



# The Martin News

PO Box 5003 Sylvester, GA 31791  
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January 11, 2021

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**It's Not Goodbye, It's See You Later....  
Councilman Larry Johnson  
8-20-1958 to 1-8-2021**



CITY OF  
*Sylvester*  
*Commemorating*

THE LIFE OF

*Councilman*

JOHNSON

*August 20, 1958 - January 8, 2021*

*Wednesday, January 13, 2021*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

12:00 PM AT THE TRAIN DEPOT

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON TO

FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED**

*Free and open to the public*

## Well Done, Good And Faithful Servant



The City of Sylvester and the Sylvester Community has suffered a great loss. Councilman Larry Johnson passed away Friday, January 8th. Mr. Larry represented District 4 for the City of Sylvester as a Council Member.

He joined the City Council in January of 1994. Mr. Larry was retired from his position as Highway Maintenance Foreman for the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT). He was responsible for the maintenance of over 680 road miles in his home county of Worth. Mr. Larry served in a leadership role on numerous civic boards including the Sylvester - Worth County Recreation Board, The Men United Club, Inc. and was the first Black board member with the Sylvester -Worth County Chamber of Commerce. Other civic affiliations included Georgia DOT Transportation Engineers Association, Georgia Municipal Association, and the Prince Hall Lodge #130 Mason. Mr. Larry served this city and Ward 4 over

28 years. Councilman Johnson served as Mayor Pro-Tem until December 31, 2020.

I could write all the specifics that have been shared and will be shared by other news sources but I have chosen to share my own personal experiences from working with Mr. Larry.

When I started The Martin News in 2014, Mr. Larry was one of the first people to congratulate me. I will never forget the words he shared with me. He said "Lynn always remember to stay true to yourself and to your community. If you do, everything else will work out". I remembered those words from that day forward. He always encouraged me and always reminded me to not change my vision for anyone or anything.

Mr. Larry loved his family more than life itself. His wife, Mrs. Renee (pictured above), was his pride and joy along with his children and grandchildren. He loved his community and was very proud of it. He believed in supporting each and every organization and person in the community that he could whether it was in his ward he represented or not.

He was a huge part of Men United Outreach, Inc. He along with the group believed in doing for this community. They helped everyone and always made sure the children and elderly were taken care of. Whether it was Kids Day in the Park held annually right around Labor Day or feeding the needy several times a year, Mr. Larry always made sure his community people were taken care of. He helped families at Thanksgiving and Christmas with meals and gifts. He always said he did not want children going with out. He truly believed in helping others.

One thing that I can say about Mr. Larry was you could always call him, always! If you had an idea, he would help you make it happen. If you needed something, he would help you find it. He went the extra mile for sure.

I honestly could write for days about the things I know he did for people in this community. I encourage people to share things about him with others for he truly was a great man. Not only was he a great man, he was a HUGE Worth County Rams Fan, A Georgia Bulldog Fan and An Atlanta Falcons Fan. He loved football and getting together with his friends and family on game day. He loved being a Ram and he enjoyed the Annual Ram Alumni Weekend. Mr. Larry will be missed tremendously by so many.

I am continuing to pray for his family, for the City of Sylvester and for the Sylvester - Worth County Community.

Thank you Mr. Larry for a job well done my friend!

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**PEANUT**  
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**The 2021 show has  
been postponed until  
January 2022.**

- Free farmer lunch
- Production & Seed Seminars
- Pesticide applicator certification
- Industry Exhibits
- Blood Drive
- Door prizes



Georgia  
Peanut  
Commission

For more information contact:  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
P.O. Box 967, Tifton GA 31793  
Phone: 229-386-3470  
[www.gapeanuts.com](http://www.gapeanuts.com)

## ***Worth County COVID Vaccine Information***

### **Who is eligible to receive a vaccine at this time?**

The following individuals are eligible for the vaccine at this time:

- Medical Personnel
- First Responders including Fire Fighters and Post Certified Law Officers
- Individuals who are 65 years of age or older
- Caregivers to those 65 years of age and older

