the night sky, but is not the only planet to see.

Those with exceptionally sharp vision in a very dark area might spot the planet Uranus, which can be seen on a compass heading of 285 degrees at an inclination of 34 degrees - this according to amateur astronomer Ms. Lynn. Many people struggle to see Mars or Venus, planets much closer to Earth, but she makes spotting Uranus almost a hobby.

Just to the right and a bit higher in the sky is Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters.

Pleiades is a star cluster located about 444 light-years from Earth and is dominated by hot blue stars. It can be seen with the unaided eye even in areas with considerable light pollution.

In 1610, Galileo was the first to view Pleiades with a telescope and produced a sketch showing 36 stars and



in 1779, French astronomer Edme-Sebastian Jeaurat drew a map of Pleiades showing 64 stars. Today, the cluster is reported to contain over 1,000 stars with 14 viewable with the unaided eye.

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 Saturday, March 14, five people across Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee, reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first reported at 1230 am Central by a skywatcher in Owens Cross Roads, AL. The fireball was seen as far north and east as Benton, TN, as

far south as Tuscaloosa, AL, and as far west as Steens, MS. The fireball appeared to be travelling from the south-southwest to the north-northeast.

One person reported hearing the fireball make a sound, but none witnessed it fragment.

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

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!

4-H Vidalia Onion Sale Underway



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

4-H Vidalia Onion Sale Underway

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-Hers.

Unity Parade Scheduled for March 21

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

A heritage, legacy and unity parade to honor Talbot County residents who have made meaningful and lasting impacts on the lives of people in Talbot County will be held on Saturday, Mar. 21 at 2 p.m.

The parade will begin at the Courthouse and continue to Heritage Park (Youth

Center) and will be a celebration of history, unity and pride.

Families, organizations, and community groups are invited to participate by decorating a float, car, truck, or walking in honor of those who have made a difference in Talbot County.

To please contact: DeMarco Mitchell by emailing him at:

demarco.mitchell32@yahoo.com or by Instagram: @demarco.mitchell.9 or on Facebook: DeMarco Mitchell

The entire community is invited to come together to remember, celebrate, and continue the legacy of those who paved the way.

This event is being brought to you by the What's Your Why Foundation.

Doctors Seeing Spike in Allergy, Sinus, and Viral Symptoms During the Pollen Season

Submitted to the NEW ERA

With pollen season underway and flu activity still higher than expected, health care providers report a significant rise in patients uncertain whether their symptoms are caused by seasonal allergies, a sinus infection or a viral illness.

The Chattahoochee Valley consistently records some of the highest pollen levels in the country, with spring tree pollen counts often reaching "extremely high" levels. Early-season tree pollen is already registering in the "high range."

Piedmont clinicians say this early spike is driving more patients to seek care for congestion, cough, sore throat and fatigue— symptoms that frequently overlap among common seasonal conditions.

Overlapping Symptoms Creating Confusion

"We're seeing more patients come in convinced they have a sinus infection when their symptoms actually point to allergies or a viral illness," said Vipin Mathew, D.O., a family medicine physician at Piedmont Physicians at Riverchase. "Fever, eye itchiness, mucus color and the duration of symptoms can all help us distinguish among these conditions, but many people understandably confuse them— especially this time of year."

Allergies typically cause sneezing, itchy or

watery eyes, scratchy throat and clear nasal drainage—and rarely involve fever.

Viral illnesses, including colds and flu, often cause fever, fatigue, body aches and congestion.

Bacterial sinus infections are more likely to cause facial pressure, upper tooth pain and thick yellow-green mucus, especially if symptoms worsen after 10 days.

Despite warmer temperatures, flu cases across Georgia were higher than normal for mid-February, adding another layer for patients trying to self-diagnose. Doctors emphasize that unlike allergies, the flu is contagious and may require antiviral treatment if detected early.

When to Seek Care
Piedmont urges people

to seek medical evaluation when symptoms include:

- Fever that lasts more than 72 hours
- Facial pain or pressure that worsens
- Thick yellow or green mucus
- Symptoms that persist for longer than 10 days
- Difficulty breathing or severe fatigue

A professional evaluation can determine the correct diagnosis and appropriate treatment— whether that means antihistamines, antiviral medication, nasal steroids, supportive care or antibiotics when necessary.

Visit a primary care doctor or Piedmont QuickCare for treatment of allergies, sinus and viral infections. You can find a location near you by visiting Piedmont.org.

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

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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