

# THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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## Qualifying for Talbotton Special Election Will Begin on July 13th

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Sharita Trice, chairperson of the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration has announced a special election for the City of Talbotton is scheduled for November and qualifying for the election will begin on July 13.

According to Trice, a special election will be held in conjunction with the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3 to fill the unexpired term of Andrew

Hall. Hall is a member of the Talbotton City Council and is seeking a commissioner's seat in the November election.

Hall will oppose Incumbent Commissioner Walter Wilson, Jr. for the District 1 seat.

Advanced voting for the Talbotton election will begin on Oct. 13.

Qualifying for the special election will be held at the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration Office located at 1761

Geneva Highway in Talbotton beginning Monday, July 13 and ending on Wednesday, July 15. The qualifying fee for the post is \$75. The qualifying fee must be paid by check or money order. No cash will be accepted for the fee.

To qualify a candidate must be a registered voter of Talbot County, be a resident of the City of Talbotton for at least one year prior to the election and must not have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

**YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP HELD** - The Talbot County Recreation Department teamed up with former Manchester High School basketball standout and professional trainer Lakevis Prather to host a free four day youth basketball camp from June 29 to July 2. The camp was well attended and the participants learned a great deal about the game and had fun while learning.

## Billboard in Times Square Honors Gooden and PFLG Entertainment

By MARJORIE HOWARD

Being on the big screen in New York City's Times Square was one of the latest notable accomplishments by Princess F.L. Gooden of PFLG Entertainment and a Talbot County resident.

Gooden and her husband, Reginald, were in Times Square for the initial launch of a billboard congratulating her as a recipient of one of the 2026 Columbus GA Film Office Filmmaker Grants.

The occasion was especially memorable for the Goodens because in addition to seeing the billboard go live to celebrate Princess' grant award, they were also celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary!

A belated "happy anniversary" to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden and Congratulations to Princess! Watch for the latest news about the premiere of the upcoming movie, "Princess."



Submitted Photo

**LOCAL ARTIST HONORED** - Princess F.L. Gooden of PFLG Entertainment and her husband, Reginald, are shown with a billboard in the background honoring her for receiving the 2026 Columbus Film Office Filmmaker Grants. It was also the couple's 15th wedding anniversary.

## Hot Weather Will Continue This Week

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 World's extended forecast.*



The upcoming week will see hot temperatures and very little rain in the forecast for the Talbot County area, according to Weather World.

Here is what Weather World is forecasting weather wise for the Talbot County area for the upcoming week.

**Today July 9:** There is going to be a 57% chance of rain in the forecast for today

with mostly sunny skies. The weather will be hot with the high temperature expected to reach about 96 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 73%. Winds will help a little reaching speeds of about 10 miles per hour (mph) and coming out of the West Southwest.

**Friday, July 10:** The high temperature is expected to reach around 97 degrees today with the low temperature around 74 degrees. There is only a 3% chance of rain in today's forecast with sunny skies and winds are expected to reach speeds of nine mph and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

**Saturday, July 11:** There is a 36% chance of showers in today's forecast, but the temperature will continue to be hot. The high temperature today is expected to reach about 97 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 75 degrees. Winds are expected to reach about eight miles per hour and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

**Sunday, July 12:** There is only about an eight percent chance of rain in today's forecast and there will not be a break in the heat wave either. The high temperature today is expected to reach around 95 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 74 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 11 miles per hour and coming out of the West.

**Monday, July 13:** Skies

are predicted to be partly cloudy today with a 36% chance of showers. The high temperature for the day is expected to be around 97 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 76 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 10 mph and will be coming out of the West Northwest.

**Tuesday, July 14:** Skies are expected to be sunny again today with only a 17% chance of showers. The high temperature for the day is expected to reach about 96 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 71 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about nine mph and will be coming out of the East Northeast.

**Wednesday, July 15:** Skies will be sunny with only a four percent chance of showers in the forecast. The high temperature is expected to be around 96 degrees today and the low temperature is expected to be about 73 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of nine mph and will be coming out of the Southwest.

**Thursday, July 16:** Skies will be partly cloudy today and the temperatures will be a little cooler with the high temperature expected to be around 91 degrees and the low temperature around 70 degrees. There is a 78% chance of a shower today. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 11 mph and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

## Back to School Community Event

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

A back to school community event has been planned for Saturday, July 25.

The event will begin at 12 noon at the Talbotton Fire

Station and Major Smart Web of the Talbotton Police Department participating.

The event is open to all children and parents. There will be hotdogs, chips, cold drinks, juice and water avail-

able for the event.

The event is being sponsored by Willie Leonard, District 1 Board of Education member Julia A. Leonard and members of the community.

## Talbot County Awards Ceremony for First Responders Saturday, July 11

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

An awards ceremony for Talbot County First Responders has been scheduled for Saturday, July 11.

"Please come out to the first award ceremony ever held in Talbot County to honor all first responders, to include EMS, Firefighters, Police, and members of the Sheriff's

Office, and other support personnel," said Major Smart Web with the Talbotton Police Department.

"This is the time to mingle, and personally get to know all first responders. The event will provide a motivating evening as we honor those who go above and beyond. It will be an evening of honoring great

accomplishments and commitment of our excellent front-line heroes."

The event will be held at 545 Washington Avenue in Talbotton and will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 5 p.m.

Attendees are being asked to RSVP by testing the total number of guests attendings and the guests names to (706) 905-5985 or (706) 665-9423.

## Field Day Scheduled for Talbot 4-H

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County 4-H has announced upcoming activities for this summer.

