

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

Serving the people of Talbot County since 1879

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Photo By LG Broadcasting

VERDICT REACHED IN BRYANT MURDER TRIAL - The jurors reconvened on Tuesday, May 26 in Muscogee County Superior Court and reached a verdict in the murder case of Manchester High star athlete Daruys Bryant. All three Talbot residents charged in the murder, Semaj Copeland, Zion Horton and Jaquan Mahone will be sentenced in the case on Tuesday, June 23.

Verdict Returned in Bryant Murder Talbot Residents Found Guilty of Murder

By JOHN KUYKENDALL & LENDREZ GREENE

The three people accused of killing Manchester High star athlete Daryus Bryant received the verdict in the case late in the afternoon on Tuesday, May 26 in Muscogee County Superior Court.

Three Talbot County residents were convicted in the case and are expected to be sentenced on Tuesday, June 23.

The jury deliberated for several days in the case and one juror had to be replaced after it was determined she was not able to complete her duties as a juror.

Talbot County residents Semaj Copeland, a distant cousin of Bryant's, Zion Horton and Jaquan Mahone were on trial for Bryant's murder.

Horton and Mahone were both found guilty of malice

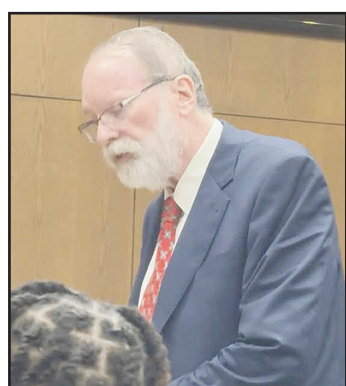


Photo By LG Broadcasting

CLOSING ARGUMENT - Columbus attorney Mark Shellnut makes his closing arguments in the case.

murder. Copeland was found not guilty on a charge of malice murder. All three teens were found guilty of felony murder, three counts of aggravated assault and five counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

Muscogee County Court with Judge Art Smith

presided over the trial.

Bryant was shot and killed only a few days before his 17 birthday in Columbus after attending the school's prom on April 20, 2024.

Bryant and Clarence Favors, both attending the school's prom, received injuries in the shooting that occurred that evening near Macon Road. Favors survived the shooting.

Mahone was arrested in the case and was taken into custody on July 21, 2025, Copeland turned himself in to the Talbot County Sheriff's Office on July 8 and Horton was taken into custody in Coweta County on July 3.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Wesley Lambertus stated he was happy for the Bryant family and called Daryus a star student, a star athlete and a good kid that did not deserve what happened to him.

40 Turn Out for Senior Fishing Event

Submitted to the NEW ERA

Talbot County Sheriff Bobby Gates, Jr. hosted Talbot County's first ever Senior Citizen Fishing Rodeo on May 30 at Heritage Park in Talbotton. There were over 40 participants that attended the joyous occasion.

Some seniors came to fish, some came to fellowship, and some just came out to watch and enjoy.

Some citizens who heard about the fishing rodeo came from Marion County.

Sheriff Gates gave gift cards for three categories for the event. The categories were:

1. Oldest Fisherman and Fisherwoman - receiving \$50 each;
2. Heaviest catch for a male and a female - receiving \$30 each;
3. Most catch for a male and a female - receiving \$25 each.

The oldest Fisherman was Mr. Hudson Murray, 81 years young from Marion County and the oldest Fisherwoman was Mrs. Bobbie McKinney, 89 years young from Marion County.

The heaviest catch for a female was Mrs. Ella Owens from Talbot County with a one pound fish and



Submitted Photo

WINNERS OF THE SENIOR FISHING EVENT - The winners in the Talbot County Sheriff's Office senior fishing event are pictured above.

the heaviest catch for a male was a tie between Mr. Otis Murray from Marion County with a 1 1/2 pound fish and Mr. Rickey Jones from Talbot County with a 1 1/2 pound fish. A tie breaker was done between the two, and Mr. Murray turned out to be the winner.

The most catch for a female was Mrs. Mattie Howard from Talbot County with 16 fish and the most catch for a male was Mr. Otis Murray with 12 fish.

Just to mention, Reverend Cleo Smith from Talbot County had a total catch of

seven fish.

Everyone had a wonderful time and they really enjoyed it.

Sheriff Gates was a little worried about the weather at first, but the seniors were prepared with umbrellas and raincoats when the rain came.

Sheriff Gates said he is looking forward to next year, and plans to have a bigger crowd participating.

Sheriff Gates said he would like to thank everyone who made this event a success.

The Department of Natural Resources sponsored the event.



Photo By Pres Hall

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT - The graduates of Central Elementary-High School heard words of encouragement from guest speaker Stacey Horton during the Baccalaureate service held on Sunday, May 17.

Banquet Honors CEHS Student Athletes

Submitted to the NEW ERA

The Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) Athletic Department is proud to announce the recipients of one of its most notable athletic awards: senior athlete Brannon Bussey and junior athlete Madison Daniel.

Brannon Bussey represented Central High School through his participation in football, basketball, and track, demonstrating athletic talent, commitment, and Hawk pride across multiple sports.

Madison Daniel has also shown outstanding dedication as a multi-sport athlete, participating in volleyball, track, cheer, and basketball. Her hard work, leadership, and competitive spirit continue to make a positive impact on Central athletics.

Congratulations to Brannon and Madison on this well-deserved recognition!



Photo By Keniece Adams

CEHS STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED - Student athletes of Central Elementary-High School were honored recently with a banquet and awards and Madison Daniel was presented with the Golden Hawk Award.



Photo Submitted

BUSSEY HONORED - Senior student athlete Brannon Bussey was honored during a recent athletic banquet held at Central Elementary-High School. Bussey completed in football, basketball and track at the school this past year.

Early Voting Begins June 8 for Runoff

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Sharita Trice, Chairperson and Elections Supervisor of the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration, announced the Advanced Voting dates for the General Primary Run-Off Election.

Advanced Voting will begin on Monday, June 8 and end on Friday, June 12.

Advanced Voting will be held at the Election Office located at 1761 Geneva Highway in Talbotton on the following dates and times:

- Monday, June 8 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.**
- Tuesday, June 9 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.**
- Wednesday, June 10 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.**
- Thursday, June 11 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.**

Friday, June 12 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Trice also noted that voters may check his or her voter registration status online by logging into "My Voter Page"

www.mvp.sos.ga.gov or by contacting the Board of Elections Office by calling 706-665-8270 or by emailing elections-registration@talbotcountyga.org.



Submitted Photo

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED - At the Baccalaureate ceremony held on May 17, the City of Talbotton Police Department awarded scholarships to students Alisha Hollis and Rachel Hollis of Central High School. The money was donated by City Police Officers. Chief Biggs and Major Web both believe in giving back to the community. The Officers at the Police Department are committed to helping us with this vision.

CEHS Announces Summer Learning Bus Schedule

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) has announced the bus pickup and drop off locations for the school's summer learning program. The locations are as follows:

Bus 1
Junction City Park
USA Gas Station - Geneva
Post Office - Box Springs

Wallace's Store
Old Wire Road
Buck Run Road
Philadelphia Church
Jordan City Intercession
Left side (In Town)
Bertha Harris Street

Bus 2
Woodland Park
Apartments (Bottom-
Woodland)
Convenience Store
(Woodland)

Hamp's Store (Flint Hill)
Bus 3
St. Phillips Church
Dennis Creek Road
Apartments
Tyler Street
O'Neal Volunteer Fire
Station
Powell Church
Salem Church
Baughville Church
Library (Talbotton,GA)
Right side (In town)
Hawk Street



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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 celebrate 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.