### **Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccination in Worth County?**

COVID-19 vaccines are now available **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** in Worth County at the following locations:

- Worth County Health Department
- Phoebe Worth Medical Center

### **How do I make an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

- Worth County Health Department
  - Contact the Southwest Health District Call Center at 229-352-6567
  - Contact the local Health Department by calling 229-777-2150 and selecting option 3. Then press 0 to speak to the operator. (Do not select option 1 to make an appointment because that sends you to the Southwest Health District Call Center)
- Phoebe Worth Medical Center
  - Individuals who are 65 and older may call 229-312-1919 to schedule an appointment.
  - First Responders and Health Care Workers should visit [rapidvac.phoebehealth.com](https://rapidvac.phoebehealth.com) to schedule an appointment

### **Please Remember**

- Vaccines are given by appointment **ONLY**
- There is **NO CHARGE** for the vaccine
- If you have insurance an administration fee will be filed



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## Executive Farm Management Program

### THE EXECUTIVE FARM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**You run a complex, decision-intensive, multi-generational farm operation. Are your management and leadership skills keeping pace?**

**2021 educational opportunity designed for large, family-owned operations across the Southeast.**

#### WEBINAR SERIES:

**Tuesdays, Jan 12 - Feb 2 at 9 a.m. (EST)**

*Cost: \$30 per webinar or \$100 for all four*

#### January 12, 2021:

Transforming Your Business on the Fly (Greg Hopper) This webinar will talk about a model of "dual transformation": adapting your current business to deal with change, as well as creating a new source of customer value.

#### January 19, 2021:

Managing Cash for Exploration? (Scott Mickey) Take away strategies and ratios to use and monitor the business's working capital position throughout the year.

#### January 26, 2021:

Who's leading the Exploration? Family Succession Issues (David Mayo) This session will discuss the importance of family business succession planning, leadership and successor development, and the current state of small business and farm succession.

#### February 2, 2021:

Tackling Sticky Conversations with ONE Simple Adjustment (Sharon Justice) By making this one adjustment you will be prepared to explore and exploit.

#### EFM BOOT CAMP: — Now Accepting Applications —

**Wednesday, February 10 — Friday, February 12**

In our virtual EFM Bootcamp you will learn foundational skills in financial management, strategic planning, and human resource management. For example, you will learn how to use key financial ratios to manage effectively. You will also learn how to lead difficult conversations and navigate challenging family succession issues. This will be taught with a real-world case study within the context of the Business Model Canvas (BMC)

#### Learning Goals:

- Why strategy is important
- Basic understanding of the Business Model Canvas and its usefulness
- Basic understanding of key financial concepts and a how to use key financial ratios
- The most important things to consider when developing a succession plan
- Key concepts every business leader needs to communicate and lead effectively

Blake Brown: 919.515.4536 [blake\\_brown@ncsu.edu](mailto:blake_brown@ncsu.edu)  
Margaret Huffman: 919.515.4498 [mmhuffm2@ncsu.edu](mailto:mmhuffm2@ncsu.edu)



[GO.NCSU.EDU/EFM](http://GO.NCSU.EDU/EFM)



Times are challenging on the farm these days. Farmers run and finance large and diverse businesses, manage capital, handle labor issues, and navigate regulations. An operator is constantly busy working in their business. The Executive Farm Management Program (EFMP) is designed to help farmers work on their business. This year the National Peanut Board (NPB) is proud to partner on the EFMP to support peanut farmers' participation in this educational activity. NPB will provide a \$150 tuition grant for up to 100 U.S. peanut farmers who participate in the 2021 EFMP, held virtually, February 9–11, 2021. Farmers can find out more details and sign up for the program at [go.ncsu.edu/efm](http://go.ncsu.edu/efm). The Executive Farm Management program is an exciting new program offered by NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its partners; NC State Cooperative Extension Service, Clemson Cooperative Extension, ECU College of Business and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. Proceeds supporting the Executive Farm Management program and fundraising activities for the program are managed by The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. The program has been designed for large, family-owned operations across the Southeast. Program curriculum focuses on the management aspects of the operation which is adaptable for all operations of any size, scale and commodity focus. Due to COVID-19, our 2021 program offering will look different. We are pivoting to an online experience consisting of 4 webinars on key topics followed by a Bootcamp to provide foundational skills in our core areas of strategic planning, financial management and human resource management. Our Bootcamp is designed to prepare a strong group of farmers for the full program in 2022. The 2022 program will consist of 10-12 days of content and curriculum taught across 3 sessions in 3 states over the course of 6-weeks. EFM is designed to increase the management competencies and profitability of specialty farms across the Southeast, by utilizing a holistic operation-focused curriculum. Course topics include; Strategic Planning, Human Resource Management, Labor Management, Financial Management, Risk Management, Family Business Issues, Assessing Markets, Supply Chain Management, Brand Management and Marketing, Assessing and Building Key Partnerships and Strengthening an Operation's Value Proposition, among others. Read more at: <https://execfarmgmt.ces.ncsu.edu/about-execfarmgmt/>

