

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

Serving the people of Talbot County since 1879

VOL. 148 • NO. 16 THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 talbottonnewera.com 8 PAGES • 1 SECTION • 3 INSERTS • \$1.00

Time Changes Announced for Early Voting

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration has announced that the Early Voting hours have changed from the May 19 General Primary/Non-Partisan Election.

Early/Advanced Voting will be held at the Board of Elections and Registration Office located at 1761 Geneva Highway in Talbotton.

Early Voting begins on Monday, Apr. 27 and will end on Friday, May 15.

The Early Voting dates and times are as follows:

Monday, Apr. 27 through Friday, May 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 8 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 9 from 9

a.m. until 5 p.m.

Monday, May 11 through Friday, May 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Absentee By Mail ballot applications can be requested via e-mail to: elections-registration@talbotcountyga.gov and online at mvp.sos.ga.gov. Ballots can also be picked up at the Board of Elections & Registration office or by calling 706 665-8270 to request an application.

Poll Workers Recruitment Event Planned

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration will hold a poll worker recruitment event on Saturday, Apr. 18 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"We are looking for registered voters in Talbot County, surrounding counties or students 17 years of

age or older who are interested in working elections," said Sharita Trice, Chairperson and Elections Supervisor.

The Elections and Registration Office will offer training and compensation to those who choose to become poll workers. As an added bonus, it is an opportunity to learn about the voting

process.

The recruiting event will be held at the Talbot County Elections Office located at 1761 Geneva Highway in Talbotton. There will be free food and drinks provided.

For more information, please contact Sharita Trice by calling (706) 665-8270 or by emailing registration@talbotcountyga.gov.

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. on 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.

Kidney Disease Awareness Event Scheduled for April 18th in Shiloh

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Warrior Bean Foundation will hold a Kidney Disease Awareness Event on Saturday, Apr. 18 between 12 noon and 4 p.m. at the Shiloh Walking Trail.

The event is designed to bring awareness, support for families and promote health education. The event will bring together local families, supporters and businesses for a meaningful cause.

There will be a walk and line dancing for the Kidney Disease cause.

The event is being held by Tiffany Warrior, who suffers from kidney disease. The event is free and all donations, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

The group line dancing competition will begin at 2 p.m. and it will be choreographed by Tre Little.

There are sponsorship opportunities for the event.

"The reasons to help sponsor the event include to help gain exposure for local families and community members," Warrior said.

"The event will be promoted on social media here and after the event. It helps show support for a meaningful health cause and sponsors will be recognized during the event."

Sponsor levels are as fol-



Tiffany Warrior of the Warrior Dean Foundation.

lows:

• Community Supporter. For a \$50 donation donors will have their name listed on event signage.

• Bronze Supporter. For a donation of \$100 the sponsor will have their name placed on event signage and given a social media shout out.

• Silver Supporter. For \$350 sponsors will have a logo placed on the event signage, a social media promotion and their name announced during the event. • Gold

Sponsor. For a \$500 donation a sponsor will have a logo placed on event t-shirts (if secured early), featured on a social media promotion, a business spotlight post and verbal recognition at the event.

• Bonus Opportunity. As an added bonus there is an opportunity to purchase custom team shirts and set up a vendor table at the event.

For more information or to help sponsor the event, contact Tiffany Warrior by calling (762) 319-2840.



Photo By Pres Hall

AUTISM WALK A SUCCESS - Talbot County brought awareness to Autism in the City of Talbotton on Saturday with a walk. See story and more photographs on Page 8-A.

Skynyrd Tribute Band to Perform April 25

Submitted to NEW ERA

Join us at the President Theatre on Saturday, April 25 for a tribute to Lynrd Skynyrd, the Jacksonville, Florida band that defined the southern rock sound in the 1970s.

Our tribute band, SkynFolks out of Atlanta, recreates the authentic sound of the Florida band on well known hits such as Free

Bird, Sweet Home Alabama and other classics of southern rock.

The tribute show begins at 7 pm, and tickets cost just \$25 each. Buy your tickets in advance through the President Theatre website or purchase them at the door if seats are still available.

The early career of Lynrd Skynyrd ended tragically in 1977 when three members of the band died in

a plane crash, and the other members were seriously injured. The surviving band members reunited for a tribute tour in 1987 and went on to produce seven more studio albums between 1991 and 2012. Although all the original members of Lynrd Skynyrd have passed away now, the band still performs regularly at venues around the country.

Special Event Planned for Talbot Health Department

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County Health Department is holding a "Sping into Good Health" event on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will offer free services for the families of Talbot County. Some of the free services will include:

- Blood pressure checks
- HIV Testing
- Immunization Information

There will also be free information about family and community resources to include:

- WIC services
- the Children First Program
- Talbot County Fire Departments and more.

There will also be free wellness bags for participants and free hot dogs.

The Talbot County Health Department is located at 1073 Woodland Highway in Talbotton.

Spring Fling Event This Weekend

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Spring Fling event in Warm Springs is this coming weekend.

The annual event is held every third weekend in April and is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Apr. 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event always has plenty of vendors that feature local arts and crafts, fruits and vegetables, children's activities, live music and more.

There is no admission fee for the Spring Fling.

The event is promoted by the Warm Springs Merchants Association.

CEHS Concludes Inaugural Esports Season With Strong Performances

Submitted to NEW ERA

Central High School's inaugural esports season has officially come to an end, marking an exciting first year for the Cyber Hawks.

The Madden team finished the season with a 4-4 record and earned a final ranking of 83rd out of 341 teams in the Eastern Regional National Madden Conference. Leading the Cyber Hawks was junior standout D'Andre Strickland, who emerged as the team's top performer and has already received interest from several colleges to compete at the collegiate level. Strickland was joined by sophomores Justin Moore and A.Z. Pollard, who both contributed to the team's competitive season.

The Rocket League team also posted a 4-4 record, finishing the season ranked 53rd out of 131 teams in the Eastern Regional National Rocket League Conference. Senior Deshaun Dozier delivered an exceptional performance, finishing the season ranked among the top five players overall with a perfect 100% goals-per-shot percentage. He was joined by fellow senior Darryl Leonard and junior Demarion Snellings, who played key roles in the



team's success.

As the first year of esports at Central High School concludes, the Cyber Hawks have set a solid foundation for future growth and continued success. With talented players returning and increased interest in the program, the future of Central esports looks bright. A spe-

cial thanks goes to Assistant Coach William House, who was instrumental in the Rocket League team's success.

We are looking to add a middle school Esports team next school year as well as more game titles for the High School team next school year.



Photo by LG Broadcasting

CEHS STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED - Central Elementary-High School recently held a sports banquet to honor the school's student-athletes who participated in the middle school and high school sports programs. See Page 3-A for coverage.



Things to Do In and Around Talbot County This Week

Pastor Appreciation

Open Door Ministry located at 4768 Highway 208 West in Waverly Hall will hold its Fifth Annual Appreciation Day for Pastor Julia Leonard on

Saturday, April 18th at 12 noon. All churches and everyone are kindly and humbly invited to share and help celebrate this most wonderfully planned occasion. Guest Speaker for the event will be Rev Travis Porter II. Thanks for your presence and support! To God Be The Glory!

