



The Martin News

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December 28, 2020

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Dates to Remember

December

28th ~ WC Schools Closed for the Holidays
28th ~ Chehaw Winter Break Camp
29th ~ Chehaw Winter Break Camp
29th ~ WC Schools Closed for the Holidays
29th ~ Books & Bubbles at Margaret Jones Public Library
29th ~ Season of Light Planetarium Show at Thronteeska
30th ~ Season of Light Planetarium Show at Thronteeska
30th ~ WC Schools Closed for the Holidays
30th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
30th ~ Chehaw Winter Break Camp
30th ~ Brews and Bingo at Pretoria Fields
31st ~ Chehaw Winter Break Camp
31st ~ WC Schools Closed for the Holidays
31st ~ Season of Light Planetarium Show at Thronteeska
31st ~ Santa Exhibit at Thronteeska

January

1st ~ Happy New Years from The Martin News
4th ~ Virtual School for Worth County Schools

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Some Day We Will Laugh About This

Well want you look a here? There's another day to celebrate. I love these kind of days. They can be so much fun and bring many laughs. So this day is "Some Day We Will Laugh About This". Do you have one of those moments in your life? Well I sure do. We laugh now but we were NOT laughing then. When I was about 13 or 14, I took my mother's car for a spin through mother and daddy's pecan orchard. Now I had learn to drive about the age of 11. Mother and Daddy wanted me to learn early because of my sister's terrible driving record. So by 13 or 14, I was pretty good at driving. Well it was on a Saturday and mother was getting ready to go to work at my aunt's restaurant, Blackbeard's. She was in the house getting ready and I took it for a spin. My friend, Allison Elam was with me and she had learned at an early age to drive also. So we both could drive good. Well I was spinning around those trees like a pro. Allison was waiting for me to get back when mother came out the garage door and said "Where's Lynn, Where's my car"... about that time I come around and saw her and I pulled right to her and slammed on those breaks. Boy did she look mad so I locked the doors and got out on the other side so I could get a running start. Oh boy she was past mad... BUT she did not spank me nor put me on restriction for any of my fun things so I thought I was good UNTIL she said I could not drive for a month! I think my heart skipped two or three beats. Do you know how terrible that was?? It was awful. We lived in the big ole country, Gordy and I could drive to my grandma and grandpa Dupree's anytime I wanted but I didn't for that month and when I got my privileges back, I NEVER broke the rules of driving again. We laugh now but I was NOT laughing then and neither was my mother! Boy times sure have changed but those were definitely the good ole days. What kind of stories do you have like that make you laugh now but didn't make you laugh so much then? I often think about this time in my life now that my 17 year old is driving. He likes to drive but he doesn't mention spinning around the pecan orchard so I think I am safe for now. This year has shown me that we all need those memories that make us laugh. They may not have made us laugh at the moment but boy oh boy do they make us laugh now.



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

Give blood.



Sylvester Community Blood Drive

**Sponsored by American Legion
Post 335
Margaret Jones Library**

**Sumner Room
205 East Pope Street
Sylvester, GA 31791**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

All blood donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies and results will be available through the Red Cross App and RedCrossBlood.org in 7-10 days.
[RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting)

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: SYLVESTER to schedule an appointment.



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My Reflection Of 2020

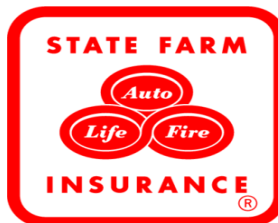
As I sit here and reflect on 2020, I want to be mad. I want to be mad that this terrible virus known as COVID-19 has come in and took five of my family members. I want to be mad that it has made many, many of my friends and family members sick. I want to be mad that we have had to adjust our way of living that we are not accustomed to. I want to be mad that I have to stock up on toilet tissue and hand sanitizer like I stock up on Diet Coke. But I honestly can't be mad. The Lord has blessed us even in these trying times. The Martin News has had some tough months but some of our very best months came in 2020. We have covered some good stories this year from in and around our area but we have covered some great stories too in 2020. My son didn't get a proper graduation but he graduated two years early in 2020. I didn't hit the jackpot literally but I am not in debt from 2020. There are many people suffering and I pray for them all but I have learned this year to pray harder and smile more than I did yesterday!

