



The Martin News

PO Box 5003 Sylvester, GA 31791
lmanley1210@gmail.com
www.themartinnews.org
(229) 272-4356

November 29, 2021

SGT

**SOUTHWEST
GEORGIA
THERAPY**

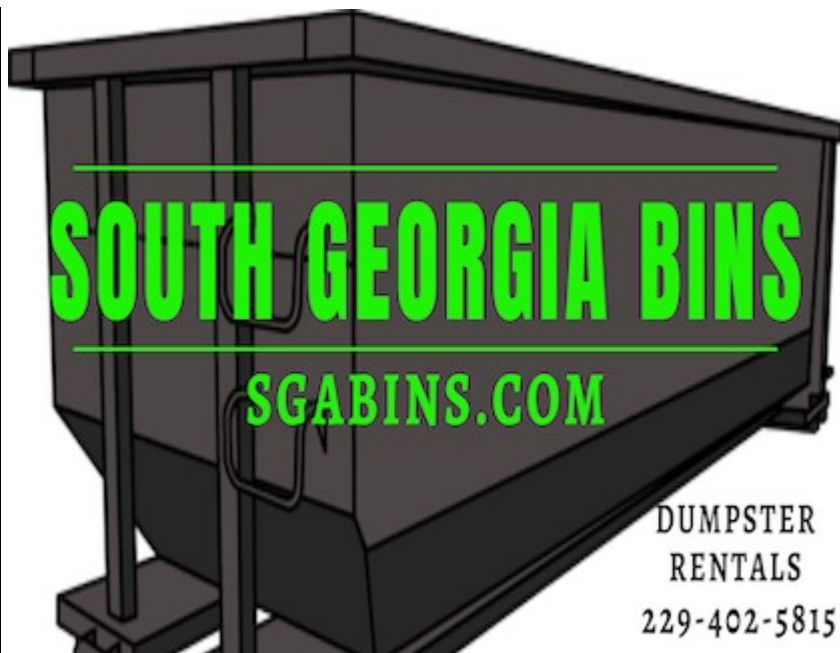
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Basket Give Away



Worth County Public Safety Ladies Auxiliary will be making someone's Christmas a little brighter this year when they win this awesome basket! This basket is worth over \$4000 and will be given away on December 13th at Ed's Truck Stop. It is full of cash, lotto tickets, gift cards and a four person bird hunt of which all of this was donated. All you have to do is purchase a raffle ticket for \$10 and you will be entered in the drawing. You can purchase a ticket or even two at Ed's Truck Stop. If you need to, you can Cashapp to \$ashleelulu, Venmo to @Betty-Dorsey or PayPal to betdors@aol.com. All of these go to Betty Dorsey and she will get you entered. When using these methods to pay, please note that it for raffle tickets. If it asks you for the last four digits of the phone number, it is 4514. All of the proceeds will go to the Worth County Public Safety Ladies Auxiliary where Betty Dorsey states they use the monies to help needy families with Christmas and as of now they are able to help 15 children as of today so get your tickets today. Fundraisers like these allow them to do for those less fortunate and they appreciate everyone for their support.

Photo Credit: Betty Dorsey

Sumner Christmas Fest



Saturday December 11, 2021

3:30 P.M.

706 Walnut Street Sumner GA 31789

Location is at the Old Headstart Cafeteria

COME JOIN US FOR A CHILI DOG SUPPER AND LOTS OF FUN!

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

GIFT FROM SANTA (CHILDREN)

RAFFLE

GAMES

FACE PAINTING

SWEETS WALK



This Event is Made Possible By Donations , Fund Raisers ,and Volunteers . Any help would be greatly appreciated! For More Information call

Milissa Dobbins at

229-776-7384 or 229-206-2514





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SEC Championship Game This Saturday



CHAMPIONSHIP

Are you ready for the SEC Championship Game this Saturday? Is your team playing in it? Mine unfortunately is not as I am a Gator fan but it will be a great game either way. During the College Football Playoff era, the winner of the SEC Championship Game has advanced to the CFP in every season, so the SEC Championship is annually one of the most pivotal games of the entire season. The 2021 SEC Championship Game is at 4 p.m. ET this Saturday, Dec. 4th, with the game on CBS. This year it will feature Georgia, the winner of the SEC East, versus the Alabama, the SEC West champi-

on. The SEC Championship Game will be played in Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. It will be the fifth time the SEC Championship Game has been played in Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the 28th time it will be held in Atlanta. Georgia and Alabama last met at the SEC Championship Game in 2018 with Alabama winning 35-28. What do you think will happen this Saturday? Many have predicted that Georgia will beat Alabama this year. We shall see on Saturday. Be sure to stay tuned on Saturday and enjoy this football weekend!

