



Jo Anne McKnight's Points North news, Sept. 26

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Press-Register Correspondent

(Jo Anne McKnight/Correspondent)



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Glenn Goolsby cuddles Lucky, the kitten he helped rescue at Airport Boulevardâs I-65 overpass.

Since 1931, World Animal Day has been celebrated each year on Oct. 4, the feast day of Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment.

Many churches and other organizations hold special events on the weekend before Oct. 4 to honor and bless the animals, and there are several such activities taking place in the Mobile area.

But there are individuals, too, who see value in the life of an animal, even a desperate, frightened, abandoned and bedraggled kitten.

This is the story of one such couple — Glenn and Teresa Goolsby of Chickasaw — and one such kitten, “Lucky,” whom the Goolsbys saved from certain death as it tried to make its way across Airport Boulevard at the I-65 overpass.

The Goolsbys were headed to the mall a few weeks ago when they spotted the tiny cat. Glenn made a U-turn and stopped by the culvert at the side of the bridge where the kitten had fled.



After about 20 minutes of coaxing, Teresa realized the little gray kitten was not coming out of hiding. “When I got close, it would turn and run down the hole. The last thing we would see was the white tip of its tail.”

The Goolsbys gave up and went on to supper, where Teresa Goolsby’s entrée was fish. “I took the crust off the fish, and Glenn and I stopped again at the culvert on our way home,” she said. She presented her fishy offering to the “little starving waif” and finally got close enough to capture it.

“We immediately named this little creature ‘Lucky’ because this particular area is the most

dangerous one anywhere, I think," Teresa Goolsby said.

She took Lucky to a vet, found out it was a girl (possibly a Calico), got it tested and pronounced healthy.

Goolsby said that she never intended to keep the kitten; she'd hoped to find a good home for it.

"I even told Lucky I was too old and set in my ways, and she was too smart and spunky and our relationship would never work," she said, and immediately said — to herself — "Oh, Lord, now I'm talking to a cat!"

It's too late now to be thinking of another home for Lucky. She's made herself quite comfortable with the Goolsbys, catnapping her days away on the white tulle-covered bed in the guest room.

But Goolsby has a word of advice for those who drop off animals on the side of the road in the hope that they can live in the wild or be picked up by someone like her and Glenn.

"I guess people think these animals can survive in the wild, but if the babies are separated from their mothers at an early age and don't learn that (skill) from her, then they are more than likely doomed."

The Goolsbys have shared their lives with other rescued pets. And as each died, they mourned.

"I didn't want another animal because I thought I just couldn't put my heart out like that again. Then Lucky happened into my life, and I know she is a 'keeper!' I hope she feels the same way about me," Teresa Goolsby said.

The Goolsbys have an excellent opportunity to have Lucky blessed, as St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 300 Grant St., will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

The Rev. Dennis Brown of St. Michael's said that all pet owners are invited to bring their four-legged friends to the Blessing, as approximately 40 area residents do each year.

North Mobile senior citizens have many activities coming up. The seniors who attend the Satsuma program at Steele Creek Lodge, 358 Juniper Ave., on Tuesdays and Thursdays will celebrate September birthdays with lunch and bingo on Sept. 28. Doreen Robinson, activities director for the Satsuma program, said that other senior services include Meals on Wheels and the availability of the city van for visits to the doctor, dentist, beauty shop — even Walmart. Plans are underway to expand the senior program at Steele Creek Lodge to five days a week, she said. For information, call Robinson at 251-675-1440.

Saraland Senior Center, 716 Mae St., will hold a Birthday Bash on Sept. 29 at 12:30 p.m. For details, call director Heidi Crittenden, 251-375-5438.

Senior adults play bingo every Wednesday at noon at McConnell Civic Center, 224 Grant St.

Chick-a-Cisers, a fitness class for senior adults, meets at the civic center on Monday and

Wednesday, 8:30 to 9:15 a.m.



