



Happy Mother's Day!!



THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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CEHS Band Earns Top Honors at National Competition



Photo Submitted

THE FIRST PLACE TROPHIES - Central Elementary-Middle-High School Band Director Walter Emory is shown with the two first place trophies his band members earned at the Parks Southeastern National Music Competition Festival in Tampa, Florida on May 3.

Submitted to *NEW ERA*

This past weekend, May 3, the Central Elementary-Middle-High School Marching and Concert Band showcased their talent on a national stage at the 2026 Music in the Parks Southeastern National Music Competition Festival in Tampa, Florida.

The band delivered an outstanding performance, earning 1st Place in the Parade and Review Competition with an overall excellence rating. They continued their success in the Concert Band Competition, where they also secured 1st Place by close scoring margins.

With these impressive achievements, the Central Elementary-Middle-High School Band has officially qualified as the returning champions for the 2027 Music in the Parks Southeastern National Music Competition Festival.

This accomplishment reflects the dedication, discipline, and musical excellence of the students, as well as the commitment of their directors and supporters.

The Central Elementary-Middle-High School Band extends sincere appreciation to the Talbot County Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff, and parents for their continued encouragement and unwavering support.



Photo Submitted

CELEBRATING THE VICTORY - Members of the Central Elementary-Middle-High School Band take time to celebrate at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

Sheriff's Office to Hold Fishing Rodeo for Senior Citizens May 30

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County Sheriff Bobby Gates, Jr. and the Talbot County Sheriff's Office has announced it will sponsor a fishing event for senior citizens.

Sheriff Gates invites senior citizens to the 2026 Senior Citizen Fishing Rodeo that will be held at the facility formally known as the Youth Center (now Heritage Park) and is located at 170 Park

Street in Talbotton, GA.

"We want to see who is the REEL DEAL" to have bragging rights about their fishing skills," Sheriff Gates aid.

"We are asking that participants bring his or her own tacklebox, folding chair, rod and reels, poles, sunhats, baits, nets, sunscreen and sunglasses to this fun filled, relaxing, exciting and fellowship morning of fishing."

The event will be held on Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m.

to 12 noon at Heritage Park.

There will be prizes awarded to seniors for the heaviest fish caught, most fish caught and the oldest fisherman or fisherwoman.

The event is open to senior citizens age 55 and above. Snacks will be provided as well.

For more information, please contact Sheriff Gates at 188 Jackson Avenue in Talbotton or by calling him at (706) 665-3111.

Prayer Day Today in Talbotton

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Today at 9 a.m. the National Day of Prayer will be observed at the historic Zion Church in Talbotton.

Featured speakers for the event will be Reverend Grace Burton-Edwards of

the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, Rabbi Larry Schlesinger of the Temple Israel in Columbus and Pastor Bruce Alford of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Box Springs.

Special music will be

played on the historic Pilcher organ featuring Tom Callier.

"We would love to have a good gathering and would love to have everyone join us," said Rep. Debbie Buckner, one of the sponsors of the event.

Early Voting Ends on Friday, May 15

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration has announced that the Early Voting hours have changed for 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 began on Monday, Apr. 27 and will end on Friday, May 15.

The Early Voting dates and times remaining are as follows:

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@talbotcounty-ga.org 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.

CEHS Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Set for May 13th

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

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

The last registration date will be May 13 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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, pri-

What: Registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten
When: Wednesday, May 13
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

vate 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.

Deadline for Talbotton New Era

The normal deadlines for items for the *Talbotton New Era* are: **News, sports, obituaries, feature material, and church announcements:** Noon on Monday of the week the item is to run. **Advertisements other than legal ads:** 5:00 p.m. on Monday of the week the item is to run. **Legal advertisements:** Noon on Friday of the week before the item is to run. This includes all "pulls" or cancellations of legal ads.



Photo by Pres Hall

HEALTH FAIR HELD AT HEALTH DEPARTMENT - A health fair was held at the Talbot County Health Department this past Saturday and the event received tremendous support. See story and more photographs on Page 6-A.

Rain and Cool Weather Being 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 weather experts are calling for rain and the cool weather to stay. Here is what Weather World is predicting for the upcoming week.

Today rain is being predicted with an 87% chance of the wet stuff. The high temperature for the day is expected to reach around 79 degrees and the low temperature around 63. Winds are expected to be around 16 miles per hour (mph).

For Friday, May 8, expect sunny skies with the high temperature reaching about 71 degrees and the low temperature should be around 48 degrees. Wind speeds are expected to be around nine mph. On Saturday, May 9, skies



are expected to remain sunny with the high temperature reaching about 83 degrees and the low around 55 degrees. Winds are expected to reach around eight mph.

On Sunday, May 10, the experts are predicting an 86% chance of rain with a high temperature of 66 degrees and a low temperature of around 65 degrees. Wind speeds are expected to pick up again and reach speeds of about 14 mph.

On Monday, May 11, the rain will still be around with an 86% chance and the high temperature is expected to be around 83 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 68 degrees. Winds are expected to be around 15 mph. On Tuesday, May 12, the

skies should be sunny and the high temperature is expected to be around 83 degrees and the low temperature around 59 degrees. Winds speeds should be around 10 mph.

For Wednesday, May 13 the skies are expected to remain sunny with the high temperature reaching about 86 degrees and the low temperature should be around 56 degrees. Winds should be around eight mph.

On Thursday, May 14, skies should be sunny with the temperature rising. The high temperature is expected to be about 91 degrees and the low temperature around 64 degrees. Wind speeds are expected to reach about eight mph.