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Tifton Enacts Mas Mandate To Help Curb COVID-19 Once Again, Vote Is 3-2 For Requiring Masks

After its second vote in a week, Tifton City Council on Monday enacted a mandatory face-mask ordinance for public places, but only for 30 days and with no penalties for noncompliance. The mask mandate is in response to the recent coronavirus surge in the city and county. Council again voted 3-2 for the mask mandate, as it did during a special meeting the previous Monday. That vote was determined to be ineffective because the city charter prohibits an ordinance being passed on the same day it is first presented – unless it is done during an emergency and the emergency is stated in the ordinance, city officials said. Councilmen Jack Folk, Johnny Terrell and M.Jay Hall voted for the mandate, and Mayor Julie B. Smith and Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers voted against it. As Smith noted before the vote, requiring face masks is a "contentious issue." Folk proposed the mandate because, he said, "the major responsibility of council is to protect its citizens." He added that "it's clear it's an emergency" and that "masks work," according to the majority of healthcare professionals. Requiring masks is also business-friendly, Folk said, because it will encourage some people, who are currently staying home, to feel safer going out and visiting local establishments. "We don't need a mandate to do the right thing," said Mayor Smith. "I cannot support a mandate by council." Folk countered that many residents are not "doing the right thing" in wearing masks so the ordinance is necessary to help curb the spread of the coronavirus. Ehlers said that people exercise a "self-governing principle" in deciding whether or not to wear masks. Rather than mandating masks, he suggested passing a resolution encouraging everyone to follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines and for the city to continue educating residents about the virus and safety procedures. His proposal failed. Several people addressed council before the vote, many opposed to a mask mandate. Among them was Devin Crosby, who asked city officials to "uphold our freedom to make our own choice. ... If we have to wear a mask, we've lost part of our liberty."

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Southwell Receives First Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine



Southwell medical received 975 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Monday and administered the first dose late Monday afternoon to Dr. Rubal Patel, medical director of Tift Regional Medical Center's ICU and a physician in pulmonary and critical care medicine. Patel, who has dealt first-hand with the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Georgia since March, said she was honored to be the first at Southwell to receive the vaccine. "This is a monumental moment," she said. "We have been fighting this deadly disease for months, and as many of my colleagues in the ICU will tell you, it's been tough. This vaccine is bringing hope." Patel said she knows that some people have concerns about taking the vaccine, but she wants to reassure them. "It was quick and easy, and it is a much better alternative to the incredible suffering I have seen over the past several months," she said. "I am looking forward to my second dose of the shot, and I encourage everyone out there to get the vaccine when they have the chance to." Also receiving vaccines Monday in Tifton were Tammy Trawick from the environmental services department; James Snow, a registered nurse in the ICU; Sarah Spivey; a registered nurse in the

emergency department; and Dr. Richard McCullough, an internist at Southwell Medical Clinic in Tifton. Registered nurses Anna Vance, DeWayne Hodnett, and Jill McIntyre, administered the first shots. "While many people's mind immediately goes to doctors and nurses when it comes to frontline staff, there are many people behind the scenes who also risk coming into contact with the virus such as our environmental services staff and nursing assistants," said Alex Le, chief operating officer. "It was important for us to include those people in this first round of vaccines in addition to doctors and nurses." While the first 975 doses are designated for Southwell's other employees, the health system has applied to be a community distribution center once there are more vaccines available. "We hope to know more about the status of that soon," Le said. "We have been able to secure vaccines for our residents at Southwell Health & Rehabilitation in Adel, who are considered high risk, through coordination between state agencies, but we hope to be able to distribute the vaccine to others in the future." Pictured Jill McIntyre, a registered nurse, administers the first Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at Southwell to Dr. Rubal Patel on Monday.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Garden Clubs, Local Groups To Dedicate Gold Star Memorial



The Tifton Council of Garden Clubs, GFWC Tifton Woman's Club and other organizations will dedicate Tifton's Gold Star Memorial Marker at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Tifton.

"The Gold Star Memorial Marker honors the families whose loved ones paid the ultimate price while defending our great nation in the armed forces," said Connie Ewing, Tifton Council of Garden Clubs president. "We want as many Gold Star families to attend as possible. They will be honorees at the event," she said, also encouraging veterans to come, wearing their service-related attire. Social distancing guidelines will be followed, with masks provided and refreshments individually wrapped. Ewing expressed appreciation to the Tifton Woman's Club, Jack Stone and the Tifton Downtown Development Authority, and the Garden Club of Georgia Inc. In addition to Gold Star families and veterans, honored guests will in-