And Christmas continues... How sweet and perfect! Saturday, Corin Kai Gibson, son of Brandon and Sydney Gibson was home from the hospital and able to enjoy Christmas with his family. His grandparents, Anthony and Sonja McDonald made sure it was the BEST Christmas ever! The family gathered together and enjoyed the Christmas parade that was arranged by Carmen Jones. Community members participated in the parade. Corin's favorite part was the Fire Trucks. Many fire trucks that is... he loves fire trucks and enjoyed seeing them all. Please keep this family in your prayers as they continue to fight this battle of Cancer. Thank you again to our wonderful Sylvester - Worth County community for coming together for a sweet boy and his family. It's the little things that matters and makes a HUGE difference. Photo Credit: Allison Kilcrease



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the Exchange  
at  
WCHS

Hello! My name is Nancy Burrell and I'm excited to announce an amazing community service opportunity for you and your organization. We are setting up "the Exchange" at Worth County High School. The Exchange will be a clothing and personal hygiene item closet open to all students of WCHS. We are asking for the entire Worth County community to get involved in this exciting venture. We will be accepting new and gently used clothing as well as new personal hygiene products. We would love for you and your organization to get involved. Below is a list of items we hope to be able to stock in the Exchange. If you would like to donate or have any further questions please contact me at [nburrell@worthschools.net](mailto:nburrell@worthschools.net) or 229-344-1389.

#### Personal Hygiene Items

Soap  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Brush  
Comb  
Pick  
Tampons  
Maxi Pads

#### Suggested Clothing Items

Blue Jeans (male & female)  
t-shirts (male & female)  
sweaters  
polo style shirts  
button up shirts  
skirts  
underwear (new)  
socks (new)

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## Tax Season to Begin on Monday, January 25th

The Internal Revenue Service announced recently that the nation's tax season will begin Monday, Jan. 25, 2021. The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on January 25th, with at least 155 million individual tax returns expected to be filed in 2021. The nation's tax deadline will be April 15th. Many software companies and tax professionals will be accepting tax returns before January 25th and then will submit the returns when IRS systems open. Although the IRS will begin accepting both electronic and paper tax returns January 25th, paper returns will begin processing later in mid-February as system updates continue. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically for faster refunds. Due to COVID-19 and the IRS working with a smaller crew, paper tax returns will take a few weeks longer this year to process. The IRS set the Jan. 25th opening date to ensure the security and readiness of key tax processing systems in advance of the opening and to assess the potential impact of tax legislation on 2020 tax returns. The IRS reminds taxpayers that, by law, the IRS cannot issue refunds claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. While the IRS will process those returns when received, it cannot issue related refunds before mid-February. The IRS reminds taxpayers that they should keep copies of their prior-year tax returns for at least three years. Taxpayers who are using a tax software product for the first time will need their adjusted gross income from their 2019 tax return to file electronically. Taxpayers who are using the same tax software they used last year will not need to enter prior-year information to electronically sign their 2020 tax return. Taxpayers can visit [IRS.gov/GetReady](https://www.irs.gov/GetReady) for more tips on preparing to file their 2020 tax return. This is information brought to you by the IRS was shared by Tatina's Taxes. If you have any questions, please contact her at 229-778-0225 or visit her on Facebook at Tatina's Taxes.

