



# The Martin News

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

December 6, 2021

## SGT

**SOUTHWEST  
GEORGIA  
THERAPY**

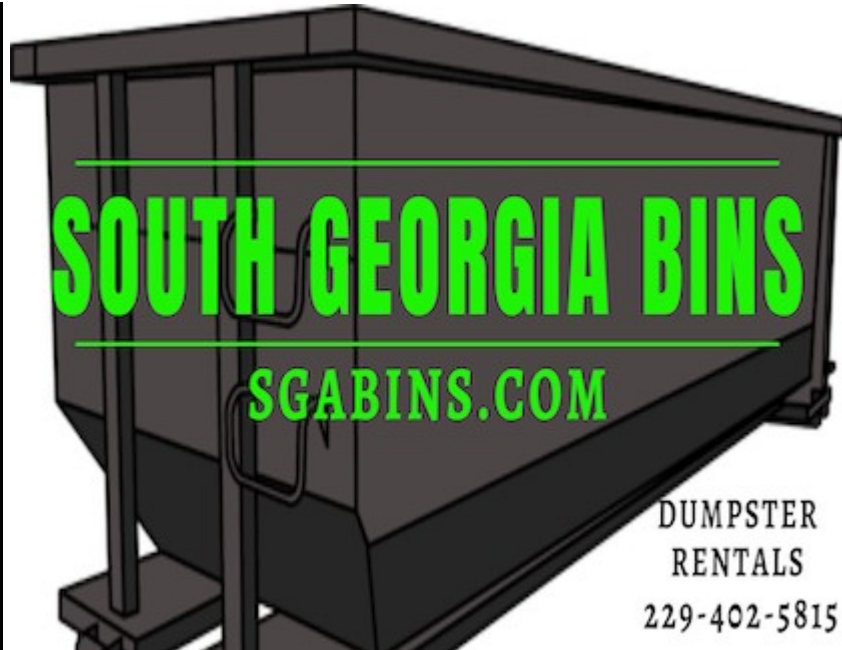
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### Lights Of Love Tree Now Turned On At Phoebe Worth



Tuesday night, November 30<sup>th</sup>, was a very chilly night under the beautiful clear skies at Phoebe Worth in Sylvester. As I sat there, a sense of calmness and peace surrounded us all. The Phoebe Foundation honors local cancer patients and their families with its annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony annually during the holiday season. Each year, Phoebe selects an honorary tree lighter and this year's tree lighter for Phoebe Worth was Mrs. Carole Marchant. When Mrs. Carole flipped the switch to illuminate the thousands of lights on the Lights of Love tree at Phoebe Worth, she was right at home. She has been a member of the Phoebe Family for 47 years and currently serves as Supply Chain/EVS Manager and Biomed/IT Coordinator. "I'm fully dedicated to this hospital," said Mrs. Carole. "I love the people here. I love the patients. They're the reason we're here. And I love the whole health system as well." The ceremony started at 7pm with a welcome from Ms. Sharon Lyles from the Sylvester/Worth Cancer Coalition. Ms. Sharon works endless hours to provide education and support to the Cancer Coalition for Sylvester and Worth County having experienced cancer through her mother and grandmother both being diagnosed at the age of 59. Pastor Walt Thompkins from Pine Hill Baptist Church

presented the invocation followed by remarks from Mr. Scott Steiner, CEO for Phoebe Putney Health System and Dr. Troy Kimsey, Medical Director of Oncology Services at Phoebe Cancer Center. Mr. Tanner Gleaton performed "Whatever May Come" and did an amazing job. Ms. Mandy Gordon with Phoebe Worth Medical Center introduced Ms. Carole. Mandy did a wonderful job introducing such an amazing lady. The words Mandy spoke were simply beautiful. Mrs. Carole then spoke before the lighting of the tree and candles. While the crowd held their candles and the tree was being lite, Mr. Tanner Gleaton sang "O Holy Night" which was breathtaking. Such a beautiful ceremony! Started in 1983 by the Junior Woman's Club of Albany, Lights of Love has since raised more than \$1 million for cancer services and patients at Phoebe Cancer Center. This year's donations will benefit the Light House, a place of respite and comfort for cancer patients throughout southwest Georgia as they prepare for and undergo treatment. The Lights of Love trees are special for their symbolic white lights in memory and honor of individuals. For each light purchased for a suggested \$25 donation, a card is sent to those honored or to family members. If you have not donated and still wish to do so, please call 229-312-GIVE or visit lights-of-love.org.