(Jo Anne McKnight/Correspondent)

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At the Satsuma United Methodist Church quarterly senior citizens social and luncheon, from left, are Sissy Louise Moore, director of development for Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly (Blue Lake Lodge); Mary Ann Gantt, pastor, Satsuma UMC; and Phyllis Murray, director of Blue Lake.

Satsuma United Methodist Church's quarterly senior citizens social and luncheon was Sept. 15, and Diane Langley, activities director for the seniors, planned the get-together around a Back to School theme.

Lunches, served in brown paper bags, included smoked chicken legs and Conecuh sausage, cooked by Joe Langley.

Among the seniors who found out they may not even be "Smarter than a First Grader" were Linda Tindle, Norman McConaghy, Doreen Robinson, Ronnie O'Rear, Shelby O'Rear, Wyvette Dukes and Mary Ann Gantt, pastor at Satsuma UMC.

Gantt introduced members of her home church, Andalusia United Methodist. Special guests were Phyllis Murray, director of Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly (Blue Lake Lodge) and Sissy Louise Moore, Director of Development for Blue Lake. Moore gave a short presentation on the camp and other activities.

JoAnn Monk, Billie Stringer and Lena Wilson of the Joy Agape Circle at Satsuma UMC Joy discussed their cookbook, "Favorite Recipes."

Members of the Circle and compilers of the recipes in the \$10 cookbook are, in addition to Monk, Stringer and Wilson, Cathy Allen, Deb Hewett, Ila Jackson, Deannie Guy, Loretta Kidd, Langley and Gantt.

To purchase a copy of the cookbook, call the church office, 251-675-5257; the office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon.



(Submitted by LaTrenda Torrence-Salter)

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The Satsuma High School FBLA chapter greeted their Pen Pals at Andrea Autry's pre-kindergarten class at Kate Shepherd Elementary. The members will continue to visit their Pen Pals on a monthly basis. Front row, from left: Andrea Autry, Israel Frye, Rodney Turner, Maurice Causey, Deaireton King; second row: Omarion West, Robah Assaf, Tejero Isom, Alayla Harris, Angelo Rivera, Abria Turner, Gavin Toledo, Trenia Robinson, Gloria Burnett, Ashton Dalby; back row: Valerie Mason, Kevin Barnett, Chase Butler, Colton Bradford, Michelle Gardner and Kara Boshell.

For the fourth year in a row, the Satsuma High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of

America welcomed to school their "Pen Pals" from Audrea Autry's Pre-K class at Kate Shepherd Elementary School. "Baby Gators" in Autry's class included Israel Frye, Rodney Turner, Maurice Causey, Deaireton King, Omarion West, Robah Assaf, Tejero Isom, Alayla Harris, Angelo Rivera, Abria Turner, Gavin Toledo, Trenia Robinson and Ashton Dalby. FBLA members present were Kevin Barnett, Chase Butler, Colton Bradford, Michelle Gardner and Kara Boshell. Members will continue to visit their Pen Pals on a monthly basis, said FBLA adviser LaTrenda Torrence-Salter.

Lee Primary School in Satsuma is offering quarterly preschool sessions for children who are 4 years old and will be attending Lee during the 2011-12 school year. The purpose of these sessions is to provide a smooth transition from home to school. The children will tour different areas of the school, meet the kindergarten teacher and participate in story times and craft activities.

The first session will be held Sept. 30 in the Lee Primary cafeteria. There is no fee; no supplies are needed; and 4-year-olds are not required to wear uniforms. For details, call 251-221-1466, said school spokeswoman Sonya Bryant.



(Courtesy of Whitley Elementary School)

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Whitley Elementary's August students of the month are, front row, from left: Gabrielle McCaster, Tony Lewis; second row: Justin Washington, Eboni Gavin, Cymetria Anderson, Cheyenne Merriweather, Jasmine Hendricks; third row: Christopher Paige, Kelsey Hill, Destiney Smoot, Naomi McGregor, Joy Dubose, Alexis Pore; back row: Jamie Vivians, Clifford McDuffie, Jyrez Barnes, Tyler Griffin and Robert Coker.