4-H is the nation's largest youth leadership development organization, empowering nearly six million young people across the U.S. with the skills to lead for a lifetime, and Georgia is proud to be one of the largest state programs in the country with almost 170,000 active 4-H'ers across the state.

The four H's symbolize the development of the Head (to think, plan and reason), the Heart (to be concerned with the welfare of others, accept the responsibility of citizenship and develop positive attitudes), the Hands (to be useful, helpful and skillful) and Health (to practice healthy living, enjoy life and use time wisely).

4-H scheduled Zora's Kids Kickball Club that allowed for summer fun where kids could learn the game of kickball. The final

event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15.

Zora's Kickball Club is open to third through seventh graders. Snacks and beverages will be served at the events.

Talbot County 4-H is located at 401 South Washington Avenue in Talbotton.

The events for Zora's Kickball Club are as follows:

- On Wednesday, July 15, a Field Day will be held between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

**AREA CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY** - The turnout was exceptional for the Talbot County July 4th event and the Manchester event. The fireworks lit up the sky over Upton Lake in Talbot County on Saturday as shown in the photograph. See Page 6-A for coverage of both events.



# 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.

## 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 GA HWY 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 trans-

portation 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 AT THE CENTER. For more information contact Brother Richard Crawl by calling 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 the church's Outreach Ministry's Center will be open two days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Friday. This will be on the last week of each month. 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

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 news-

paper 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 dou-

ble 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.

# FDR State Park Offers Fun Programs

By ANDY KOBER

F.D. Roosevelt State Park is hosting family friendly events including:

- **Saturday, July 11, 9:30 pm and 11 am.** Star Light, Star Bright. Join staff from the Coca Cola Space Science Center for a night sky talk and sky viewing. Bring your own telescope or use one that will be set up. Bring a chair or blanket for sitting, Held on the ballfield across from Liberty Bell Pool along State Route 354, just east of Pine Mountain. No fee to participate in the program. Parking fee does apply.

- **Saturday, July 18, 7:30 am.** Sunrise Yoga on the Mountain with instructor Monique French. Bring a yoga mat and meet at the stone amphitheater at the park office. Held weather permitting. Fee of \$15. Restrooms open at 8 am.

- **Saturday, July 18, 9 am and 11 am.**

Archery. Beginners welcome. Basic instruction and equipment provided. Limited spaces available. Call the park office to register. Fee of \$20 per person. Meet at archery course next to group shelter, park in boat dock parking area. Pre-registration required by contacting the park office at least one day ahead of the program.

- **Saturday, July 18, 10 am.** Impressions of Nature. Learn printmaking through botanical prints using a variety of plants found in the park. Take a lasting impression of the ephemeral beauty of nature home. Fee of \$5 per person. Pre-registration required by contacting the park office at least one day ahead of the program.

Events at FD Roosevelt State Park do incur the \$10 state parking fee.

FD Roosevelt State Park is located in Pine Mountain.

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

## 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!

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13			14			15			
16					17		18			19			
20							21			22			
				23		24			25				
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45				46					
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

## CLUES ACROSS

- 50 percent
- Records electric currents
- Charlize Theron flick "\_\_\_ Flux"
- More frosty
- Disfigure
- Sky color
- A thoroughfare in a town or city
- Actress de Armas
- Spend time in a relaxed way
- California peak
- Lodging option
- Small amount of a thing
- Expresses sorrow
- Keeps an ear warm
- Babies (Spanish)
- A conceited and self-centered person
- No seats available
- Pouches
- Hip joints
- A place to bathe
- Evading
- Minute, one-celled unit
- Losing one's hair
- A country in W Africa
- One point north of northeast

## CLUES DOWN

- Snakes do it
- Hormone
- The standard monetary unit of Turkey
- Fixed charges
- Electronic communication
- Artilleries
- "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley
- Burning
- Makes ecstatically happy
- Greek liqueurs
- Tropical Old World tree

## CLUES ACROSS

- Someone who takes vengeance
- Style of cuisine
- Select
- Immunized against disease
- Old world, new
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Court case: \_\_\_ v. Wade
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Not divisible by two
- Twelve
- Commentator Coulter
- Encourage
- Plumbing fixtures
- Early
- One point north of due east
- King of Thebes
- Short-tailed martens
- Impose a penalty on
- N Consort of Poseidon
- A way to lessen
- Brooklyn hoops team
- Female of a horse
- Do as one is told
- A way to prepare meat
- Unit of measurement

Answers to this week's puzzles can be found on Page 5-A.

## Autos For Sale

- Wide Variety To Choose From
- 20 Chevy Silverado, Double Cab, 4x4, Silver, \$19,800
  - 17 Nissan Titan, 4x4, Crew Cab, Blue, \$12,900
  - 14 Chevy Express Van 2500, White, \$7,900
  - 19 Chevy Equinox, White, \$7,900
  - 17 Honda Accord, Maroon, \$9,800
  - 17 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, White, \$15,400
  - 10 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, White, \$6,400
  - 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
  - 23 Chevy Malibu, Blue, \$10,400
  - 23 Chevy Malibu, White, \$10,400
  - 18 Honda Civic, Gray, \$9,400
  - 20 Chevy Equinox, 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
  - 16 Honda CRV, Maroon, \$9,800
  - 21 Honda Accord, Black, \$12,900
  - 20 Toyota Camry, Blue, \$12,900
  - 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
  - 17 Ford Explorer, Blue, \$7,900
  - 18 Jeep Renegade, Gray, \$7,900

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# ELECTION NOTICE

## CITY OF TALBOTTON QUALIFICATION DATES AND FEES FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL SPECIAL ELECTION

Qualification dates for the 2026 General Special Election have been set for July 13, 2026, through July 15, 2026.