Source: Phoebe and The Martin News

# *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:**

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**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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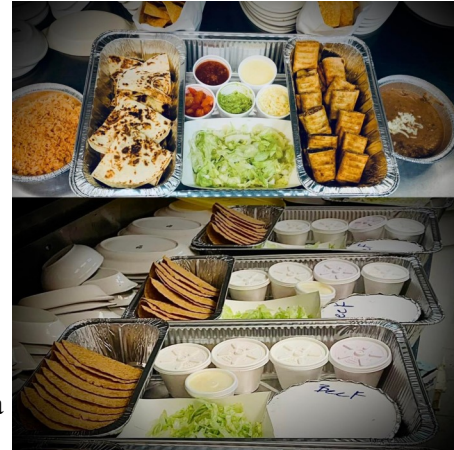
## **WE HAVE THE HIGHEST FIXED RATES IN TIFTON!**



## Ribbon Cutting For Lumbre Cocina Was A Great Success



The sun was shining bright for a perfect Ribbon Cutting at Lumbre Cocina Mexicana on Thursday, December 2nd. Sylvester – Worth County Chamber of Commerce along with community members joined at Lumbre Cocina to welcome them as Chamber members and conduct the ribbon cutting. If you have not visited them, Chasitie Roberts and her staff welcome you to come see them for lunch or supper. They are opened Monday through Saturday, 11am-2pm and 5pm-10pm. Right now they are also offering a great order if you would like to order it to go for the family. It is the easiest de-



cision to make. Build your own taco family pack: twelve taco kit with rice and beans and all the fixins' all for \$45 or the Quesadilla and Chimichanga package with rice and beans and all the fixins' all for \$55. Give them a call at 229-777-0071 or visit them at 107 North Isabella Street in Downtown Sylvester.

Photo Credit: Lumbre Cocina

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### RIBBON CUTTING

Join ACS for their  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on  
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455 Highway 82 NW

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### Toy Drive at WCES

Every year the Worth County Elementary School faculty and staff go above and beyond in support of their Toy Drive and once again they did not disappoint this year! WCES is proud to partner with the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Clearing House to ensure that kids throughout our community have a special Christmas.

Source: WCSD



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### GA Sees 97% Increase In New Business Applications, Says Study

Georgia has had a 97% increase in new business applications compared to 2019 (pre-COVID vs. now), placing the Peach State second nationwide, according to newly published research. Business applications made in 2019 were compared to those made in the past year up until this past August, according to CardConnect, a company that aids businesses in payment processing. Across the U.S., the average increase in business applications when comparing figures pre-pandemic to now is 44%, the company reported. In Georgia, approximately one in 30 people made a new business application during the past year; nationwide, the average was one in 63 people during the time period. Georgians also ranked eighth in the nation in those seeking to start an online business, determined by analyzing Google Trends data.

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 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.