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 to the newspaper for the things to do section of the newspaper.

We appreciate your continued support of the Talbotton New Era and the Talbot County Community.

Autos For Sale Wide Variety To Choose From

- 17 Jeep Renegade, Silver, \$6,400
- 19 Chevy Equinox, Black, \$8,900
- 20 Ford Fusion, Blue, \$7,900
- 18 Honda Accord, Black, \$11,900
- 18 Dodge Journey, Red, \$7,400
- 21 Chrysler Voyager Van, White, \$6,900
- 21 Ford Ranger, Crew Cab, Black, \$11,900
- 12 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$6,400
- 19 Dodge Ram, Crew Cab, Black, \$11,900
- 16 Honda CRV, Maroon, \$9,800
- 18 Honda Civic, Black, \$8,900
- 21 Honda Accord, Black, \$12,900
- 14 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, 4x4, Gray, \$12,900
- 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
- 18 Chevy Tahoe, Silver, \$13,900
- 19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$10,800
- 15 Jeep Renegade, Black, \$6,400
- 21 Chevy Equinox, Black, \$8,900
- 15 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, 4x4, Blue, \$14,400
- 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 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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Mild Temperatures, No Rain Predicted

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 Talbot County area can expect mild temperatures and no rain.

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

Today expect partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 79 degrees and a low temperature of 63 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 10 miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

Friday, Apr. 17, skies will continue to be sunny with the high temperature expected to reach around 88 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 62 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about seven miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

Saturday, Apr. 18, skies will remain sunny with the high temperature expected to reach around 87 degrees and the low temperature is

expected to be around 61 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 10 miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

Sunday, Apr. 19, sunny skies are expected again today with the high temperature expected to drop a little and be around 78 degrees. The low temperature for the day is expected to be around 62 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 13 miles per hour and will be coming out of the North Northwest.

On Monday, Apr. 20, the skies are expected to be partly cloudy with the high temperature expected to reach about 76 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 51 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 10 miles per hour and coming out of the East Southeast.

For Tuesday, Apr. 21, the weather man is calling for

sunny skies with a high temperature expected to be around 78 degrees and the low temperature around 50 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about eight miles per hour and will be coming out of the East.

On Wednesday, Apr. 22, skies will remain sunny with the high temperature expected to reach around 80 degrees and the low temperature around 52 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about seven miles per hour and will be coming out of the South Southeast.

On Thursday, Apr. 23, the weather man is predicting sunny skies again with the temperatures continuing to rise. The high temperature for the day is expected to reach about 82 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 55 degrees. Winds are expected to be around 11 miles per hour and coming out of the South Southeast.

More on Getting Older and Living in Science Fiction World

Nothing has saved people more time than computers. Whether performing tasks at work or doing some cursory research at home, it's hard to discredit the benefit that technology has had on human civilization. In that same vein though, nothing has wasted more time than computers, whether whiling away the hours with computer solitaire or doom scrolling at work.

Not that wasting a little time at the office is a bad thing. I'm just old enough to have experienced water cooler conversations and sidewalk smoke breaks. Smoking is a terrible habit, but cigarettes don't get enough credit for preventing people from acting irrationally. There's a comedian with a great bit about smoking. You can see it on TikTok; just don't watch it on the clock.

Technology just may well be more addictive than nicotine. A smartphone will tell you exactly how much time you have spent on it, then suggested ways to squander more of your precious minutes. Advancements in computers have long been connected with the lofty ambition of immortality, but what's the point if the future is just looking at terrible AI-generated images on social media?



Living forever sounds very lonely and downright terrible. The Bible says "for dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." If it's good enough for everyone who has ever lived so far, it's good enough for me.

About three decades ago Austrian computer scientist Hans Moravec predicted computers would surpass human brain function in processing speed and calculating ability. He has lived long enough to see that he was kind of right.

Moravec also predicted that a biological consciousness will one day be able to be uploaded to a computer. This digital existence could be backed up, stored indefinitely and downloaded as many times as needed, therefore achieving that immortality people have sought after for time immemorial. Digital longevity makes more sense

than cryogenics. What if you die a long way from the freezer?

The fountain of youth won't come in a spring of water deep in the brush, but a blank robot stored in a closet like those floppy disks some of you are still holding on to.

My organizational skills when it comes to computer files leaves a lot to be desired. I can barely find my kids' baby pictures. I would hate to know I was in charge of storing someone's very life. I can barely get the internet reliable enough to stream the latest episode of "Rooster" on HBO. How am I supposed to backup my brain on the cloud? Just my luck there would be an outage, and I would lose half my memories. Now there's an idea for a science fiction novel.

Getting older does not bother me. The thought of one day dying doesn't scare me. But the thought of wasting time that could have been spent with the people I love does. And there's no computer or robot that can replace that.

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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Deadline Friday, April 19 at 5 P.M.
For more information or to contact a sales representative please call (706) 846-3188 or email starmercuryjohn@gmail.com

Please Take Note of The New Era Deadlines

Please be aware that the Talbotton New Era deadlines are as follows:

- Legal notices must be received by 12 noon Friday prior to run date. Legal

notices received after that date will publish the following week.

- Classifieds and Advertising must be received by 12 noon Monday.

- Obituaries, news, photographs, etc. must all be received by 12 noon Monday.

To contact the New Era dial (706) 846-3188 or email starmercuryjohn@gmail.com



VARSITY PLAYERS HONORED - Central Elementary-High School recently held a sports banquet to honor the school's student-athletes who participated in the middle school and high school sports programs. Pictured above are the varsity football players who were honored. The following awards were presented: Brody Leonard received the Golden Helmet Award, Walter Swan was named the Most Valuable Offensive Player, Karmez Mitchell was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player, Brannon Bussey received the Team Most Valuable Player award, Zacharie Greenlee, Roderic Steed and Alphonso Pickett all received the Coaches Award.

Photo by LG Broadcasting



MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYERS HONORED - Central Elementary-Middle School players receiving awards at the banquet for the following sports included: **Baseball:** Keldrick Stanford was named Most Valuable Player, Josiah Black received the Coaches Award and Best Offensive Player award, Asante Passmore received the Best Defensive Player Award; **Football:** Ahmere Durham was named Most Valuable Player, Asante Passmore was named Best Defensive Player, Keldrick Stanford was named Best Offensive Player and Treyschaun Williams was named Best Lineman.

Photo by LG Broadcasting



Photo by LG Broadcasting

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS HONORED - Members of the Central Elementary-High School varsity volleyball team honored at the banquet included: Madison Daniel received the Best Hitter Award, Saniyah Marshall received the Best Blocker Award, Carmen Chaney received the Best Server Award and Tiarah Denson received the Best Defensive Player Award.