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- Bags

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Suitcases For Kids

SUITCASES FOR KIDS HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-CHILD PROJECT

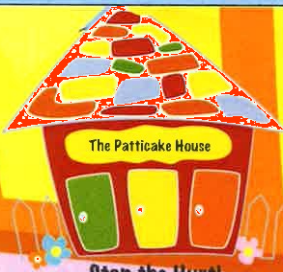


Sponsored by:

Georgia State Patrol Post 13
Ruth's Cottage & Patticake House
Target

SPECIAL NEED ALERT!

Adoptions of teenage foster children!



A trash bag makes a lousy traveling companion!
This project supports Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House kids and foster children in Tift, Turner, Irwin and Worth Counties.

Each suitcase will include, at a minimum, 2 changes of clothing, PJ's, undergarments and a toy! Items must be new and appropriate for the age of each child. Personalized duffel bags will be provided by Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House. Thank you to our sponsors and donors!

Collection Point: GA State Patrol Post 13

Deadline for Drop Off: **December 1, 2021**
Donation Commitment

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to "adopt" a child or family of children @ \$150 each for 7 years and under.
- ☐ Yes, I'd like to "adopt" a child or family of children @ \$200 each for 8 years and over.
- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be a bike sponsor for a child or family of children.

If you wish to make a donation to this project, you may mail your check to:

Suitcases for Kids
P.O. Box 2727
Tifton, GA 31793

If you'd like to do the shopping yourself, please call us for child's sizes, wish list, or for more info. *

382-4141



***ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW AND UNWRAPPED!**



Monday - Saturday, 10am-6pm & Sunday 11am - 3pm
323 Main Street · Tifton · 229-396-4363
Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting our small business!

Helping Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation by Donating Glasses

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation receives donations of used prescription eyeglasses, over the counter readers and sunglasses. Lighthouse volunteers wash, read, label and pack the donated glasses to get them ready to go overseas. Church groups, medical missions and other volunteer groups contact the Lighthouse throughout the year to get glasses for their relief and mission trips. The Lighthouse provides over 100,000 pairs of glasses for overseas use every year. The following are stories of the people the Lighthouse Foundation helps through eyeglass recycling. The people of Prislop, Romania have limited access to healthcare and no vision care. In rural Romania, they are far from most amenities that we take for granted here in the US. The best they can do is to rely on the goodwill of others – people to donate glasses here in the US and mission/relief trips to deliver the glasses. Most of the people trying on glasses would hold a book and try to read it. If the glasses didn't help, they would put on another pair. This process was repeated over and over again by each person until everyone found a pair that helped them to see clearly. But one woman wasn't holding a book; she was holding a syringe and pointing it at her arm. She was a diabetic and was testing to see which glasses would help her see the correct medication amount and the veins to inject herself. Without these glasses she may have had other medical difficulties because she was unable to see her syringe. Lion Cecil Davis took a trip to Jinja, Uganda with a small group of people from the Faithful Servants Missionary Team in Carrollton, GA. He had never been on a mission trip before and learned a lot about the continent of Africa and the country of Uganda. Before the trip he had taken a class on how to use a FOCOMETER®, a device that measures nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. The group had an interpreter to help when screening the patients and they were able to help 425 people in a ten day period! Since his trip, Cecil has received additional training on how to use the device and is planning to take another trip to South Africa. A few years back a church group, led by a member of a local Lions Club from North Georgia, took 500 pairs of donated glasses to Honduras. Many of the women there sew for a living and without glasses they are unable to work. The women were thrilled, after trying on glasses, to be able to see to thread a needle. That meant they could work again! They would be able to earn a living and help to provide for themselves and their families. Collecting glasses is an easy thing we can do to help. Please help by donating glasses to The Martin News as my son collects glasses to give the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation to help others. You can email me and I will be glad to get the glasses. My email is Imanley1210@gmail.com. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you to everyone for your help!