Special Service

Concord Baptist Church, located at 803 Chalybeate Springs Road in Woodland, will observe the 163 anniversary of the church on Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. Guest speaker for the event will be Dr. Kenneth "George" Bailey, past or White Oak Baptist Church in Senoia.

Combined Revival

To kick off the 2026 Combined Revival, there will be a prayer meeting at Sweet Home Baptist Church in Box Springs on June 14 at 7 p.m. Come experience Jesus with us. The 2026 Combined Revival will take place June 15 through June 19 at New Salem Baptist Church located on Geneva Highway in Talbotton at 7 p.m. nightly.

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 DoubleTree 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 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.

How to Submit Items

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

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

ADVANCE VOTING NOTICE

Voters may vote early in person beginning on June 8, 2026.

Advance Voting will begin June 8, 2026 – June 12, 2026 at the Board of Elections Office located at 1761 Geneva Highway, Talbotton, GA. 31827.

Our voting hours have changed. Listed below are the dates and times.

Monday, June 8, 2026	8:30AM - 5:00PM
Tuesday, June 9, 2026	8:30AM - 5:00PM
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	8:30AM - 5:00PM
Thursday, June 11, 2026	8:30AM - 5:00PM
Friday, June 12, 2026	8:30AM - 5:00PM

You can check your voter registration status online by logging into "My Voter Page" www.mvp.sos.ga.gov or contact our office 706-665-8270 or email elections-registration@talbotcountyga.org.

Sharita Trice, Chairperson
Elections Supervisor
Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration

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JUNE SALE-A-BRATION

REACH OUT TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS

During the month of June we are giving each advertiser a huge price break. This is a great time to advertise but please note that this offer is for the month of June only.

The regular price for a black and white quarter page advertisement in one of our three newspapers is \$240 per week. The regular price for two newspapers is regularly \$352.50 and the regular price for three newspapers is \$465.

During our June sales event, you can purchase a quarter page black and white advertisement each week beginning with our June 11 and ending in the June 25 issue for the following prices:

One Newspaper \$50
Two Newspapers - \$75
Three newspapers \$90

The regular price for a full color quarter page advertisement in one of our three newspapers is \$365 per week. The regular price for two newspapers is regularly \$477.50 and the regular price for three newspapers is \$590.

During our June sales event, you can purchase a quarter page full color advertisement each week beginning with our June 11 and ending in the June 25 issue for the following prices:

One Newspaper \$85
Two Newspapers - \$105
Three newspapers \$120

CALL 706-846-3188 TODAY AND ASK FOR JOHNNY, BRYAN OR RICHARD OR EMAIL: starmercuryjohn@gmail.com

Submitted to the NEW ERA

Something big is stomping its way to Pine Mountain Regional Library System (PMRLS). The library is going back in time with its annual Summer Reading Program, which begins Monday, June 1.

This year's slogan is "Unearth a Story," which centers around dinosaurs, paleontology and archeology. Through the Summer Reading Program, libraries across Georgia offer opportunities to explore creativity, develop social skills, and have fun while reading.

Summer Reading is for all ages, from infant through adult. Talented performers will be visiting all PMRLS locations, including a juggler, storyteller, animal shows, and more. For a full schedule of events and to learn how to register for Summer Reading, visit pinemtnlibrary.org/summer-reading.

The reading challenge can be done online or on the Beanstack phone app. Prizes will be awarded to participants who complete specific milestones, such as reading for a certain number of minutes or completing a certain number of activities on the BINGO card challenge. Additionally, participants will be eligible for grand prizes.

"Whether you're a tiny Triceratops or a sophisticated Stegosaurus, our Summer Reading Program has something for you," said Terri Townsend, programming and outreach librarian. "We have amazing performers, craft programs, storytime and more at our eight branches. Grab your excavation tools, or just your library card, and get ready to dig into some legendary adventures."

Participants who do not have access to the Internet can use computers at the library for free. Summer Reading ends on July 18. Pine Mountain Regional Library System serves Meriwether,



Photo Submitted

ALWAYS SOMETHING FUN - There is always something fun happening at the Talbot County Public Library. Visit the library and have some fun and an adventure.

Talbot, Taylor and Upson counties.

More opportunities for families to have fun this summer using their library card:

- Check out a Launchpad interactive learning tablet, which is pre-loaded with apps to encourage language and literacy development.

- Access free ebooks and audiobooks, including popular fiction and nonfiction titles, graphic novels, early readers, and more.

- Borrow Experience Passes for free or reduced admissions to great places around the state, including Georgia State Parks, Alliance Theatre, museums, and more.

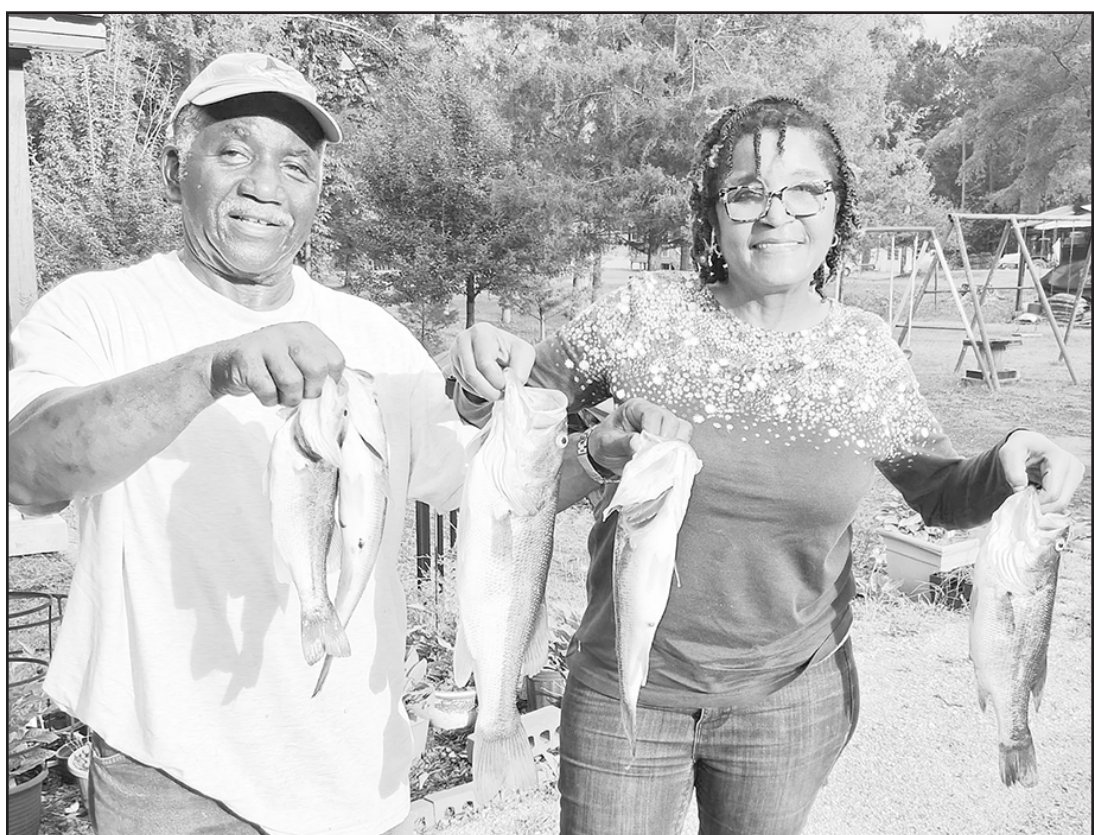
- Explore the PINES Kids catalog, which includes books on topics from dinosaurs to princesses.

