



# The Martin News

Covering Worth County and Surrounding Counties

PO Box 5003 Sylvester, GA 31791

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www.themartinnews.org

December 19, 2022

# TATINA'S TAXES

229-778-0225



Recently, several of the Worth County 4H high school students attended Fall Forum at Rock Eagle. Alexia, Taylor, Dakota, and Khris displayed exhibits. Dakota taught a workshop on finance, lead an assembly and was recognized as a Southwest District Board Officer. Khris served as a recreation teen leader. Alexia and Taylor were recognized for their participation in One Georgia Ag Tour last summer. They all danced Saturday night away and had fun with friends from across the state. Congratulations to you all!

Source: Worth County 4H

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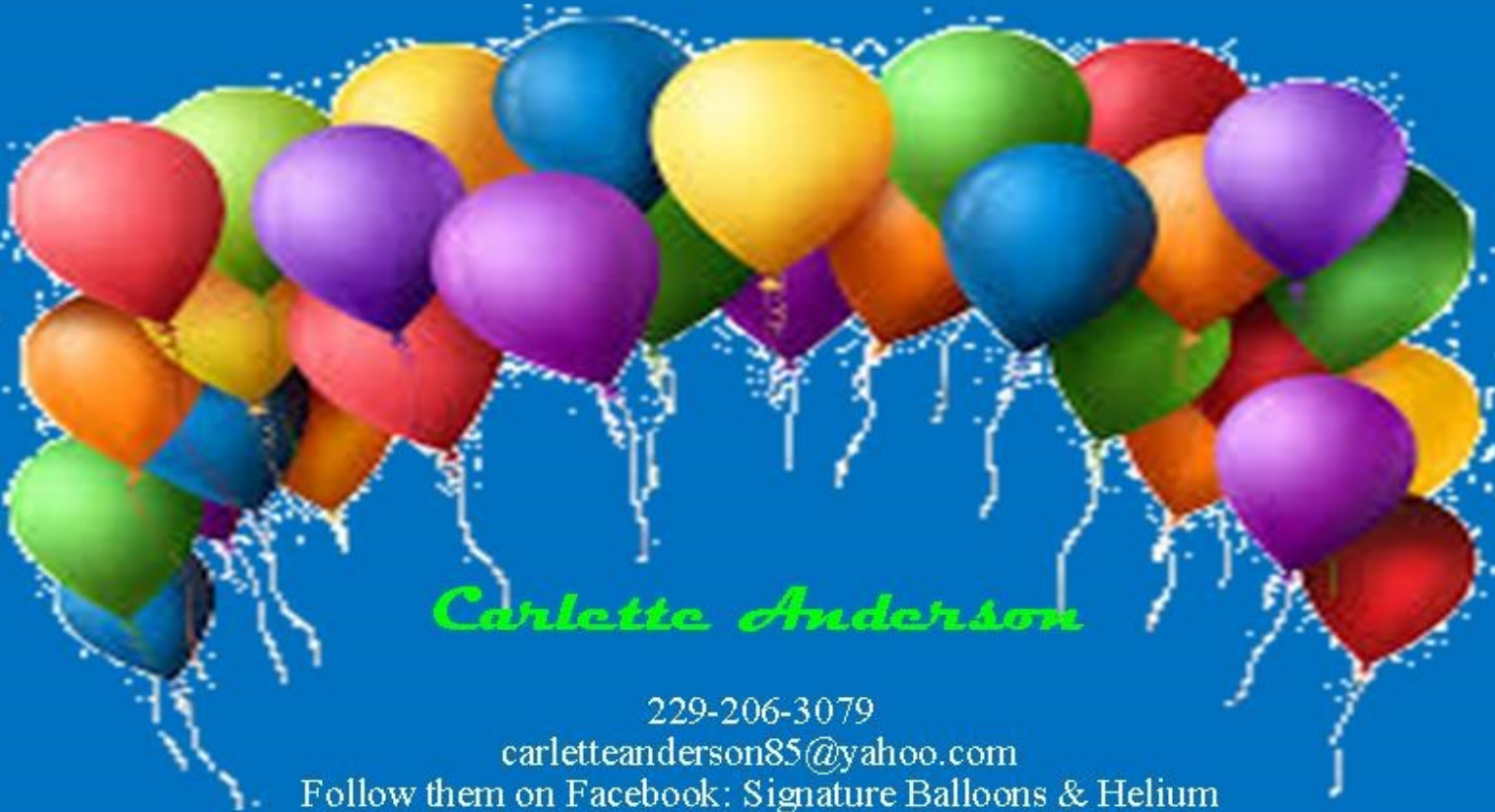
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## Spending Time With Your Children



### 5 GIFTS TO GIVE A CHILD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

#### TIME

Time spent with your child helps them develop a stronger bond with you. It allows them to watch and learn skills they will need throughout their life.