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Salvation Army Seeking Bell Ringers For Season



The Christmas season has begun, and the Salvation Army of Tifton is seeking volunteer bell-ringers for the Red Kettle Campaign. "As a volunteer, you are a vital partner in helping fulfill the Salvation Army's promise of 'Doing the Most Good,'" the local organization says. "Every coin you drop into a kettle goes directly to providing essential services to our most vulnerable neighbors."

In Georgia, 18.1% of the population lives in poverty. Last year, because of people of all ages who volunteered their time, talents, and resources, the Salvation Army in Georgia was able to help 1.75 million people, the organization says. Locally, the office is asking for a two-hour commitment to man the Red Kettles this holiday season. Call 229-386-1503



Source: Tifton Grapevine

Worth County Elementary School Toy Drive 2021

WCES would like to help local families this year by sponsoring a toy drive.

If you would like to help, please donate an unwrapped toy to WCES starting Monday, December 6th – Friday, December 17th.

All donations will be given to the Sylvester - Worth County Chamber of Commerce.

If you are in need of help in providing gifts for your child on Christmas morning, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 229-776-7718.

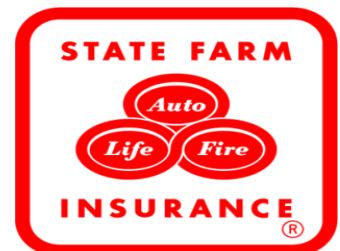


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Toy Safety: A Must at Christmas Time

The holidays are here and your children may already be receiving gifts from friends and family. While most toys may seem harmless, every year many children are injured by their favorite toys. It is very important to inspect your child's toys and adhere to all age suggestions listed on the packaging. Not all toys are right for all children. The following tips can help ensure you have a safe holiday season.

1. Read the label. Warning labels give important information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is safe for. Make sure your child knows how to use the toy the right way.
2. Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking.
3. Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air. They can cause serious eye injuries or choking.
4. For younger children, avoid play sets with small magnets and make sure batteries are secured within the toy. If magnets or batteries are ingested, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
5. Look for stuffed toys that are well made. Make sure all the parts are on tight and seams and edges are secure. It should also be machine washable. Take off any loose ribbons or strings to avoid strangulation. Avoid toys that have small bean-like pellets or stuffing that can cause choking or suffocation if swallowed.
6. Inspect toys for sturdiness. Your child's toys should be durable, with no sharp edges or points. The toys should also withstand impact. Dispose of plastic wrapping material immediately on toys as they may have sharp edges.
7. Inspect all toys before purchasing. Monitor toys that your child has received as gifts to make sure they are appropriate for your child's age and developmental level.
8. Avoid toys with toxic materials that could cause poisoning. Make sure the label says "nontoxic."
9. Avoid hobby kits and chemistry sets for any child younger than 12 years. They can cause fires or explosions and may contain dangerous chemicals. Make sure your older child knows how to safely handle these kinds of toys.
10. Be careful when buying crib toys. Strings or wires that hang in a crib should be kept short to avoid strangulation. Crib toys should be removed as soon as your child can push up on his hands and knees.



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ABAC Boardwalk Lets Students, Residents Get Closer To Nature



The Nature Study Area (NSA) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recently received a facelift with a new boardwalk constructed by students majoring in natural resource management. A wildlife viewing grant for \$2,097 from the Ga. Department of Natural Resources, along with financial support from the ABAC administration, funded the boardwalk materials and construction. "The Nature Study Area on the ABAC campus is one of only two public nature trails in Tift County," said Dr. Mark Kistler, dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources "These repairs and improvements will not only allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable hike but will also benefit Tifton area residents who frequently walk, jog, and ride their bicycles through our campus." Dr. Vanessa Lane, associate professor of wildlife ecology and management and a certified wildlife biologist, said the boardwalk allows students easier access. Students are directly involved with habitat management at the Nature Study Area, which gives ample opportunities for hands-on learning to acquire skills essential for forest and wildlife managers," Lane said. "Our students regularly participate in invasive species control, prescribed fire, plant identification and propagation, forest mensuration, orienteering, and even the maintenance of the facilities." Phoebe Beard of Ashburn, a natural resource management student with a concentration in wildlife, said she visits the NSA almost daily as part of her classes. "The construction of a safe, sturdy walkway means we can walk further