Photo by LG Broadcasting

OTHER AWARD RECIPIENTS - Other award recipients at the banquet included: Varsity Cheerleaders: Amari Hall received the Captain Award, Adrienne Stvenson received the Co-Captain Award and Caitlyn Leonard received the Positive Attitude Award. **Middle School Girls Basketball:** Samiya Mata was named Most Valuable Player, Deasia Thomas received the Coaches Award, Sasha Mata received the Best Defensive Player Award and Tiana Wright received the Best Offensive Player Award. **Middle School Girls Basketball:** Samiya Mata was named Most Valuable Player, Deasia Thomas received the Coaches Award, Sasha Mata received the Best Defensive Player Award and Tiana Wright received the Best Offensive Player Award. **Middle School Basketball Cheerleaders:** Iyonis Stinson, Embrea Willis and Jaxlyn Copeland were the recipients of the Big 3 Award.



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"I've been a model prisoner. ... I model for 'Prison Wear Daily!'"

JOKE OF THE WEEK - Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.

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THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

USPS 532-880

a division of

The Georgia Trust for Local News

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Where No One Has Really Gone Before

As I write these words, four human beings are farther from their home world than any other people have ever been.

There are still people out there who don't believe any of it ever happened. I truly feel sorry for those folks, and I'll get into why in a bit.

The four-person crew of *Artemis II* - Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, and Mission Specialists Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen - made a loop around the Moon on the evening of April 6 and extended farther out into space than any crewed spacecraft has ever gone - 252,756 miles away from Earth. They beat the record held by the crew of *Apollo 13*, which was set in 1970.

When the crew reached their historic milestone, Mission Control played a recording for them, one that was made by *Apollo 13* commander Jim Lovell before his death last year:

"Hello Artemis II! This is Apollo astronaut Jim Lovell. Welcome to my old neighborhood. When Frank Borman and Bill Anders and I orbited the moon on Apollo 8, we got humanity's first up close look at the Moon and got a view of the home planet that inspired and united people around the world. I'm proud to pass that torch on to you as you swing around the moon and lay the groundwork for missions to Mars, for the benefit of all. It's a historic day, and I know how busy you'll be, but don't forget to enjoy the view. So, Reid and Victor and Christina and Jeremy, and all the great teams that are supporting you, good luck and Godspeed from all of us here on the good Earth."

Lovell, in fact, was the first astronaut to go to the Moon twice - aboard *Apollo 8* and the ill-fated *Apollo 13*. If any human could claim that as his "old neighborhood," it was Jim Lovell.

The U.S. space program reached its zenith, I believe, when we had astronauts working on the Moon. Following the last lunar mission, *Apollo 17*, in 1972 we settled for low-Earth-orbit missions like the Skylab space station, the Space Shuttle, and the International Space Station.

All the while, the Moon beckoned us back. Finally, with all-new equipment and the latest technology, NASA has taken human beings back into deep space.

Many here on Earth decry this, claiming there are so many problems that could be fixed with the money being spent to go back. There indeed are problems here, and they are serious ones.



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

But money isn't the issue in fixing any of them.

Political will is the issue.

I've spoken about that before, so let me just say that most of the real, serious, life-affecting issues facing this nation and the world could indeed be fixed, and quite rapidly - if politics were not involved. Professional politicians don't want those problems to be solved, because then they wouldn't have anything to run for office on.

That's a discussion for another column.

Here, though, I do want to address the people who are loud and proud about how we've never been to the Moon, never even been into space.

These are, to me, very frightened people. The technology that had to be developed to do what has been done and is now being done again scares the willies out of them, because (in my view, anyway) it represents major changes in the world that they cannot understand.

So, like a child throwing a tantrum, they simply deny any of it happened, and go on about their day.

Which is fine. If you want to believe that we have never been to the Moon, go right ahead. Heck, if you want to believe in the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, and all that, be my guest.

Your belief does not make it so.

I'm reminded of a very old saying, one that I shall paraphrase here and one that truly describes my thoughts about the Moon-landing deniers:

To those who know the truth, no proof is needed. To those who choose to believe lies, no proof is sufficient.

You can show them photos taken when the astronauts were on the Moon; show them the recent shots of the landing sites from new probes orbiting the Moon; show them the actual lunar rocks. To them, it's all made up, Hollywood effects.

I feel sorry for people who think that way.

The crew of *Artemis II* has set the new world record for how far people have gone from Earth.

I hope that record doesn't stand for very long, and we break it very soon.

Surplus Money a Tool, Not a Trophy

Georgia needs a reality check. Our state's leaders crow about our state's finances, but a close examination shows concerning trends and years of underinvestment. I would argue that we do not have a surplus in the truest sense. Instead, we have unspent cash.

Our foster care system is in crisis with an \$84 million shortfall, meaning our State's most vulnerable children are being served by a system that's structurally underfunded. When a key agency must rely on emergency patches or outside grants to keep the lights on, it means the core funding model is broken.

Public Education, has experienced a dramatic shift of the financial burden from the state to local districts. Specifically, local school districts now cover \$2.4 billion in expenses that the state used to fund. This increases local property taxes, widens inequities between wealthy and rural districts, and undermines the constitutional promise of an adequate public education.

Many Georgians are one illness away

from financial ruin. Georgia's high uninsured rate is more than a statistic. This has a major impact on hospitals which are required to treat patients regardless of whether the person is insured or not. Medical costs for the uninsured is the number one driver of bankruptcies, and is a hidden tax on insured families who absorb the cost of uncompensated care. This is what happens when coverage policy doesn't keep pace with economic reality.

While the state has increased mental health funding, the need exceeds the resources. And public health investments, which help to keep our state's citizens healthy, have not been a priority until there is a crisis.

Infrastructure, which is critical to economic growth, is aging faster than we can repair it. Roads, bridges, and transit systems cost more every year - materials, labor, compliance, everything. Meanwhile, much of Georgia's infrastructure was built decades ago and is now hitting the end of its life-cycle - or is well past it.



Debbie Buckner

Guest Columnist

Deferred maintenance is the most expensive kind of maintenance.

And our Department of Corrections has massive challenges.

The Commissioner testified at an Appropriations Committee hearing that if money were not an issue (and of course it is), it would take five years just to get all of the locks in our prisons to work. That's unacceptable.

We also have a "punishment for creativity" problem. When agencies secure outside grants or philanthropic support to meet urgent needs, they sometimes see their state funding cut in response. That discourages innovation and leaves programs vulnerable when those outside dollars inevitably expire.

Additionally, wars are always inflationary, resulting in dramatic increases in

energy costs, which ultimately affect the entire supply chain. True stewardship means knowing not only when to save, but when to invest in the people and infrastructure that keep our State strong.

Now is the time for Georgia to take a fresh look at its priorities and its fiscal health. Our communities, our workforce, and our infrastructure is straining under the weight of growth due to shifting cost-sharing, rising inflation and lack of needed reinvestment. This is a moment for courage, not complacency. It calls for leadership that recognizes that our reserves are a tool, not a trophy.