#### ATTENTION

Children learn through experiences with their world. Your attention to them is at the heart of their learning.

#### PATIENCE

Developing new skills needs a lot of practice. Doing activities over and over gives them multiple opportunities to learn.

#### CONVERSATION

Your child is able to understand language before they can speak it. New words and sounds during conversations help them form a foundation for reading.


#### ENCOURAGEMENT


Positive words of encouragement create a bond between you and your child. This support helps them when they try new learning experiences.


SOURCE: LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START

As parents and caregivers, we can make choices to ensure time spent with our children is high-quality even during the holiday season. Here are nine tips for busy families: 1. Have a daily “connect” time with your child. Do this face-to-face, if possible; but if this isn’t an option, create a routine for doing so in other ways, such as posting a note by his toothbrush or writing an encouraging saying on a shared whiteboard in the house. 2. Create a special ritual for you and your child—something that can be done every day. For example, let your child choose and read one book with you at bedtime. 3. Tell your child you love them every day. And tell them how important they are to you and how they make you feel. 4. Reinforce positive behavior. For example, if your child completes his chores without your asking, acknowledge it with words of appreciation—even if you don’t have the chance do so until the next day. 5. Make and eat meals with your children whenever possible. If time is limited, look for simple meals that require very little preparation, or grab a healthy snack such as an apple and sit for a few minutes and chat with your child. 6. Schedule time for doing an activity of your child’s choosing. Be sure to follow through and complete the activity without any distractions. 7. Play with your child, even if it’s during bath time or outside. Every little bit of time makes a positive impact! 8. Laugh and be silly with your child. 9. Turn off technology when you spend time with your child. Try not to text, answer calls, scroll through social media, or watch television.




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**Ashburn "Big Peanut" Monument Gets \$10,000 For Restoration**

**AgGeorgia Farm Credit's Donation Caps Fund Drive For Turner County Landmark**

Turner County officials recently received a final \$10,000 donation to fully rebuild Ashburn's big peanut monument. AgGeorgia Farm Credit donated the final amount to restore the state monument destroyed in 2018 when Hurricane Michael walloped South Georgia. Since then, Turner County has been working to get the 20-foot-tall landmark back up along Interstate 75. The latest donation, along with funds from the Ashburn-Turner County Chamber of Commerce, the Turner County Young Farmers, and the Georgia Department of Agriculture, ensures that the monument will once again greet travelers on I-75. "The big peanut monument is a tribute to all of South Georgia's farmers and agricultural industries that are the backbone of our economy. We are proud that Turner County is home to this testament, and we are working hard to get it back up, repaired and restored in all its former glory," said Ashley Miller, the Chamber of Commerce's executive director. Miller coordinated restoration efforts and helped bring awareness to funding needs. "We are excited to be a part of the monument's reconstruction," said AgGeorgia's CEO Rob Crain. "Supporting our state's No. 1 industry, along with supporting this local community and its farmers is an opportunity our organization couldn't pass up. "We understand the significance of agriculture and the major economic impact it has for our state. We are proud to be involved in the re-establishment of this monument." Georgia leads the nation in peanut production; nearly half of all of all peanuts grown in the United States come from Georgia. The monument restoration may take up to \$90,000. State Sen. Carden Summers, R-Cordele, was able to secure \$55,000 from the state agriculture department after finding a section in the state code allowing for the restoration of state monuments. The big peanut, built atop a crown on a brick base in 1975, was made the state's official peanut monument in 1998. "I was really blown away how many people around the state know Turner County because of that peanut," Summers said. Metal fabricator Cole Sercher expects to have the reconstruction completed in early 2023, said Dennis Kendrick, Turner County Young Farmer advisor. "We'll be glad to have the monument back up and to have everyone celebrate with us," Kendrick said.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

