



The Martin News

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February 28, 2022

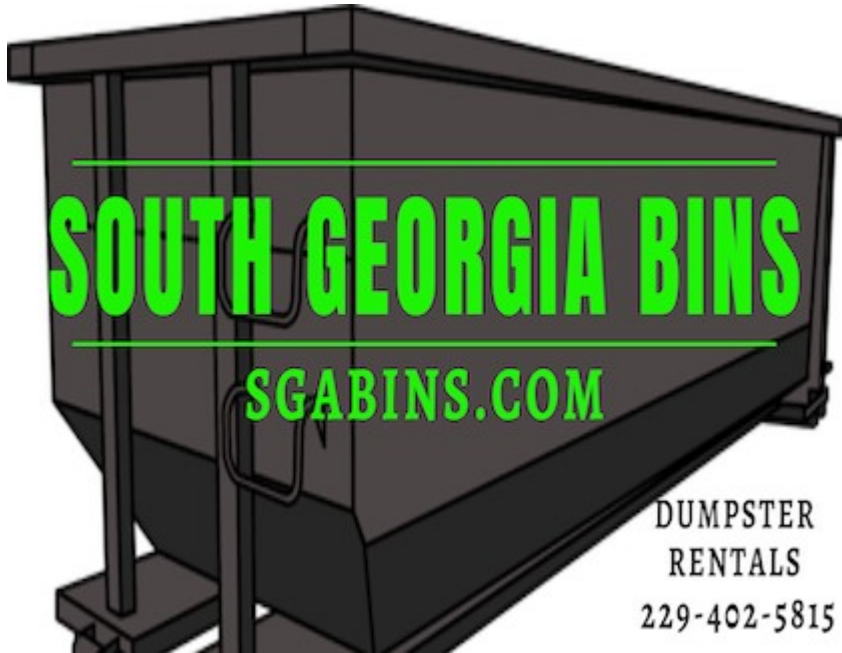
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Rhythm & Ribs BBQ Festival Gearing Up For Sellout Weekend



TIFTON – The 2022 edition of the Rhythm & Ribs BBQ Festival, sponsored by Coca-Cola, has been set for Saturday, March 5 and event organizers are excited about another big day at Fulwood Park. “The festival and BBQ competitions get bigger every year, with more people coming out to shop and enjoy the entertainment,” said Angela Elder with the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association. “Our prize money for both the professional and backyard competitions are among the best in Georgia. The festival has been recognized state-wide as one of the best events in our region and we’re looking forward to another great year.” More than 60 total barbecue teams are registered to compete between the professional and backyard competition. Teams from all over know that the Rhythm & Ribs is the competition to be at. The professional competition is sanctioned by the Georgia Barbecue Association as teams from all parts of Georgia and surrounding states will be cooking at the park. Professional teams will be competing for the Grand Champion trophy and \$3,000 in prize money. The Reserve Champion will win \$1,500 and a trophy while the top 10 in each category will receive cash prizes. The professional competition is sponsored by AgriSupply and Carolina Cooker. In the backyard competition, the Grand Champion will receive \$1,200 and a trophy. Added this year is a Backyard Reserve Champion who will receive \$600 and a trophy. Cash prizes are also awarded to the top five finishers in each category. In both competitions, competitors will compete in Pork Loin, Pulled Pork, and Ribs categories. South Georgia Banking Company is the backyard competition sponsor. The festival will still feature the great entertainment all day long, at no charge. Hannah Dasher and the Legendary JC’s will co-headline the entertainment on the Coca-Cola Main Stage. Recording artist and TikTok celebrity, Hannah Dasher, will kick off the evening portion of the festival at 6:30 p.m. She is quickly becoming a household name with her viral TikTok series, “Stand By Your Pan.” Raised in Springfield, GA, Dasher took cues growing up from a diverse lineup, including the likes of Alan Jackson to Aretha Franklin. After graduating the University of Georgia, Dasher moved to Nashville and has been working her way up ever since. She now has her own music, a traditional- cut artistry, bold lyrics and a can’t be duplicated style and personality. Dasher is fresh off the road with Reba McEntire. The Legendary JC’s will be closing out the night in style when they take the stage at 8:30 p.m. This is the band’s second time on the main stage at Rhythm & Ribs. They are known for wowing the crowd with their brand of soulful rocking blues. The Legendary JC’s consist of several top central Florida musicians. The musical entertainment begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday with Derrick Dove and the Peacekeepers, followed by the Pine Box Dwellers at 12:15 p.m., Scott Warren & the Booze Mountaineers at 2:30 p.m., and Lizz Faith at 5 p.m. The BBQ Awards ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. On Friday night, the Kickoff Party will feature the County Line Band at 6 p.m. and the Tyler Neal Band at 8 p.m. Also on Saturday, there will be entertainment on the Community Stage, sponsored by Hargray Fiber Internet. Chris Lantz with Extreme Sculpting Chainsaw Carving will be demonstrating his craft throughout the day. Chehaw Park will also be on hand with some animals and educational displays. Finally, a King Chapman, a magician, will be strolling the park offering shows. There will be unique shopping, with over 100 vendors filling the park. The KidZone, presented by The Party Station, will include inflatables, water balls and the spider jump. Chaos, the mechanical bull, will also be back for those who dare. Additional sponsors of the festival include: Downtown Development Authority, Little Hottie Chick, Stafford Development Company, Wilmot & Powell, SpringHill Suites, Lights Sound Action, the Tifton-Tift Co. Chamber of Commerce, Colony Bank, Atwater Insurance, Ameris Bank, Advantage Realty, First Choice Title and Bowen Farms. “We have had around 15,000 people attend this festival in the past and it continues to grow each year,” Elder said. “The weekend also proves to be exactly what people need and they enjoy the unique shopping, good BBQ and great times with friends. Rhythm & Ribs has become a signature event for Tifton and we believe this year will be another fantastic day under the pines.”