PINES materials are available from more than 300 participating libraries in the state and delivered to your local library.

All Georgia public library locations will have a limited-edition library card available to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Additionally, PMRLS patrons can sign up for the Georgia Reads for America 250 reading challenge on Beanstack.

Georgia Reads for America 250 is a collaboration between Georgia Public Library Service, the Georgia Council on Literacy, and the Georgia Municipal Association. Learn more at georgialibraries.org/america250.



A Fish Tale!!

Story and Photo By Pres Hall
BIG BASS CATCH! - Talbot County native Elijah (TeeBee) Epps shown above at left is with his beautiful wife and master fisherman Doris Perryman Epps (shown at right) shows off an incredible catch of fish after just a few hours of fishing this past fourth Sunday evening. The larger big mouth bass weighed an estimated 3 to 4 pounds. A total of six bass nearing that size was hooked and landed from these experienced fishermen on their private owned lake. Congratulations!!

Three Profound Things



Rev. Aaron McCollough
 Columnist

Those of you who have been reading my ramblings for any length of time know that I am a collector and teller of words, phrases, stories, and stuff I encounter along the way. I want to share three such things with you today that I recently collected. I think they are very profound.

First, a pastor friend and his wife shared with me something they heard a friend say regarding his mother's death. He said, "Momma hasn't stopped living, she stopped dying!"

Wow! What a beautiful way to describe death! The cold, hard truth is that from the time we were conceived in our mother's womb, we started dying.

Our entire life is lived with death as our constant companion. As King David said unto Jonathan in 1st Samuel 20:3, "... there is but a step between me and death." And one day, death will overtake all of us. Hebrews 9: 27 states, "... And as it is appointed unto men once to die ..." But here is the good news for the Born-again Children of God, when death overtakes us, we do not stop living, we stop dying! Hallelujah! Profound!

Secondly, my wife and I have reached the age where we receive Annual Medicare Well Visits. We use the same doctor, so we schedule our appointments together.

Lately, at one such visit, our doctor finished Marianne's part and turned his attention toward me. I might add, he was really pleased with both of us. As we discussed our test results (numbers), he said something profound. He said, "A long time ago, I learned to treat the patient, not the numbers. Wow! Profound! I'm glad Jesus, the Great Physician, treats us and not our numbers, because they certainly aren't perfect!"

Thirdly, the other night my wife and I were surfing the TV channels. As fate would have it, I came across the Daystar channel. I seldom watch this channel. However, they were broadcasting the memorial service for their co-founder, Joni Lamb. Pastor Jentezen Franklin was preaching. I like his preaching, so I paused surfing, and we began to listen.

I don't recall exactly how he got from point A to point B, but Pastor Franklin just pulled up a chair and began to cold preach! Somehow, scars became his topic. He stated that he recently learned something about scars he had never known before. He told how that once a scar is fully healed, it does not grow.

He went on to tell about a little boy who was badly burned on his leg when he was just a small child. I'm guessing that he was around a year old. The burn was above his ankle, maybe a quarter of the way to his

knee. Years later, he ran into the boy.

Of course, by now, he was a full-grown man. Somehow, the subject of his burn and scar came up in their conversation. The man reached down and pulled up his pant leg. Much to his amazement, the scar that once seemed so large was now just a small scar above his ankle.

When he asked how this could be, he replied, "The scar couldn't grow anymore; I could! Wow! Profound! (That makes you want to put on your shouting shoes, doesn't it?)

Let us hear the conclusion of the matter. Three Profound Things: First, as Born-again believers, when death overtakes us, we do not stop living; we stop dying.

Secondly, as patients of the Great Physician, He treats us, not our numbers. Thirdly, once the scars from the wounds we have received in life, and more especially our Christian journey, have fully healed, they cannot grow any more, but we can!

Wow! I think I'll clean myself off a spot and have a Holy Ghost fit! My scars cannot grow any bigger - but I can! Wow!

Just Three Profound Things!

- Bro. Aaron

Rev. Aaron McCollough is the retired Associational Missionary for the Troup Baptist Association, which serves Harris, Meriwether, and Troup Counties,

Georgia. You may correspond with him by emailing: freshfire@mind-spring.com Follow him on Facebook at Fresh Fire Ministries, Hogansville, Georgia.

Autos For Sale Wide Variety To Choose From

- 20 Chevy Malibu, Maroon, \$7,400
- 13 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, White, \$8,400
- 18 Kia Forte, Maroon, \$5,900
- 21 GMC Sierra, Crew Cab, 4x4, Diesel, Silver, \$24,900
- 16 Honda CRV, Blue, \$9,800
- 18 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, 4x4, Black, \$17,400
- 23 Chevy Malibu, Blue, \$10,400
- 23 Chevy Malibu, White, \$10,400
- 18 Honda Civic, Gray, \$9,400
- 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
- 18 Chevy Equinox, Silver, \$7,900
- 20 Ford Fusion, Blue, \$7,900
- 18 Dodge Journey, Red, \$7,400
- 21 Chrysler Voyager Van, White, \$6,900
- 16 Honda CRV, Maroon, \$9,800
- 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
- 19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, \$10,800
- 15 Jeep Renegade, Black, \$6,400
- 15 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, 4x4, Blue, \$14,400
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- 17 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, Silver, \$13,900
- 18 Jeep Renegade, Gray, \$7,900

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CEHS Summer Hours Announced

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Talbot County School System and Central Elementary-High School

(CEHS) has announced this year's summer hours for students.

The School System will be open Monday through

Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The hours are effective beginning June 1 and ending on July 17.

Hunting for a Snake in the Grass

The first snake sighting of the year occurred on May 21. Eyewitness accounts put a rat snake somewhere along the driveway in a thick clump of grass. It was last seen headed towards the woods.

I didn't lay eyes on this slithering critter myself, but its existence was reported multiple times by both of my children, only one of which actually saw the snake in my understanding. Depending on who was telling the story, the situation became more dire.

Funny how perspective works. The first version of the tale is this: While performing his job of keeping the sticks and pinecones picked up around the yard, my son came across the snake. They saw each other at the same time, and like most serpent



Kyle Dominy

New Southern Dad

encounters, they went in opposite directions.

And it's a good thing I talked to him first, because it was vastly different from the yarn spun by my daughter. Words can hardly describe the fear and trepidation my precious girl child expressed when the existence of a, dare I mutter the term, snake, was discovered.

Remember, she didn't actually see it. I'm not even sure she was outside, but this animal really got under her skin. There is a passage pret-

ty early in the Scriptures about the relationship between people and snakes. You should check it out, something about enmity for the rest of time.