Individuals wishing to qualify may do so at the Talbot County Board of Elections office from 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., July 13, 2026 through July 14, 2026, and 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon on July 15, 2026.

Post 3  
City Council - \$75.00

Qualifying fees must be paid by check or money order-cash will not be accepted. Checks and money orders should be made payable to "The Talbot County Board of Elections."

All candidates must meet the following guidelines:

- Be a registered voter in Talbot County
- Be a resident of the City of Talbotton for at least one year prior to the election.
- Must NOT have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.

For additional information, contact the Talbot County Board of Elections office at 706-665-8270.

Sharita Trice  
Chairperson  
Talbot County Election Supervisor

## THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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## On Fitting In, Which Is Something I Usually Don't

During an appearance on *The Tonight Show* back in the 1980s, the late comedian George Gobel asked a very poignant question:

"Did you ever feel as if the world was a tuxedo and you were a pair of brown shoes?"

Lonesome George hit the nail on the head. I've felt that way most of my life.

I don't say that as if it were a bad thing, though. Not fitting in has led me to a few interesting jobs and careers, including my current one in journalism.

As far back as I can remember, I didn't fit in. When I was a little kid back in Chicago, I spent a lot of my time inside, reading or writing, while my peers were out playing. I did do my fair share of outside play, don't get me wrong, but I felt much better when I was inside with a good book.

When my family moved from Chicago to LaGrange in 1970, the feeling of not fitting in intensified exponentially.

Arriving at Troup Junior High School as a brand-new seventh grader in September of that year, I was as outcast as I could be. I was short, skinny, wore glasses, had big ears, and I talked funny.

In other words, I had a target on my back for the next year or so, and the "good old boy" kids who'd grown up in the area delighted in picking on the weird kid from up North.

Interestingly, a lot of those kids who'd been torturing me then turned out to be good friends as the years went by.

In fact, when that class of students held their 50-year reunion recently, they made it a point to invite me. I didn't graduate with them; my family moved from LaGrange to Columbus during my ninth grade year, and when they came back a year later, I didn't. I lived with relatives in Columbus to finish my high school a year early. (I was very involved in the Junior ROTC program at my school, and didn't want to leave. Also, a girl named Lisa didn't live in LaGrange, so there was that, too.)

I was honored and very much moved to be invited to the Troup High School Class of 1976 50-year reunion, and I attended with great excitement and anticipation.

Some of the faces I remembered, but they had changed over the intervening half-century. Well, so had mine. At the meet-and-greet Friday evening, I knew a couple of my erstwhile classmates by sight - but only because we'd been friends on Facebook.

The fact that I'd been going by the name "Jack" since 1976 threw them, because - except for the ones who'd stayed in the area and knew my radio work - they remembered me by my real name.

(No, I'm not going to go into



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

that particular topic here. It's not a state secret or anything; I just don't use it unless I have to.)

The meet-and-greet was held at the Wild Leap Brewery in LaGrange, a very popular place for people to visit - but this was my first time in there. It's a pretty neat place, too, especially if one is into imbibing spirits (which I generally don't do).

My best friend from those old days, Elton, showed up and we had a really great reunion. We've kept in touch over the years, so our relative appearances weren't a surprise, but actually seeing my old friend once again was great.

The "formal" dinner Saturday night was wonderful. Many more attendees were there than came to the meet-and-greet, and everybody was wearing a name tag with their senior photo on it. It was a lot of fun seeing how many of us had changed in the intervening years.

The organizers even found my senior photo from my Columbus high school, but they listed me as "Jack" and that confused several classmates who didn't know me as that. A few words or even a silly joke reminded them, and we had some really great reunions at the Reunion.

Still ... I felt a little left out. I didn't go through the high school experience with these wonderful folks, and our memories of each other were based more on the end stage of childhood than the beginnings of adolescence.

They drank and danced, two things I generally don't indulge in. I sipped my Diet Coke and watched, apart from the rest - just like it was half a century ago.

I was, once again, the outsider. It was different, as I'd become something of a "celebrity" to my classmates - I'd gone into radio and television work, writing, and acting, which the rest of my former schoolmates didn't grow up to do. Though it was unintentional and certainly not malicious, I realized again that being well-known, even in a small Georgia town, isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Don't get me wrong. I had a very good time at the Reunion, and it was great to see all those old friends ("old" being the operative word these days).

But I still didn't fit in, and I know now I never will.

## Newspapers Must Be Community Minded

In this hurry up, fast paced world we live in people say newspapers are dying. But a newspaper that keeps its community ties, in my opinion, will continue to survive.

Today we live in a world where access to news is quick and easy. We have social media (which is not always correct but people read it), and other quick news sources. Television and radio can report news quickly but only give short versions of the news.

Today, newspaper also rely on digital print and websites to break stories. As weekly newspapers, even though we might know about a news story, we will probably not break it first because of the other news sources that I've mentioned.

So, how do newspapers survive? The way they always have.

The other day I was in a local service station and a lady was disappointed because she couldn't find one of our newspapers. She was asking the if there were any newspapers from the week before left, noting her son was in a photograph and she wanted a copy.

I always keep copies in my vehicle for a couple of weeks so I went outside, retrieved the copy of the newspaper she was asking for and returned inside.

When I presented her with the newspaper she was so

excited.

"Thank you, thank you," she said. "This is going in my scrapbook, my son's photograph is in this newspaper."

Ironically, it was just a photograph of some construction the city was doing, but her son was doing some of the construction. You could hardly see him, but it was important to her.