Things to Do In and Around Talbot County This Week

Church Anniversary

Powell Missionary Baptist Church has some exciting events taking place. The congregation is preparing to cele-

brate its 147th anniversary. Plans are also underway to expand the physical footprint of the existing building. This expansion is a part of the church's desire to broaden its outreach in the community by providing space for church and community activities. There is a capital campaign underway to raise the funds to make this possible. There are several fundraising activities taking place. The church is planning a souvenir memory book and selling advertisements to help with the cost. For more information or to place an advertisement please contact Doris M. Perryman-Epps by calling (706) 575-0026.

Tax Office Closed

The Talbot County Tax Commissioner's Office will be closed on May 11, 2026 through May 14 2026 to attend the 2026 Georgia Association for Tax Officials. Our office will reopen on May 15 at 8 a.m. We apologize for the inconvenience that this may cause and thank you, Jamie L. Huff, Talbot County Tax Commissioner.

Revival Services

You are invited to revival services at Bethlehem Baptist Church located at 1080 Bethlehem Church Road in Pine Mountain Valley on Wednesday, May 13 through Saturday, May 17. Service will begin each night at 6:30 p.m. Evangelist Ron Coram will bring the word and David and Susie McMillan will lead the music. A nursery will be provided each night. On Sunday, join the church family as they celebrate homecoming beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds.

Alumni Banquet

The Talbot County Schools Alumni Association Scholarship Banquet will be held on Saturday June 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton located at 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd; in Columbus. The cost of the

event is \$75 per person. This year's quest speaker will be Dr. Terrance Ferguson from the TV Show Critter Fixer (class of 1987). You may pay by Cash App: \$talbotcsaa2024 or pay by mail and please make checks or money orders payable to Talbot County Schools Alumni Association and send to P.O. Box 364 Talbotton, Ga 31827. If you have any questions please contact Leticia Cook at 706.326.0099.

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.

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.

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 spe-

cial 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.

How to Submit Items

Send your items of interest to stammercuryjohn@gmail.com by 12 noon Monday. Items received after 12 noon will be published the following week.

Autos For Sale Wide Variety To Choose From

- 23 Chevy Malibu, White, \$10,400
- 18 Honda Civic, Gray, \$9,400
- 18 Chevy Silverado, Double Cab, Gray, \$15,400
- 20 Chevy Equinox, Gray, \$8,900
- 22 Nissan Altima, Gray, \$8,900
- 19 Jeep Cherokee, Maroon, \$7,400
- 17 Ford F-350, Service Body, White, \$13,400
- 17 Ford Expedition, Black, \$7,900
- 12 Dodge Ram, Crew Cab, Red, \$8,600
- 18 Chevy Equinox, Silver, \$7,900
- 17 Jeep Renegade, Silver, \$6,400
- 20 Ford Fusion, Blue, \$7,900
- 18 Dodge Journey, Red, \$7,400
- 21 Chrysler Voyager Van, White, \$6,900
- 21 Ford Ranger, 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
- 11 GMC Canyon, Ext. Cab, White, \$6,400
- 18 Chevy Equinox, Black, \$7,900
- 18 Chevy Tahoe, Silver, \$13,900
- 19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$10,800
- 15 Jeep Renegade, Black, \$6,400
- 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
- 18 Jeep Renegade, Gray, \$7,900
- 16 Honda CRV, Blue, \$10,600

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NOTICE OF CLOSING

The Talbot County Tax Commissioner's Office will be closed on May 11, 2026 through May 14 2026 to attend the 2026 Georgia Association for Tax Officials.

Our office will reopen on May 15, 2026 at 8:00 A.M.

We apologize for the inconvenience that this may cause.

Thank you,
Jamie L. Huff
Talbot County Tax Commissioner

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Was the Roman Empire once put up for sale in an auction?

By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

Okay, my trivia friends, I want to ask a question of you.

Many of you purchased the first collection of silly trivia from this column gathered into a book, back a few years ago. I am now contemplating collecting more from the columns since then into another book.

Since the first book bears the title of the column, I thought I'd call the second one Now ... You Know!

The question is ... would you buy it? Drop me an e-mail and let me know.

Meanwhile, here's some of what might make it into that new book! Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... the writer of To Kill A Mockingbird was able to write the book because of a Christmas gift? Harper Lee (1926-2016) was having a difficult time balancing her job with her writing. In 1956, she confided in friends about the issue, and her friends gave Lee an entire year's salary as a Christmas gift, enabling her to take the next year off work and just write. Out of that came the classic novel which went on to win a Pulitzer Prize and sell more than 30 million copies. (I'd have time to write a Pulitzer winner myself if I had a year off with pay.)

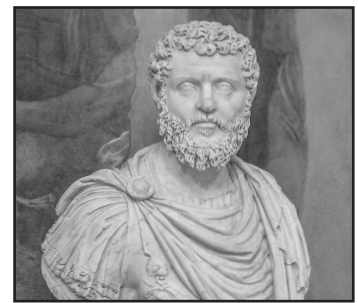
... a museum exists dedicated to sea monsters? In Iceland, you can visit the Skrimslasetrið, in the city of Bildudalur. This museum goes into great detail regarding the area's history of sea monster sightings. Inside you will find displays, literature, and even eyewitness events. (I'll believe it when you pronounce Skrimslasetrið for me.)

... the oldest version of the Medal of Honor belongs to the Navy? Authorized in 1861 for sailors and Marines, the Medal of Honor — the highest military award for bravery and valor in the United States — wasn't authorized for soldiers until the following year. Additional trivia note: the Medal of Honor was originally only authorized for enlisted personnel. Army officers were allowed to receive it beginning in 1863, but the Navy did not allow officers to earn it until 1915.