Debbie Buckner represents Georgia House District 137 and is ranking Democratic member of the House Ways & Means Committee. This column was prepared with the assistance of Michele Dunn, and House members: Scott Holcomb, Brian Prince, Yasmine Neal, Spencer Frye, and David Wilkerson and Daniel Kanson, Ph.D, Vice President of Public Policy Georgia Budget & Policy Institute.

A Loss of Confidence

Talbot and Troup. To a lesser degree, readership extends into portions of Coweta and Muscogee.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement issues "report cards" on individual schools and - collectively - school districts.

In the last published report, the Harris County School District leads the four-county readership area with a collective score of 84.1, Troup County follows with a score of 76.6, then Meriwether at 67.3, and Talbot brings up the rear at 63.9. Just for comparison, the Coweta School District earned a score of 77.7 and Muscogee followed at 69.3

Parents can draw their own conclusions regarding the scores.

THERE will likely be some nasty letters to the editor because this report is being highlighted, with some school system officials crying foul, but don't kill the piano player, instead point accusatory fingers at the leaders of your school district and in some cases at parents.

Those of you with children in failing, or near-failing, school districts should be concerned but because



Andy Kober

Columnist

the school voucher system in Georgia only applies to the bottom 25 percent of school zones, your student could well be receiving a standard education at a time when education is the single most important key to success later in life. Before parents totally blame school districts for the poor scores, remember that education starts at home. That said, the school districts do bear considerable responsibility.

There are school districts that place too much emphasis on social agendas instead of education. Many people blame the Department of Education and federal mandates for this and they are likely correct. However, Department of Education is going away and states will be responsible for their respective educational systems. This makes determining respon-

sibility much easier.

When teachers not only allow but encourage students to skip a day of education to join a protest march, that is wrong. When teachers and administrators spend time attempting to turn girls into boys and boys into girls, that is wrong. And there are so many other examples of educational failures.

The end result is that parents have lost or are losing confidence in the public education system.

THERE are some great teachers and administrators in each of the school districts mentioned in this column, but when school districts are receiving failing grades, it is not the elected school board members that suffer. The superintendent of the school district does not suffer. The teachers do not suffer. The ones that ultimately suffer are the students, and that is not acceptable.

My final word on this is that school vouchers should be open to all families throughout the state.

That's my opinion.

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

* Jesus Christ Ascension Into Heaven *

Greetings and blessings! As you might agree, little is said about Jesus' ascension (going up) to Heaven. In fact, I think it's a bit unfair since we spend a month honoring and celebrating numerous events yearly. So today, go with me as we dig just a little deeper and hopefully, we will learn together. Too often, I hear preachers say, "On the 3rd day after His death, Jesus got up or rose and is seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, the rest is history," but not so. The Bible records in all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and the Book of Acts that attest to His ascension. Jesus led His followers near Bethany (Luke 24:50-51) and ascended into heaven in their presence. **Mark 16:19** states, "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God." **Acts 1:9** records, "After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight." Even so, these passages anchor the event



Pres Hall

Columnist

historically and theologically, showing that His (Jesus) time on earth came to a dramatic close in view (in sight) of His disciples. Howbeit, this ascension took place forty days after the resurrection (Act 1:3).

Furthermore, His ascension forms the necessary conclusion to Christ's mission here on earth. Jesus explained that He would return to the Father in Heaven (John 14:2-3) and His ascension fulfilled (sealed) that promise. So then, by ascending in plain view, He provided irrefutable (undeniable) confirmation to His disciples that He was more than a mere teacher or prophet. And too, it tran-



sitioned (changed) His physical presence to a glorified state, positioning (putting) Him in complete authority over all creation. Therefore, I appeal to you to read and study these Books mentioned in its entirety. Only by asking questions will you get answers. The more you know about our Saviour, the more you will want to know. Trust me, and I'm sure it will make a significant difference in our walk, talk, most importantly, our relationship with Jesus the Christ. Praise God! Respectfully, and not to offend, but I do ask humbly, that my fellow

Christians please take a careful look at our President, posting with unhinged profanity on Easter Sunday morning about destroying a civilization of people and the tone used. Also, just this morning as I was writing, he posted an AI generated photo depicting himself as Jesus. Perhaps, it was a joke, if so, it wasn't funny, it was mocking and blasphemy. Look for yourself. God, please "forgive us for we know not what we are doing." (Luke 23:34). **MLK said, "The real tragedy is not the cruelty of the bad but the silence of the good! Amen!"**

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.

USPS 589-340. Periodical postage paid at Manchester, Georgia, 31816.

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS call (706) 846-3188 or write to Circulation Manager, *Talbotton New Era*, P. O. Box 426, Manchester, Georgia 31816. Subscription rates: Online and print, \$55 per year; Print only, \$45 per year; Online only, \$25 per year. Prices include all sales taxes. Single print copy \$1.00.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P. O. Box 426, Manchester, Georgia 31816.

"After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God." Mark 16:19

The "Lighter Side" of the News

Courtesy United Press International



That's One Way To Hitch A Ride

Emergency responders in Florida came to the rescue of an owl that was struck by a vehicle and became wedged inside the front grille.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office said deputies and animal control officers responded to a local church parking lot on Easter Sunday.

The owl was found alive, but trapped in the front grille of the vehicle after an apparent collision on the road.

The responders were able to extract the owl from its predicament and transport it to a local veterinary clinic to be assessed and treated.

Hi-Yo, Zebra! Away!

A zebra on the loose in a Northern California neighborhood was safely captured after apparently escaping during stormy weather, officials said.

Animal control officers in Placer County responded to reports of the zebra roaming in Lincoln, a city near Sacramento, according to a social media post from Placer County Animal Services.

The animal, named Zeus, was taken into custody without incident.

"He (The zebra) spent the night with us, charming staff left and right with his calm, cooperative nature and giving everyone a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see such a beautiful animal up close. Not your average shelter guest!" the social media post said.

Zeus, who is legally owned, was returned to his owner.

"Zeus, you definitely made our week a little more stripe-tacular. We won't forget you anytime soon!" the post concluded.

Nice Visit

A Maryland man visiting family in Michigan made a stop on his way to the airport and scored a \$1 million lottery prize.

The 46-year-old man told Michigan Lottery officials he was preparing for his journey home when he stopped at Forest Liquor on Trumbull Street in Detroit.

"I was in Michigan visiting family and stopped at the store on my way to the airport," the player said. "I told the cashier to give me a few lottery tickets and then stuffed them in my bag to scratch later."

The man said he initially neglected to check the tickets.

"I forgot about the tickets, so it wasn't until a few days later that I found them and scratched them off. When I saw I'd won \$1 million, I thought: 'This can't be real.' I sent a picture of the ticket to my friend to make sure I was reading it right, and he thought it was a prank ticket. We were both in disbelief. This is such a blessing," he said.

The winner said some of his winnings from the \$10 Lucky Numbers scratch-off ticket will fund another trip.

A Baaa-ad Situation

Police in South Carolina said animal control officers were able to wrangle some small goats on the loose and return them to their owner.