That is what separates us from other news sources. Local news coverage and photographs.

In small community newspapers, there are always local photographs of people in the community, there is always local news that is important to the community and more importantly, most often the staff members of community newspapers reside in the community. Being a part of the community matters because as a resident the things that are important to everyone else in the community are just as important to you as an individual.

By telling my age a little, I've been working for community newspapers for 50 years. As a young reporter I learned that newspapers should be a reflection of the community they serve. That does not mean everything can be covered by the newspaper. News happens 24 hours a day and it's impossible to be everywhere and cover everything.



John Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

There are several things that tie a community but the most important things include, the governments, schools and churches. That is because our local government sets our policies and spends our tax dollars. Our schools are educating our children and our churches provide valuable services to the community.

Newspapers also provide the areas they serve as a historical record of news and events that occur.

It is often that people visit newspaper offices looking for photographs and news stories that occurred years before and note the only record they can find is in the old newspaper.

Basically, a newspaper is charged with the responsibility of printing accurate, honest and comprehensive news stories. Providing information about events, things that are important to the community and more. Newspapers never take things at face value. Over the years I have learned that with most issues, there are hidden details that need to be dis-

covered and reported.

Newspapers were founded on the basis of keeping government honest. No reflection on our local politicians or governments, but would you take the word of a politician at face value or would you want to see the documentation?

As a reporter, I feel it is our responsibility to write a complete, accurate, comprehensive and unbiased news article. It is also a reporter's responsibility to remember the rights of others and to always remember and adhere to the First Amendment of our Constitution.

So, as long as newspapers continue to write accurate local news, write about the things of interest in the community, cover the government, schools and churches, and be a reflection of the community, they will survive.

While community newspapers may not always break the story first, we can do a more in-depth story with all the facts. We owe that to the communities we serve.

Also, for community newspapers to survive, they need the help of the community. People in the community must let the newspaper know what is going on and what is important to them.

If newspapers do their job and have community support, I believe they will always survive.

## The Movie Makes One Think

Steven Spielberg is a master.

Not every movie made by Spielberg has been a blockbuster, but his rate of success has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Spielberg single-handedly took the dirty, dusty, and boring image of an archaeologist and made becoming one adventurous. He made people laugh at the adventures of a little alien being, and then most cry as it appeared the little creature had died.

Spielberg made it appear plausible that DNA found in amber could be used to bring dinosaurs back to life and the danger of doing so if it ever can be done. He also made people scared to swim in ocean water and immortalized a short musical score that remains instantly recognizable over 50 years later.

He has done it again with *Disclosure Day*.

This column does not urge you to spend your hard-earned money to watch the movie, or provide any spoilers about the movie. This columnist is not receiving a kickback from Spielberg, Amblin Entertainment, or anyone connected to the

movie but any of them wanting to buy a cup of coffee for this columnist would be welcome.

That said, *Disclosure Day* has already proven incredibly popular as the day this is being written, June 27, it had already reportedly grossed \$175 million worldwide. It is a throwback to creative storytelling without the need for gratuitous sex or gratuitous violence. Those looking for blood and gore will have to look elsewhere.

But it does leave one thinking: What if this were true?

"IN THE beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Our small Solar System is located in the Milky Way galaxy, about 26,000 light-years from its galactic center. The entire Milky Way galaxy is estimated to be about 100,000 light-years in diameter and about 30,000 light-years thick in the center.

The part of the universe that is known stretches about 93 billion light-years in diameter. How large it might be is unknown and it might stretch into infinity.

That's a lot of incompre-



Andy Kober

Columnist

hensible numbers but consider just one more.

Just the Milky Way galaxy is estimated to have 100 to 400 billion stars and the number of planets simply cannot be estimated using current technology. However, the Milky Way galaxy is just one of many galaxies in the Universe, how many galaxies might exist is also unknown.

It is much easier to believe that somewhere out there in the vastness of space there is intelligent life -- much easier than believing we are alone in that same vastness.

It stands to reason that if there is life out there, then from a technological perspective some of it will be well ahead of us, and some will be behind us. Alien species that have conquered long-distance space travel would likely have some interest in observing

developing species -- as repeatedly noted in *Star Trek* -- just as we search for signs of present or past life on our neighboring planets and their moons.

This leads us to reported sightings of UFOs by some very reputable people and interesting evidence that is coming to light as official government documents are declassified and released to the public.

HOW many of you believe that if an alien species had been discovered on Earth, the government would reveal everything?

How many of you believe that if an alien species had been discovered on Earth, the government would do everything possible to keep that knowledge classified and away from the public?

The latter question is the theme that *Disclosure Day* is built around.

Your answer indicates how much trust you have in our government.

That's my opinion.

Andy Kober can be reached by email at [andykober@hotmail.com](mailto:andykober@hotmail.com)

## \* The Statue of Lady Liberty \* "Liberty Enlightening The World"

Greetings and blessings! On Saturday, July 4th, we as a deeply divided nation celebrated our 250th Anniversary. Yes of course, I'm proud to be an American in this land that I fought and sacrificed for. Yes, supposed to be free but still not free. Unfortunately, since we have not learned and don't know if we ever will learn that "We The People" means everyone, regardless of race, creed or color.

However, Trump and this administration have made an obvious political mockery of democracy. Nevertheless, as we celebrate, it is just as important that we educate. So, let's start with the Statue of Liberty, one of the tallest monuments in the world was a gift from France to the United States of America.

The Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom, democracy, and hope, serving as a universal beacon for liberty and a welcoming figure for millions of immigrants that Trump is doing everything that's not in his power to keep them out. The stat-



Pres Hall

Columnist

ue officially named "Liberty Enlightening The World." It was proposed to commemorate the American Declaration of Independence and celebrate the abolition of slavery in the United States. In fact, I do believe its ultimate meaning remains relevant today. But in so many obvious ways, what she represents has tremendously changed over time. You see, initially, she was meant to greet millions of immigrants and travelers into the New York harbor. Her face has a severe expression and calm demeanor that represents the long and difficult journey to freedom. The Statue of Liberty was more than a monument, but rep-



resented a powerful idea that liberty is a universal right worth celebrating, defending, and sharing with the world.

Rightly so, my heart was literally touched in a profound and warm way as I watched and listened on Independence Day. There were numerous now American citizen immigrants that told their individual stories. They told of traveling to America and seeing the more than 300 feet overall statue with a torch of light from a distance with tears in their eyes. They told of being received with open arms

and becoming America citizens and given the opportunity to flourish in a new life of freedom, opportunity, prosperity, respect and love. Those immigrants have and still are contributing so much and have made significant differences in our growth and success of the United States of America. So, as we celebrated the freedoms we enjoy as a country, we thank God even more for the freedom that can never be taken away from us; the freedom found in Jesus Christ. **Earthly liberty is a precious gift, but freedom in Christ Jesus is forever!**

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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# The "Lighter Side" of the News

## One Billion Visitors

Seventy years after Walt Disney opened the Disneyland park and resort, California's "Happiest Place on Earth" welcomed its billionth guest last week.

Andres Robles, an 11-year-old boy from Arizona who is visiting Disneyland to celebrate his birthday, and his parents, Alejandra and Jose, were selected as the honorary billionth guests to have visited the West Coast House of Mouse, the Disney Parks Blog reported.

The Disneyland park, located in Anaheim, Calif., opened in 1955 and is credited with launching the American theme park industry, which now includes Disney parks on three continents -- including in Orlando, Fla., Paris and Tokyo.

"The Robles family visit is just one of the many lifelong memories that that's been created here at Disneyland Resort," the blog post said.

"Reaching this milestone just days before the 71st anniversary shows that Walt Disney's dream lives on today: Disneyland continues to be a source of joy and inspiration to all the world," it said.

The Robles family participated in an unveiling of a sign updating the "population of Disneyland as 1,000,000,000," with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Daisy Duck joining them for the ceremony.

The family also got a VIP guided tour of Disney's first park -- Disney World, in Orlando,

would not open for more than a decade and a half -- which included Disney's private apartment and a preview of the newly opened "Soarin' Across America" attraction, the blog post said.

## Perseverance Pays Off

A South Carolina man said 40 years of buying lottery tickets finally paid off when he scored a \$20,000 Mega Millions prize on his "lucky day."

The Grand Strand resident told South Carolina Education Lottery officials he is a regular lottery player, but he doesn't normally play Mega Millions.

"I've been playing the lottery for 40 plus years," the man said. "The excitement was definitely there when I won."

The player said he decided to take a shot at Mega Millions on a whim during a visit to the Publix grocery store on Oakheart Road in Myrtle Beach.

The quick pick ticket delivered a big prize in the June 5 drawing that the winner initially thought was \$400, but soon realized it was actually \$20,000.

"It was my lucky day," the winner said.

## Wonder Where These Came From

An organization dedicated to protecting wild horses in North Carolina said several apples found on a beach had apparently fallen from a cargo ship.

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund said officials

received a call Tuesday reporting the local beach in Corolla was littered with loose apples.

"Our employee started heading towards the area where the apples were reported and quickly realized someone didn't dump them out there on purpose -- they seemed to be washing up out of the ocean! They must have come off a ship out at sea," the organization said on social media.

The incident recalled another event from a few years ago, when Doritos chips washed up on the beach.

Employees and volunteers collected several bags of apples. A pair of men who regularly clear garbage from the beach later found many more apples, as well as some oranges.

The group explained why the apples weren't simply left as treats for the wild horses.

"Anything that's not part of their natural diet can cause choke and/or colic, which can be fatal," the post said. "In 2020 we lost a yearling colt to choke after he was fed an apple. In 2021, stallion Junior nearly died after choking on an apple. You should never feed an animal that isn't yours, whether it's domestic or wild."

## He's Baaaaack ...

An approximately 2,200-pound elephant seal is in the midst of his annual visit to Tasmania, leaving property damage and public disturbances in his wake.

The 5-year-old animal, dubbed Neil the seal

by locals, has been visiting southern Tasmania towns every year since he was born, residents said.

Neil has become a celebrity both locally and on social media, but local officials said he isn't exactly well-behaved.

"At the moment we don't have a complete understanding of the damage Neil has caused to public infrastructure but he has obviously knocked over a number of poles and bollards," Clarence Mayor Brendan Blomeley told Pulse Tasmania.

Jane Younger, a seal expert at the University of Tasmania, said locals have reported Neil is equally destructive toward private property.

"He's broken fences, he's harassing people's cars -- that's just a function of his size," Younger told Guardian Australia.

Neil stopped traffic Saturday at an intersection in the Seven Mile Beach area, forcing police and Department of Natural Resources and Environment personnel to attend the scene and encourage him back toward the beach.

Officials are encouraging the public to give Neil a wide berth.

"I understand that until he completes his molting process, he'll continue to scratch up against things to help shed his old fur," Blomeley said. "Until then, I encourage everyone to please give Neil the space he needs and not to attempt to visit him. While he is of great interest, he is also potentially dangerous and does pose a risk to the community."