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JEWELERS



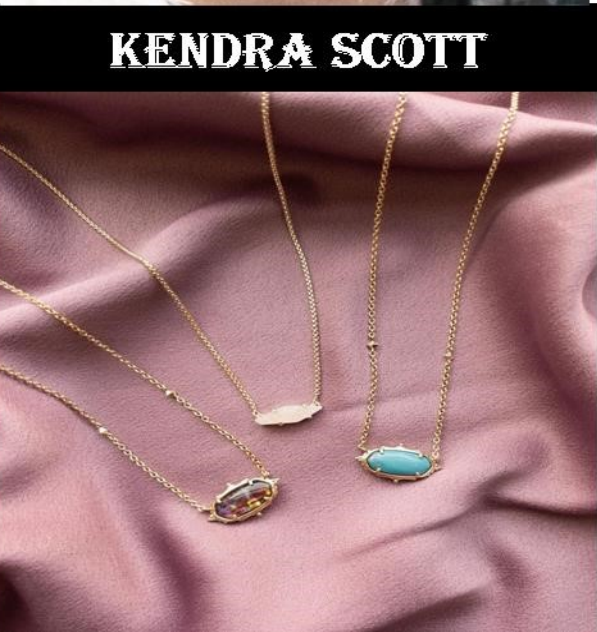
HOME



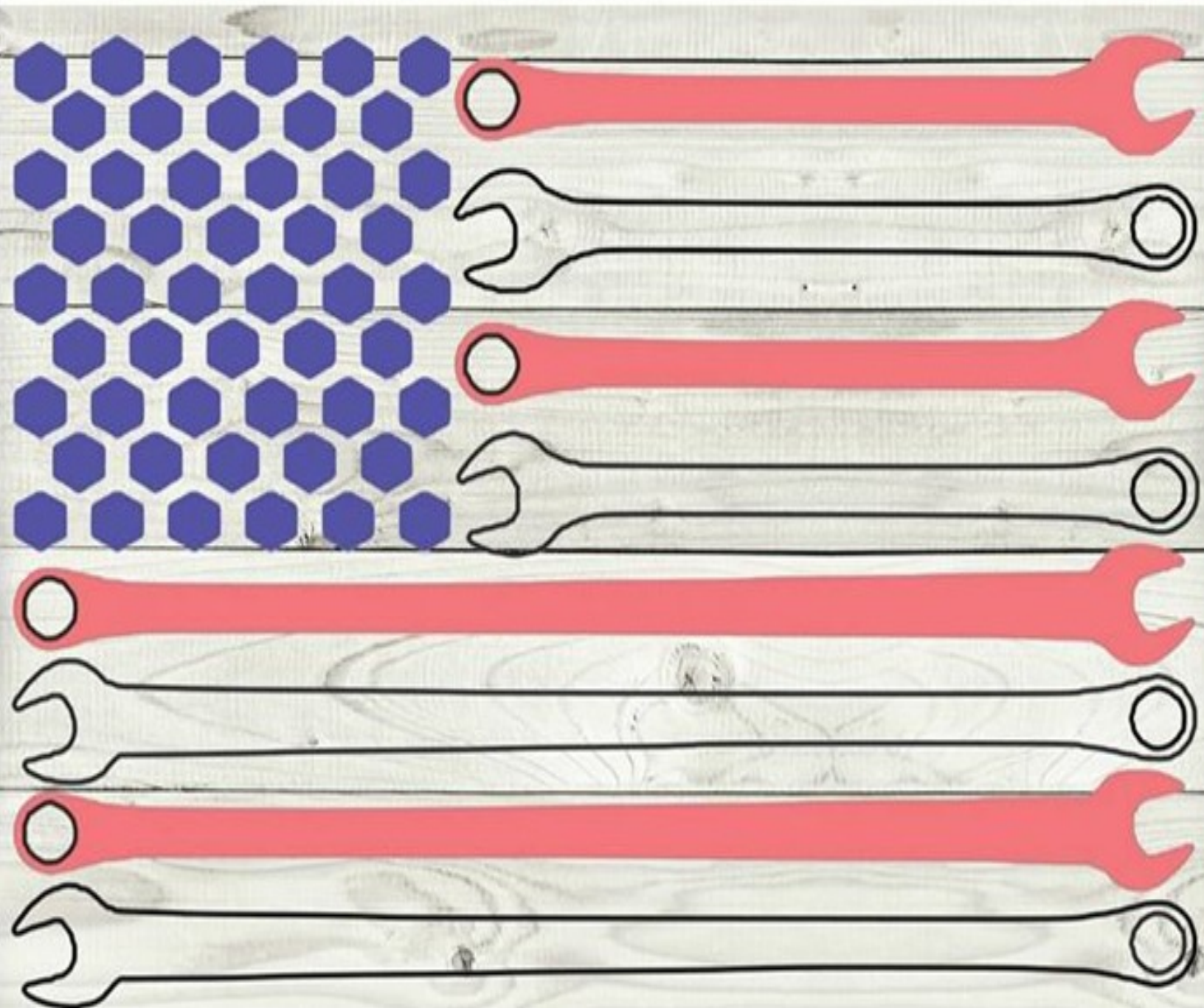
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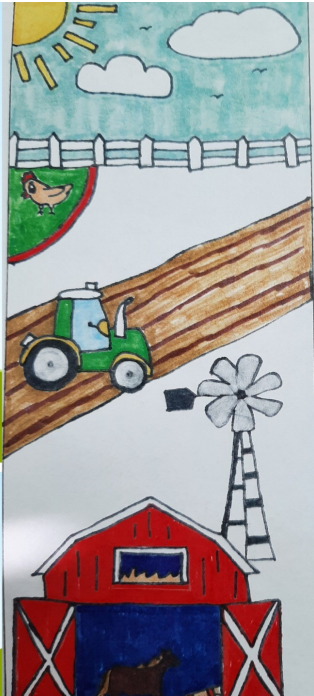
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Worth County Farm Bureau Holds Bookmark Contest

Worth County Farm Bureau recently held their Bookmark Contest. Students created original bookmarks with an agricultural theme. Congratulations to WCMS 6th grader, Rainah Lee! Her bookmark was chosen as the local winner. Her bookmark will be submitted to the District and possibly the State competition with a chance to win a cash prize. Connie L. Melton presented Rainah with her local prizes. Thank you Mrs. Becky Cooper, Mr. Allen West, and Worth County Farm Bureau for promoting Agricultural related education.

Source: WCSD



Sylvester Shell Station Gives Back To Sylvester FCA

Sylvester Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been selected by Nick Patel, owner of the Shell station in Sylvester located at 501 N. Main Street, to be the recipient of his "Giving Pump" promotion for April - August 2022. Steven Danford, FCA Ambassador for Sylvester, accepted a check for \$1,320 from Mr. Patel from the August - December 2021 "Giving Pump" campaign. Sylvester FCA is grateful for the support from Mr. Patel and the Sylvester community.