... the Roman Empire was once put up for sale in an auction? In 193 AD, the Roman Praetorian Guard decided they'd had enough of the shenanigans of Emperor Pertinax (126 AD-193 AD) and assassinated him, then found themselves faced with a quandry — exactly who would take over? The Guard decided to essentially sell the throne to the man who would pay the highest price, and two very wealthy men, Titus Sulpicianus (137 AD-197 AD) and Didius Julianus (133 AD-193 AD) began to bid. When Julianus offered 25,000 sesterces to each soldier, the Guard declared him the winner and new Emperor of Rome. His "reign" lasted 66 days, and came to an



end when an army led by General Septimius Severus (145 AD-211 AD) entered the city. Severus had heard about the so-called auction and then led - and won - a battle against the Praetorian Guard. The Senate passed a motion proclaiming Severus as Emperor, and Julianus was hunted down and killed by a soldier in the palace. Severus was the last of the five men who had held the imperial throne of Rome during 193 AD. (I would say Julianus got the short end of the deal, wouldn't you?)



testing to confirm his identity, he was reburied in a tomb inside the cathedral. He was the last of the Plantagenet kings, succeeded by Henry VII (1457-1509) who was of the House of Tudor. (My kingdom for a horse, or something like that.)

... the U.S. government once experimented with insects as weapons? In 1955, the government carried out "Operation Big Buzz" in Georgia. The program called for the producing, storing, loading into munitions, and dispersing from aircraft a huge number of mosquitoes. The idea was to see if the mosquitoes could be used as weapons, once infected with the yellow fever virus. The 330,000 that were dropped into Georgia in May of 1955 were not infected, however; it was just a test to see if the wacky idea would work. And it did work, to an extent: mosqui-

toes from the drop were located as far as 2,000 feet from the release site. No further use was made of the idea, thankfully. (The mosquitoes showed very little interest in the job, it seems.)

... when the U.S. War Department was established in 1789, the Army had a total of 840 soldiers? Their job was to supervise public lands and guard the frontier of the young nation. (If you were wondering when the idea of drawing down the service after a war started, here you go.)

... we find many examples of irony in history? Case in point: Patrick Henry (1736-1799), famous for his speech including the phrase, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" At the time he made that speech on March 20, 1775, Henry owned 65 slaves. (Practice what you preach, Patrick.)

... executive fraud is very common? While most occupational fraud schemes are committed by accounting departments, upper management is not immune. Most executive frauds result in a median loss of \$850,000. (No comment.)

Now ... you know!
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Where in the Universe is Carillon?

By ANDY KOBER

Last week this column noted the colonies featured in the original Battlestar Galactica television series. This week we explore the first planet encountered by the survivors of the Cylon sneak attack on the colonies.

The ships are operating at low fuel levels and food stocks have been contaminated, but they stumble upon the planet Carillon, a mining colony with resources they need. Unknown to the refugees, Carillon's inhabitants, known as Ovions, are in league with the enemies of human civilizations. Bipedal creatures, the Ovions are insectoids.

The Ovions welcome the human survivors to their world, promising the resources needed and hosting a huge party for the humans. Everything is free until it is discovered the Ovions are subjugating small groups of humans at a time and taking them into subterranean tunnels where they are fed to Ovion larva. In addition, the Ovions have contacted the Cylons who are responding to the planet.

Of course the humans managed to survive and escape the trap.

So, is there a planet known as Carillon? The short answer is no and to date there is no celestial body that carries the name. The planets and its inhabitants were simply figments of a writer's imagination. That said, the special effects were good for the time peri-



od. **INTEGRITY** is back home in Florida.

The command capsule of Artemis II arrived back at the Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday, April 28.

After splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on April 10, the capsule was recovered by the US Navy and transported to Naval Base San Diego. It was prepared for transport, loaded on a flatbed trailer, and trucked to Florida. No doubt that truck driver had some interesting conversations along the way.

Integrity will now undergo "deservicing operations" which means the component parts will be removed and tested to ascertain potential future issues. The heat shield will be removed and closely inspected.

All of the information gleaned will be used in the Artemis III project.

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 Monday, Apr. 27, 21 peo-

ple across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first reported at 4:30 am Central Time by a skywatcher in Panama City, FL. The fireball was seen as far north as Blountville, TN, as far east and south as Orlando, FL, and as far west as Bessemer, AL. One skywatcher said he was driving "when a bright light flashed overhead, faster than anything I've seen before, and incredibly bright."

In Georgia skywatchers in Acworth, Buford, Marietta, Milton, Monroe, and Roswell reported seeing the fireball which appeared to be travelling from southwest to northeast.

None of the skywatchers reported hearing noise made by the fireball but six witnessed it fragment into smaller pieces.

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

Opinions & Ideas

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Some Signs That You Are Just Getting Old

You know how to tell you're really getting old?

Not by looking in the mirror; mirrors are the worst liars of all. Most people (myself included) see exactly what they want to see when they look into a mirror, and don't see the rest of it.

Nor by getting up from a chair and hearing all your joints sound like Rice Krispies with the milk being poured on (though that happens to me as well).

No, there are far more subtle ways to tell you're getting old, and believe me when I tell you that I feel these in large measure just about any day of the week.

Here's what a few minutes' research on the topic turned up.

You know you're getting old when ...

You feel like the morning after, and you haven't been anywhere.

Your "little black book" contains only names that end with "M.D."

You reach the top of the ladder and find it's leaning against the wrong wall.

You look forward to a dull evening at home.

Your favorite part of a newspaper is the look back in history, 40 years ago this week.

You sit down in a rocking chair, and can't get it going.

Your knees buckle but your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

Your pacemaker causes the garage doors in your neighborhood to open or close.

You sink your teeth into a steak ... and they stay there.

Your mind makes contracts but your body says, "Are you kidding me?"

You know all the answers, but nobody is asking you the questions.

When you do manage to bend over, you look for something else to do while you're down there.

You sign up for cable television just so you can have The Weather Channel.

You take a metal detector to the beach.

You hold a party and your neighbors don't even realize it went on.

The end of your tie doesn't come anywhere close to the top of your pants.