Whitley Elementary School in Prichard has named the August Students of the Month. These very special children were singled out by their teachers for exhibiting excellent character traits, for showing positive behavior and for making positive contributions to their classrooms.

The students are as follows: Gabrielle McCaster, Tony Lewis, Justin Washington, Eboni Gavin,

Cymetria Anderson, Cheyenne Merriweather, Jasmine Hendricks, Christopher Paige, Kelsey Hill, Destiney Smoot, Naomi McGregor, Joy Dubose, Alexis Pore, Jamie Vivians, Clifford McDuffie, Jyrez Barnes, Tyler Griffin and Robert Coker.

October is Fire Safety Month and the Wilmer Elementary School faculty wanted students ready to teach others about fire safety. On Sept. 15 and 16, Kent Landsberg with Mobile Fire-Rescue Public Education Department visited the school with his fire-breathing dragon and made his "creative, energetic presentation" to students in Pre-K through fifth grade, said media specialist Jillean Wiggins.

In other Wilmer Elementary news, the school hosted PTO Open House on Sept. 9. Wiggins said that Texas Roadhouse, one of Wilmer's Partners in Education, set up a booth with the restaurant mascot, Andy Armadillo, to greet those attending the meeting. Students received pencils and peanuts from the Texas Roadhouse representative.

Among those posing for a souvenir portrait with the armadillo were Max and Miller Parden.



(Submitted by Jillean Wiggins)

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On Grandparents' Day at Wilmer Elementary School, kindergartner Conner Anderson eats lunch with his grandmother, Carmen Tillman.

Wilmer Elementary School also celebrated Grandparents' Day on Sept. 10. Grandparents were invited to eat lunch with, and received a special picture from, their grandchildren. One lucky grandmom was Carmen Tillman, who ate at school with her grandson, Conner Anderson.

Semmes Public Library is offering a new event — Family Storytime for ages 2 and older will meet once a month on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Enjoying Dr. Seuss night on Sept. 16 were Katherine Powell, Riley Abston and Brock Powell. Jennifer Powell led the program, which included stories by Dr. Seuss, a coloring-and-making activity and a Dr. Seuss video. Family Storytime will meet again on Oct. 14, Nov. 18 and Dec. 9. To register, call Heather Williams, children's librarian, at 251-645-6840. Registration is encouraged but not required for individuals; registration is required for groups.

On Sept. 16, the Semmesonian Art Space in Semmes Public Library was the site of a reception

for young artists from J.E. Turner Elementary School on Lott Road. Almost 20 pieces covered the art wall in a show entitled "Start Art Stay Smart."

Students whose works were in the exhibit were Hayden

[Turner Art Show.jpg](#) **View full size**

(Jo Anne McKnight/Correspondent)

At Turner Elementary School's art show at Semmes Library are, front row, from left: Riley Abston, Bayle Jordan, Hannah Jordan, Nathan Jordan; second row: Luann Rice, Turner principal; Hayden Jordan, Jacob Abston, Taylor Holifield, Ella Smith, art teacher; and Madison Jordan.

Jordan, Jacob Abston, Taylor Holifield, Heather Smith, Walton J. Dardar, Olivia Hill, Sara Howard, Kayla McLaughlin, Hailee Melow, Victoria Brannon, Bailey Pierce, Julie Pitzulo, Chloe Thomas, Laurel M. Auhlman, Sarah Dearmon, Daniel Edwards, Danielle Hopkins, Rachel Norris and Allison Rogers.

Turner principal Luann Rice and Mobile County public school art teacher Ella Smith, along with several parents and grandparents, siblings and friends were at the opening to show their pride in the talented students.

Diane Moore and Terri Nelson of the Semmes Library Committee served punch and cookies,

and Phyllis Jeffery, manager of the Mobile Public Library's branch libraries was also present.

Chickasaw City Councilman Adam Bourne was elected president of the Mobile County Municipal Association at a Sept. 16 meeting in Creola. Bourne will assume his new role at the Association's November meeting. "I am humbled to have been selected by my fellow city officials from throughout the county to lead the Municipal Association," said Bourne. "I look forward to finding new ways that our municipalities can work together to serve the citizens better."