Source: Albany Area FCA

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2022 Worth County Cattle Show



March 12, 2022

Show: 10 am

**Worth County Ag Pavilion
(102 Rebecca Dr. Sylvester)**



**Showmanship Class
Grand Champion
Reserve Champion**





“Covered & Cured” Blanket Drive

Cancer Patients Covered And kept Warm
while Receiving Their Treatment To Be Cured

Drop Off Location
February 24th-March 17th 2022

Front entrance-anytime during Regular hours

Margaret Jones Library

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Sharon & Ray will be on site 2-6pm March 1st to greet
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The Martin News

Lynn Meeks-Manley

American Legion Post 335

Ray Humphrey

Celebrate Your Name Week

This week is Celebrate Your Name Week. I love to celebrate all the fun dates. So what is your full name and what meaning does it have personally? I was born as Valerie Lynn Meeks. Daddy wanted me to have the name Valerie after my aunt which was his sister, Valerie Sue. She passed away as a teenager due to leukemia. Everyone always said I looked just like her. I went by the name Lynn. When I married, I carried by maiden name as well and dropped using my first name. So then I became Lynn Meeks Manley. I decided to keep my maiden name in with my married name because no one from this area knew me as Lynn Manley and to this day, many people still call me Lynn Meeks. Most of the people that knew my daddy and mother always referred to us as the Meeks girls, never our married last names which still works for me and my sister. So what's your name?

Lecture Focuses On Political Activism & Women Immigrants

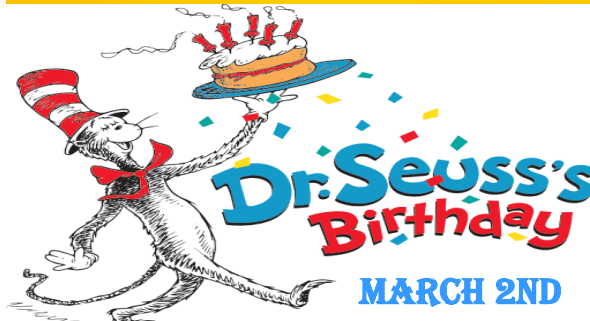
Dr. Elizabeth Medley will speak on "Rise of the Resistance: Immigrant Women's Political Activism from Ellis Island to the Modern Era" in the second lecture of a three-part series at 6 p.m. March 3 in Ernest Edwards Hall at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Medley's lecture addresses a mural exhibition entitled "Coming to America - The Immigrant Experience Featuring the Lost Mural of Ellis Island" which opened Jan. 18. Medley is an assistant professor in ABAC's School of Arts and Sciences. "I am going to talk about just one event, the 1902 kosher meat riots," Medley said. "It focuses on Jewish immigrant women in New York City who certainly would have come through Ellis Island and their protests of what they saw as price gouging meat. "It is a really unusual story because usually when there are food riots it is because there is no food. In this case, there is food, just not the right food. As conservative Jewish women, they had to serve their families kosher foods." Medley said she was attracted to this story because it focused on Ellis Island immigrants and an unusual set of issues related to food and protests. "These are also women who often did not speak much English, certainly did not vote, and within their own communities did not have much power," Medley said. "However, as wives and mothers, they saw this issue of food prices as something that they should be able to speak against as the nutritional providers for their homes."

Source: Tifton Grapevine

SRTC Begins Civil Engineering Degree Program In Tifton

For the current spring semester, Southern Regional Technical College (SRTC) has launched a civil engineering technology degree program in Tifton. The six-semester course will prepare students for a variety of engineering-related career paths. A recent economic study funded by the Technical College System of Georgia projected a 10% growth in civil engineering occupations through 2029. During 2020, Tift County experienced a significant increase in engineering-related jobs. Currently, the Ga. Department of Transportation has approximately 600 job vacancies related to civil engineering. Tammy Barnes, drafting technology instructor at SRTC-Tifton, serves as the faculty for the program. Albany Technical College faculty will provide additional instruction through an eCampus partnership. After earning her drafting technology degree from the former Southwest Georgia Technical College, Barnes had worked with the Moultrie city engineering department, spending eight years designing roundabouts, sidewalks, roads, and parks. Levi Warren of Camilla is on track to be SRTC's first civil engineering graduate. He is pursuing the degree to improve his contribution to AgriComm, his family's agricultural construction business. Already, he says, the program has given him a better understanding of the design and engineering of the peanut elevators, grain bins, dumpers, and warehouses that his family builds.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