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# *Dates to Remember*

## *December*

**19th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**19th ~ Game Day at the Margaret Jones Public Library**

**19th ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 6pm**

**19th ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**20th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**20th ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 10:30am**

**20th ~ Book Club at the Margaret Jones Public Library 5pm**

**20th ~ City of Warwick Council Meeting 7pm**

**20th ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**21st ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**21st ~ Make an ornament at the Margaret Jones Public Library**

**21st ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon**

**21st ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**22nd ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**22nd ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**23rd ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**23rd ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**24th ~ Johnson Family Christmas - Make A Visit to See The Beautiful Christmas Lights Display**

**25th ~ Merry Christmas from The Martin News**

**26th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**27th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

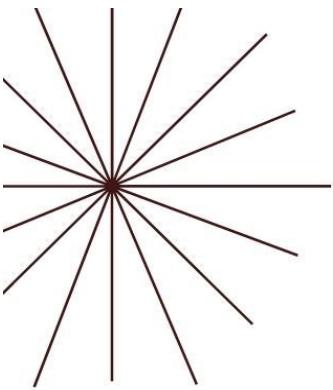
**27th ~ City of Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm**

**28th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**28th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon**

**29th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

**30th ~ Schools Out for Worth County**

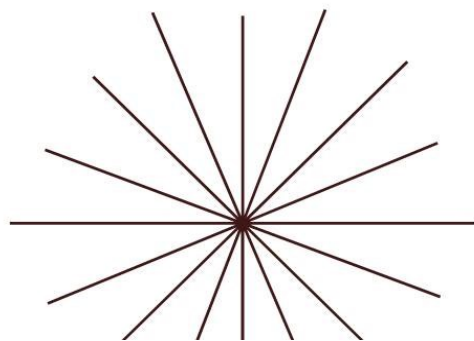


# Get Wrapped Up in a Good Book

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# TCHS Blue Devils Named To All - Region Football Team



Several Tift County High Blue Devils have been named to the Georgia High School Association's Region 1-6A All-Region football team following the recent prep football season. Damian Moate, a TCHS junior running back, has been named to the first team offense. Two Blue Devils have been named to the first-team defense: Jacoiley Nathan, a senior defensive lineman; and Za'Morian Brown, a junior defensive back.

On the All-Region second-team offense, TCHS has two players: Tyler Parker, a senior wide receiver; and Tyrese Brown, a senior offensive lineman. Jonta Strozier, a senior linebacker for the Blue Devils, was named to the second-team defense. TCHS kicker Antonio Gomez was also named to the All-Region second team.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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## ABAC Graduates 244

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College awarded 244 diplomas Thursday in two commencement exercises. At 10 a.m., graduates from the School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the School of Arts and Sciences were recognized, and at 2 p.m., graduates from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Stafford School of Business received their diplomas. Dr. Tracy Brundage presided over her first fall commencement exercises as ABAC's president. "I love graduation day," Brundage said. "Graduates are happy; parents are happy; it's just a great day. The Class of 2022 is a very special class for me because it's my first group of graduates since I came to ABAC." Spring term classes begin at ABAC on Jan. 9.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Christmas  
Decorations



**The Margaret Jones Public Library visited their Pre-k friends at WCPS and shared some Christmas stories with them. A big thank you to Lisa Dylinski with Sylvester-Worth County Family Connection for providing each child with a set of books to take home!**

**Source: MJPL**



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## Staying Safe This Holiday Season

This is truly the most wonderful time of the year! But even during this fun holiday season, we have to work hard to stay safe. Did you know that between 2014-2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of two deaths, 14 injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage annually. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in almost half (45%) of home Christmas tree fires. More than one-fifth (22%) of the Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree. Fifteen percent of Christmas tree fires were intentional. Roughly three-quarters of Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January. More than two of every five (42%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room. So even though we love Christmas and Christmas trees, please be mindful of how to set everything up, don't leave home with tree's plugged up and make sure nothing is touching the lights and plug in.