into the NSA without stepping in mud and briars, disturbing wildlife, or trampling sensitive plants," Beard said. "The NSA is one of my favorite places because it provides first-hand experiences and is key to learning how to identify trees, plants, and the wildlife that live there."

Source: Tifton Grapevine

ABAC Honors Melvin Merrill With Veteran Center Name



In a salute on Veterans Day, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College dedicated the Melvin L. Merrill Veterans Center to a longstanding administrator who made his mark at ABAC during a 42-year career. "Melvin Merrill has distinguished himself with his service to his country and to this college," ABAC President David Bridges said. "He is a man who believes in doing things the right way." Merrill served 29 years in

the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring with the rank of major in 1993. He also occupied an administrative position at ABAC for 42 years, first as development director then chief development officer, foundation president, and capital planning director. Merrill was instrumental in the design and construction of the Veterans Center, now located in the renovated Carlton Center. Its original location was in J. Lamar Branch Hall. Students who are veterans use the area as a place to study and relax, while acquainting themselves with others who also served in the military. "Veterans Day means something special to me every year," Merrill said. "With this honor, this day takes on extra special significance. I am humbled by the idea and appreciative of the recognition. It's one of the best honors I have ever had." Retired ABAC administrator Melvin L. Merrill speaks during the recent ceremony honoring him with the naming of the college's Veteran Center.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Highly Ranked Tift Blue Devil Creates Buzz In Visiting FSU



Tift County High Blue Devil Tyre West, considered one of the top defensive line prospects in the nation, got sports websites buzzing last week when the senior made an unofficial visit to Florida State University. West, who has been a star defensive end for Tift County, has long been committed to play for the University of Georgia. The 247Sports website, who has named West among the top prospects in the class of 2022, reported that his name has also recently been linked to the University of Tennessee. At least 10 schools have reportedly made offers to West. The website Warchant.com noted that West made a surprise vis-

it the FSU campus last week, touring the college and attending the Seminoles' Wednesday practice with the team. Following his visit, West told the website that FSU is "close to his heart; I'll put it at that." He added that he believes the FSU coaching staff "will take care of me if I come here." Among his accolades, West was the Touchdown Club of Atlanta's Defensive Player of the Week following the Blue Devils win over Camden County this season.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Georgia's Move Over Law



Georgia's Move Over Law says motorists travelling in the lane adjacent to the shoulder must move-over one lane when emergency and utility vehicles are stopped on the side of the highway and operating in an official capacity. Vehicles included in the law include all first responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS), utility vehicles, DOT vehicles, HERO Units and wreckers tending to an accident. The law is meant to keep officers AND traffic violators safe from crashes with passing cars. The Move Over Law was passed in the aftermath of growing numbers of police, emergency technicians and DOT workers being killed during routine traffic stops, crash responses and highway construction projects around the nation. Right now, more than thirty states have Move Over Laws on the books, with fines that range as high as a thousand dollars or more in some jurisdictions. The Move Over fine in Georgia can be up to \$500. Failure to obey the Move Over Law can lead to consequences far more serious than fines. According to FBI statistics, traffic crashes claim the lives of more police personnel than any other cause of death in the line of duty, including shootings. Reports show emergency vehicles of all types have been struck while parked beside Georgia highways, even while their emergency lights were flashing. The Georgia Move Over Law requires drivers to move-over one lane when possible if an emergency vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of the highway. And if traffic is too heavy to move-over safely, the law requires drivers to slow down below the posted speed limit instead AND to be prepared to stop.

Source: Georgia Highway Safety



Many Things To Find At Bula's Antiques & Collectibles

Above is just a few things that you will find at Bula's Antiques & Collectibles located at 323 Main Street in Tifton. You can find these items and more just in time for decorating your house for Christmas and even gifts for those on your list this Christmas. Bula's is opened Monday through Saturday from 10am-6pm and Sunday from 11am-3pm. Make plans now to visit Bula's.