In her eyes her peace was destroyed, the outside world off limits to any living creature (ones we wanted to keep alive at least). If the dog wanted to go out, you might as well go ahead and dig its grave. And don't you even dare to think she was ever going to touch grass again.

So, after hearing these two tales I did what any half-way decent father would do and implored upon me by my snake-terrified child - I patrolled the property. I could have sat her down and explained that snake sightings are common in our area, that I see them every year and as long they are going the opposite direction, which they usually are because snakes are just as scared of us as we are of them, I let them alone.

But it was not a time for rational thought. It was a time for action.

There's more than one way to kill a nuisance snake. Most folks prefer a firearm of some kind but prefer more archaic methods. I keep a garden hoe at the ready, its blade sharpened to a fine edge. I don't do much gardening anymore, so this tool is strictly a weapon. Something about plowshares into swords can also be found in the Bible.

As you can imagine the snake was long gone before I could make my way to the alleged sighting. I gave the all clear and before nightfall the yard was alive again with activity of the human variety.

Even the dog was allowed to go back outside.

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



"We're saving a fortune at the gym!"

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Thank You
 I would like to thank everyone, who encouraged, supported and voted for me in the primary election 2026 District -3, Talbot County School Board. I want to encourage each of you to continue to exercise your right to vote. Your vote and your voice will make a difference.
 Carolyn Dewberry Parker

PUBLIC NOTICE

Logic and Accuracy Testing on Voting Machines Will Be Conducted Starting June 2, 2026 - Early Voting Begins June 8, 2026

Pursuant to O.C.G.A §21-2-374 (b) and O.C.G.A § 21-2-379.25 (c), notice is hereby given that Logic and Accuracy testing on the voting equipment to be used for the General Primary Run-off Election to be held on **June 16, 2026 will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026**, and will continue each day until completed.

Equipment testing will take place in the **Talbot County Board of Elections Building located at 1761 Geneva Highway, Talbotton, GA. 31827**. All testing is open to the public for observation.

Early / Advance in-person voting will begin on **Monday, June 8, 2026, and continue until June 12, 2026, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**, at the Board of Elections office located at 1761 Geneva Highway, Talbotton, GA 31827.

Absentee By Mail ballot applications can be requested via e-mail to: elections-registration@talbotcountyga.org and online at mvp.sos.ga.gov. They can also be picked up at the Board of Elections & Registration office, 1761 Geneva Highway, Talbotton, GA 31827 or call 706 665-8270 to request an application.

Sharita Trice, Chairperson
 Elections Supervisor
 Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration

Opinions & Ideas

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THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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Odds and Ends, Bits and Pieces, Flotsam & Jetsam

Some things I've smiled about recently ... some that happened to me, some that I found. Enjoy ...

The other day, my phone buzzed with a text message from my youngest grandson, Ryan. He asked, "How do you say coffee in German?"

I replied, "Kaffee."

He sent back thanks, and that was that.

Later, while having a conversation with my ex-wife (we are friends), she told me that Ryan had been sitting near her at their home and he looked up from what he was doing and asked, "Mimi, does Grandpa speak German?"

My ex said, "Yes, he does." (And I do, though not fluently.)

So he sent me the text, and I answered.

The point here? Ryan is just like any other typical American 9-year-old, and he knows how to use the Internet. In fact, I am told, he was online when he asked.

He could've done what every red-blooded American kid does when they have a question - he could've Googled it.

He didn't.

He asked Grandpa instead.

There is hope for the young in our country yet.

Last week, I made a trip to see my sister in Wisconsin, and got to spend a few days away from everything. I didn't take any work with me for any of my jobs (newspaper, radio, Safari tour guide). I just went and rested and relaxed on what I realized was my first real vacation in nine years. Don't call what I went through last year a vacation, even though I wasn't at work.

I got the chance to visit one of my favorite places on the planet, the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin. It's the former home of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (which I am happy to note is back in business), and it is a wonderful place to visit if, like me, you've ever dreamed of running away to join the circus.

Nothing of special note happened during my visit; I just had a few hours of happy times. I'm something of a museum junkie anyway, and a circus museum brings together two things I love.

Did I tell you the joke about the man who's allergic to alcohol?

Every time he takes a drink, he breaks out in hand-cuffs.

Feel free to steal that joke if you want to. I did.



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

I keep a monitor at my desk linked to a YouTube channel which shows views from various webcams all over the world, and the cameras change from time to time. One of the newest cameras to come online with the service is from Umhausen, Austria, of a huge waterfall on a tree-covered mountain-side.

I am a sucker for waterfalls.

And finally, a note that life does, indeed, imitate art.

Back in the late 1970s, when I was working full-time in radio, one of my favorite television programs was WKRP in Cincinnati. That show was all about a radio station, and in a lot of ways the show mirrored things that happened at the station where I worked (which, coincidentally, was WTRP).

Much of what went on at that fictional, comedic station also took place on a smaller scale at our station, and I'm given to understand that it was common in the industry at the time.

I wondered, though, why some station in Cincinnati didn't just acquire the call letters WKRP for the sheer audacity of it. A bit of investigating showed that those call letters were "restricted" during the run of the show by the FCC, and after the show went off the air a low-power station in Dallas, Georgia, applied for those call letters.

Then, they went to a public radio station in North Carolina.

Today, though, life does imitate art, as there really is a WKRP in Cincinnati.

On May 4, a station based in that city formerly known as "The Oasis" rebranded after acquiring the call letters and - most importantly - getting the rights to use the words from Shout Studios, owners of the original series. They even have station promos recorded by actor Gary Sandy, who played station program director Andy Travis on the 1970s show.

The most delightful part of the whole thing is, they use the theme song from the show every hour, on the hour, when the station identification has to air.

Life imitates art, and I am happy about that.

Area College Baseball Teams in the Spotlight

The University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Auburn University baseball teams are bringing the attention of college baseball fans to our wonderful state and area. In case you haven't heard, the Yellow Jackets won the ACC title this year and the Bulldogs won the SEC title.

At the present time, the Yellow Jackets are ranked number two in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championships and the Bulldogs are ranked number three.

The Yellow Jackets finished regular season play with an overall record of 48-9 and won the title with a 13-6 victory over North Carolina on the road in Charlotte. That is the first championship the Yellow Jackets have claimed since 2014. North Carolina is ranked number four.

This is the first time in the history of UGA baseball that a team had won the SEC tournament. The Bulldogs have an overall record of 46-12 and defeated Arkansas 11-1 to win the title. The team also pulled off an impressive 8-7 victory over Florida in the SEC semifinals.

The list of teams in the Top 25 of the USA Today poll is an impressive one and included the following teams:

- 1 UCLA Bruins
- 2 Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
- 3 Georgia Bulldogs

- 4 North Carolina Tar Heels
- 5 Texas Longhorns
- 6 Auburn Tigers
- 7 Southern Miss Golden Eagles
- 8 Oregon State Beavers
- 9 Florida State Seminoles
- 10 Texas A&M Aggies
- 11 West Virginia Mountaineers
- 12 Oregon Ducks
- 13 Arkansas Razorbacks
- 14 Florida Gators
- 15 Kansas Jayhawks
- 16 Alabama Crimson Tide
- 17 Mississippi State Bulldogs
- 18 Nebraska Cornhuskers
- 19 USC Trojans
- 20 Ole Miss Rebels
- 21 Oklahoma State Cowboys
- 22 Arizona State Sun Devils
- 23 Jacksonville State Gamecocks
- 24 Cincinnati Bearcats
- 25 Tennessee Volunteers

The Yellow Jackets will take on UIC on Friday, May 29 in the first round at Russ Chandler Stadium in Atlanta. UIC is the number four seed in the Missouri Valley Conference.