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# NEW ERA PUBLIC NOTICES

## HOW TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE

EMAIL: [starmercurylegals@gmail.com](mailto: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

26-058  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF**  
**JAMES ALLEN LACKEY, JR.**  
 All creditors of the Estate of JAMES ALLEN LACKEY, 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 1 ST day of JULY 2026.**  
**JAMES LACKEY III**  
**5903 RUSH CREEK HWY.**  
**WOODLAND, GA 31836**  
**Executor(s) of the Estate of**  
**JAMES ALLEN LACKEY, JR., Deceased**  
**(79, 16, 23, 30)**

26-054  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**  
 All creditors and debtors of the Estate of REGINALD BERNARD LEONARD (Estate No. 2026-P-20), deceased late of Talbot County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands according to Law, and, all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment. Said demands and payments to be made to PASLEY, NUCE & MALLORY, LLC, at the address shown below.

**MATTHEW T. MALLORY**  
 Attorney for the Estate of  
**REGINALD BERNARD LEONARD**

Pasley, Nuce & Mallory, LLC  
 P.O. Box 1168  
 Thomaston, GA 30286  
 706-646-3200  
 (625, 72, 9, 16)

### Foreclosures

26-056  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**TALBOT COUNTY**  
 Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by, Lucy E. Rosario, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for JFQ Lending, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated 10/27/2022, and recorded on 11/10/2022, in Book 493, Page 100, Talbot County, Georgia Records, as last assigned to as last assignment to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment recorded 4/2/2026 as Instrument No. in book 00515, Page 0236, conveying the after described property securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$246,235.00 with interest thereon as set forth therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 9/1/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash: During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Talbot County, Georgia, the following described property situated in Talbot County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT NO. 3 OF THE 17TH LAND DISTRICT OF TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS TRACT 1, CONTAINING 5.939 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AS DEPICTED ON A PLAT FOR OSCAR SNELLING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK G, PAGE 427, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO WHICH SPECIFIC REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE AND SAID PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE TO SHOW THE METES AND BOUNDS OF SAID PROPERTY.  
 Tax Parcel ID: 007-58-18G

Being real property commonly known as 240 TANK RD BOX SPRINGS, GA 31801  
 The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).  
 Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-

described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgageors to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are as is, where is. The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to 1) confirmation and audit of the status of the loan by the holder of the security deed, 2) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 3) procedures for rescission of sale under O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, whereby the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided above.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1030, 1300 & 1400 Orange, CA 92868, Telephone No: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 9/1/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash: During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Talbot County, Georgia, the following described property situated in Talbot County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT NO. 3 OF THE 17TH LAND DISTRICT OF TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS TRACT 1, CONTAINING 5.939 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AS DEPICTED ON A PLAT FOR OSCAR SNELLING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK G, PAGE 427, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO WHICH SPECIFIC REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE AND SAID PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE TO SHOW THE METES AND BOUNDS OF SAID PROPERTY.  
 Tax Parcel ID: 007-58-18G

### General Legals

26-057  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp. (Liberty Utilities) filed its Petition for Approval of the 2026-2027 Gas Supply Plan with the Georgia Public Service Commission (the Commission) on July 6, 2026, under O.C.G.A. 46-2-26.5. All filings in this matter shall be made at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Georgia Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334.  
 This matter has been assigned Docket No. 57062 and is scheduled for public hearing in the Commission's Hearing Room, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334-5701 (Room 110) at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at which time anyone interested in this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
 Under O.C.G.A. 46-2-59 and Commission Utility Rule 515-2-1-.06, persons wishing to intervene must file an application to intervene within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice. Any intervenor applicant's pre-filed testimony shall be filed with the Commission's Executive Secretary Office in conformity with Commission Rule 515-2-1.04(3) using the Alternative E-filing (available at <https://psc.ga.gov/alternative-efile>) in Microsoft Word for text documents or Excel for spreadsheets with formulas live and intact. Eight physical copies of the filing including any Trade Secret data should be filed by 4:00 p.m. on August 28, 2026. In addition, each applicant shall submit a copy

of its application to intervene and other filings to Liberty Utilities, all other parties, and persons who have applied to intervene, and submit a Certificate of Service to the Commission. A list of parties and other intervenor applicants that must be served can be obtained from Sallie Tanner, Georgia Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334 ([tanner@psc.ga.gov](mailto:tanner@psc.ga.gov)). Additional information concerning participation in this docket is contained within the Procedural and Scheduling Order issued in this Docket on April 21, 2026, available on the Commission's website.  
 If you have a disability and request assistance or accommodation to participate, or need further information, please contact the Executive Director's Office, Georgia Public Service Commission at 404-656-4501 or 1-800-282-5813 (inside Georgia only).  
 This notice is published at the direction of the Georgia Public Service Commission.  
 Lindsey S. Williamson  
 Attorney for Liberty Utilities  
 (79)

### Probate Notices

26-059  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF MILDRED STANFORD, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-P-17**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: JAMES SAMUEL REYNOLDS, III, BETTY R. FOLK, SHANNA REYNOLDS SIMPSON and to whom it may concern:  
 Cathy L. Tibbitts has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of Mildred Stanford, deceased, of said county. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261. All interested persons 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 August 10, 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**  
**PO Box 157**  
**Talbotton, GA 31827**  
**(79, 16, 23, 20)**

26-055  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  
 ZANA STRICKLAND has petitioned to be appointed Successor Administrator(s) of the estate of GLENN STRICKLAND 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 JULY 20, 2026.  
**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be (scheduled at a later date). If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