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& Conference



Jan. 19-20, 2022

Wednesday - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center
Tifton, Georgia

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- Production & Seed Seminars
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- Nearly 100 Exhibits
- Blood Drive
- Door prizes



Georgia
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***Shop local for all
those on your Christmas
list this year!***

Mason Jars Full of Goodies



I say this is my favorite time of the year and I guess it really is. I love all times of the year and can always find fun things to do but it seems at this time of the year there is so many neat crafts and fun gift gestures to fix for friends and family. Look at these adorable Mason jars full of goodies. You are able to fix goodies or if you are like me just have somebody make them for you and then put them in the jars and decorate the jars. It's hard for me to say which one my favorite of these are but I am leaning more toward the reindeer. It is ADORABLE. You can fill them with Chocolate Milk Balls. For all the others, just pick something in the color theme, decorate the jar, fill it up and share with friends! The Martin News wishes you all a very happy and healthy holiday season!

Books and Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library group enjoyed making mini Christmas tree ornaments this week to take home and heard some great Christmas books read aloud.

Source: MJPL



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Christmas Fest in Sumner

Saturday, December 11th is the 6th Annual Christmas Fest in Sumner and you don't want to miss it. It all starts at 3:30pm! This event is for all ages and includes free chili dogs, bowls of chili, chips, popcorn, cotton candy and drinks. There will be a sweets walk for the whole family at a chance to win yummy goodies. Guess who will be visiting during the Christmas Fest? None other than Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and an Elf! When your child visits Santa, they will receive a gift. So much fun! There will be music and fun for everyone. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are \$1 each and each child gets a free ticket. After you purchase the ticket you will then put it in a raffle bucket to the prize that you would like to win. At the end of the event, tickets are drawn. You do not have to be present to win, just make sure your name and number is on the ticket. This year there are some awesome prizes to take a chance at winning. All CDC guidelines will be followed at the Christmas Fest on Saturday the 11th. They ask that you take precautions and practice social distancing. The Christmas Fest Committee can not mandate you to wear a mask but do encourage you to do so. The Christmas Fest Committee hopes to see you all on Saturday, December 11th and wishes each and every one a very Merry Christmas.

Annual CHRISTMAS PARADE

Friday, December 3

★ Parade starts at 6 pm ★

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PARADE THERE WILL BE A
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
AT THE DEPOT

Jakori Edwards
will be opening with a
Christmas Song.



THE PARADE LINE UP STARTS AT 5 PM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PARADE APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT CITY OF SYLVESTER MAIN STREET DEPARTMENT AT 229-773-7716 OR KSINGLETARY@CITYOFSYLVESTER.COM

Dates to Remember

November

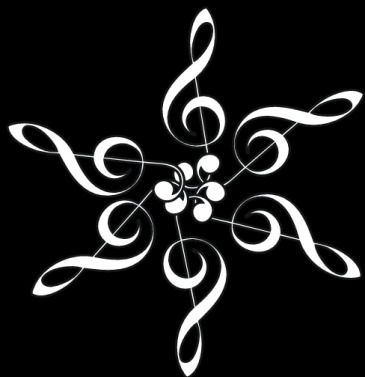
29th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
29th ~ A Christmas Carol at Alliance Theater
29th ~ Ice Skating at Sugar Hill
29th ~ Holiday Celebration at World of Coca-Cola
29th ~ WCHS JV Girls Basketball Away 3:30PM
29th ~ WCHS JV Boys Basketball Away 4:30PM
29th ~ WCHS Varsity Girls Away 6PM
29th ~ WCHS Varsity Boys Away 7:30PM
30th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
30th ~ A Christmas Carol at Alliance Theater
30th ~ Ice Skating at Sugar Hill
30th ~ Holiday Celebration at World of Coca-Cola
30th ~ Books & Bubbles at Margaret Jones Public Library 10:30am
30th ~ Lights of Love Phoebe Tree Lighting Ceremony 7pm