The Mobile County Municipal Association is made up of area municipalities and meets once a month. The Association offers opportunities for city officials to learn from one another and to encourage regional cooperation. Bourne is a former Alabama assistant attorney general and is finishing a term as vice-president of the Association.

[Mike Sweets award.jpg](#) **View full size**

(Courtesy of Tom Hayward)

The Chickasaw Chamber of Commerce presented an award to Mike Sweets, left. He is shown with Chamber president Tom Hayward.

The Sept. 16 Chickasaw Chamber of Commerce luncheon was sponsored by Chickasaw

Development Corporation and catered by Rogers Barbecue.

President Tom Hayward said the Chamber presented two awards at the meeting. The first was to Mike Sweet for the work of his company, Chickasaw Development Corporation. The company did a "brilliant job of erecting seven brand-new homes in Chickasaw while other towns have shown a downturn in home sales," Hayward said, adding that most of the homes have been sold.

The second award went to Ron Bush Inc. as Business of the Month "for the great service (the company) provide to the city," Hayward said.

Featured speaker was Judi Gullede, director of the Mobile Carnival Museum and a foremost authority on the Mobile Mardi Gras, Hayward said.

On Sept. 18, Hayward said, citizens young and old showed their strong city-spirit by heading to Brooks Park to help pick up paper and plastic from the grounds. Boats patrolling the waterways hauled in everything from a child's full kitchen set to ropes, bottles and cans, he said. Lisa Brazelton from Coastal Clean-Up headed the operation and Carnes Craig provided chili dogs, chips and cold water for the tired workers, Hayward said.

[Nell Autery reception.jpg](#) **View full size**

(Jo Anne McKnight/Correspondent)

Attending Nell Autery's Citizen of the Year reception were a large group of former Chickasaw Citizens of the Year. Front row, from left: Nell Autery, Charles Larrimore, Ruth Shepherd, Ross Naze; second row: Ervin Dailey, Loraine Harris, Kathy Couey, Eloise Clubbs; back row: Jim Trout, Ron Bush, Ed Baxley and Teresa Goolsby.

2010 Chickasaw Citizen of the Year Nell Autery was honored by the Citizens of the Year Club on Sept. 19 with a reception at McConnell Civic Center on Grant Street.

About 60 friends, family members, city council officers and former Citizens of the Year paid tribute to Autery, who was chosen to receive the honor in light of her many good works in Chickasaw.

Among past Citizens of the Year present Ruth Shepherd, Ross Naze, Charles Larrimore, Ervin Dailey, Loraine Harris, Kathy Couey, Eloise Clubs, Jim Trout, Ron Bush, Ed Baxley and Teresa Goolsby.

Several members of Autery's family were among the guests; in addition to her sisters and others, Autery was attended by her son, Ralph Autery, grandsons Brandon and Randall Autery; granddaughter Amanda Skipper and great-granddaughter Brittany Autery.

Some others who attended the tribute to Autery were Patsy Lewis, Dot Baxley, Joy Middleton, Betty Butler, Sandra Bush, Tom and Deborah Hayward, Janice Chitty, Bea Risher, Cecelia Dailey, Mickey Day, Earnest and Carolyn Mothershed.

Nell Autery was nominated as COY by First Baptist Church of Chickasaw. She will serve as grand marshal of the Christmas Parade in December and the COY Club will purchase a book in the library in her honor.

Fundraisers

Saraland Lions Club members are taking orders now for the annual fruit sale. Cases of oranges or grapefruit or a mixed case of oranges and grapefruit are \$16.50 per case, about 20 pounds, said Martin Walker, club public information officer.

The club also offers a holiday trio box, which includes 12 oranges, 12 grapefruit and 12 apples for \$25.25 per box — perfect for those employee Christmas gifts. To place an order, call 251-675-8638.