You answer the phone at 9 p.m. and the caller asks, "Did I wake you?"

You dream about prunes.

You consider coffee one of the four major food groups.

Speed limits are no longer a challenge to you when you're driving.

You'd rather go to work than stay home if you're sick.

You hear the music in the elevator and sing along with it, because it was the most pop-



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

ular song when you were a teenager.

You call your dentist before the dentist calls you.

You buy a compass to put on the dashboard of your car.

Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.

You fall asleep, and people check to see if you're still breathing.

Your main form of exercise is acting as a pallbearer for your friends who exercise.

Your best friend is dating someone half his age, and he isn't breaking any laws.

You can remember all the lyrics to the song at the top of the charts when you were 21, but can't remember why you walked into the kitchen.

Happy hour is a nap.

Your childhood toys are now collectibles and antiques.

Six in the morning is when you wake up, not when you go to bed.

Sleeping on the couch makes you back hurt.

The vast majority of the time you spend in front of a computer is for work.

You think having bifocals puts you ahead of those poor people with trifocals.

People tell you that you look great ... then they add, "for your age."

You don't do much of anything all day, but still need a nap.

Finding your year of birth in a drop-down menu is like spinning the "Wheel of Fortune."

Your favorite plans always turn out to be the ones that were cancelled.

You fall down and people don't laugh, but panic and start trying to help.

You realize that you're the same age as "old people."

You create a new class of noun called "thingy" because you can't remember what something is really called.

You and your teeth don't sleep in the same bed at night.

Going out means running errands, not having a "good time."

You still do "crazy" things, but you do them slower than you used to.

You sometimes speed to your destination, so you won't forget where you're going.

Your favorite team isn't a baseball or football team; it's your doctor, pharmacist, and cardiologist.

You laughed at almost all of these.

Georgia Drought Level Requires Precautions

On April 27 the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announced that Georgia is in a Level 1 Drought Response. Simply put, it is a warning about current dry conditions and potential water shortages in the future.

EPD is urging residents and businesses to be more mindful of water consumption and recommend taking certain precautions.

EPD recommends the following:

- No mandatory restrictions yet, but public water systems must run conservation awareness campaigns (e.g., ads, bill inserts, social media, library notices) Environmental Protection Division+1.

- Outdoor watering is still allowed between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. and is unaffected by the Level 1 status Environmental Protection Division+1.

Level One is the first step in the ladder for handling the drought.

At Level Two: there would be limits on landscape watering (e.g., two days a week) and bans on certain uses like ornamental fountains or noncommercial pressure washing.

At Level Three, which

is the highest level, there would be a temporary ban on all landscape watering.

Drought severity could become an issue and over 98% of Georgia is in "severe," "extreme," or "exceptional" drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor scale, according to The Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC).

According to the AJC, rainfall deficits over the past six months range from one-foot to more than 15 inches in some areas.

According to the EPD contributing factors to drought are low precipitation, stream flows, groundwater, and reservoir levels that are below normal soil moisture.

As for now, officials will be monitoring conditions and may escalate to Level 2 if the drought worsens and conservation measures don't reduce strain on water supplies.

According to CBS News, utilities are urging small changes such as the repairing of leaks, running of full loads in washers and dishwasher, to water plants early, use mulch, and avoid unnecessary outdoor use.

Simply put, Level One gives residents of Georgia a warning to be conservative and keeps the push for



John Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

restrictions off the table. However, if the state doesn't receive rain, and a good bit of the wet stuff soon the dry conditions could push the Level higher soon.

According to the Georgia Extreme Events website, there was a drought in 1924 that is recorded as being one of the worst droughts in Georgia history. According to the website, the drought lasted three years.

Apparently, the drought affected the Altamaha, Chattahoochee and Coosa River basins to the point that the lack of water had an influence on the industrial and agricultural industries in the state and forced many workers to relocate to find employment.

At the present time, our state is under the worst drought conditions it has seen in 20 years. Residents should be conservative with water use until the drought breaks.

Little things like shut-

ting off the faucet while brushing your teeth and shaving can save a lot of water. Running water through your faucet can waste one to two gallons per minute. Using an item to catch water while washing your hands can be reused to scrape dishes and other uses around the house.

Limiting shower times and installing a low-flow showerhead will also help to reduce water use.

Check for leaks, even small ones, and repair them immediately.

Catching water inside and rain water outside and reusing it to water plants, flowers and to clean surfaces can also help.

If you water your lawn, it is best to do it early in the morning to reduce evaporation.

Any way to conserve water is a good idea at the present time, and even throughout the year if you are on a utility based water system. You could save some money throughout the year by reducing your water usage and not having to pay for the water and the sewer fees.

Let's all do our part and conserve right now. Doing so will be extremely helpful if the drought continues. Also, let pray for RAIN!

So Wrong on Many Levels

Did you know that some large grocery stores can change prices on an item almost instantly charging different prices to different customers?

Two people walk into a large retail grocery store. As soon as they walk in, surveillance systems capture their image and in milliseconds the computer system identifies them, accesses their shopping habits, and how they pay - cash, upscale debit or credit card, lower-budget debit or credit card, or other payment methods that might suggest the customer is just getting by, financially.

Both people select their groceries and head to checkout. Among their respective groceries, they have some identical items, which would not be unusual. Each pays for their items and leaves the grocery store blissfully unaware they might have paid different prices for those same items.

This is called surveillance pricing and most often found in stores that have electronic price tags attached to the shelves. These electronic tags can be changed instantly by the computer system in the store. That same computer system can arbitrarily change those

prices based on information about the individual shopper or on demographic data.

The computer system recognizes Person A as having upper level income and might adjust some of the prices upward a bit. Person B is a blue collar worker so maybe the prices stay level or drop a bit. Person C is among a demographic known for shoplifting so their prices could increase some to cover losses. This is likely an over-simplification, but the computer system can make a lot of price changes and the consumer would be completely unaware.