## 4-H Shotgun Team Sign Up

Interest in joining the 4-H Project S.A.F.E. (Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education) Shotgun Teams? We have two teams: Modified Trap and Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays.

Who: 7th - 12th Graders

Come by the Extension/4-H Office to pick up a Registration Packet. Packets are due by January 16th. There are limited spots on each team. Sign up is on a first come first serve basis. Hurry to get your registration packet in and pay your fees. Questions call 299-776-8216 or email [kpford@uga.edu](mailto:kpford@uga.edu).

## Jr/Sr 4-H Project Achievement

Who: 7th - 12th graders

Portfolio Workshops are available after school 3:30 - 5:00 pm as follows:

January: 5th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 21st, 25th, 27th and February: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Set up times with Mrs. Kristen! Mrs. Kristen can pick you up from school. Masks are required during workshops. New Portfolios Due Date: February 5th

The contest will no longer be in February. Due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, Georgia 4-H has created a new plan for Jr/Sr DPA. The 1st plan is to hold a face to face contest June 4-6th at Rock Eagle. Final decisions about this Face to Face event will be made by April 1st. If this plan does not work, we have other plans for a virtual contest. Please contact Mrs. Kristen if you are interested in participating in Project Achievement!

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**Thank you for your loyalty.  
We appreciate you.**

## How To Store And Wash Your Face Masks

Store your cloth mask properly and wash it regularly to keep it clean. Consider having more than one mask on hand so that you can easily replace a dirty mask with a clean one. Make sure to remove your mask correctly and wash your hands after touching a used mask. If your mask is wet or dirty from sweat, saliva, make-up, or other liquids or substances, keep it in a sealed plastic bag until you can wash it. Wash wet or dirty masks as soon as possible to prevent them from becoming moldy. Wet masks can be hard to breathe through and are less effective than dry masks. You can store your mask temporarily to reuse later. Remove your mask correctly and wash your hands after touching a used mask. Keep it in a dry, breathable bag (like a paper or mesh fabric bag) to keep it clean between uses. When reusing your mask, keep the same side facing out. If you are taking off your mask to eat or drink outside of your home, you can place it somewhere safe to keep it clean, such as your pocket, purse, or paper bag. Make sure to wash or sanitize your hands after removing your mask. After eating, put the mask back on with the same side facing out. Be sure to wash or sanitize your hands again after putting your mask back on. Wash your cloth mask whenever it gets dirty or at least daily. If you have a disposable face mask, throw it away after wearing it once. Using a washing machine. Include your mask with your regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the appropriate settings according to the fabric label. By hand: Wash your mask with tap water and laundry detergent or soap. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove detergent or soap. Dry your mask. Dry your mask completely in a warm or hot dryer. You can air dry by hanging your mask in direct sunlight to dry completely. If you cannot hang it in direct sunlight, hang or lay it flat and let it dry completely. Stay safe!

## Georgia 4-H Achievement Scholarships

The 2021 Georgia 4-H Achievement Scholarship Application is now available to all current high school seniors or those still currently attending college. Check the link below to access the application. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 19, 2021. Please note, in addition to the application, applicants will need to provide an official transcript copy as well as a signed and dated recommendation letter from a 4-H County Staff Member. If you have any questions, please let the 4-H Office know!

<https://georgia4hfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Source: Worth County 4H

## WCMS Baseball Tryouts



Below is the schedule for tryouts for Baseball at Worth County Middle School.

January 11-15\*, 3:45-5:15 @WCMS Baseball Field

- \*Jan 11th - last name A-J, all grades
- \*Jan 12th - last name K-Z, all grades
- \*Jan 13th - last name A-J, all grades
- \*Jan 14th - last name K-Z, all grades
- \*Jan 15th - make up day

Current physical on file required to try out. Contact is Coach Reece Bozeman, [rbozeman@worthschools.net](mailto:rbozeman@worthschools.net).