The Bulldogs will host Long Island that same day at Foley Field in Athens. The Long Island Sharks are in the Northeast Conference and this will be the third time in the past five years the team has made the NCAA tournament.

UCLA has a really good baseball team are while the team is ranked number one,



John Kuykendall
Publisher & Editor

they will see some tough competition in the tournament. If I was a betting man, I would put my money on the Yellow Jackets taking it all in the tournament. The team is strong on both offense and defense, has great pitching and playing really well right now.

Georgia should also make a good run.

Lets not forget however, that Auburn is also in the tournament and is close by as well.

The Auburn Tigers will host Milwaukee on May 29 at Plainsman Park in Auburn.

There will be 64 teams in the tournament and the regionals (first round) will feature 16 double-elimination brackets consisting of four teams, each hosted by one of the top-16 national seeds in the field.

The winner of each regional bracket advances to the super regionals, which features eight best-of-three series hosted by the higher-seeded team from June 5-8.

The College World Series will be played at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Neb.,

from June 12-22.

What does this mean to our local area. It means large crowds will gather for the three games and that means tourist dollars coming into the state and area.

With the Yellow Jackets and the Bulldogs being ranked so high in the tournament it is definitely going to bring attention to baseball in the state.

As a Georgia fan, I would love to see the Bulldogs win it all and I believe the team can go deep in the tournament. I also believe the Auburn Tigers can as well.

However, the Yellow Jackets have talent and a very favorable draw for a national title run. The Yellow Jackets have one of the most explosive offenses in college baseball.

Also, the Jackets have several All-ACC players like Drew Burrell, Ryan Zuckerman, Carson Kerch and Jarren Advincula. The team also has a proven post-season record and a favorable region draw.

With the talent, depth and experience of the Yellow Jackets, the team has a really good chance of winning the NCAA tournament and a College World Series.

So, if you like baseball this tournament provides the best in college baseball. It also showcases some really good Southern teams.

Lack of Parental Control

Leaders of our neighbors to the south - Columbus - are considering a curfew for teens in at least one area of the city and the pushback has already started.

Columbus is not the first place to do this.

It was about 2006 or 2007 and I was in the mall in Panama City, Florida. At 8:45 pm the mall's speaker system cut from the background music with a voice reporting the time and saying that all teens not accompanied by an adult had to vacate the property and parking lot in 15 minutes. Being the inquisitive person that I am, I had to ask why and the answer was a curfew because of mounting problems caused by unaccompanied young people.

Sound familiar?

My wife works in Columbus. Specifically, she works in an area that not many years ago was considered upscale, but not so much today. When she closes, my wife is usually among the last to leave because she has responsibilities that - quite frankly - puts her at some risk. To mitigate the risk, I am present those

nights my wife closes, staged near the doors so I can see and intervene should something bad develop. As the other women leave, I watch from the time they exit the store until they are secure in their cars. Many of them wave and speak as they pass by. I am there until my wife exits the building and I am not unarmed.

Beginning last fall there was a group of teens, guys and gals, that started congregating in the parking lot at night. They parked in areas that did not disturb those businesses still open. They were relatively quiet, no obnoxiously loud radios, no shouting or screaming profanities, no racing car engines. They did not bother anyone, so no one bothered them.

Apparently, word spread and other groups began gravitating to that parking lot as well and they were not as well-behaved. They paraded around in the parking lot with their radios deafeningly loud. They seemed to get some pleasure out of driving fast over the speed bumps and they appeared to have little regard for the safety of those leaving



Andy Kober
Columnist

stores heading to their cars. I have seen them cutting donuts in the parking lot, sometimes nearly hitting other vehicles. Their behavior had gotten so bad that very recently Columbus police officers started sending them away.

THE proposed curfew in the Columbus downtown area has drawn considerable attention and comments on social media, with varied opinions including that young people have nowhere to congregate.

I would think the business community in downtown Columbus would welcome young people as additional customers, but again the young people would have to police themselves and that rarely happens - or at least not for very long.

The difference between the two groups of young people noted in this column is directly attributable to the parents and how these young people were raised. Parents either did a good job in raising their children or failed miserably and everyone else pays the price. And before people begin whining about the proliferation of single-parent families and those inherent difficulties - until she married my dad, my mother was a single parent. I know others that came from single-parent families, or blended families, that did a great job raising the children.

THE world that many of us grew up in is gone and is unlikely to ever come back, but that does not excuse today's parents for failing to teach their children how to behave.

That failure could lead to such a curfew not only being established, but expanded to include other areas in the city with parents being held financially, criminally, and civilly responsible for the actions of their children.

As they should be. That's my opinion.

My Family Road Trip To Washington D. C.

Make Forever Memories, Sometimes Its All We Have Left!

Greetings and blessings! First thing first! We certainly thank and praise God for His amazing grace, mercy and guardian angels that covered us to and fro on a five-day road trip. This past week, my family and I set out for D. C. to explore history, spend time together and make some lasting memories. After sadly experiencing so many shocking sudden losses of family loved ones, we knew it was definitely time. However, all I say would be an understatement of the magnitude of genuine love shown and eternal memories made. Yes of course, it was a long 12 hours or more drive, but we had fun all the way. It was three generations of family, but everyone was truly relatable and got along very well. I can honestly say, I've never been more proud-

er of my family. Unbelievable, after all those 12+ hours of traveling one way, and then four days and nights together; everyone got along exceptionally well, just fine. I don't think anyone got on anyone else's nerve, even as we would stay up late playing games and eating.

More so, God provided us with the perfect staying quarter area, everything necessary and unnecessary were available, even two game rooms and BBQ grill and outdoor space. Only God could have put the right people in the right places to help in facilitating this amazing trip. Every day was preplanned perfectly, and we did so much in that given time. Our 1st day, we toured the African American Museum, quite interesting and exciting but



Pres Hall
Columnist

some hurtful, disappointing and sad. On the 2nd day, we toured D.C. on the trolley ride with a great knowledgeable tour guide, stopping at numerous sites. Unbeknown to me, my daughter had intentionally planned a stop at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, where I always wanted to go someday, but I never dreamed I would. A solemn moment of emotions as I could see imagery faces of

my fellow comrades. It blessed me in more ways than one. As we were heading back Saturday, we learned that unfortunately, and regrettably, a family of four were all killed the day before from a bus crash to their vehicle the same road we were traveling home on. And I can truly say, it was the extraordinary trip of a lifetime! Indeed, God was in the plan! I deeply encourage you to ask God for what you desire and trust Him to do it. **Read Philippians 4:19**, it says, "He will supply (provide)" and **Psalms 37:4** says, "Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Only missing were our loved ones and we felt their presence! This trip made such a profound difference in strengthening our family relationship! **Thank You Lord!... More next week!**

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

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Bible Thought of the Week

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

The "Lighter Side" of the News



Smarter Than the Average Bear?

A young black bear visited two Massachusetts schools as it wandered through Worcester with police in pursuit.