The Pickens Police Department said on social media that officers received an "ominous call" about goats on the loose in the city Thursday.

"Our officers engaged in several brief foot pursuits with the suspects," the post said.

Animal control personnel arrived on the scene "with the proper equipment" and were able to wrangle the hoofed fugitives.

"Peace was restored, no injuries were reported and all goats were safely returned to their owner," police wrote. "Good times were had by all... and it was quite the comedy show for anyone driving by."

Where Does A Wallaby Enroll?

Local authorities descended on an Ohio college Friday morning when an escaped wallaby went hopping through campus.

Skippy, a wallaby belonging to Carolyn Reno,

chair of veterinary technology at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, broke loose about 8:30 a.m. Friday when Reno brought him to the school to meet high school students visiting the vet tech program.

"Turned around to close the car, and he jumped up and broke apart his kennel and he took off," Reno told WHIO-TV.

Sinclair College Police and other local emergency responders descended on the school to help wrangle Skippy.

The wallaby was safely captured outside the Montgomery County Job & Family Services building after about an hour and 20 minutes on the loose.

"He's OK, he's very nervous. He needs to calm down a little bit, but he is doing very well, and we are just so happy to get him back," Reno said.

The school shared a video on social media showing some of Skippy's time on the loose.

"It's a kangaroo? It's a cat? It's a... Skippy the Wallaby running late for class," the post said.

And Speaking Of Australian Animals ...

Police in Massachusetts rounded up an escaped emu that was identified as a repeat-offender belonging to an officer's father.

Barnstable police responded Wednesday morning to the area of Wild Way, near Santuit-Newton Road, where an emu was spotted running loose.

Nicholas Giammarco, an officer with the Yarmouth Police Department, received a call from another officer asking if he knew the bird.

"My dad has a farm in Marstons Mills just off Santuit-Newton Road, so I knew this had to be Walter," Giammarco told WHDH-TV. "I immediately called my dad, who was still asleep, to let him know Walter was on the run again and I was headed out to try and get him."

A witness captured video of the emu wandering the area while police blocked traffic.

Giammarco arrived on the scene and set about wrangling Walter.

"He startles easily, so as I began walking toward him and the officers got out of their cruisers he began to run," he said. "I followed him to the backyard of one of the residences

and was able to capture him at the wood line. He has a harness, so I tied the rope to it and brought him back out to the road."

Mystery Barge

A barge was spotted floating down a Michigan river and collided with at least two bridges, but its purpose and origins remain a mystery.

Witnesses told WWMT-TV the barge -- a large, flat wooden surface floating atop blue barrels -- apparently began its Kalamazoo River journey upstream of the Angell Street Bridge in Battle Creek, where it struck the structure before passing underneath and eventually striking the 20th Street Bridge.

The barge, which was first spotted Monday, has remained at the second bridge, where it is now moored with a green strap.

John Konner, who captured photos of the floating object, theorized it may have originated from an upstream construction site, but that has yet to be confirmed.

Konner's photos show the barge was covered in plastic when it struck the first bridge, but it has since lost its covering.

The City of Battle Creek said it is aware of the situation, but has not revealed any answers.

It's An Agouti

A woman jogging in Rybnik, Poland, contacted authorities when she spotted an agouti -- a Central American rodent resembling a large guinea pig.

Rybnik Forestry officials said the woman called authorities in late March to report spotting the agouti in a wooded area.

"I've heard all kinds of unusual reports from callers, but then she sent a photo," Rybnik Forestry spokesperson Kacper Paturej told Radio 90.

Paturej said initial capture efforts had to be called off when the cat-sized agouti became aggressive.

The animal was later wrangled by experts from a wildlife rehabilitation center. Paturej said the agouti is currently being cared for at the center.

The rodent is believed to have escaped from a local private enclosure.

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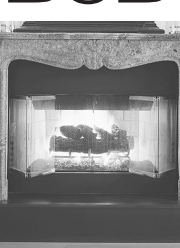
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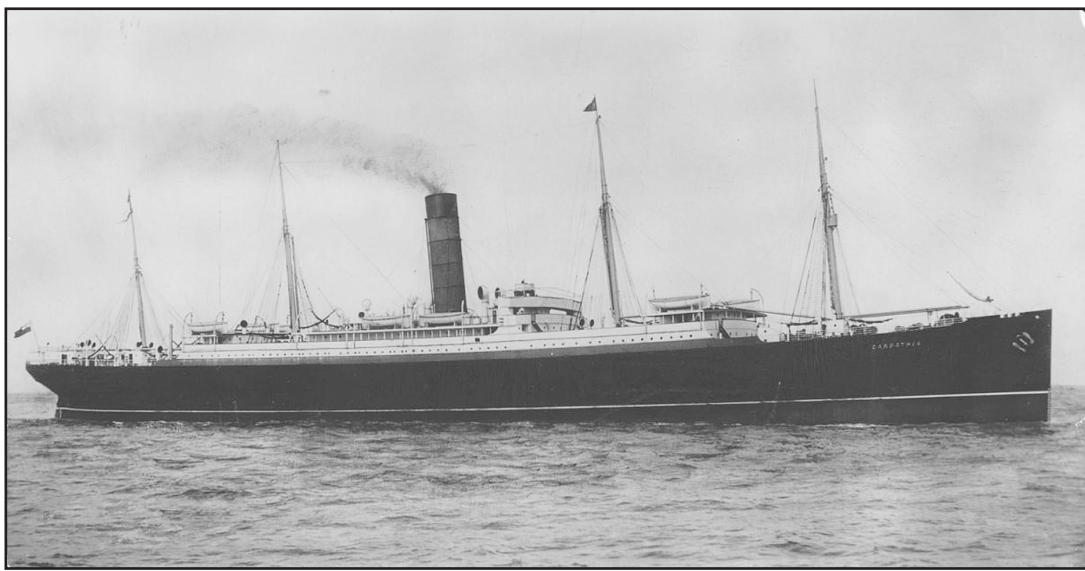


Photo from Public Domain

ANGEL OF STEEL - This week in 1912, the RMS *Carpathia* steams into the harbor in New York City with over 700 survivors of *Titanic*. *Carpathia* steamed as fast as she could manage to help *Titanic*, which had sunk before she arrived. Still, for those survivors in the cold waters, *Carpathia* had to appear as an angel.

1912 - Titanic Survivors Reach New York This Week In American History

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **Apr. 16.** On this day in 2018, the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service is awarded to both *The New York Times* and *New Yorker* for breaking the Harvey Weinstein sexual abuse scandal. Weinstein was a principal in the Miramax film production company and later of The Weinstein Company. Weinstein had a reputation for taking advantage of actresses. Since then over 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment, assault, or rape.

• **Apr. 17.** In 1524, long before America is a country, Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano reaches what will become New York harbor. Verrazzano becomes the first European to explore the Atlantic coast between Florida and New Brunswick, Canada.