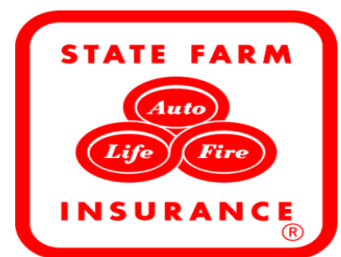
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Blood Drive Scheduled for March 1st



Guns and Hoses

Sylvester Community Blood Drive

Sponsored by American Legion Post 335

Margaret Jones Public Library

Sumner Room

205 East Pope Street, Sylvester, GA 31791

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

2:00 - 7:00 pm

Blood donation is a community responsibility. While you're reading this, did you know a local patient needs blood? Blood is needed every two seconds. About one in seven people entering a hospital needs blood. Blood is always needed for treatment of accident victims, cancer patients, hemophiliacs, surgery patients and o the recent COVID-19 patients. Blood cannot be manufactured. Only 37 percent of our country's population is eligible to give blood, and less than 10 percent of those who can donate actually do donate annually. What if everyone eligible to donate became complacent and decided they didn't need to donate because someone else would? What if there wasn't enough donated blood available when you, a loved one - anyone - needed it? The blood supply comes from caring donors like you. It takes about one hour of your time. When you give blood, it gives someone another smile, another hug, another chance. It is the gift of life. In order to give, there a couple of things you need to know. You must be in good health. You must weigh at least 110 pounds. (You may have to weigh more, depending on your height). You must meet screening criteria which is determined by your medical history, a drop of blood from your finger to estimate hematocrit level, pulse, blood pressure and temperature. You can safely give eight weeks (56 days) after your last whole blood donation. Be a Hero. Give Blood.

RUTLAND FARMS FISHING TOURNAMENT 2022

Saturday, March 19th
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



ENTRY FEE:

\$15 for Adult Anglers

\$10 for Children Anglers (ages 12 & Under)

** Children must be accompanied by an adult*

AGE GROUPS:

- Adults

- Children (12 of age & under)

** Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 winners in each age group*

HOW TO REGISTER:

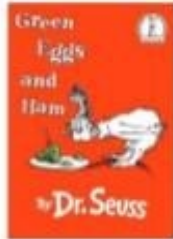
You can register on Eventbrite at:

<https://rutlandbasstournament.eventbrite.com>

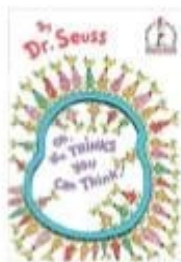
Or pick up a registration sheet in person at The Market at Rutland Farms or email paige@rutlandfarms.com for a PDF copy of the registration form.



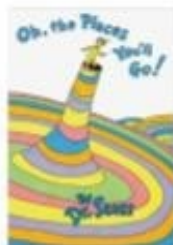
Read Across America week 2022 February 28-March 4



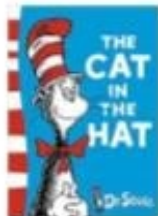
Monday
"Green Eggs and Ham"
wear green



Tuesday
"Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!"
wear mismatched clothes



wednesday
"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"
wear your Dr. Seuss shirt or
favorite character shirt