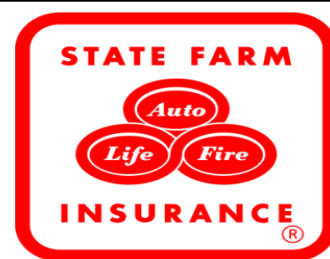


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### GA Peanut Commission Chooses Photo Winner For 2022 Calendar



A dozen photographs have been chosen to be featured in the Georgia Peanut Commission's 2022 Georgia Peanut Calendar, "The Farm – The Natural Providence." The Peanut Commission, based in Tifton, hosted a photo contest encouraging peanut farmers from across Georgia to submit their best photos of peanut production. More than 60 entries were submitted, and photos were selected based on quality, originality and diversity in the field. Calendar photos selected were:

- ◆ January: Mike Newberry, Early County;
- ◆ February: Victoria Whiddon, Worth County;
  - ◆ March: Julie Hardy, Thomas County;
  - ◆ April: Shelby Mains, Screven County;
  - ◆ May: Sami Mastrario, Turner County;
  - ◆ June: Kay Polk, Grady County;
  - ◆ July: Ashley Parrish, Tift County;
- ◆ August: Cody & Victoria Whiddon, Turner County;
  - ◆ September: Shelby Mains, Screven County;
  - ◆ October: Jason Lockart, Miller County;
- ◆ November: Roger Wayne Davis, Miller County;
- ◆ December: Holly Anderson, Ben Hill County.

Photo submissions will also be used in promotional materials throughout the year. The 2022 Georgia Peanut Calendar is available at the Georgia Peanut Commission office at 445 Fulwood Boulevard in Tifton. This photograph pictured is by Victoria Whiddon in Worth County was chosen for the month of February in the Georgia Peanut Commission's 2022 Georgia Peanut Calendar.





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### **Getting Wrapped Up At The Margaret Jones Public Library**



The staff at Margaret Jones Public Library encourages you to "get wrapped up" in a good book from under their tree this holiday season! They challenge you to check out a "surprise" book between December 1st-30th and enjoy the gift of reading. Michelle was their first library patron to participate in the "Get Wrapped Up" in a Good Book Challenge!

Reading is good for everyone. From reducing stress and increasing the quality of sleep to slowing down the onset of dementia, the benefits of regularly putting time aside to lose ourselves in a good book are far-reaching and, in some cases, life-changing. If we all knew how good regular reading is for us, perhaps we would make fewer excuses not to do it. If you need more reasons to make regular reading a part of your life, we've put together a comprehensive list of the benefits of reading for adults as well as some guidance on how to read more that will have you putting down your phone and picking up a book in no time. Please visit <https://www.blinkist.com/en/importance-of-reading> for the comprehensive list.

The Margaret Jones Public Library staff hopes Michelle enjoys her book and hopes to see many more stop by to "get wrapped up".



## Teams Compete In Trivia “Carnival Of Knowledge”



Two Howard Center teams were among the top three winners of the 21st annual Howard Center Carnival of Knowledge at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on Tuesday night, the last day of Family Literacy Month. The event, in which teams answer trivia questions, is a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of Tifton-Tift County.

First place went to a team of Howard Center employees calling themselves “Googling through Life.” The six players split \$1,000. Second place went to the Tifton Rotary Club, with club President Chris Beckham, Amy Hightower, and Bryce Johnson. They each received dinner for two and a night at the Hilton Garden Inn with breakfast. Third place went to a Howard Center team calling itself “Jasper the Friendly Ghost.” The members received tickets to Wild Adventures theme park in Valdosta. Seven Howard Center teams were among the teams participating. Additional team sponsors were Bowen Donaldson Home for Funerals, the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence, the FUN Channel, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Southwell, the Tift County High School Quiz Bowl Team, Tift County Sheriff’s Office, the Tifton Exchange Club, and Towson Foods. Georgia Power was a Bronze Sponsor of the event. Dave Holmes, a trivia host from Gwinnett County whose daughter Hannah Holmes Lovelace is a Tift Literacy Board member, emceed the event and kept the competition going with all participating teams playing simultaneously for two hours. “We were very satisfied that everyone who came had a good time and went away happy, especially that they were able to help the cause of educating adults in our community,” said Bonnie Sayles, president of the Literacy Volunteers board. She introduced the interim director of Literacy Volunteers, Andrea McLemore. Members of the ‘Googling through Life’ Howard Center team claimed first place in the Literacy Volunteers annual trivia contest, the Howard Center Carnival of Knowledge. Teams representing local businesses and organizations competed for the grand prize of \$1,000 in cash.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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## Tift Chamber Of Commerce, Lasseter Tractor Recognize Tift County Farmer Of Year