clude Garden Club of Georgia State President Barbara Bourque, Camellia District Chair Jan Thiese, General Federation of Women's Clubs Georgia President Shelby Holland, and GFWC Southwest District President Janice Blanchard. The GFWC Tifton Woman's Club is honored to be the first Federated Woman's Club to co-sponsor a Gold Star Memorial Marker, said Genie McCook, president of the Tifton Woman's Club and a member of the Camellia Garden Club. The National Garden Club adopted the Blue Star Memorial program in 1945 to honor all persons serving in the U.S. armed forces. The Gold Star Memorial Marker was started a few years ago to show appreciation to those whose loved ones died defending the United States. The name Gold Star came from the custom of families of service members hanging a banner – a service flag – in the window of their homes. The service flag had a star for each family member in the armed forces. Blue Stars represented living service members while a Gold Star represented those who had lost their lives. Pictured is Gail Gibson, Chair of the Gold Star Memorial Marker project, (left) and Connie Ewing, president of the Tifton Council of Garden Clubs, pose with the marker at Tifton's Veterans Park.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Sylvester's 1st Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

Where:

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102 Rebecca Dr, Sylvester, GA 31791**

When: June 5, 2021

**Event will begin at 10am with
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Time to Get Organized in 2021

WebMD suggests that we all take the time to get organized in the New Year. First, start by finding a place for every item. One reason things pile up on counters, tables, and floors is that they have no certain place to go. Storing items in the room where they're used helps ensure they get put away when you're done, and usually it's best to store similar items together. If it's something you use frequently, make sure the storage place is easy to access. Play clutter cop. The better you are about keeping things out of your home, the less likely things will pile up inside. Take freebies for example. It's nice to get a T-shirt or coffee mug, but will you really use it? Enjoy it? If not, decline it. Or let's say you're a voracious reader. You could buy books but why not borrow and return them from your public library? And take a minute to opt out of mailings from credit card companies and other direct marketers. Bottom line be sure to always look for ways to block unneeded items before they cross your threshold. Do some detective work. Periodically scan your home for clutter hot spots, and spend some time figuring out why stuff accumulates there. Often, it's not what you think. Hold off on container shopping. Clutter victims often think the solution is to stock up on organizing products, so they head to the nearest superstore and stock up on bins and boxes. A big mistake is that people love to go out and buy containers, but getting organized does not start out with a shopping trip. Dump duplicates. Why have two nonstick spatulas when one is enough? Why have six hairbrushes or 17 coffee mugs? A rule WebMD suggests a simple rule to remember is One in, one out. Anytime you get something new, get rid of something like it that is old. Beware nostalgia. If you're a doting parent, it's not easy to discard a child's creation, whether it's pastel drawings from the second grade or that cooler-sized medieval castle. But if you're serious about minimizing clutter, you must. One good way to de-clutter the drawings and crafts of our children's is to take a picture of your child with the creation, and letting that be your keepsake. Weed out your wardrobe. Odds are your clothes closet is chockablock with clothes that are rarely worn. Does a particular garment no longer fit, or maybe it's uncomfortable? Toss it into a box. Then take the box to a favorite charity or a consignment store. And don't hold onto things because you think you might need them someday. One key to de-cluttering is getting rid of things, not simply rearranging them. Tidying up is not the same as organizing. A good recommendation that I am so tempted to try is to turn all your hanging clothes the opposite way. After six months, the ones that you don't turn back around are ready to go. Look for simple clutter control solutions. Often, there's an easy solution to even stubborn clutter problems. Think home organization kits. Buy some clear plastic shoebox-sized containers, and use them to create kits where you store all the items you need for a particular task. For instance, you could create a shoeshine kit, a bill-paying kit, a manicure kit, and so on. That way, you can easily find everything you need to accomplish everyday tasks. Stick to a schedule. Some spaces, like kitchen counters, need daily de-cluttering. Others can be tackled weekly or monthly. When that time comes, be systematic. Take all the items in a defined area which could be a cabinet, a desk drawer, etc and spread them out so you can see what you're facing. If you're de-cluttering the drawer where you keep kitchen utensils, for example, spread them on the counter, and then sort into two piles: utensils you use regularly and those you don't use. Be patient because effective de-cluttering takes time. Whatever happens, try not to feel embarrassed about clutter. It's important to remember that organizing need not be perfect, and that "good enough" really is." I personally have started organizing and de-cluttering and love it! I also have gotten some ideas off of pinterest of not just organizing but how to use things we want to but not sure how to use. One idea I put into place was pictures. We all have snap shot pictures that we love but not sure where to put them! I took some clothes pins and put them on my laundry room cabinet doors with the pictures clipped on. LOVE IT!



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