Source: WCSD

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**National Bagel Day**

Enjoy Bagels on January 15th

# TOMLINSON

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### Cleaning Off Your Desk

January is National Cleaning Off Your Desk month. January is a great time to kick off the new year with cleaning off your desk! I often feel if my desk is clean I can get more now done but when the desk is bogged down with clutter I feel almost like I can not function. So let me be the first one to get my desk cleaned up!

### Popcorn Isn't Just For Movies Anymore

January 19th is National Popcorn Day. Now isn't that a great day to celebrate? Popcorn is a type of corn that puffs up when heated. It is usually served salted, often with butter. However, caramel and cheddar cheese are also common varieties. Air-popped popcorn is naturally high in dietary fiber and low in calories and fat. It is often a snack of choice for people with dietary restrictions. Popcorn is not only for eating. It has been traditionally used for many years to decorate Christmas trees. Did



anyone put up a Popcorn Christmas Tree this year?

### Cloverleaf 4-H Project Achievement

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Students choose a project area of interest, research the topic, and write and present a presentation. 4-H'ers develop leadership, creativity, public speaking, record keeping, and other skills. Check out more details here.

Who: 4th - 6th graders

Write an essay on a topic of your choosing. Essays are due February 5th. Once essays are turned in, the 4-H office will help 4-H'ers turn essays into a 4-6 minute speech with visual aids. There will be a Virtual State Contest. The 4-H office will help record videos. More details on the contest are to come.

Source: Worth County 4H

### WCMS Girls Soccer Tryouts



Below is the schedule for tryouts for Girls Soccer at Worth County Middle School.

January 13th, 14th, 19th\*; 3:45-5:45

@WCMS soccer field

\*Jan 13th - last name A-J

\*Jan 14th - last name K-Z

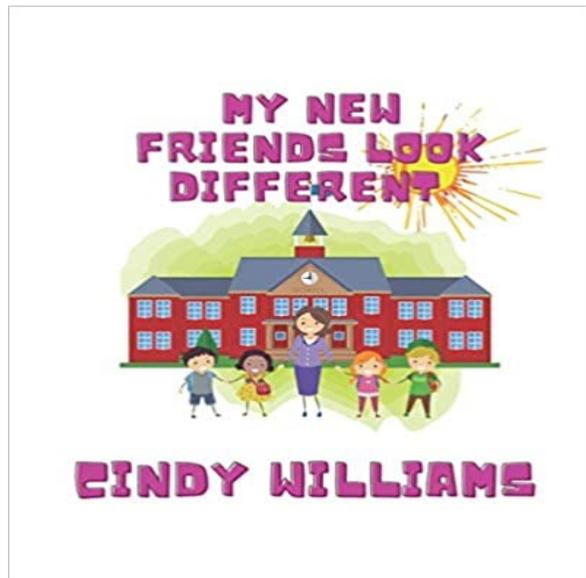
\*Jan 19th - all

Current physical on file required to try out

Coach Mitchel mmitchell@worthschools.net

Boys Soccer Tryouts information will be shared when available.