• **Apr. 18.** Today in 1912, the ocean liner RMS *Carpathia* enters New York City. A heavy rain is falling as *Carpathia* enters the harbor with over 700 passengers from the ill-fated *Titanic*. *Carpathia* was nearly 70 miles from *Titanic* when the sinking ship's distress call was received. Despite danger from icebergs, under the command of Captain Arthur Rostron, *Carpathia* made her best speed to the disaster to find *Titanic* had already sunk and rescued surviving passengers from the frigid waters. She then sailed for New York at an average speed of 14 knots, just slightly less than her best speed when completed in 1903. *Carpathia's* end would not be pleasant. On July 15, 1918, she was part of a convoy from Liverpool heading to Boston and struck by a torpedo from *U-55*. After passengers and crew had abandoned *Carpathia*,

she was struck by two more torpedoes and sunk. The wreck was discovered by Clive Cussler and NUMA in 2000.

• **Apr. 19.** On this day in 1816, not all northerners were against the secessionist South as antiwar Democrats and Confederate sympathizers in Baltimore battle members of the Massachusetts and Pennsylvania militias. Five Union soldiers and 12 Confederate sympathizers die in the melee that is remembered as the Baltimore Riot of 1861.

• **Apr. 20.** In 2008, race car driver Danica Patrick wins the Indy Japan 300. This makes her the first woman to win an Indy car race.

• **Apr. 21.** Today in 1962, the Seattle World's Fair opens. It was the first World's Fair to be held in the US since the end of World War II.

• **Apr. 22.** On this day in 1951, China has three field armies totaling about 700,000 men poised ready to attack South Korean, UN and US forces in the Korean War. The Chinese call their offensive the Fifth Phase Offensive with attacks that become the Battle of Imjin River and Battle of Kapyong. At Imjin River, the Chinese attack is against British and Belgium forces. Against vastly superior numbers, the UN forces supported by tanks and artillery hold for three days before being forced to fall back. At Kapyong, the Chinese attack fell against British, Australian, Canadian, American, and South Korean troops, also supported by tanks and artillery. The American forces included A Company 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 213th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion, and 74th Engineer Combat Battalion. While the many of the South Korean soldiers fled the battle, the others fought inflicting large numbers of casualties among the Chinese.



Was one of Hitler's top advisors half American?



By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

April moves along at its usual pace, and we are getting deeper into spring.

Ah, isn't it wonderful?

Yes, actually, it is.

I hope your April is going as well as it can possibly go, and that the rest of the year is even better for you!

How about some trivia? Got some fresh stuff right here!

Did you know ...

... it's not hazardous to live near a nuclear power plant? Scientists estimate that you get five times as much radiation from sitting in front of your television that you would get if you lived next door to a nuclear power station. (Sitting in front of the power station would provide better entertainment than television.)

... almost 88% of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere? (Which makes me wonder if the other 12% know something we don't.)

... a feat exists which has never been accomplished by a Major League Baseball player? I refer to the home run cycle. You may be familiar with a player hitting for the cycle – a single, double, triple and home run in one game. It's been done 350 times in MLB history. A natural cycle, hitting those four in order, is much rarer, having only taken place 14 times. But the one that's never been done is the home run cycle – a solo homer, a two-run shot, a three-run shot, and a grand slam, all in the same game. In fact, it's only happened twice in professional baseball, both in the minor leagues. (Batter up!)

... the first collegiate all-female baseball team was fielded in 1866? It was at Vassar College, an all-women's school at the time. (If they were the first, who did they play?)

... the first commercial product manufactured in North America was exported in 1608? It was a glass bottle blown in the Jamestown settlement. (Did it come with a deposit?)

... good ideas don't always pay off? Take, for instance, the White Bicycle Plan set forth in the city of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1965. The idea was to provide free public bicycles for anyone to use going from place to place. Within just one month, most of the bikes had either been stolen or dumped into canals. (They expected something different?)

... one of Hitler's top advisors was half American? Baldur von Schirach (1907-1974) served the Third Reich as leader of the Hitler Youth and later as *Gauleiter* (party leader) of Vienna. Von Schirach's background was very strange for a German leader – his father was a dual German-American citizen and his mother was fully American. In fact, von Schirach was a descendant on his mother's side of Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born in Berlin, von Schirach did not learn German until he was five years old, English being his first language. He first fell into the orbit of Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) in the mid-

1920s. Hitler made him *Reichsjugendführer* (Reich Youth Leader) in 1931, placing him at the head of the Hitler Youth organization. After he was drafted into the Wehrmacht in 1939, he served as an officer for two years, winning the Iron Cross 2nd Class. Following service, von Schirach was named *Gauleiter* of Vienna and oversaw the deportation of Jews from the city for the remainder of the war. Tried at Nuremberg on charges of crimes against humanity following the conflict, he was sentenced to 20 years in Spandau prison, and served every day of his sentence.

... jurors have unrealistic expectations of modern forensic science? That's because of television programs like *CSI* and *NCIS*. The shows, which are built around forensic science, often use convoluted explanations and somewhat dodgy technology not currently available to wrap up the cases in an hour ... which does not happen in the real world. (Duh.)

... Russia has its own version of an American situation comedy? A spinoff of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, the show is set in a Moscow bar named Philadelphia, and it's called "В Москве всегда солнечно" (*It's Always Sunny in Moscow*). (Well, maybe it is, I don't know.)

... the supposed inventor of the motion picture camera is implicated in the disappearance of another inventor? Some of the earliest-ever motion picture scenes were filmed by Louis LePrince (1841-1890), a French artist who created and built his own movie camera. But LePrince mysteriously vanished in 1890, and credit for inventing the movie camera was claimed by Thomas Edison (1847-1931). Two years after LePrince's son Adolphe (1872-1901) appeared in a court case challenging Edison's claim, the younger LePrince was found dead. Modern historians give LePrince credit for taking the world's first motion picture footage. (Film at 11.)

... the longest average lifespan in the world can be found in a small European country? In the nation of Andorra, a tiny enclave between Spain and France, the average lifespan of the people is 83.5 years. (Ah, those lucky Andorrans!)

... two Olympic medalists shared their medals? In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Japanese pole vaulters Shuhei Nishida (1910-1997) and Sueo Oe (1914-1941) tied for second place, but declined to compete against each other to break the tie. Olympic officials awarded Nishida the silver medal and Oe the bronze, but when the pair returned to Japan, they had their medals cut in half and joined the two parts together as "friendship" medals. (Now that's how you handle such things!)

... ice applied to the back of the neck may stop a nosebleed? If you find yourself with a nosebleed, and it goes on for more than 15 minutes, try applying an ice pack to the back of your neck. The cold constricts the blood vessels which lead into the head and may reduce or even stop the bleeding from your nose. (Worth a try, anyway.)

Now ... you know!

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Looking Forward to Artemis III

By ANDY KOBER

Just as I watched the launch of *Artemis II*, last Friday I watched the return and splashdown of the *Integrity* command module.

What an emotional rush it had to be for the latest astronauts to orbit the Moon after a 50-year drought. Once again America leads the way and thanks to President Donald Trump for getting us back into space.