John Webb was named the Tift County Farmer of the Year on Monday during the annual Agriculture Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce and Lasseter Tractor Co. Webb was selected by his peers as someone who is a hard worker and is integral to farming in Tift County, the Chamber of Commerce said. Pictured John Webb, center, is recognized as Tift County's Farmer of the Year on Monday at the Agriculture Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Tift Chamber of Commerce and Lasseter Tractor. At left is Chamber President Melody Cowart and Chamber Chairman Derek Sumner.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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# WCMS GIRLS SOCCER TRYOUTS

December 6th, 7th, 8th

3:45-5:30

WCMS Practice Field

THE TEAM WILL BE POSTED ON THE 9TH

Questions? Email Coach Mitchell > [mmitchell@worthschools.net](mailto:mmitchell@worthschools.net)



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## Cotton Candy Anyone?



Tuesday is National Cotton Candy Day! Do you like Cotton Candy? I love it!

My favorite color is the blue or the pink and blue mixed. You can even buy buckets of Cotton Candy in the stores now. The Dollar Tree has small buckets of Cotton Candy that would be great for stocking stuffers or just as little gifts to drop off to friends. We, at The Martin News, are hoping everyone is having a great holiday season.



*45th Annual*  
**Georgia**  
**PEANUT**  
*Farm Show*  
*& 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.

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

### WCMS Jr Beta Club Completes Community Service Project

Worth County Middle School Jr Beta Club members recently completed a community service project. Members created hand-made Christmas cards for active military service men and women. Members could make up to 10 cards and all cards will be sent to military men and women stationed here in the United States. Pictured are 7th and 8th grade Jr Beta Club members.





## WCPS Student of the Week 12/3/21

These students were selected for their outstanding behavior in and out of the classroom at Worth County Primary School. Keep up the great behavior!

Source: WCSD



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## Good Ole Gingerbread Houses

Gingerbread House Day is a day that can be celebrated in a wide variety of fun ways and will be a day that children in particular will really enjoy and always remember. However remember some of us adults love it too! Celebrating National Gingerbread House Day involves creating a gingerbread house. But, the best part is that once the house has been created it can be devoured! And it will be yummy! Gingerbread House Day should be a social event and be used as something that engages children and adults alike. Children and parents can make a gingerbread house together and then, later, the gingerbread houses can be eaten at a party especially laid on for the occasion. Alternatively, a giant gingerbread house can be created by several people, with guests invited to decorate it with icing, sugar or sweets. Did you know that charities also benefit via Gingerbread House Day. Portions of a gingerbread house or mini gingerbread houses can be sold to raise funds for the charity which is used as a great fundraiser. Larry and I love to build gingerbread houses because you don't have to be perfect in building it and you can be as creative as you want or not creative at all. We love to build the houses but then we love to eat some of it too! Have fun building your gingerbread house today and be sure to post them on Facebook for everyone to see.



## Yummy Healthy Holiday Snacks

Yummy snacks are good anytime and especially at Christmas time. Most children love bananas so why not make these cute snacks for them and even their friends at Christmas time. Simply get a skewer and put on a banana slice, a round piece of marshmallow, a slice of strawberry and then a small marshmallow at the top. Simply get some sprinkles for the eyes and M&M's for the nose. These are the cutest snacks and children will love them. When Larry was little I use to love to do cute snacks like these and they were healthy too so it was a win win for everyone. Be sure to share some of your great snack ideas for the holidays with us at The Martin News. We would love to share them with all of our viewers. The Martin News hopes everyone has a very Merry Christmas.