December

1st ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
1st ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
1st ~ WCHS JV Boys Varsity Basketball Home
2nd ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
2nd ~ WCMS Girls Basketball 4:30PM Home
2nd ~ WCMS Boys Basketball 5:30PM Home
3rd ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
3rd ~ Sylvester Christmas Parade
3rd ~ WCHS JV Away 4:30PM
3rd ~ WCHS Girls Basketball 6PM Away
3rd ~ WCHS Boys Basketball 7:30PM Away
4th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
5th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
6th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
6th ~ WCMS Girls Basketball 4:30PM Away
6th ~ WCMS Boys Basketball B Team 5:30PM Away
6th ~ WCMS Boys Basketball A Team 6:30PM Away
6th ~ Christmas Tree Paint Party at Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm
7th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
8th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
8th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
9th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
10th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
11th ~ Poulan Christmas Parade 11am
11th ~ Sumner Christmas Fest 3:30PM
14th ~ Books & Barks at Margaret Jones Public Library 4pm
14th ~ Worth the Read Book Club December Meeting at the Margaret Jones Public Library 5:30pm
15th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
16th ~ Worth County Board of Education Meeting
28th ~ Sylvester - Worth County Family Connections Meeting
29th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon

Worth County Schools Present:

FINE ARTS *Winter Concert*



Worth County Middle School Band
Worth County Middle School Chorus
Worth County High School Band
Worth County School Chorus

December 7th, 2021
WCHS Gymnatorium
6:30pm



Peanut Butter & Jesus Marks 4 Years Providing Lunches, Gospel To Children and Families

The Peanut Butter & Jesus community ministry has now been active for four years in Tifton, providing Saturday lunches to local hungry children and families for more than 280 consecutive weeks. Volunteers are pictured coming together again the other day to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and fill 1,400 bags with lunches and a Gospel message. Every Saturday, Peanut Butter & Jesus delivers lunch bags containing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, drink, snack, and a Bible-based inspirational message to underprivileged children, homeless people, and some elderly adults throughout Tift County. Donations may be mailed to the nonprofit organization at 91 Springhill Church Road, Tifton, GA, 31793.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

National Sock Day Has Our Toes Covered



December 4th is known as National Sock Day. What a cool day to celebrate and even more what a cool pair of socks! I love toes socks and have several pair of them. Some people don't like them but me on the other hand, I absolutely adore them! Either way, be sure to wear your favorite socks on the 4th!

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National Cookie Day

National Cookie Day on December 4th serves up a sweet treat. Bakers across the country warm up the ovens for holiday baking, and we enjoy giving tins of cookies to friends and family all season long. We can thank the Dutch for more than windmills and tulips. The English word "cookie" is derived from the Dutch word *koekie*, meaning "little cake." Hard cookie-like wafers have existed for as long as baking has been documented. Not surprisingly, they traveled well, too. However, they were usually not sweet enough to be considered cookies by modern-day standards. The origin of the cookie appears to begin in Persia in the 7th century, soon after the use of sugar became common in the region. They then spread to Europe through the Muslim conquest of Spain. Cookies were common at all levels of society throughout Europe by the 14th century, from the royal cuisine to the street vendors. Cookies arrived in America in the 17th century. Macaroons and gingerbread cookies were among the popular early American cookies. In most English-speaking countries outside of North America, the most common word for cookie is "biscuit." In some regions, both terms, cookies, and biscuits are used.



WCMS Celebrates 6th Grade Students Of The Month

Our 6th Grade G.O.A.T. (Students of the Month) for October celebrated with a Chick-Fil-A breakfast and certificate presentations. Thank you, Sylvester Chamber Member: Total A Investments, LLC for sponsoring the breakfast and supporting our students!