The bruin was spotted climbing over garden walls Thursday on Highland Street, prompting a lockdown at the nearby Doherty Memorial High School.

Students were kept inside until the bear left the area.

The animal was later spotted about two miles away, on the campus of Clark University.

Police said the bear eventually returned to the woods on its own, and environmental police are keeping tabs on it.

Dave Wattles, a black bear biologist with MassWildlife, said the bear appeared to be about a year and a half old, and had likely only recently separated from its mother.

He told WBZ-TV the bear is "essentially a teenager trying to find its own way in the world."

Wattles said bear sightings in the area are likely to increase as the animals enter their mating season.

A Real Cut-Up

An Idaho man broke a potentially deadly Guinness World Record he has pledged to never attempt again: the longest duration balancing a running chainsaw on the chin.

David Rush, who holds the most concurrent Guinness World Records titles, attempted the record at his oldest son's last soccer practice of the season in May 2025, and the record-keeping organization has now confirmed he officially holds the title.

"Some records are simple. Some are hard. Some are flat-out terrifying. Balancing a running chainsaw on my chin falls

squarely into the 'terrifying' category, a challenge that took me years to even work up the nerve to attempt," Rush wrote online.

He opted to use an electric chainsaw instead of a gas-powered tool for the attempt, to prevent the jerky and unpredictable motions of a two-stroke engine.

Rush said there were still numerous obstacles involved, including oil dripping from the blade onto his face, necessitating the use of safety goggles.

"I had to keep the center of gravity just above my chin while the blade spun inches from my face. The oil dripped down and my nerves ramped up," Rush said.

He ended up keeping the chainsaw balanced for 4 minutes and 1.44 seconds before letting it fall, enough to take the record.

"I have no desire to ever do this one again, but I'm proud that the record is mine. It was a powerful reminder that while we can push ourselves to extraordinary lengths, we must also respect the lines between determination and sheer recklessness," he said.

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14th Annual Juneteenth Festival Set for Hamilton

Submitted to the *NEW ERA*

The Harris County Juneteenth Planning Committee is pleased to announce the fourth annual Harris County Juneteenth Celebration, which will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Harris County Community Center, located at 7509 GA Hwy-116, Hamilton, GA 31811. This event aims to bring the community together with arts and craft vendors, cultural showcases, a silent auction, and free food. It also serves as a community fundraiser as all proceeds above the event operation costs will be donated to the Harris County BackSnacks Program.

While Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation the 1st of January 1863, it did not auto-

matically end the institution of slavery. On June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, Union Soldiers arrived in Galveston Bay, TX, with the news of freedom. This was the last large population of enslaved people. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day, marking a symbolic end to slavery. Juneteenth represents the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy magnifying the hopes and dreams those Texans held fast to the promise of true liberty. Juneteenth has been celebrated since the 1800s and was officially recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed

the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. The Harris County Juneteenth Celebration will feature arts and crafts vendors, a silent auction and a cultural showcase beginning at 11 a.m. The cultural showcase will feature singing, dancing, historical demonstrations, and keynote speakers, showcasing talent from across Harris County. Following the program, participants are encouraged to partake in free food and shop our arts and crafts vendors. Admission is free and donations are encouraged and welcome, as this fundraiser is 100 percent dependent on volunteers. There will also be a silent auction containing original African artwork and more. All proceeds will be donated to the Harris County BackSnacks Program.

NEW ERA PUBLIC NOTICES

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

COSTS FOR LEGAL NOTICES

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

Debtors & Creditors Notice

26-051
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LEE EDWARD SNELLINGS

All creditors of the Estate of LEE EDWARD SNELLINGS, 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 18 TH day of MAY, 2026.

SHIRLEY A. SNELLINGS
210 MAXWELL RD.
TALBOTTON, GA 31827
Executor(s) of the Estate of LEE EDWARD SNELLINGS, Deceased

26-050
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR.
All creditors of the Estate of DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR. 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 18TH day of MAY, 2026.
CAROLYN M. WILLIAMS
37 HARTSDALE DR.
BOX SPRINGS, GA 331801
Executor(s) of the Estate of DOUGLAS JOHNSON, SR. Deceased
(5:28, 6:4, 11, 18)

Probate Notices

26-052
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WHITTNEY LANE MCCARLEY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-P-022

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
LAUREN MCCARLEY has petitioned to be appointed Successor Administrator(s) of the estate of WHITTNEY L. MCCARLEY 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 29, 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: NILEJA WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO BOX 157
TALBOTTON, GA 31827
706-665-8866
(6:4, 11, 18, 25)



Photos By (top) Maryann Zeliznak; (bottom) Mary Byers

MEMORIAL DAY IN MANCHESTER - Top, keynote speaker retired Army Colonel Paul Longgear shares personal stories of men he served with who were lost; bottom left, the Missing Man Table receives a solemn salute; bottom right, Lisa Thompson delivers beautiful renditions of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

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FEATURES & PUZZLES



Photo from Public Domain

HOME OF THE KING - This week in 1984, Priscilla Presley opens Elvis Presley's home to the public as a museum – expect for the bathroom in which he died which remains closed to visitors. Graceland remains a huge attraction for fans and tourists alike.

This Week in History

1982 - Graceland Opens to the Public

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **June 4.** On this day in 1939, 973 German Jewish refugees onboard the ocean liner *MS St. Louis*, are denied permission to land in Florida. Fleeing the rise of the Nazis in Germany, these refugees were also turned away by Canada and Cuba. The ship headed back to Europe where 288 refugees were allowed in Britain. Of the remainder, 254 were murdered during the Holocaust and the rest fled to other European countries and survived the war. This became known as the “Voyage of the Damned” and used in various movies and novels

• **June 5.** In 1964, the DSV *Alvin* is commissioned. The Deep-Submergence Vehicle teamed with its support ship, *RV Atlantis*, is operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution but is owned by the US Navy. *Alvin* is designed to dive as deep as 21,300 feet with three onboard for a period of nine hours. Still in service and upgraded over the years, *Alvin* has enjoyed an illustrious career in researching deep depths of the oceans. *Alvin* also found a 1.45 megaton hydrogen bomb lost when two military aircraft collided, explored the wreck of the *Titanic*, explored the wreck of the submarine *USS Scorpion*, and the site of the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

• **June 6.** Today in 1925, Walter Chrysler founds Chrysler Corporation from what had been Maxwell Motor Company which had been started in 1904. After World War I and the Great Depression that followed, Maxwell Motor Company fell into deep debt and attempted a merger with Chalmers Automobile Company, which was also in financial trouble. Walter Chrysler took controlling interest in Maxwell then brought the Maxwell-Chalmers automobile line to an end,

replacing it with Chrysler Corporation.

• **June 7.** On this day in 1982, Priscilla Presley opens Graceland to the public as a museum. Graceland had been the final home of Elvis Presley. While the mansion is open to visitors, the bathroom in which Presley died is not open to the public. Graceland receives about 600,000 visitors per year, making it the second-most visited home in the country, second only to the White House.

• **June 8.** In 1951, Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army and North Korean Peoples Army forces have been using extensive rainfall and very boggy conditions to assist in stalling South Korean, UN and US forces during the Korean War. As incessant rainfall lessens, PVA and KPA forces begin a slow, phased withdrawal. Allied forces reach and occupy P'yonggang. Allied reconnaissance units find PVA soldiers near Kumsong. Meanwhile, the 1st Marine Division captures Yanggu.