# Dates to Remember

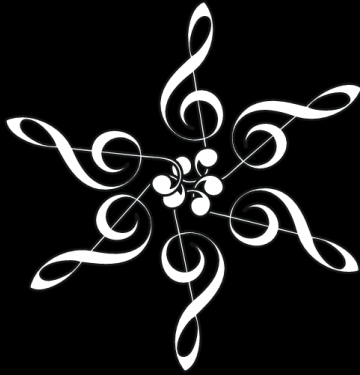
## December

- 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
- 7th ~ Bingo Night @ Ed's Truck Stop 6pm
- 7th ~ WCHS JV Boys Basketball Away 4:30pm
- 7th ~ WCHS Girls Basketball Away 6pm
- 7th ~ Fine Arts Winter Concert at WCHS 6:30pm
- 7th ~ WCHS Boys Basketball Away 7:30pm
- 8th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
- 8th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
- 8th ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 7pm
- 9th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
- 10th ~ Chamber Raffle Tickets For Sale
- 10th ~ WCHS JV Girls Basketball 4pm Home
- 10th ~ WCHS JV Boys Basketball Home 5pm
- 10th ~ WCHS Girls Basketball Home 6pm
- 10th ~ WCHS Boys Basketball Home 7:30pm
- 11th ~ WCMS Girls Basketball 9am
- 11th ~ WCMS Boys Basketball BTeam 10am
- 11th ~ WCMS Boys Basketball ATeam 11am
- 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
- 14th ~ Bingo Night at Ed's Truck Stop 6pm
- 14th ~ City of Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 15th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
- 16th ~ Worth County Board of Education Meeting
- 17th ~ Christmas Clearing House Donation Deadline
- 17th ~ 50/50 Raffle Ticket Drawing
- 20th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 21st ~ City of Warwick Council Meeting 7pm
- 21st ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 22nd ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 23rd ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 24th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 27th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 28th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 28th ~ Sylvester - Worth County Family Connections Meeting
- 29th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon
- 29th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 30th ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools
- 31st ~ Holidays for Worth County Schools



# 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



### Doughnuts Anyone?

Look how adorable these are? This is a great idea whether you are giving out goodies from your business or giving them out at school to your children's friends. Simply bag the powdered doughnuts in a small cellophane bag and close the end. Cut out a snowman hat and add it to the top of the bag of doughnuts. Add a red ribbon for his scarf and draw on the snowman's face and his buttons. It will be so cute and who doesn't like doughnuts? Most children do and even most adults do too so this would even be a great idea for your girlfriends! What great ideas for simple goodies to give away this Christmas. Merry Christmas from The Martin News.

Gingerbread House Day December 11th



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## Christmas Book Countdown

Jessa May's Mom started a new holiday tradition last year. She wrapped 25 books to countdown to Christmas. Each day she will unwrap and read a book to Jessa May. This is a great way to help your children read a thousand books before kindergarten. At The Margaret Jones Public Library, they are there to help you reach this goal with your little ones. The Library recognizes the connection between reading to young children early, library use and educational success. The National Commission on Reading concluded that, "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." We are committed to instilling a love for reading in the very young child. We provide a variety of children's books in several different age appropriate formats. For babies and toddlers we have durable little board books. For preschoolers through third grade we have picture books. Easy readers allow beginning readers to begin the formal process of reading and word recognition. We have Juvenile nonfiction and chapter books for grades 2 through 8. Kids have their very own card catalog at <http://gapines.org/kpac>. Only those 350,000-plus books, DVDs, CDs and other items that have been cataloged in PINES as children's materials will show up in search results. Books & Bubbles is our story time for children ages zero to three and it is presented on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am. We sing songs, use flannel stories and rhymes, and read books of course in this 20 minute story time. Then we have a time of play. Pre-School Story time is for children ages three to five and it is presented on Thursday mornings at 10 am. In this 60 minute story time we read books, sing songs, and create crafts all related to a theme. Third Thursday Lego Club is for kids of all ages. We provide the Legos. All you have to bring is your imagination. All creations will be on display for everyone to see. This club meets on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. During the summer months when school is out, the library offers the Summer Reading Program. Research has shown that reading over the summer break helps prevent students from losing ground and helps prepare them for the next school year. Participating in the library's Summer Reading Program is a great way to stop the "summer slide". Each year there is a new theme. Check the library's event calendar for more details. Whether you need help locating a good book to read or information to complete a school project, we're here to help. Come by the Library to pick out some holiday books to share with your little ones.