**SHATARA POWELL**  
**Judge of the Probate Court**  
**By: NI LEJA WILLIAMS**  
**Clerk of the Probate Court**  
**PO BOX 157**  
**TALBOTTON, GA 31827**  
**706-665-8866**  
**(625, 72, 9, 16)**

## Answer to this week's Sudoku puzzle.

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

## Answers To This Week's Crossword Puzzle

### SOLUTIONS ACROSS

- HALF
- ECG
- AEON
- ICIER
- MAR
- BLUE
- STREET
- ANA
- LAZE
- SHASTA
- INN
- ATOM
- APOLOGIZES
- EARFLAP
- NENES
- EGOTIST
- SRO
- CAECA
- COXAE
- TUB
- ELUDING
- SPORE
- BALDING
- MAURITANIA

### SOLUTIONS DOWN

- HISS
- ACTH
- LIRA
- FEES
- EMAIL
- CANNONS
- GRANGER
- ABLAZE
- ELATES
- OZOS
- NEEM

### SOLUTIONS ACROSS

- NEBN
- NIB
- UTMOST
- ELLI
- AMA
- SEABEE
- TIES
- LET
- DREAR
- SASH
- SSE
- EYRA
- RETALIATOR
- TAPAS
- OPT
- INOCULATED
- EEC
- AGA
- ROE
- FTC
- ODD
- XII
- ANN
- EGG
- URINALS
- BETIMES
- EBN
- LAIUS
- SABLES
- PUNISH
- MELIA
- ABATE
- NETS
- MARE
- OBEY
- SEAR
- TERA

## This Week's Horoscopes

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20:** There is nothing that you cannot handle this week, Aries. Expect to juggle a lot at the same time, but somehow you make it look easy. A calm demeanor is a big asset.  
**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21:** This week will be fairly quiet for you, Taurus. You are likely to connect with a task and dig down deep until it is completed. If someone tries to persuade you to take a break, you likely won't.  
**GEMINI - May 22/June 21:** Many forces are working together to provide insight, Gemini. Take a step back and consider all of the variables in play. The solution may be simpler than you can imagine.  
**CANCER - June 22/July 22:** YCancer, there is no time for daydreaming right now. You will be tasked with managing multiple projects in the days ahead. Remain focused.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23:** Are you getting pummeled by obstacles, Leo? It could be that you need to set aside more time to yourself to complete the tasks expected of you. You also may need to ask for help.  
**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22:** Virgo, an ability to communicate clearly is among your most notable assets. If you have thoughts about explaining your ideas to others, keep reinforcing your goals.  
**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23:** Libra, your projects will take some time to set up. A patient approach will pay off as results begin to materialize. Your ability to multi-task will drive you forward.  
**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22:** Life isn't an individual sport, Scorpio. You don't have to do everything alone. Interact with others as much as you can this week.  
**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec**

21: Sagittarius, when a person has found his or her path, naturally the desire is to start walking down it. You are eager to get started on something that has been on your mind.  
**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20:** Capricorn, keep an open mind so you can discover new experiences. You don't have to completely reinvent yourself, but make a concerted effort to be open to new ideas.  
**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18:** The horizon is clear and you have all of the information you need to navigate what life is throwing at you right now, Aquarius. Keep the faith that you are on the right path.  
**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20:** Pisces, share your experiences and feelings with someone close to you. Let your feelings out and express your gratitude to the person who lends a listening ear.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## COLUMBUS TECH GRAD!

**Submitted Photo**  
**SELDON COMPLETES MULTIPLE PROGRAMS** - Kirston Seldon, the granddaughter of life-long Talbot County resident, Mrs. Mary Seldon, graduated from Columbus Tech having received certifications for Health Care Science, Health Care Assistant, Medical Coding and Certified Phlebotomy Technician. Kirston is not done yet - as she is now currently working to complete CTC's Certified Coding Specialist Certification program. Congratulations, Kirston and we'll see you walking across that stage again soon!



## Celebrating AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE



## Why We Need the Arts in Schools

By ELIZABETH GRAVES

What are the arts? Merriam Webster defines the arts as "painting, sculpture, music, theater, literature, etc., considered as a group of activities done by people with skill and/or imagination".

The arts are vast and one of the few areas that is without a doubt open to many different forms of interpretation. The arts have been around since the beginning of man.

Found in Tibet and debated by archaeologists that it may represent some of the oldest art, a set of children's hand prints and feet prints were found preserved in limestone, estimated to be 200,000 years old.

Art has been used as a form of protest, a way to express emotions, to explain how we feel when words can't. Art can change your mind, make you question reality.

The arts build cognitive flexibility, creative problem-solving, and emotional intelligence. School arts programs contribute to improved academic performance, better grades and basic skills test results.

Exposure to the arts is linked to better college and job prospects. Art has been shown to reduce stress, can improve mood, sharpen your attention, improve memory and focus. Art therapy has been used to help people process trauma, deal with grief and improve self-awareness.

Although the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 had good intentions, by focusing on improving academics scores in math and reading, it directly related schools with better test scores to get more funding. With this act in place, many schools began to push more academic focus and cut the funding to the art programs.

Research from the National Endowment for the Arts highlights that consistent arts engagement correlates directly with higher GPAs, better test scores, and increased graduation rates. Schools that cut the arts programs expect to see an immediate increase in test scores and academic performance

actually see the opposite, with a stagnation or drop in test scores; 3- to 5-point drop in reading comprehension and an increase in math remediation placements.

Because students lose complex and basic problem solving skills when the arts are removed. Compared to a decade ago, math scores today are down 70 percent. Reading scores are down 83 percent. Students tend to have decreased engagement in the classroom, higher rates of absences, and increase in disciplinary referrals.