To an old *Star Trek* fan, references to the *Starship Enterprise* were most appropriate as this team of astronauts have truly gone "where no man has gone before".

Though plans could be in a state of fluctuation, the *Artemis III* mission currently does not include landing on the Moon but rather an effort that involves SpaceX's *Starship* HLS and Blue Origin's *Blue Moon* to test rendezvous and docking among all three spacecraft in addition to testing the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit. The current target date is 2027 or 2028.

Keep your eyes on the sky for passing fireballs.

Meteors can flash across the sky anytime, day or night, with extraordinarily bright meteors often referred to as fireballs --- and they are spotted quite often.

On Tuesday, Apr. 7, 284 people across Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first

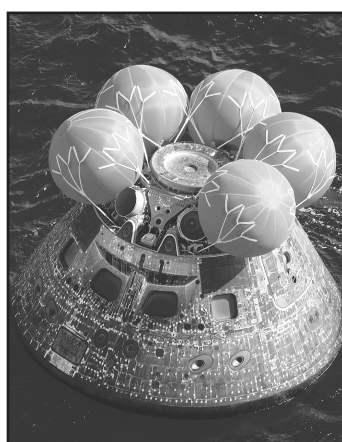


Photo (left) Courtesy Tara Troxell; (right) Courtesy NASA

FAST MOVER - Left, former Harris County resident Tara (Kober) Troxell caught this image of the *Integrity* command module last Friday as it passed over her home in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. Right, the *Integrity* module shortly after splashdown in the Pacific Ocean last Friday. The large balloons, filled with helium, keep the module's nose up while in the water. This is the same basic design that was used in the *Apollo* missions.

reported at 2:50 pm by a skywatcher in West Deptford, NJ, who reported, "I thought it was very bright for a day time event". The fireball was seen as far north as Glastonbury, CT, as far east as Mattituk, NY, as far south as Linwood, NJ, and as far west as near Alatoona, PA. The fireball appeared to be travelling from northeast to southwest.

Forty-seven skywatchers reported hearing noise made by the fireball and 199 witnessed it fragment it smaller pieces. The fireball was captured on seven videos and 10 photographs.

A skywatcher in Union City, GA, reported seeing a

fireball at 8:05 pm Friday, Apr. 9, and watching it for about three seconds but no one else reported seeing it.

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!

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ONE-STOP INTENSIVE CAREER SERVICES/CASE MANAGEMENT/CLASSROOM TRAINING (CRT) SERVICES FOR ADULTS & DISLOCATED WORKERS (2nd Release)

The Columbus Consolidated Government, Job Training Division, on behalf of the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board, is seeking requests for proposals for the provision of the following services, to be administered in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, for the contractual period beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027:

Proposals from qualified organizations to implement Intensive Career Services / Case Management and Classroom Training Services in support of the Individual Training Account System are being requested. The funding is made available through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA). The Workforce Development Boards have the authority to develop and oversee the local workforce system programs for employers and job seekers. The LCWDB is made up of private and public sector community leaders.

The project will include the career services available to adults and dislocated workers through the One-Stop System. Funding for intensive career services and CRT training is available to: (a) unskilled adults (18 years of age or older) who meet WIOA guidelines established by the State and local Workforce Development Board (WDB) through regular WIOA funding; and (b) dislocated workers (this includes, but is not limited to: persons who have lost their jobs due to permanent plant closures, have been terminated or laid off, or who have received a notice of termination or layoff); who meet eligibility criteria for WIOA.

The funding available for these services during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, is \$236,000.00 in ADULT funds and \$106,500.00 in DISLOCATED WORKER funds. Terms of agreements with successful bidder(s) will be for a period of one program year, with a renewal option for a period of two additional program years contingent upon funding availability and contract performance.

Any contract awarded for the provision of these services will be cost reimbursement.

Bidders understand that the performance levels in this notice shall be subject to change based on federal performance requirements for any contracts. The Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Area includes the counties of: Harris, Talbot, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, and Clay.

Requests for Proposals (RFP) will be available to interested parties on April 13, 2026. RFPs will be available for download through the Columbus Consolidated Government Website at www.columbusga.gov/jtd or may be picked up at Columbus City Hall, 1111 1st Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 2145, Columbus, Georgia.

All completed proposals must be submitted at the Columbus City Hall, Job Training Division Office, 1111 1st Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 2145, Columbus, Georgia, no later than 5:00 PM, May 8, 2026, to be considered responsive to the request for proposal (NO EXCEPTIONS).

(4:16)

Debtors & Creditors Notice

26-028

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY
All creditors of the Estate of Alvin Randall Alexander late of Talbot County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
This 11th day of March, 2026.

Charlene Phillips
Executor of the Estate of
Alvin Randall Alexander

Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 119

Hamilton, GA 31811
(4:2, 9, 16, 23)

26-027

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY
All creditors of the Estate of Justin Lawrence George late of Talbot County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
This 20th day of March, 2026.

David Willis
Administrator of the Estate of
Justin Lawrence George

Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 119
Hamilton, GA 31811
(4:2, 9, 16, 23)

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)

26-034

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JOHNNIE REE JACKSON

All creditors of the Estate of JOHNNIE REE JACKSON late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person(s) indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 7TH day of APRIL, 2026.

OLLIE JACKSON
191 WAVERLY HALL RD.
BOX SPRINGS, GA 31801
Executor(s) of the Estate of
JOHNNIE REE JACKSON Deceased
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

26-033

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CLEVELAND HOWARD JR.

All creditors of the Estate of CLEVELAND HOWARD JR. late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person(s) indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 2ND day of APRIL, 2026.

DARLENE HOWARD
405 TEAL ROAD
BOX SPRINGS, GA 31801
Executor(s) of the Estate of
CLEVELAND HOWARD JR., Deceased
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

26-035

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TALBOT COUNTY
All creditors of the Estate of SHIRLEY L. PARKS, late of said County, are hereby notified to render their demands, according to law, to the undersigned, and all parties indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 8th day of April, 2026.

ROYCE H. PARKS, as Executor of the Last Will and Testament of
SHIRLEY L. PARKS, deceased.

Posey, Moye & Cartledge, LLC
#1-D Bradley Park Court
Columbus, Georgia 31904
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

26-038

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JAMES E. MITCHELL

All creditors of the Estate of JAMES E.

MITCHELL late of Talbot County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person(s) indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 9TH day of APRIL, 2026.

MARGARET NELSON
300 CHARTER BLVD
MACON, GA 31210
Executor(s) of the Estate of
JAMES E. MITCHELL, Deceased
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

General Legals

26-036

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

KEITH M. FLEMING AND
LINDA N. FLEMING
v.