Source: WCSD

Chiquita Wilburn

229-881-0451



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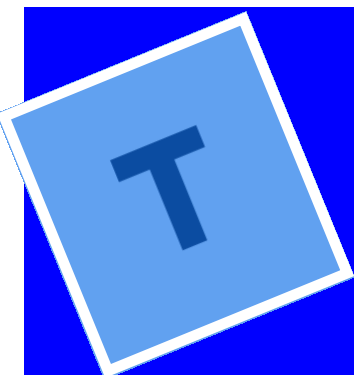


The Johnson Family Christmas

The Johnson Family Christmas has been up and running since the year 2000. Now the impressive show includes over 150,000 blinking lights, and over 300 computerized circuits. There is only one man who is capable of doing all of this and that is Ronnie Johnson. When you visit them at 1098 Story Road, Sylvester be sure to tune your radio stations to 105.1 so you can hear the music and see the lights correspond with the joyful holiday sounds. The Johnson Family Christmas will open up this Thursday, December 2nd starting at 6pm. The concession stand opens Friday night beginning at 7pm. If you have not been, please make your plans to do so as it is a sight to see for sure. I go out there every year and I promise I see something new every year and it never gets old. Hope to see every visit this year and to see everyone's pictures.

Photo Credit: Johnson Family Christmas

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Christmas

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THANK YOU!

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LEARNING TOYS

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CLOTHING (0-10 YEARS)

BLANKETS

SPACE HEATERS

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Ashburn Police "Talk Turkey" At Traffic Stops



Click It or Turkey? The Ashburn Police Department started its "Click It or Ticket" campaign last week to enforce seat-belt usage, but instead of issuing tickets the officers surprised offenders with turkeys. "What better way to deliver the message of wearing your seat belt than receiving a Thanksgiving turkey instead of a ticket," the police department wrote on social media. "Ashburn Police Department does believe



in enforcing the law, but we are community oriented as well."

Source:
Tifton Grapevine



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Christmas

DECEMBER 4 10 AM - 3 PM

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ARTS & CRAFTS

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The Light Shines In His Cards

I know I have said all the great things I love about Christmas. Let me tell you another favorite of mine. I LOVE Christmas cards! I love, love them so much. Reading Christmas cards from everyone is the neatest thing. They are made with all designs and precious words. I received one recently that was a Thomas Kinkade card. It was very beautiful. I love his art. I am at loss for words over his paintings. According to his biography, in the very beginning of his artistic career, Thomas Kinkade put his entire life savings into the printing of his first lithograph. Though at the time he was already an acclaimed illustrator, Thom found that he was inspired not by fame and fortune, but by the simple act of painting straight from the heart, putting on canvas the natural wonders and images that moved him most. It was this dedication and singular-minded focus on the ultimate goal of Sharing the Light™ that made Thomas Kinkade, a simple boy with a brush from the small country town of Placerville, California the most-collected living artist of his time. Throughout his life Thomas Kinkade shared his joy and used his paints in support of hospitals, schools, and humanitarian relief. Though the recipient of countless awards and honors, it was Thom's profound sense of purpose that his art was not just an accessory, but also a ministry, that continues on as his legacy. From custom images that were sold for The Salvation Army, Hurricane Katrina relief, Rotary International, to donations that now grace the halls of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the White House, The Vatican, and Britain's Tate Museum, Thom raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over his lifetime for charity. The artist was also a devout and loving family man. It was this devotion for his family that inspired him to add symbols of his love to his artwork. Numerous paintings contain hidden "N's" representing Thom's lovely wife Nanette and many other paintings include the numbers 5282 as tribute to their wedding date May 2, 1982. Thom's four daughters were also included in his artistic process- after the birth of each of his daughters, Thom painted adoring images in each of their namesake; Evening at Merritt's Cottage, Chandler's Cottage, Winsor Manor and Everett's Cottage. Thomas Kinkade, the Painter of Light™, emphasized simple pleasures and inspirational messages through his art – and the branded products created from that art. From textiles, to collectibles, to music and books, Thom gave credit to a higher power for both the ability and the inspiration to create his paintings. His goal as an artist, who was Christian, was to touch people of all faiths, to bring peace and joy into their lives through the images he had created. Thom's dearest wish had always been that his artwork would be a messenger of hope and inspiration to others – a message to slow down, appreciate the little details in life, and to look for beauty in the world around us. As millions of collectors around the world sit back and enjoy his artwork in their homes, there is no doubt that Thomas Kinkade had indeed achieved his goal of Sharing the Light™. I hope everyone enjoys this Christmas Season and thank you to everyone that I have received cards from. I absolutely love them all!

**TATINA'S
TAXES**

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