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 770 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2014-2018. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 30 civilian fire injuries and \$11 million in direct property damage. Eight percent of decoration fires were intentional. The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in more than two of every five (44%) fires. Twenty-two percent of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Sixteen percent started in the living room, family room or den. From January to November, one-quarter (24%) of home decoration fires started the kitchen 14% in the living room and 4% in the dining room. In December, 23% of home decoration fires started in the living room, 12% in the kitchen, and 11% in the dining room. One-fifth (21%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December. As you may be excited to have all your Christmas decorations out just as I do, please be sure they are put in a safe area and also be mindful of children and pets.

On average, 21 home candle fires were reported each day between 2014-2018. Three of every five (60%) candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle. Candle fires peak in December. January ranked second. From January through November, 4% of home candle fires started with decorations. This jumped to 12% in December. Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with almost three times the daily average. I experienced a candle fire in November 2009 that scared the life out of me and could have been so much worse than it was but thank goodness it was not. Much smoke damage was done but that was easily cleaned up.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (20%) of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

Ten percent of fireworks fires occur during the period from December 30 through January 3, with the peak on New Year's Day.

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## Fireworks For The New Year



Enjoying the holidays is a great thing to do! With New Year's coming up in less than a week, everyone is getting excited about bringing in 2022! What a better way to bring in the New Year than with Fireworks! Fireworks are beautiful and fun but please be careful. Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks. There are times and places for everything. Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting. A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children. They sure do love them but they do not know how to handle them. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show. Wear safety glasses when shoot-

ing fireworks. Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles. Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water. Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby. Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers. Do not experiment with homemade fireworks. Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day. FAA regulations prohibit the possession and transportation of fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage. Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department. And let's not forget the safety of our pets! Don't bring your pets to a fireworks display, even a small one. They do not like them! If fireworks are being used near your home, put your pet in a safe, interior room to avoid exposure to the sound. Make sure your pet has an identification tag, in case it runs off during a fireworks display. Never shoot fireworks of any kind (consumer fireworks, sparklers, fountains, etc.) near pets. Please have fun while bringing in 2022 but please stay safe!