**Chiquita Wilburn**

**229-881-0451**



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## Shelby Smith Named National Ambassador 2022



Congratulations to Miss Shelby Smith of Fitzgerald for recently being named National Ambassador 2022. Shelby is the 17 year old daughter of Connie Alexander Smith. She was recently named Miss Teen of Georgia 2021 and as a titleholder in the American Pageants Organization, she had the opportunity to compete for the National Title Miss Teen of America or the National Ambassador 2022 Title and on November 27th, she was crowned National Ambassador 2022.

The Miss Teen of America Scholarship and Recognition Pageant was founded in 1983 by Mr. Warren

Alexander, a former educator and pageant director, and designed to help America's youth reach their full potential. The achievement based pageant recognizes young women for their outstanding personal achievements, leadership abilities, and artistic, creative or athletic talents. With no judging focused on physical appearance or wardrobe, the pageant strives to promote confidence and an Accent on Achievement. In 2017, the Miss Teen of America Organization rebranded as American Pageants to include additional age divisions: Little Miss of America (ages 7-9), Young Miss of America (ages 10-12), Junior Miss of America (ages 13-15), Miss Teen of America (ages 16-18), and Miss of America (19-24). In 2020, the program expanded to include Ms. of America (20+ any marital status, with or without kids) because we recognized that achievements go on throughout our lives. We should always continue to strive for excellence and should continue to be celebrated.

Today, the American Pageants organization reigns under a new leadership team dedicated to preserving the essence and integrity of the past, however, with a fresh vision for the future. Former titleholders and participants will be honored for helping to build the solid foundation upon which many lives have and will be touched. As established leaders within their schools, current titleholders and participants will join us in the advancement of our developing partnership with Special Olympics. Together, we will focus on ensuring that social inclusion is the norm. Simply stated, the future is bright for the young women who will join us in the American Pageants experience!

The Scholarship & Recognition Program offers six judging criteria:

- Judge's Interview - 30%
- Service & Achievement in School & Community - 15%
- Personal Development of Talents & Skills- 15%
- Scholastic & Professional Record - 15%
- Personality, Projection & Poise - 20%
- Personal Introduction - 5%
- Bonus 5% General Awareness Test

Congratulation again Shelby. We can't wait to see what this year holds for you. Have a great time and make many wonderful memories.

Source: American Pageants  
Photo Credit: Shelby Smith

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Christmas

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CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE**

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# WCHS iRAMBOTS presents THE STEAM CLUB



Our Worth County iRAMBOTS team is proud to bring THE STEAM Club back to the community. We are offering monthly sessions at the Margaret Jones Public Library in Sylvester, Ga.

Students between third and eighth grade are invited to join us for each 1-1/2 hour session as we explore different science, technology, engineering, art, and math concepts. Each session is led by our robotics team members and our coach, Mrs. Michelle Smith.

Each session is \$10 per student and covers the cost of the supplies for the activities. You may either bring your child to the library for the in-person session or you may purchase the kit and complete the kit at home with your child. Payment will be collected when you arrive on the day of the event (cash or checks only). Checks should be made payable to the WCHS Robotics Team.

Please reserve your child's spot by contacting one of the following contacts listed below. We will need your child's name and grade, your name and contact info, and any special needs/concerns (allergies, etc.).