If surveillance pricing sounds a bit like science fiction, it is not and has been utilized for some time - possibly years - while consumers were blissfully ignorant. Stores utilizing this refer to it as surveillance pricing, adaptive prices, personalized pricing, dynamic pricing and more. It all means the same thing - some people pay more and other people pay less.

Some restaurants, especially fast-food restaurants, have been doing the same thing but using a different metric. In these cases prices increase dur-



Andy Kober

Columnist

ing the busiest times of the day, and drop a bit during off-peak times. Again, the consumer is rarely aware of the practice.

THESE pricing schemes have come to light and some states are addressing the problem.

A recent news article on this very practice reported that a shopper in Oregon utilized a state privacy law to obtain information a nation-wide grocery store chain had on her. She reportedly received a 62-page document that was her profile. Not only is that astounding, she claimed some of the information was not correct.

The Maryland state legislature passed a measure to combat this, but then modified it so much under pressure from lobbyists that protections for the

consumer fell by the wayside. Other states, including Georgia, are currently grappling with this.

House Bill 1439 and Senate Bill 164 would prohibit price adjustments based on personal data surveillance. This would apply to retail food stores with over 15,000 square feet in primary food sales or those stores over 85,000 square feet in which at least ten percent of the space is food sales.

In March these bills were undergoing legislative review and current information and status could not be ascertained.

ONE might presume protecting Georgia residents from such predatory pricing measures would be much more important than changing the state flower, but perhaps not. Interested readers should contact their state legislators and request the status of those bills to protect Georgia families.

After all, Georgia voters need groceries and cannot eat the Sweetbay Magnolia.

That's my opinion.

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

* Prayer for the Month of May *

Greetings and blessings!

Thankfully God has blessed us to see May, and only He know what's going on in our lives. So then, I want to graciously pray for you! This hearty prayer is inspired once again by Robert Singleton, I've slightly redacted. So, join me! Dear God, I'm praying with and for all the ones reading this column right now. Lord, I pray You abundantly bless their entire month of May in every way possible. God, please bless every part of their life this month; spiritually, mentally, physically, financially and emotionally. God, go before them and make every crooked path straight. Lord, please move in their lives in ways they've never seen before, surprise them with your favor (grace). Father, I fervently pray for peace over their lives, heart, clarity over their mind. **Phillippians 4:17** says that "Your peace surpasses all understanding and will guard their heart and mind in Christ Jesus."



Pres Hall

Columnist

So, as I write, I declare peace over every anxious thought, every worry, every burden. And then Lord, replace it with calm; with confidence and trust in You Jesus. God, give them strength for every challenge that lies ahead of them. **Isaiah 41:10** says, "Do not fear, for I am with you, I will strengthen you." Now Lord, when we feel weak, be our strength, when tired, renew us. Let us rise up with new energy and endurance. Let's agree and declare that this month (May) will be overly filled with unexpected blessings, supernatural healing and prayers. **Jeremiah 29:11** says, "God



has plans to prosper, not harm, to give us a future and hope." Father, I ask that you remove every trace of fear, doubt, insecurity. **2 Timothy 1:7** says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, love and a sound mind." So, we must declare boldness, confidence, joy and purpose over our lives. May God remind you of who you are in Him. Lord, for anyone who hasn't felt your presence, I humbly pray that this month they encounter You Lord in a real and undeniable way. Fill them with your love, your goodness. Let your Holy Spirit rest on them and overflow within them. **Roman 15:13** says, "May the God of hope, fill you

with joy and peace as you trust in Him..." Lord, I pray over every goal that's been set, give them the discipline, focus and strength to accomplish it. **Philippian 4:13** says, "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me." Remind them Lord, that they are capable because you are with them. Father, remove every distraction, every evil spirit, every temptation that tries to pull them off course. Guide them in that way. Strengthen their mind and their discipline. Please let May be a month of open doors that no man can shut. Lord, let this month be better than the last, let it be filled with growth, joy, breakthrough. Bless them and keep them close to you Jesus. I pray all these things in the mighty of Jesus. Amen and have a blessed month of May! **Pray God's Words/Promises back to Him, it can and will make a significant difference in building and strengthening our relationship with Him!**

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

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

In Memory of Our Moms

By ELIZABETH GRAVES

Mother's Day is Sunday. It's a day to honor all the mothers out there. It's a day for you to thank your mom for all she has done.

It is a day to thank her and show her your appreciation for all the sleepless nights that she stayed up with as a baby or when you had that 104 fever from the flu and her heart was breaking because she couldn't make you feel better. To thank her for paying for, driving you to and from, and showing up to every activity and sport you were involved in. For thanking her for the times that you made her question her little bit of sanity as you threw a fit for the 15th time that day. To thank her for not leaving in the woods and abandoning you as a teenager when you rolled your eyes at her. A day to show mom that although most days it feels like thankless, it is not, because you see her, you see how hard she works, how she never complains, never stops, to show her just how much she means to you.

One of the hardest things about Mothers Day is when your mom, your rock, is gone. Mothers Day becomes a day to cause you more pain, because the person you are supposed to celebrate on that day is gone. I was raised by a single mother so for mothers day I tried to spoil her when I could, because for her she had to be both mother and father to me and my brother. It's been 3 years since I lost my mom and this year will be my 3rd Mothers Day without her.

I still buy her flowers for Mothers Day every year, because she loved flowers, they always made her so happy. And even though she is gone, it just wouldn't feel right to let the day go by without celebrating her in some way, because it's important to keep her memory alive. You see, when they are gone, all you have is those memories and they become more precious than gold. The memories of our moms become how we hold, how we keep from forgetting them. The more we talk about them and remember them, the more they stay alive.