Source: WCSD



### New Book On The Shelf At The Margaret Jones Public Library

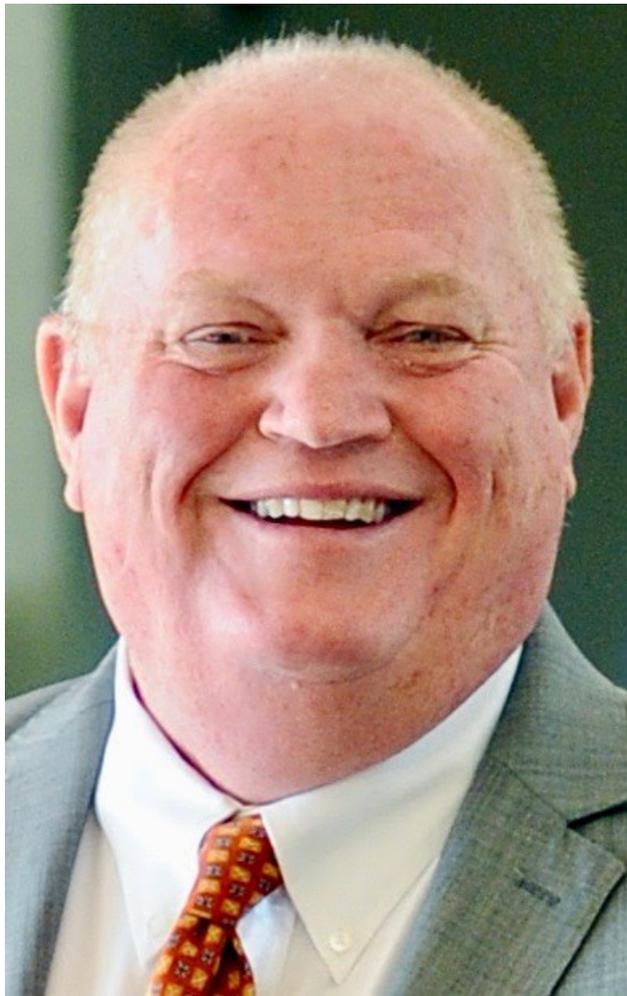
I am so excited to share with you about a new book on the market and one you will want to get for your family. The name of the book is "My New Friends Look Different" by Cindy Williams. Mrs. Cindy is excited to have her first Children's book at the Margaret Jones Public Library. You can also purchase one for your family on Amazon. Congratulation Mrs. Cindy on your first Children's book.

# *Dates to Remember*

## *January*

- 11th ~ Monthly Paint Class at Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm
- 11th ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Home
- 11th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 11th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 11th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting for 5th Grade during Science Class at WCES
- 12th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting for 5th Grade during Science Class at WCES
- 12th ~ Worth the Read Book Club January Meeting 5:30pm
- 13th ~ Kiwanis Meeting Noon
- 13th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting for 5th Grade during Science Class at WCES
- 14th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting for 5th Grade during Science Class at WCES
- 15th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting for 5th Grade during Science Class at WCES
- 15th ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Away
- 15th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Away
- 15th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Away
- 16th ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Home
- 16th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 16th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 18th ~ MLK Day
- 18th ~ Worth County Schools Holiday
- 19th ~ Chocolate and a Canvas 6:30pm Tifton Museum
- 20th ~ Kiwanis Meeting Noon
- 20th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting 4th - 8th Grade Club Meeting 3:30-5 at 4-H Office
- 22nd ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Away
- 22nd ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Away
- 23rd ~ Kids at Art 11am Tifton Museum
- 23rd ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Home
- 23rd ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 23rd ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 26th ~ Sylvester - Worth County Family Connections Meeting
- 26th ~ Worth County 4H Meeting - High School 3:30-5 pm at 4-H office
- 26th ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Home
- 26th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 26th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 27th ~ Kiwanis Meeting Noon
- 29th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 29th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Home
- 30th ~ The Sly Town Showdown
- 30th ~ WCHS Boys JV Basketball Game - Away
- 30th ~ WCHS Girls Varsity Basketball Game - Away
- 30th ~ WCHS Boys Varsity Basketball Game - Away

## COVID-19 Surge Delays ABAC Start



To ensure a safe start, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is moving the opening day of the spring semester to Jan. 25. ABAC President David Bridges said the college hopes to gain an advantage on the post-holiday COVID-19 surge by giving students, faculty and staff more time to prepare for a safe beginning for the spring term. “We gain an extra week of time for the surge to resolve, and we only lose four days of classes because we were scheduled to start on Jan. 19 anyway,” Bridges said. “Everything we do is predicated on providing for the health and safety of our students and our employees.” ABAC compressed its fall semester so that all classes and final examinations ended Nov. 24. Students went home for the Thanksgiving holidays without having to return to the campus until the spring semester. “The hard work, planning, cooperation and personal responsibility of our faculty, staff, and students made the fall semester plan work,” Bridges said. “Now we want to do everything we can to position ourselves for a successful spring term. “Our primary goal is to have a spring semester with students on campus engaging with faculty and having the opportunity to at-

tend face-to-face classes.”