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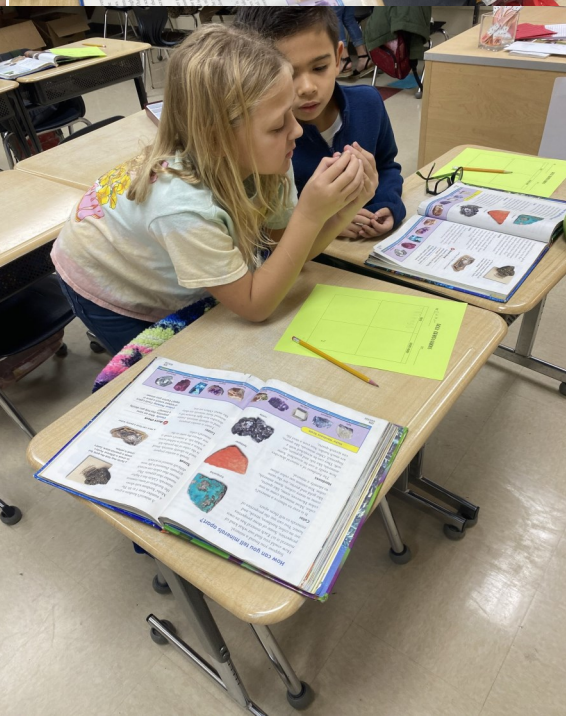
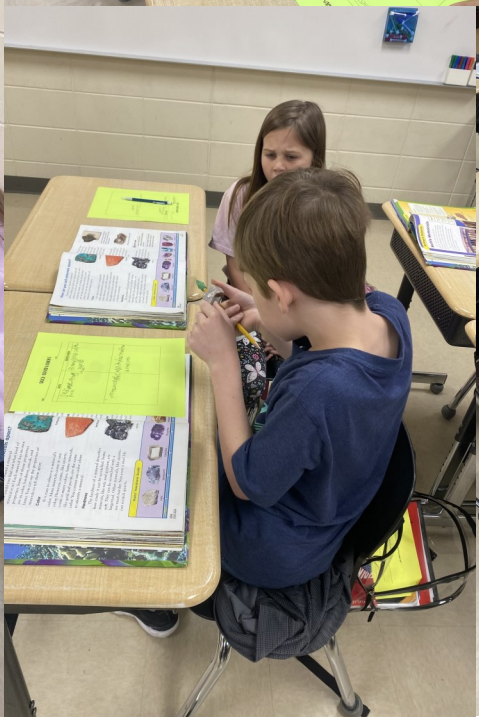
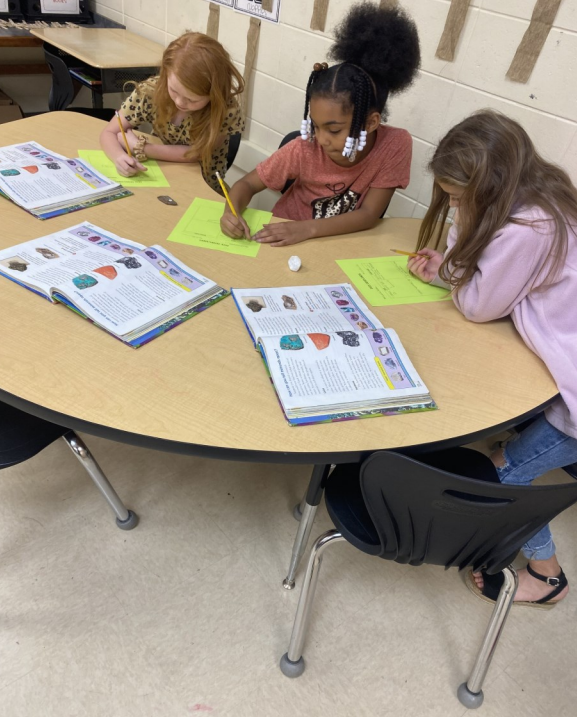
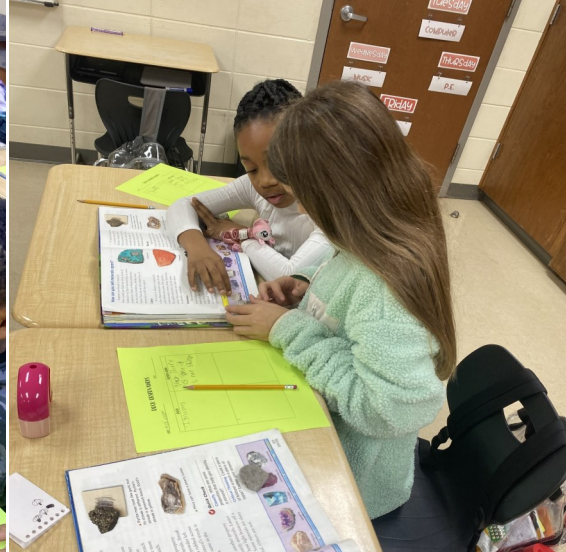
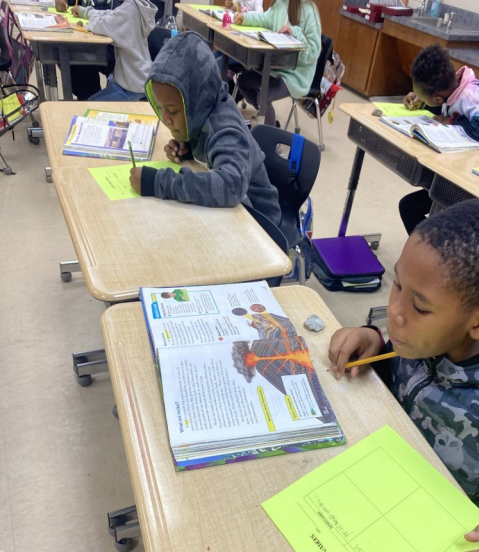
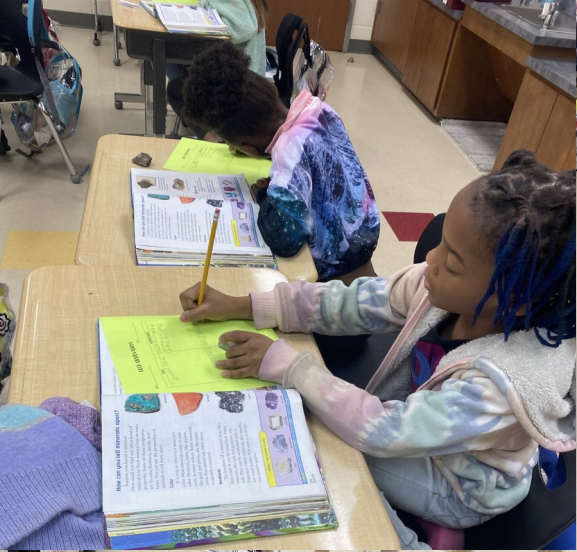
Sweater weather