• **June 9.** Today in 1972, a small but severe storm drops 15 inches of rain in a short time over the Black Hills of South Dakota. Clogged with debris, Canyon Lake Dam fails. The resulting flash flood strikes Rapid City and Keystone. The flooding resulted in the deaths of 238 people, with over 3,000 suffering various injuries. Over 2,800 homes were damaged with 1,335 homes beyond repair. About 5,000 cars were demolished and more than 200 businesses were ruined. The tragedy becomes known as The Black Hills Flood of 1972.

• **June 10.** On this day in 1991, actress and producer Leelee Sobieski is born in New York City. Forty-two years old, Sobieski has been featured in such hits as *Deep Impact*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Joan of Arc*, and *NYC 22*. Though not completely retired, Sobieski is very selective of the roles she accepts. Her complete actual name is Lilliane Rudabet Gloria Elsveta “Leelee” Sobieski.



You are now reading the 500th “Did You Know...?” Column!



By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

In October of 2016, I began this column. The story of how it came to be has been relayed here numerous times; I won't go into it again.

That was 500 weeks ago.

This week, you are reading the 500th column in this series. It's a milestone I never once thought would happen. I had actually assumed you'd all get tired of this stuff and stop reading it; far from it, you've asked for more.

Now, 500 columns in, I'm ready to get the next 500 underway. I have to thank all the editors who run this silly stuff I write, sharing it with all of you; and I thank you, the readers, who spend a part of your day with this nonsense, and make me feel good about doing it.

Five. Hundred. Columns.

Let's keep it going, shall we? Read on!

Did you know ...

... seven of the ten tallest statues in the world are of the same person? If you were to list the ten tallest statues on Earth, numbers two through eight would all be of the same person—Siddhartha Gautama (563 BC-483 BC), known to his followers as the Buddha. The tallest statue is one of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875-1950), former Deputy Prime Minister of India, in Gujarat, India. It stands 597 feet high. Number nine is The Motherland Calls, the tallest statue of a woman in the world at 279 feet just outside Volgograd, Russia. And rounding out the top ten is a statue of Kannon, or Guanyin, a 260-foot statue of a Buddhist goddess in Japan.

... a pirate was pardoned by a colonial governor, then returned to piracy? Known as “Calico Jack,” John Rackham (1682-1720) was one of the most infamous pirates to operate in the Caribbean Sea. In 1719, Rackham was given a pardon by the governor of Nassau, and he resumed his pirate ways the following year. *Additional trivia note:* Rackham was an equal opportunity pirate; he employed two women in his crew, Mary Read (1685-1721) and his lover Anne Bonny (1697-1721). (Arrr, mateys!)

... a popular situation comedy star turned down a spot on *Saturday Night Live*? In 1993, not long before filming began on the popular sitcom *Friends*, one of its stars – Jennifer Aniston (born 1969) – met with the creator of *Saturday Night Live*, Lorne Michaels (born 1944), in an effort to become a regular performer on the show. Aniston says she turned down the gig because she'd heard that women were not respected on the *SNL* set. Not long after that, she auditioned for *Friends* ... and the rest, as they say, is history. (Comedy history, anyway.)

... a baby was born in 2017 that was actually just one year younger than her mother? Bear with me a moment; this one gets a bit complicated. Emma Gibson was born on November 25, 2017 in Tennessee. Emma was originally conceived on October 14, 1992, then frozen as an embryo. More than 24 years later, she was thawed and used in an in-vitro fertilization process for Tina Gibson (born 1991). Gibson carried the

baby – who was conceived the year after she was born – to term and delivered her healthy in 2017. This means that Emma, the baby, was actually just a year younger than her own birth mother. *Additional trivia note:* Emma isn't the longest time between conception and birth, however. That honor goes to her sister Molly. Molly was conceived in 1992 as well and frozen as an embryo. Two years after Emma's birth, Molly was born – 27 years after being conceived. (Mother's Day is complicated.)

... only one unarmed soldier in U.S. history has earned the Medal of Honor? Desmond Doss (1919-2006), a medic in the U.S. Army during World War II, not only earned the country's highest decoration but also two Bronze Star medals and three Purple Hearts – despite not carrying a weapon at any time. Doss, who was a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church, refused to carry a weapon but wanted desperately to serve his country during the war. A conscientious objector, he could have been deferred, but he wanted to serve. He became a medic even though he was working in a shipyard (an essential wartime occupation) and on the island of Okinawa in 1944 he single-handedly saved 75 men while he himself had been injured, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Doss' exploits were the subject of the 2016 Academy Award™-winning movie *Hacksaw Ridge*.

... a super-massive black hole out in space has more mass than an entire galaxy? A black hole is formed when a star collapses (or goes supernova) and what's left behind is compressed by gravity to such a state that even light can't escape. With strong gravity like that, anything that comes near it is dragged in, and becomes part of the hole. TON 618, a supermassive black hole located near the North Galactic Pole in the constellation Canes Venatici, has a mass of more than 66 billion times the mass of our Sun. By comparison, the Triangulum Galaxy – a collection of billions of stars – has a mass of 50 billion times that of the Sun. TON 618 is thus more massive than an entire galaxy.

... the sandwich is named after a person? John Montagu (1718-1792), Fourth Earl of Sandwich, did not invent the sandwich but he did popularize it. The story goes that Montagu, a prolific gambler, was so involved in a game once that he asked for his dinner to be brought to him, the meat slapped between two pieces of bread. Even though it was not a “new” creation, the fact that someone of Montagu's station in life ate it was impressive to others, and the name “Sandwich” became popularized for the dish.

... a popular candy was originally sold under a different name? Starburst™ candies, the popular fruit-flavor chewy candy, were originally called Opal Fruits when they were launched in the United Kingdom in 1960. When the candy came to America in 1967, the name was changed to Starburst. The original Opal Fruits flavors were lemon, lime, orange, and strawberry. (Tasty stuff!)

Now ... you know!

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ET in the News

By ANDY KOBER

No, not ET from the mega hit movie of the same name, but Unidentified Flying Objects and whatever is controlling them.

As more government records are being declassified and released, it is becoming increasingly difficult to automatically discount UFO sightings, and if they exist there must be some intelligence behind them.

Last week, NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said the “newly declassified files are exposing years of strange aerial sightings that government agencies failed to seriously dig into.”

Among the still and video images is one reportedly of an F-16 Fighting Falcon shooting down a diamond-shaped object over Lake Huron, one of the Great Lakes. That object was initially reported to be some type of balloon, and perhaps it was, but UFO sightings have been called “weather balloons” by government officials for a very long time.

Some of the declassified reports note Gemini and Apollo astronauts describing strange objects and lights in space.

The most concerning part of this is: if alien species



are observing Earth and our civilizations, that means they are far ahead of us in technological achievement. If they are from within our solar system, they have done a masterful job of remaining concealed. If they are from outside our solar system, they must have mastered a faster-than-light propulsion system. Either way, they are far more advanced than we are.

Apparently, there are many more reports to be declassified and released.

Soon we will resume our exploration of planets in science fiction.

Keep your eyes on the sky for passing fireballs.