So for a special article for Mothers Day I decided to ask a handful of people whose moms have passed on if they would like to share a favorite memory of their mother as tribute to her and all the moms who are no longer with us.

I would also like to share two of my favorite memories of my mom; my mom loved all things, movies and theatre, a love she passed on to me, so the Academy Awards was her bread and butter and she looked forward to that one Sunday every year. When I was growing up, each year for the Academy Awards *People Magazine* would put a ballot in their magazine for people watching at home to vote on who they thought would win. My mom would go buy a copy and me and her would vote on who we thought would win. Her with her *People Magazine* ballot, me writing down my choices on a sheet of paper. Would we order some food and sit down and watch the whole

show. I loved it cause not only did I get to stay up late, cause the awards show always ran long, but I got to spend some quality time with my mom.

When I was in my junior year of high school, there was only one thing I wanted more than anything, a class ring. I don't know how to explain it, but I was obsessed with having to have one. But I knew it was probably not going to happen. My mom was a single mom with no help whatsoever from my father, so a \$200+ ring just wasn't something that my mom could afford. I was sad, but I knew that she would if she could, so I let it go.

Fast forward a few months and it was class ring ordering week at school. I tried not to get sad that I wasn't getting one, but I was. One night my mom came up to me in my room and asked what time my lunch period was. I told her and asked her why, and she smiled and said "meet me at the office, we're ordering your class ring tomorrow". I'm pretty sure I squealed and thanked her 6 million times. She told me to pick out what I wanted from the brochure, she never gave a price range, just told me to get what I wanted.

I was so happy when we ordered it, I finally had my dream class ring. I found out years later, exactly what my mom had to do to make my dream happen. She took on extra typing, cleaning, and odd jobs, to save and scrimp to get the money for the ring. Her baby wanted a class ring and she was determined to make

it happen.

Some others' thoughts:

One of my favorite memories with my mom was playing "Right Turn, Left Turn." Of course, this was back in the late 1990's, when gasoline wasn't so expensive. Any time we wanted to get out of the house, we'd hop in her car, with no predetermined destination. From the moment she backed out of her driveway, she'd ask, "Right turn or left turn?" I would make a random choice, and at each corner or intersection, I'd say, "Right turn," "Left turn," or "Straight ahead." The game ended whenever she got tired or when we passed by a place that caught our attention, like an ice cream shop, a friend's house, or a museum. Then we'd simply go back home and chat about the things we did and saw during our excursion. It was a great way to spend time together, but it was also a great way to get to know our city and surroundings as well. **Laura D**

So many special memories with my mom growing up. But I think my favorite memory is seeing her finally unburdened with raising three kids. She didn't have to work so hard anymore as we had grown up and were moving out. It was wonderful to see her retire from her job and spend her time and money on herself. She got that big Cadillac that she always wanted. She also got a little convertible sports car. She bought jewelry. She got an inground swimming pool. She started wearing fancier clothes and "treating" herself instead of sinking every dime and all her time

into taking care of us. I'm just so glad that she got to spend her golden years living the life she deserved. **Jim N**

Arguing with my sister about who would get to hold mom's "pretty" hand while crossing the street. (This would be the hand adorned with her many rings lol). The look of pure, uncontrollable joy on my mom's face when my wife and I announced our first pregnancy to her and my dad. Like, if you shook up a full, brand new coke bottle and slowly unscrewed the top - that is the only metaphor I can think of that could come close to describing her mirth in that moment. The memory I have the most conflicted emotions about is, without a doubt, the final memory I have of her. It was the worst pain I have ever felt, and yet I wouldn't take it back. Holding and squeezing my mom's hand while she held and squeezed mine back. Asking her if she wanted us to turn off the machines that were helping her fight for life and hearing her strong, defiant grunt of "uh-uh" - an indication that she still had fight within her. Kissing her on the top of the head and saying, "I love you, mama." Hearing her say, "I love you too, baby." If my presence gave her any comfort at all in those dreadful moments, then I would go through it all again. I am immensely proud to call her, mom- **Chad W**

When I had finally gotten sober and told my mom how well I was doing and chairing my NA meetings. The look on her face let me know how proud of me she actually was.

Even though she made sure to tell me every time she saw me. But that moment. I'll never forget the look on her face. - **Ian R**

My most vivid memory of my mother concerns a special German dish called (in our family, at least) grutrunzels. They were homemade bread dough, with cooked ground beef, onions, etc., inside, made into little balls and baked. They were the most delicious things you can imagine, and she made them for special occasions. Those occasions - when she'd make what I loved to eat most - are my favorite memory of her. - **Jack B**

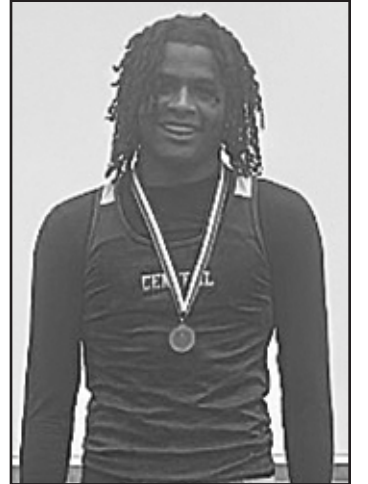


Photo By Darriuna Leonardng
BUSSEY HEADED TO STATE - Central Elementary-High School's (CEHS) Brannon Bussey placed 8th at the sectionals in the 110-meter hurdles. That finish qualifies him to participate in the State Track Meet competition on May 11 in Athens.

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TALBOTTON NEW ERA PUBLIC NOTICES

HOW TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE

EMAIL: starmercurylegals@gmail.com

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

DEADLINES FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Noon on Friday prior to run date. If legal notice is past deadline a late fee will be charged. First affidavit is at no cost. There is a charge for each additional affidavit.