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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**Tift Animal Rescue Co-Founder Named Animal Shelter Director**



Candice Hernandez, longtime animal shelter volunteer and rescue organization co-founder, has been named Tift County Animal Shelter director, working alongside Animal Control Director Russell Gay. Hernandez started her position on Monday. She handles the inside operations, while Gay continues to manage animal control outside the doors and around the county. Hernandez and co-founder Leah Robbins started the Tift Animal Rescue nonprofit in 2018, and the two of them have been shelter volunteers and rescue coordinators for the shelter for more than five years. Both served on the board of the Save Our Pets organization that encourages and sponsors spaying and neutering. Hernandez said her new job “was an unexpected offer” from County Manager Jim Carter. The decision was difficult, because she has worked as customer service/office supervisor with her prior employer for 18 years. “I had to think about it long and hard,” she said. However, the opportunity to make an even greater difference “after being in and out of the shelter

every day for five years,” was an offer she could not refuse. Hernandez said she is excited, but will make changes slowly. “I have some ideas to prevent sickness and catch it before it develops.” She has contacts in the rescue communities all over the South and nationwide. Last week, a rescue group based in Atlanta picked up 28 cats from the Tift County shelter to take into to their foster program. Currently, the shelter is housing 50-60 dogs, many of them awaiting adoption. The cat numbers constantly fluctuate. “Unfortunately, for every cat adopted or rescued, there’s another one waiting to replace it,” Hernandez said. “I hope to make a lot of improvements. One project at a time. My goal is to improve the quality of the animals’ lives while they are with us. We want to make them as comfortable as possible while we work to find them adoptive homes or rescue opportunities through other organizations.”

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Co-Hosted by American Legion Post 335 and The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 335

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE



## Sylvester's 1st Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

Where:

Worth County Ag Pavillion  
102 Rebecca Dr, Sylvester, GA 31791

When: June 5, 2021

Event will begin at 10am with presentation of colors, live national anthem, dual taps, and a prayer.



Big Ticket Raffle Items \$1 per ticket

Several Food Vendors Will be Present as well as Veteran owned Valdosta Kettle Works LLC



### Classic Car/Truck show

- Oldest Around
- Overall Favorite
- Farthest Traveled
- Abi's Choice

Pre-Registration \$15  
Late Registration \$20



There will also be live music from local artist and bands



Patriotic Art Silent Auction  
Any local or South Georgia artist are invited to donate a patriotic piece to be silent auctioned at the event!  
Any ages are welcome!

Surprise Guest Speakers and special guest on Veteran Suicide Awareness



# SAVE 22

## AWARENESS IS THE ANSWER



All profit from this event will go directly to a well researched veteran focused local charity

If you would like to sign up for any of these events or sponsor it please contact:

Cody Humphrey (229)376-4426

Emma Lynn (229)603-8859

Adam Ivey (229)206-1427



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 Sugar Hills Charms  
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**Writing on the Wall**



January recognizes National Handwriting. The purpose of National Handwriting Day is to remind the public of the importance of handwriting.

According to the

Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA), National Handwriting Day is a chance to re-explore the purity and power of handwriting. In an age now dominated by computers, handwriting adds a personal touch. It can also reveal much about the writer's personality. Throughout history, handwritten documents have expressed love, kept families close together no matter the distance, and initiated important changes in laws that govern the people of our nation. National Handwriting Day is sponsored by WIMA every January 23rd in conjunction with John Hancock's birthday. John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence and is famous for his large, bold signature. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association is a national trade association covering a 4.5 billion dollar industry of pen, pencil and marker manufacturers. I find it so interesting to see how many people write left handed versus right handed, cursive versus print. My mother and I are right handed, my sister is left handed, and my daddy was both. Pretty cool huh?