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

On Wednesday, May 27, 82 people across Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada reported seeing a fireball.

The fireball was first reported at 5:20 am by a sky-

watcher in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The fireball was seen as far north as Orillia, Ontario, Canada, as far east as Kingston, Ontario, Canada, as far south as Eau Claire, PA, and as far west as Charlotte, MI. The fireball appeared to travel from northwest to southeast.

One skywatcher in Michigan wrote, “It was so bright and green it caught me off guard. I was shocked at how bright and beautiful it was.”

Five skywatchers reported hearing noise attributable to the fireball, 12 witnessed it

fragment into smaller pieces, and two captured videos of it.

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

Going outside and looking at 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!

SUDOKU

4								5
			5			6	9	
5	3	9			7	1		
		4			2	8		9
	9			7	6			1
2		8			5	7		
		3	7		4	9	2	
			6		1			
6		7	3	2		4		

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	1	4	9	2	3	7	5	6
7	3	5	8	1	6	4	2	9
6	2	9	4	5	7	3	8	1
3	2	1	8	4	9	5	7	6
4	1	8	7	6	2	4	1	3
9	7	6	4	1	3	2	8	5
4	5	3	9	2	6	7	1	8
2	8	7	1	5	4	3	6	9
5	4	2	6	9	1	8	3	7

ANSWER:



Dr. Jenie Carter Remembered at CEHS

BELOVED COUNSELOR REMEMBERED - During the Central High School Class of 2026 Commencement Exercises, a touching tribute was presented in memory of the late Dr. Jenie Carter, beloved school counselor, who passed away during the semester. On behalf of the graduating class, Khamora Henry delivered a heartfelt speech honoring Dr. Carter's life, legacy, and the lasting impact she made on the students, staff, and school community. Following her remarks, Khamora presented Ms. J. Dennis, Dr. Carter's daughter, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a pictorial collage filled with cherished memories of Dr. Carter. Ms. Dennis then shared words of thanks and gratitude to the Class of 2026 and the Talbot County School System for honoring her mother in such a meaningful way. This special moment served as a reminder of the love, guidance, and compassion Dr. Carter poured into Central High School. Her legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of the students, families, and educators she touched.

Photo By Keniece Adams

Talbot County Library Summer Events

Submitted to the *NEW ERA*

Pine Mountain Regional Library Summer Reading events have been announced. Performers or special guests are in bold type. All activities are free and open to the public.

Talbot County Public Library is located at 75 N Jefferson Street in Talbotton.

Monday, June 1
Summer Reading begins!
Sign up at pinemtnlibrary.beanstack.com.

Tuesday, June 2
2 p.m. - Ron Anglin, juggler

Thursday, June 4
All day - Kids Club: Amber fossils

Friday, June 5

2 p.m. - Junior science lab: Fizzy dino eggs

Tuesday, June 9
1 p.m. - The Crafty Adult & Teen: Clay keychains

Wednesday, June 10
12 p.m. - Jason Clark, Southeastern Reptile Rescue

Thursday, June 11
All day - Painted paper plate dinos

Tuesday, June 16
All day - Pop-up adult craft

Wednesday, June 17
2 p.m. - Kids Club: Dino canvas painting

Thursday, June 18
1 p.m. - Red Dog Therapy: Adopt a stuffed puppy party

Friday, June 19 - Saturday,

June 20
All Pine Mountain Regional Libraries closed

Tuesday, June 23
1 p.m. - The Crafty Adult: Resin jewelry
2 p.m. - Josie Bailey, storyteller

Wednesday, June 24
2 p.m. - Kids Club: Paper hatching dino eggs

Thursday, June 25
3 p.m. - Talbot Tales Book Club
All day - Kids Club: Fossil necklace

Friday, June 26
2 p.m. - Junior Science Lab: Dino bird feeders

Tuesday, June 30
1 p.m. - The Crafty Adult: Sublimation pouches

8th Grade Promotional Ceremony Held

Photos By Keniece Adams

EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY HELD - Central Elementary-High School held its eighth Grade Promotional Ceremony on May 20 at 10 a.m., celebrating students as they prepared to transition into high school. One of the most meaningful highlights of the program was when the eighth grade students presented their parents and guardians with a single red rose as a heartfelt symbol of thanks, love, and appreciation for their support. The Junior Marshals for the ceremony were the top two students of the seventh grade class, Jazlyn Copeland and Aniyah Rhodes. The prestigious Faculty Cup Award was presented to Olivia Mahone (pictured at left) in recognition of her outstanding character, leadership, and dedication. Congratulations to the eighth grade class on this important milestone!



Nice Weather Predicted for Weekend

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

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



This week the weather experts are calling for the rain to end and the sunshine to return.

Today June 4, the skies should be sunny with a high temperature of 82 degrees and a low temperature of 59 degrees. There is only a four percent chance of rain in the forecast. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about eight miles per hour.

For Friday, June 5, the skies will remain sunny with a high temperature of about 85 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 63 degrees. There is only a nine percent chance of rain being predicted. Winds are expected to be blowing around seven miles per hour.

On Saturday, June 6, the weatherman is calling for partly cloudy skies with a 12% chance of showers. The high temperature is expected to reach about 86 degrees

and the low temperature is expected to be around 67 degrees. Winds are expected to be around six miles per hour.

On Sunday, June 7 the skies are expected to remain partly cloudy with the a 14% chance or showers. The high temperature is expected to reach around 86 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 60 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about five miles per hour.

On Monday, June 8, it is expected to be mostly cloudy with a 24% chance of rain. The high temperature should be around 85 degrees and the low temperature around 70 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about four miles per hour.

On Tuesday, June 9, the rain will return with scattered thundershowers and a

37% chance of rain. The high temperature is expected to reach about 82 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 68 degrees. Winds speeds are expected to be around six miles per hour.

On Wednesday, June 10, the skies are expected to be partly cloudy with only a 24% chance of showers. 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 reach speeds of about six miles per hour.

On Thursday, June 11, expect isolated thundershowers with a 34% chance of rain. The high temperature is expected to be around 85 degrees and the low temperature should be around 69 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about five miles per hour.



Photos By Keniece Adams

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION HELD - Central Elementary School celebrated its Kindergarten Graduation on May 20 with the theme "The Golden Class." The celebration honored the hard work and growth of our youngest scholars under the guidance of kindergarten teachers Ms. Tiana McPhee and Ms. Kacie Kitchens, along with paraprofessionals Mrs. Peggy Hall and Mrs. Frances Jones. During the program, students showcased what they learned throughout the year through joyful songs, dances, and performances. Their confidence, excitement, and bright smiles made the occasion truly special for families, faculty, and staff. Congratulations to The Golden Class as they prepare to take their next big step in learning!



Let's celebrate 250 Years in a big way!!

It's time for the annual July 4th Flag in this newspaper. All advertisements on the flag pages are full color and printed with a flag that can be used to decorate a window or more.

This annual special section is always a big hit with our readers and now is the time to reserve your advertising space in the edition.

Deadline for advertisements in the edition is scheduled for June 17, 2026 at 5 p.m. and the special pages will be published in this newspaper on Thursday, July 2nd.

CALL 706-846-3188 TODAY AND ASK FOR JOHNNY, BRYAN OR RICHARD OR EMAIL: starmercuryjohn@gmail.com