COSTS FOR LEGAL NOTICES

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

Debtors & Creditors Notice

26-035
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)

26-046
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
 IN RE: ESTATE OF THELMA L. ADAMS

All creditors of the Estate of THELMA L. ADAMS 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 29TH day of APRIL, 2026.

JACKIE HOLLOWAY
 6580 SMOKE RIDGE DRIVE
 COLLEGE PARK, GA 30349
 Executor(s) of the Estate of THELMA L. ADAMS, Deceased
 (5:7, 14, 21, 28)

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)

26-038
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)

26-043
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
 IN RE: ESTATE OF VERNON JERRY JERNIGAN
 All creditors of the Estate of VERNON JERRY JERNIGAN 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 21st day of APRIL, 2026.

KIMBERLY VERA
 3032 PATRIOT LN.
 FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22408
 Executor(s) of the Estate of VERNON JERRY JERNIGAN, Deceased
 (4:30, 5:7, 14, 21)

26-045
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
 IN RE: ESTATE OF MABLE L. HOWARD

All creditors of the Estate of MABLE L. HOWARD 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 29TH day of APRIL, 2026.

VIVIAN L. HOWARD
 326 JEFFERSON DR.
 COLUMBUS, GA 31907
 Executor(s) of the Estate of MABLE L. HOWARD, Deceased
 (5:7, 14, 21, 28)

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)

Foreclosures

26-044
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER CONTAINED IN SECURITY DEED STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF TALBOT
 Pursuant to a power of sale contained in a certain security deed executed by RUBY L KIMBROUGH, hereinafter referred to as Grantor, to The United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture, its successors and assigns, dated April 15, 1996, and recorded on April 16, 1996 in Deed Book 109, beginning at page 177, of the deed records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, and by virtue of a default under the terms of said security deed, and the related note, the undersigned attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor (which attorney-in-fact is the present holder of said security deed and note secured thereby) will sell at public outcry before the door of the courthouse in Talbot County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale, for cash, to the highest bidder on the first Tuesday in June, 2026, all property described in said security deed including but not limited to the following described property:

All that certain tractor parcel of land situate lying an being in Land Lot 288 of the 23rd Land District of Talbot County, Georgia and being further shown on a map or plat of survey entitled "PLAT OF THE PROPERTY OF RUBY KIMBROUGH", dated August 21, 1995, prepared by Hugh P. Riley, Georgia Registered Surveyor #1285, of record in Plat Slide 196, Page 7, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, to which reference is expressly made for the description therein. This tract contains 1.01 acres, more or less. Said property may more commonly be known as 5576 Po Biddy Rd, Talbotton, GA 31827

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien but not yet due and payable); any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, and all other matters of record superior to the said Security Deed. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Dawson Management is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend and modify the terms of the Note and Security Deed, and it may be contacted at: Address: 3775 Venture Drive, Duluth, GA 30096 Phone: 770-962-4981 To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the party in possession of the property is believed to be RUBY L KIMBROUGH, or tenant(s). United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, its successors and assigns, United States Department of Agriculture, as Transferee, Assignee,

and Secured Creditor As attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor. Please note that if any borrower or obligor has received a discharge in a bankruptcy case filed under Title 11 of the United States Code, no personal liability will arise from this foreclosure action against that individual. This foreclosure action is being pursued solely against the real property to enforce the lien created by the Security Instrument. Respectfully, Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 16415 Addison Road, Suite 725 Addison, TX 75001 (401) 234-9200 (401) 398-2594 THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE A-4871023 (5:7, 14, 21, 28)

26-041
FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM NOTICE
 Take notice that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: Burnam. Willie J & Lavern Estate and all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 14303. 5th Land District consisting of 4.48 acres, more or less being Lot 5, Block C. This property is located in Talbot County, Georgia and will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 21st day of May 2026. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 1st of November 2022 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, in Deed Book 495 at page 81. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 21st day of May 2026 by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: P.O. Box 83, Box Springs, Georgia 31801. (4:23, 30, 5:7, 14)

(5:7, 14, 21, 28)

26-041
FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM NOTICE
 Take notice that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: Burnam. Willie J & Lavern Estate and all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 14303. 5th Land District consisting of 4.48 acres, more or less being Lot 5, Block C. This property is located in Talbot County, Georgia and will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 21st day of May 2026. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 1st of November 2022 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Talbot County, Georgia, in Deed Book 495 at page 81. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 21st day of May 2026 by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: P.O. Box 83, Box Springs, Georgia 31801. (4:23, 30, 5:7, 14)

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.

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.

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)

26-042
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VS. 0.104 acres of land; and certain easement rights; and Heirs of Jessie Pearl Dillingham; Johnny C. Johnson; Heirs of Rhuburl Dillingham; David Carter; Kimberly Carter; and Tax Commissioner of Talbot County, individually

DOCKET NO. 2025-CV-069

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO: DAVID CARTER, HEIRS OF RHUBURL DILLINGHAM and HEIRS OF JESSIE PEARL DILLINGHAM, Respondents/Condemnees

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Condemnation was filed against you in said Court on August 22, 2025, and that by reason of an Order for Service of Summons by Publication entered by the Court on March 23, 2026, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Catherine B. Baity, Condemnor/Petitioner s Attorney, whose address is P.O. Drawer 671, Thomaston, GA 30286, an answer to the Condemnation Petition within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication. Witness the Honorable John T. Martin, Judge of said Court. Given under the hand and seal of said Court, this the 15th day of April, 2026. PENNY DILLINGHAM-MAHONE, Clerk of the Superior Court of Talbot County (4:23, 30, 5:7, 14)

Probate Notices

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)

26-047
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF REGINALD B. LEONARD, DECEASED
 ESTATE NO. 2026-P-020

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: WILLIE FRANK LEONARD has petitioned to be appointed Successor Administrator(s) of the estate of REGINALD LEONARD 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 JUNE 1, 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
 (5:7, 14, 21, 28)