For many students the arts are the reason to get up and go to school. The arts help them process the complex emotions that come with childhood and teenage years, by giving them an outlet to express what they can't say.

Studies have also shown that schools that still offer art programs have lower dropout rates than schools that have cut their art programs.

When we as humans have to deal with intense emotions, we naturally look for an outlet that fits us. For some people it's working out, for some it's a hike through the mountains, for some it's a trip to the hair salon to dye your hair a wild color, and for many people it is some form of art.

Whether it's writing, drawing, painting, acting, singing, music, art can heal the mind and soul. The arts have been shown to have benefits in lowering stress, processing complex emotions, like trauma and grief, and stimulating brain reward centers.

Journaling or some form of writing exercise, is one form of art therapy that therapists have been recommending to help their patients deal with times of intense emotions or stress.

Art therapy has been mainstream for the last 80 years, with the term being created in the 1940's by British artist Adrian Hill. At that time art therapy was being used to help returning WWII soldiers deal with trauma of the battlefield and those suffering with tuberculosis in the many sanatoriums.

Margaret Naumburg and artist Edith Kramer were also strong practitioners of art

therapy. Naumburg believed that art was linked to the expression of the unconscious mind through free expression and thought.

Kramer was known as the mother of art therapy and believed to have played an important role in laying the groundwork for art therapy education. She felt that the art process was the healing factor in any form of successful art therapy.

Art therapy has been widely studied and observed in its effectiveness to treat issues like trauma, abuse, grief, anxiety, and eating disorders. It has also been shown to be a helpful tool to alleviate stress through significant life changes and eases pain and suffering associated with mental, physical and emotional diseases.

For as long as humans have been around we have looked for ways to deal with and understand the things that we can't understand and arts have been a huge part of unraveling the unknown.

We use the arts to help us deal with strong emotions. We use them to process our trauma and times of grief.

Studies show listening to music for just 10 to 30 minutes a day significantly lowers stress and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression; and 45-minutes of art making a day, has been shown to reduce stress and improve sleep.

When arts are a part of schools children feel more engaged, feel like they have a moment in the complex scary world to escape and find themselves. They benefit from the arts through grades, increased attendance and less incidents of negative discipline.

Children who have access to some form of arts program, have higher rates of college options, and better job prospects after graduation.

Without the arts our complex brains would wither. We need the arts to stay sharp, to keep us focused and driven. We need art to escape when life gets too hard. We need the arts to help us express what words can't say. We need the arts because without them the world would be boring.



Photos By LG Broadcasting

**TALBOT COUNTY CELEBRATES JULY 4TH** - The annual Talbot County July 4th event was held at Upton Lake on Saturday evening and the turnout for the event was exceptional. The top photograph shows a portion of the parking lot at the event. There were things to do for old and young alike, like riding DB's Express shown in the middle photograph. As always, the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce provided free watermelon at the event. The annual event is sponsored by the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and the Oneal Fire Department.



Photos By LG Broadcasting

**MANCHESTER CELEBRATES JULY 4TH** - The annual City of Manchester July 4th event and fireworks display was held on Thursday, July 2 and drew a large crowd. There was plenty of fun with slides and other things for kids to do, live entertainment, vendors and a fireworks display.

## Heat Domes, Air Conditioning and the Human Condition

The heat, coupled with the oppressive humidity—that is what makes Southern stories great. This sultry, summertime climate slows the pace of life, and it gives you time to think clearly and carefully, making it ideal for storytellers as well.

Or so thought William Faulkner. The famed novelist believed the temperature affected his characters, and the way he penned their stories, so much that he refused to have air conditioning installed in his Mississippi home. Sweating is good for humans and is key to learning how to endure this thing called life.

Ironically, Faulkner wasn't cold in the grave, pun very much intended, before his wife had a window unit brought up from the nearest department store. In fact, she made the purchase just one day after his funeral. He would roll over in the ground if he knew his prized estate, Rowan Oak, is now a perfectly climate-controlled museum and Southern writing research center.

How, pray tell, can you properly study Southern writing without sweating through your shirt? Maybe that's why a good writer is hard to find these days. Keep your thoughts about my talents, or lack thereof, to



**Kyle Dominy**

**New Southern Dad**

yourself, please ...

It's been so hot lately around the world that Europeans are buying AC units faster than Faulkner's overheated widow. Wearing black is also not good for trying to stay cool.

The danger of overheating is well documented and too many people fall ill, or even die, each year because they fail to heed their body's warning signs. There's something to be said about being able to survive in the summer elements. It's easy to spot the person who is used to sitting at a desk in an air-conditioned room versus someone who works outside for a living. The former typically starts whining as the first bead of sweat forms on their forehead, while the latter is fond of saying things like, "Hot enough for ya?"

I've been on both sides of that conversation, and strange-

ly enough when I worked outside, I longed for comfort that comes with mental work, and when I've been chained to a desk, I yearn for the integrity that couples with earning a dollar with your sweat. Unlike Faulkner, I've never combined the two and tried to write something while sweating my tail off. But neither paper nor computers hold up well in moisture.

The eastern United States is currently nestled underneath a heat dome, an atmospheric phenomenon where high pressure traps warm air, therefore making temperatures feel hotter than they are. At any given moment it can feel like triple digits, or hot enough to bake cookies on the sidewalk or write the next great Southern novel.

If risking heat stroke is what it takes to fully understand being alive, I think I'll stick to what I am now. It's worth noting that Faulkner, aside from a derision of making his wife happy, had a serious drinking problem. It is hard to be hot when you're passed out.

Stay cool out there.

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