**Spring Cleaning Can Come Early  
 With This Easy Tip**



With our busy schedules, it is hard at times to fit in cleaning the house sometimes especially spring cleaning but if tips like this keep coming in, it will be a piece of cake! This is easy as can be to clean your blinds. Simply get one of your pair of tongs from the kitchen, attach a cloth to it and attach it with rubber bands and dust away! This will be easy to keep the blinds cleaned monthly now. Just a quick tip from Windex. I read recently that if you keep your house picked up on a daily basis and do one chore like this one once a week then you are able to do them once a month and have your house always looking like you have just finished your spring cleaning. If you have some quick tips to help us all keep the house looking great, please send them to [info@themartinnews.com](mailto:info@themartinnews.com) and I will share them in the upcoming news publications.

## USDA Announces Quality Loss Assistance Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2018, 2019 Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that sign-up for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. Funded by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, this new program provides assistance to producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in 2018 and 2019. The deadline to apply for QLA is Friday, March 5, 2021. “Farmers and livestock producers nationwide experienced crop quality losses due to natural disasters in 2018 and 2019,” said Bill Northey, USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “We have worked diligently over the past couple of years to roll out meaningful disaster assistance programs to help alleviate the substantial financial loss experienced by so many agricultural producers and are pleased to offer quality loss assistance as added relief. Many of the eligible producers have already received compensation for quantity losses.” Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, except for grazed crops and value loss crops, such as honey, maple sap, aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and turfgrass sod. Additionally, crops that were sold or fed to livestock or that are in storage may be eligible; however, crops that were destroyed before harvest are not eligible. Crop quality losses occurring after harvest, due to deterioration in storage, or that could have been mitigated, are also not eligible. Assistance is based on a producer’s harvested affected production of an eligible crop, which must have had at least a 5% quality loss reflected through a quality discount; or for forage crops, a nutrient loss, such as total digestible nutrients. Losses must have been a result of a qualifying disaster event (hurricane, excessive moisture, flood, qualifying drought, tornado, typhoon, volcanic activity, snow-storm, or wildfire) or related condition that occurred in calendar years 2018 and/or 2019. Assistance is available for eligible producers in counties that received a qualifying Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation because of one or more of the qualifying disaster events or related conditions. Lists of counties with Presidential Emergency Disaster Declarations and Secretarial Disaster Designations for all qualifying disaster events for 2018 and 2019 are available here. For drought, producers are eligible for QLA if the loss occurred in an area within a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D3 (extreme drought) or higher intensity level during 2018 or 2019. Producers in counties that did not receive a qualifying declaration or designation may still apply but must also provide supporting documentation to establish that the crop was directly affected by a qualifying disaster event. To determine QLA eligibility and payments, FSA considers the total quality loss caused by all qualifying natural disasters in cases where a crop was impacted by multiple events. When applying, producers are asked to provide verifiable documentation to support claims of quality loss or nutrient loss in the case of forage crops. For crops that have been sold, grading must have been completed within 30 days of harvest, and for forage crops, a laboratory analysis must have been completed within 30 days of harvest. Some acceptable forms of documentation include sales receipts from buyers, settlement sheets, truck or warehouse scale tickets, written sales contracts, similar records that represent actual and specific quality loss information, and forage tests for nutritional values. QLA payments are based on formulas for the type of crop (forage or non-forage) and loss documentation submitted. Based on this documentation FSA is calculating payments based on the producer’s own individual loss or based on the county average loss. More information on payments can be found on [farmers.gov/quality-loss](https://farmers.gov/quality-loss). FSA will issue payments once the application period ends. If the total amount of calculated QLA payments exceeds available program funding, payments will be prorated. For each crop year, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, is \$125,000. Payments made to a joint operation (including a general partnership or joint venture) will not exceed \$125,000, multiplied by the number of persons and legal entities that comprise the ownership of the joint operation. A person or legal entity is ineligible for QLA payment if the person’s or legal entity’s average Adjusted Gross Income exceeds \$900,000, unless at least 75% is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. All producers receiving QLA Program payments are required to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. If eligible, QLA participants may meet the insurance purchase requirement by purchasing Whole-Farm Revenue Protection coverage offered through USDA’s Risk Management Agency. For more information, visit [farmers.gov/quality-loss](https://farmers.gov/quality-loss), or contact your local USDA Service Center. Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

Source: USDA Press Release



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