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE - AVON. Call Ginny 770-696-7548 or visit www.youravon.com/ginnynash RTFN

HAY FOR Sale; square bales and round rolls. Track hoe & track loader work: clearing, grading, driveways, pads, lake repairs, food plots. Call Jeff at 706-812-6906. RTFN

HELP WANTED Full and Part Time

STRINGERS NEEDED - This newspaper is seeking individuals who can cover meetings, and/or sporting events and more. Excellent opportunity for high school student. For more information about e-mail to starmercuryjohn@gmail.com. RTFN

YARD/ESTATE SALES

MOVING SALE Furniture, dishes, linens, etc. Everything must go. May 6, 7, and 8 and May 13, 14 and 15. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 13560 GA Highway 116, Pine Mountain Valley, GA 31823, across from Dollar General. 05:14

Classifieds work! Place your Classified ad today! Call (706) 846-3188

\$12.00
 and a phone call could help you turn your unwanted items into CASH!!
SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Classifieds have a little of everything from homes and land to cars, garage sales, pets and more.

Buy, sell or trade with the classifieds.

You can reach 28,800 readers weekly when you advertise in this Features and Classifieds page.

Classifieds are \$12 for the first 25 words and .25 cents for each additional word. The advertisement will appear in *The Manchester Star-Mercury/Meriwether Vicindicator*, *The Harris County Journal*, and *The Talbotton New Era*, covering four counties. Please do not send in classifieds more than a week before the time you want the ad to run. We are not responsible for missed ads if sent in too early. starmercurynews@gmail.com

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

Scenes From the Health Fair



Photos and Story
By PRES HALL

The Talbot County Health Department held a phenomenally successful health fair this past Saturday, May 1 with tremendous support.

With many people from various medical teams taking part in this well planned and organized event.

Truly a blessing for the people of Talbot County and others as well.

Ms. Mendy Sampson and Mrs. Jennifer McCrary of the Talbot Health Department Center is seen holding County Commissioner Wilson's great grandson.

Also pictured are people set up at various stations to provide preventive medical care and information.

Pictured on the front page is a group of some participants.

Jennifer and Mendy sincerely thanks all and everyone!

Preventive Care now can make a lifesaving difference if not ignored!



D	E	E	R	U	T	R	U	N	G	U	H
L	H	E	P	U	R	E	V	E	R	Y	A
O	R	T	R	R	U	Z	C	R	A	P	R
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A	H	D	Y	D	B	R	N	E	M	H	I
E	G	I	A	M	E	D	S	A	A	H	L
T	U	F	E	H	M	I	L	D	N	O	S
S	A	N	T	O	V	O	A	I	V	T	S
U	D	O	Z	D	Z	N	M	E	H	N	I
R	M	C	A	N	G	N	I	R	A	C	K
T	Z	D	N	E	I	R	F	T	S	E	B

A Word Search Puzzle for Mother's Day

By MARYANN ZELIZNAK

Find the words listed below in the diagram. The words may be in a straight line or diagonally. The words may be read upwards or downwards. Circle each word as you find it and cross it off the listing.

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| ADVICE | DAUGHTER | LEAD | NURTURE |
| ADVISE | GRANDMA | LOVE | PREGNANT |
| BEST FRIEND | HAPPY | MAMA | PURE |
| CARING | HOLD | MEND | SON |
| CHILDBIRTH | HUG | MOMMY | TEACH |
| CONFIDANTE | KISS | MOTHERS DAY | TRUE |
| | | | TRUST |

Chief of Police – Town of Pine Mountain

The Town of Pine Mountain, Georgia is seeking a highly qualified police professional for the position of Chief of Police. This position focuses on the administrative, professional, and managerial duties attendant to planning and directing the operation of the Police Department including, but not limited to, Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Communications.

Qualified candidates should have education, training, and experience commensurate with the position. Successful applicants must possess demonstrated leadership skills; demonstrated ability to maintain positive professional relationships both internally and with external constituencies; demonstrated skills in building and maintaining positive community relations; extensive experience in police management, knowledge of laws, ordinances, and policies – specifically those related to municipal law enforcement; experience with budget development and management; development and administration of policies and procedures. Among other requirements, the successful candidate must complete 60 hours of state-mandated new chief's school; must be 21 years of age or older; must have no record of any felony convictions; must have a valid State of Georgia driver's license; a satisfactory Motor Vehicle Record; and pass a pre-employment physical examination including drug screening.

Please mail or hand-deliver resumes to:
Town of Pine Mountain

Attn: Mary Ruth Mullins, Mayor
PO Box 8

Pine Mountain, Georgia 31822

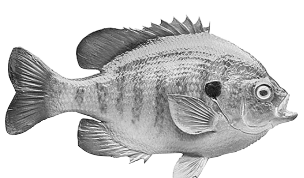
Application must be received on or before May 22, 2026

FISH DAYS ROUND 2, 2026

FAMILY FEED

Box Springs • 706-269-9043

DATE: Thursday,
May 21st
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
until 9:00 a.m.



Coppernose Bluegill
1-3" \$65 per 100



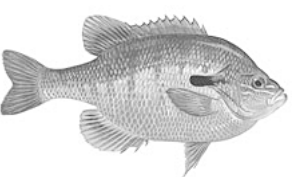
Sterile Grass Carp
7-11" \$12 each



Large Mouth Bass
1-3" \$3 each
* While stocks last *



Channel Catfish
3-5" \$65 per 100



Redbreast Sunfish
1-3" \$75 per 100
* While stocks last *

Southland Fisheries
600 Old Buff Road • Hopkins, SC 29061
803-776-4923

@ Southland Fisheries * southlandfisheries.com

* Please Pre-Order your fish at least 5 business days ahead of scheduled Fish Days! *