This sale is one of the Lions Club's largest fundraisers and helps fund the many community projects accomplished by the Lions, Walker said.

The Lions Club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Saraland United Methodist

Church, 415 McKeough St. in Saraland.

Keep Saraland Beautiful will meet Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building. For information, call Juanita Chandler, 251-679-1879.

Big Star Church of God in Christ, 2508 Second Ave. in the Trinity Gardens neighborhood, is celebrating 10 years with church leaders Pastor Herdis Watkins and Theresa Watkins. There will be nightly services at 7:30 p.m. from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, with an additional service on Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. For information, call 251-580-5693.

Citronelle Historical Preservation Society will meet Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Citronelle Depot Museum. For information, call Glenn Vernon at 251-866-2236 or Alma Johnson, 251-866-5742.

The Chickasaw Woman's Club will meet Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. at McConnell Civic Center, 224 Grant St. Chairwoman for the September program, said president Barbara Pulliam, is Nell Barnes. Committee members are Deborah Hayward, Marsha Hattenstein, Margie Mullins, Gail Coffman, Teresa Goolsby and Nancy Elliott. Speaker will be Satsuma council member (and comedian) Tom Williams. For information, call Pulliam at 251-457-2339.

Turnerville Ladies Club will be serving a catfish dinner on Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

Community Center, 11230 Celeste Road. The \$6 dinner includes catfish fillets, slaw, baked beans, bread, cake and tea. Diners can eat in or order take out. Large orders can be delivered to businesses who place an order with the Turnerville Ladies Club, 251-679-7783 or 251-689-2856. Proceeds benefit the Turner Volunteer Fire Department.

The next concert at Turnerville Community House, 13868 Roberts Road, is Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. Grace Trio will be the featured group. A dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. For information, call Mary Dickson, 251-434-3556.

Citronelle residents will want to make a note to save Oct. 16 for a big street fair in town. First Baptist Church of Citronelle, along with several other area churches in the area, is sponsoring the fair, which will begin at 4 p.m.

Rose Robbins of First Baptist Citronelle said the fair will include such attractions as a country store, a nacho stand, hamburger and hot dog booths, buggy rides, inflatables for children, a bean bag toss and "all the other things that happen with a typical street fair."

The purpose of the festival, Robbins said, is to help finance the Travis Cotter musical drama, GOD Coming Down, planned for Dec. 11-12 at First Baptist Church.

[Michelle Stuard graduation.
jpg](#)

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(Jo Anne McKnight/Correspondent)

Michelle Stuard was awarded her diploma during a fundraiser dinner arranged by Sonya Humphries and All God's Children. From left are Velma Hudson, staff member of Stanford Christian Academy on Moffett Road; Michelle Stuard; Joe Stuard; Sonya Humphries; and Joey Stuard.

Wilmer resident Michelle Stuard, 48, and fighting bone cancer, finally received the high school diploma she earned 30 years ago and was not awarded because of personal circumstances.

At a fundraising dinner to help defray treatment expenses, Stuard, wearing the traditional cap and gown, was presented the diploma by Velma Hudson, staff member at Stanford Christian Academy on Moffett Road. On stage with Stuard at the ceremony were her husband, Joe Stuard, and son, Joey.

Also sharing her joy was Sonya Humphries, director of All God's Children/New Beginnings, sponsor of the benefit for Michelle Stuard.

Stuard was 39 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer; she was given 6 months to live.

She beat the odds by several years until the cancer returned in her bones. She's been traveling to Chicago for treatment, she said.

A firefighter with the Wilmer Volunteer Fire Department where her husband is a captain, Stuard said the hardest thing about her condition was giving up a job she loved. "I couldn't even drive by the fire station," she said.

Humphries said that several area businesses contributed food for the fundraiser at the Semmes Community Center; among those donors were Saucy Q Barbecue, Church's Fried Chicken on Schillinger Road, Hungry Howie's, Krispy Kreme and Pollman's Bakery.

(Please send information about your service/social organization, church, school, club, fundraiser or special event to johmck@aol.com.)

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