Estate of James H. Emfinger, Jan T. Cole f/k/a Jan T. Emfinger, Justin Thompson, James T. Wright, Donna Strong a/k/a Donna Wright, Teresa Crayton, CitiBank, N.A., Asset Acceptance, LLC, and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Plaintiff's title to 0.376 acres, Land Lot 175, 2nd Land District, Talbot County, Georgia

Civil Action File No. 2026-CV-089

PETITION TO QUIET TITLE

TO: Estate of James H. Emfinger, Jan T. Cole f/k/a Jan T. Emfinger, Justin Thompson, James T. Wright, Donna Strong a/k/a Donna Wright, Teresa Crayton, CitiBank, N.A., Asset Acceptance, LLC, and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Plaintiff's title to 0.376 acres, Land Lot 175, 2nd Land District, Talbot County, Georgia, including all adjoining landowners.

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking to establish title to the below described property against all the world was filed on the 4th day of November, 2025, in the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, and that by reason or order for service by publication entered by said Court on the 27th day of February, 2026, you are hereby commanded to be and appear at said court within 30 days of the date of the order for service by publication to answer said petition and file pleadings before the court.

ALL that tract or parcel of land being 0.376 acres on a survey titled Boundary Retracement for Ryan Taylor Wright dated June 29, 2020, recorded Plat Book 254, Page 159, Talbot County records. Said plat is incorporated herein by reference.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit,
Judge of said court.

This the 30th day of March, 2026.

Clerk of Court
Talbot County Superior Court

Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
Hamilton, GA 31811
706 628-5511
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

26-037

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IRENE ELLBECK, MARY BROWN,
SHIRLEY METCALF-RICHETTI
v.

Estate of Ocie Mae Barker, Alfred L. Jackson Estate, Morris Jackson Estate, Dorothy J. Barker, Donell McFarland, Mary D. McFarland, Joyce King, Jeffery L. Howard, Ronald O. Howard, Vivian L. Howard, Tevin M. Howard, and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Plaintiff's title to 9.68 acres, Land Lot 31, 17th Land District, Talbot County, Georgia

Civil Action File No. 2026-CV-015

PETITION QUIET TITLE

TO: Estate of Ocie Mae Barker, Alfred L. Jackson Estate, Morris Jackson Estate, Dorothy J. Barker, Donell McFarland, Mary D. McFarland, Joyce King, Jeffery L. Howard, Ronald O. Howard, Vivian L. Howard, Tevin M. Howard, and all persons known or unknown who might claim adversely to Plaintiff's title to 9.68 acres, Land Lot 31, 17th Land District, Talbot County, Georgia, including all adjoining landowners.

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking to establish title to the below described property against all the world was filed on the 9th day of February, 2026, in the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, and that by reason or order for service by publication entered by said Court on the 27th day of February, 2026, you are hereby commanded to be and appear at said court within 30 days of the date of the order for service by publication to answer said petition and file pleadings before the court.

ALL that tract or parcel of land lying in Land Lot 31, 17th Land District, Talbot County, Georgia containing 9.68 acres according to a plat dated February 29, 2024, recorded Plat Book 254, Page 334, Talbot County records. Said plat is incorporated herein by reference.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit,
Judge of said court.

This the 30th day of March, 2026.

Clerk of Court
Talbot County Superior Court

Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
Hamilton, GA 31811
706 628-5511
(4:16, 23, 20, 5:7)

Incorporations

26-031

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

Notice is given that Articles of Incorporation that will incorporate Hope and Healing Ministries International, Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 8500 Franciscan Woods Dr., Columbus, GA 31909 and the initial registered agent at such address is Phyllis M. Stinson.

(4:9, 16)

Public Hearings

26-026

PUBLIC HEARING

The Office of Dispute Resolution of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit will hold a public meeting on April 24, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at the Office of Dispute Resolution which is located at 308 10th Street, Columbus, GA 31901. The public is invited to attend. For additional information, please contact Ed Berry, ODR Director, at 706-653-4190.

Any request for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in any open meeting program or activity of the Office of Dispute Resolution for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit should be directed to Ed Berry, 308 10th Street, Columbus, GA 31901, telephone number 706-653-4190.

(4:2, 9, 16)

Probate Notices

26-030

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
ELESTER DILLINGHAM, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2018-P-011

PETITION FOR SUCCESSOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

DORIS A. WILLIS & WALTER J. WILLIS has petitioned to be appointed Successor Administrator(s) of the estate of ELESTER DILLINGHAM 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 MAY 4, 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
(4:9, 16, 23, 30)

26-029

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
CORDE' JAMIR PASCHAL,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-15

PETITION FOR LETTERS NO ADMINISTRATION NECESSARY NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The petition of YOLAND NICOLE RUCKER, for an order declaring no administration is necessary in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed. This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition, in this Court on or before APRIL 27, 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
(4:2, 9, 16, 23)

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)

26-040

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR.,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-19

NOTICE

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: ELAINE JOHNSON, WENDELL JOHNSON and DOUGLAS BROWN JR. This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before MAY 11, 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
Ni Leja Williams
By: Clerk of the Probate Court
PO Box 157
Talbotton, GA 31827
706-665-8866
(4:16, 23, 30, 5:7)

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW!

Legal Notices are published weekly in
The Talbotton New Era
and may also be found online at...
www.GeorgiaPublicNotice.com

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

Scenes from the Talbot County Walk for Autism



Photos and story by Pres Hall

TALBOT COUNTY CELEBRATES AUTISM MONTH - Talbot County celebrated Autism month in the City of Talbotton this past Saturday, April 11th with a beautiful parade walk from Central Elementary-High School up Washington Street and finishing at the Talbotton Fire Department. The parade was most certainly a success. Some participated and others spectated, young and old, near and far, walking for a serious cause and a purpose. This well-organized community parade was to support our children and families as well to let them know that we stand with them and that they are no less than anyone else. In fact, they are better than some others I know. However, we're forever grateful to everyone and especially to the Valley Grove Baptist Church with Pastor LaShunda Brown who showed up in large numbers and showed out with their church van well displayed to honor the occasion. A sign read, "Autism Awareness Month, Accept-Understand-Love. Another sign said, "Love Needs No Words." There were several children and instructors from the Group Home present and very attentive. It was surely a good day to see the vehicles and people walking, talking and fellowshiping together. The walk concluded at the Fire Dept where there was food, meet and greet time. Ms. Natasha Bussey, Ms. Hollis and others have worked diligently this program. Natasha says, "Autism shows us a new way of learning and loving our kids." Many thanks to all and everyone for the amazing support. God bless!

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Kubota

KUBOTA Z232KW-42 \$4999.00

PAYMENTS

As Low As

\$82.89 PER MONTH



Sales tax and insurance not included. Financing is subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.

KUBOTA Z242KW-48 \$7199.00

PAYMENTS

As Low As

\$120.34 PER MONTH



Sales tax and insurance not included. Financing is subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.

KUBOTA Z422KWNC-54 \$9849.00

PAYMENTS

As Low As

\$161.79 PER MONTH



Sales tax and insurance not included. Financing is subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.

KUBOTA Z726XKWNC-60 \$12,849.00

PAYMENTS

As Low As

\$208.71 PER MONTH



Sales tax and insurance not included. Financing is subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.