## Little Scientists At WCES Have Been Studying Rocks

The little scientists in Miss Mercer's class at Worth County Elementary School used the information they have learned about classifying rocks to classify their own rocks and record their findings! Students got to share their findings with their fellow scientists and even tell what kind of rock they thought they had! Overall the students concluded that rocks rock!

Source: WCSD



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## Candy Canes Anyone?

I would have thought this day was before Christmas but it seems that it is after Christmas. What day am I talking about? I am talking about National Candy Cane Day. I am guessing it is after Christmas because everyone is taking down their Christmas Trees where they have had the candy canes hanging and now it is time to eat those yummy things. There is so much to learn about the candy cane and many of the facts that I did not know. Legend has it that in 1670, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the long Living Creche ceremony. In honor of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks. In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, decorated a small blue spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. It wasn't until the turn of the century that the red and white stripes and peppermint flavors became the norm. In the 1920s, Bob McCormack began making candy canes as special Christmas treats for his children, friends and local shopkeepers in Albany, Georgia. It was a laborious process – pulling, twisting, cutting and bending the candy by hand. It could only be done on a local scale. In the 1950s, Bob's brother-in-law, Gregory Keller, a Catholic priest, invented a machine to automate candy cane production. Packaging innovations by the younger McCormacks made it possible to transport the delicate canes on a large scale. Although modern technology has made candy canes accessible and plentiful, they've not lost their purity and simplicity as a traditional holiday food. How are candy canes made? Many machines help with the production of this popular Christmas confection. Sugar and corn syrup are heated in large kettles and then vacuum cooked. The candy is poured on a cooling table where peppermint and starch are added. The starch holds flavor during mixing and prevents stickiness. Next, a kneader mixes the flavoring and candy together until it turns a golden brown color. Afterwards, it is placed into a puller that turns the candy silky white. It moves to a batch former and is made into a log-like shape. The stripes are formed on a heating table and placed on the white log. The candy is put back on the batch roller and formed into a cone shape. Sizing wheels reduce the cone to the diameter of a candy cane and turn it into a rope. Next, a twister will make the rope into a barber pole. Finally, it moves to a cutter that snips the candy into strips. The candy is kept warm so it will not harden. It is placed in wrappers and the heat of the candy will shrink the wrappers. The canes move to a crooker, which will give the candy its Shepard's Crook or hook. The candy canes are placed into a box, called a cradle, inspected and shipped. Fun facts about candy canes: For 200 years, the candy cane came only in one color — white. The red stripes did not appear until sometime around the turn of the 20th century. National Candy Cane Day is celebrated December 26 in the United States. Considered a seasonal item, 90 percent of candy canes are sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas.



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## Worth County Elementary School Participates In Toy Drive With The Sylvester - Worth County Chamber Of Commerce



Worth County Elementary School would like to say a big thank you to everyone that contributed to their annual Toy Drive; especially to the WCES faculty and staff that donated money and/or toys. Also, a big shout out to the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the Christmas Clearinghouse each year! These toys stay local and are distributed to families

right here in Worth County. From the WCES family to yours, we wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Source: WCSD

## Cooper and Fluellen Win ITG Next Outstanding Player Awards

Congratulations to Worth County Rams Chip Cooper (offense) and Jaylen Fluellen (defense) for winning the ITG Next Outstanding Player Awards for Worth County. A special thank you to Sunbelt Ford Sylvester for sponsoring the award.

We are very excited for the Rams and their successful 2022 Ram Football Season and can not wait to see what the future holds for each of the seniors and for the upcoming Ram Seasons. It was great to see the stands full this season and to see the community come together to cheer on the Rams!

Source: WCSD and The Martin News



**WILD  
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*Christmas*

**SELECT DAYS  
NOV. 25 - DEC. 31**

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