Please contact any of the following with questions:

Michelle Smith  
(229) 344-6869  
mismith@worthschools.net

Leigh Wiley  
(229) 776 - 2096  
leigh@worthlib.org

**Find out more about our team!**

**Facebook page** -@WCHSiRambots

**Instagram** -Irambots7470\_wchs

**Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/worthschools.net/irambots7470/home>

DATE/TIME	TOPIC		DATE/TIME	TOPIC
DEC. 4th 10:30am - 12pm	Electricity: Robots and Sparks Flying		MAY 6th 4:30 - 6 pm	Ecology: Dessert Ecosystem & Garden Lampshades
JAN. 7th 4:30 - 6 pm	Motion: Cars & Kites		JUNE 3rd 4:30 - 6 pm	Chemistry: Water Filtration and Slime
FEB VIRTUAL DATE TBA	Programming: Building Websites & Coded Bracelets		JULY 8th 4:30—6 pm	Biology: Cell Sandwich, Germs, & DNA
MAR VIRTUAL TBA	Weather: Snow, Tornadoes, and Storms		AUG 5th 4:30—6 pm	Forces: Towers, Planes, and Rockets
APR VIRTUAL DATE TBA	Plants: Bean Sprouts and Tree Identification		SEPT 2nd 4:30—6 pm	Escape Room: Use STEM skills to find the answers.



## Georgia Unemployment Rate Hits All-Time Low Amid Strong Job Growth

Atlanta, GA - Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler announced today that Georgia's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1 percent in October, the lowest rate in Georgia's recorded history. The rate was down two-tenths from a revised 3.3 percent in September. The national October 2021 unemployment rate was down two-tenths to 4.6 percent. Jobs in Georgia were up 21,000 over the month and are up 4.5 percent over the year to 4,605,600. "We have seen continuous job growth this year as we have gained back 90 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic," said Commissioner Butler. "The continual increase in employment opportunity, particularly in those areas hardest hit by the pandemic, reinforces the critical need for encouraging available Georgians back into the workforce." Since May 2021, job growth has increased by 117,400 and October's growth marks only the fifth time since 1990 that over the month job growth for October was over 20,000 (2020, 2017, 2004, 1993). The sectors of Administrative and Support Services, Transportation and Warehousing, and Retail Trade have all recouped the jobs lost during the pandemic and have added to their respective totals. At the same time, Accommodation and Food Services, Local Government, and Religious, Grants, Civic, and Professional Services, among others, continue to struggle to fill jobs. In October, the labor force dropped 1,889 to 5,174,052, while the number of employed rose 11,008 to 5,015,945. The number of unemployed was down 12,897 to 158,107. In comparing October 2021 figures to pre-pandemic March 2020 figures, the labor force remains down 32,000, the number of employed remains down 3,000, and the number of unemployed is now down 29,000. Today, over 208,000 job postings, resulting in a minimum of over 319,000 unfilled positions, are listed online at Employ Georgia for Georgians to access. Market salaries range from \$23,000 to \$103,000 with a median salary of \$42,000. "The GDOL is working to ensure that every Georgian who wants a job can find a job," said Commissioner Butler. "Our Business Services Unit is helping the state's employers find employees that meet their business needs, and we are scheduling in-person appointments across the state in our career centers to make sure jobseekers have the support they need to successfully find employment." For personalized assistance, employers can reach Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) staff at <https://dol.georgia.gov/employer-email-us-form>. Additionally, by visiting Employ Georgia, employers can manage job openings and access the state's talent pool. GDOL's Career Centers are providing in-person employment services by appointment. Job seekers can reach out to their local career centers at <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/career-center> for assistance. Employers with over 1,000 job postings in October included Amazon 3,500, Wellstar Health System, 2,000, Home Depot, 1,800, Beech Valley Solutions, 1,600, Piedmont Health Care, 1,300, Walmart, 1,200, Anthem Blue Cross, 1,200, Deloitte, 1,100, and Southeastern Freight Lines, 1,000. Industries with over 10,000 job postings included Health Care, 26,000, Retail Trade, 21,000, Accommodation and Food Services, 13,000, Finance and Insurance, 12,000, Manufacturing, 12,000, Professional, Scientific & Technical Services, 11,000, and Transportation and Warehousing, 10,000. The sectors with the most over the month job gains in October included Transportation and Warehousing, 3,600, Retail Trade, 3,000, Health Care and Social Assistance, 2,500, Administrative and Support Services, 2,300, and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing, 2,000. Job numbers in October were at an all-time high in Trade and Transportation, 977,400, in the Retail Trade sector, 502,600, in the Transportation and Warehousing sector, 259,800, Professional and Business Services, 755,000, and in the Administrative and Support Services sector, 370,900. Initial claims were down 1,525 (-5%) from September to 27,310 in October. Initial claims were down 169,356 (-86%) over the year. For more information on jobs and current labor force data, visit Georgia LaborMarket Explorer to view a comprehensive report.

## WCES Faculty and Staff Present

Wear your pajamas and bring your pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, and chairs and join us for a Christmas movie!

When? Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Time? Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Movie will begin at 6 p.m.

Where? The WCES Gym

Who? All WCES families, faculty, and staff members

(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Cost? Admittance, cookies, and milk are **FREE!**



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



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## Staying Warm on a Cold Winter Day

I know there are days that it is cold outside in the morning and feels like winter, however winter does not officially begin until December 21st. I keep hearing from several sources that this will be a hard winter on every state, not just the northern states. So what does winter have in store for Georgia? Winter will be warmer and rainier than normal, with below-normal snowfall. The coldest periods will be in early January and early February. The best chances for snow will be in early January and early February. April and May will be drier than normal. Temperatures will be near normal in the south and below in the north. Summer will be slightly hotter than normal, on average, with above-normal rainfall. The hottest periods will be in early to mid-June, early August, and mid- to late August. Overall, September and October will be warmer and drier than normal. Watch for a tropical storm threat in early to mid-September. Let's see how close they will be on any of this. With it mentioning snow, they surely cannot be talking about Sylvester. HA! So many times during the winter we try to figure out things to do inside so that we don't have to go out in the freezing cold weather. You may be like me though, I often sit and wonder what can we do? While I was looking around on the internet at the almanac I found a few good ideas. I wanted to share them with you. These are only a few but some you may really enjoy. How about make a great big breakfast. Time to step it up from the on-the-run breakfast you usually have and make some French toast, bacon, or eggs to enjoy. Or try something different, but easy, like skillet apple pancakes. Everyone usually likes breakfast. Me and my family love to eat breakfast for supper. Another task for the winter is Redecorate! How fun is that? I love to rearrange things and make what I have to look new again. Moving things around in your home can be fun and refreshing if you are into decorating. Try hanging your pictures in different places, rearranging your furniture, or dreaming up new ideas online. Sometimes even looking online will show you how to take things you have a put a different twist on them. If you have children, they would love to rearrange and decorate their rooms too. It gives you a great time to clean out things too! I have started watching videos of ideas how to turn your dollar tree finds into great unique items. I have even learned a few ideas using the videos for decorating at Christmas. How does Pajama Day sound?... Sounds like a wonderful idea to me! Just plan to stay in your PJ's all day and enjoy the whole day. There is no need to schedule appointments, go buy groceries, etc. Just stay put and stay comfy should be the plan. Another idea is great if you have children or grandchildren. Turn your living room into a fort by using chairs and blankets to make a cozy hideout for the day. Children love making forts and playing. Here's a good idea too... Movie and Popcorn Day. That sounds like tons of fun. There are great new movies to check out and popcorn is always a hit! So these are just a few things to do when it is too cold to go outside. You can always add so many new ideas as well. Stay warm this winter and have a blast!

**TATINA'S  
TAXES**

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