Thursday
"The Cat in the Hat"
wear your favorite hat



Friday
"Fox in Socks"
wear crazy socks





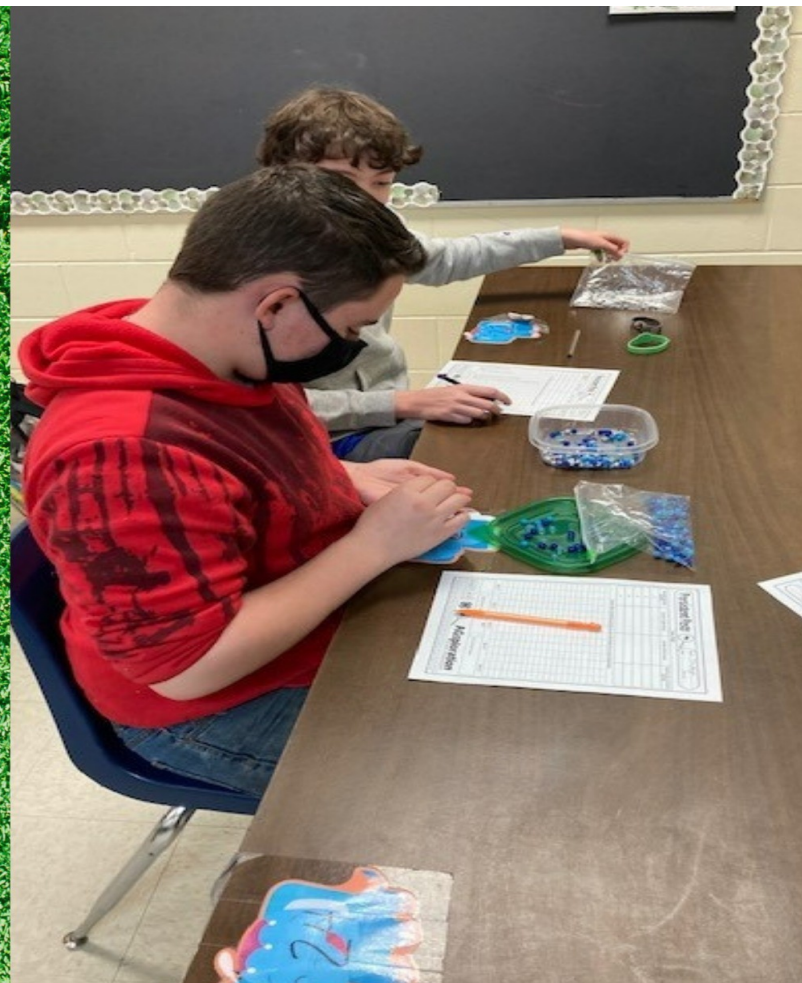
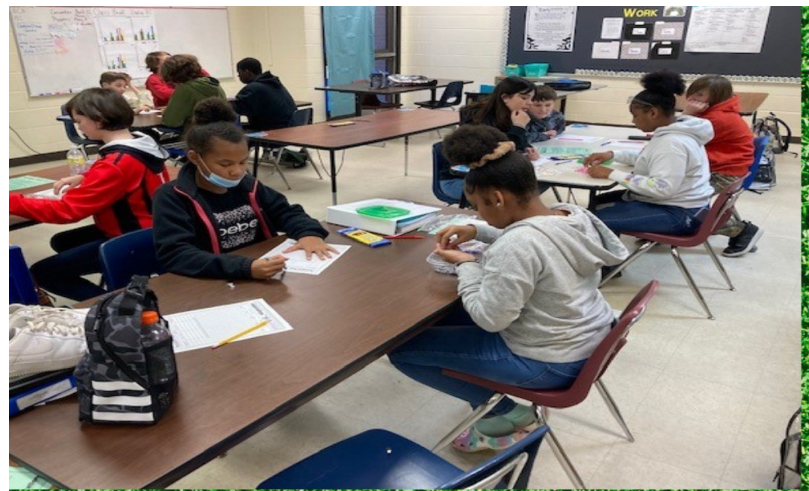
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Mrs. Kristen Ford, Worth County 4-H Extension Agent joined with Ms. Dorries' 7th grade Science classes at Worth County Middle School on February 15th to discuss how agricultural pests evolve over time to become resistant to pesticides. This was a fun hands-on lesson where students could see how agriculture ties into their science standards. Students used different colored beads to complete the activity and see how the resistant insect populations grew over a period of time. WCMS thanks Mrs. Ford for taking the time to invest in their students.

Think Tifton

Tifton Getting \$3.8M For Water, Sewer Upgrades; Area Communities Also Getting State Grants



The City of Tifton is getting nearly \$3.8 million from the state to improve its water and sewer system, Gov. Brian P. Kemp's office said Tuesday. The funds are part of \$422 million that Kemp announced for water and sewer infrastructure improvements across the state. Several Tiftarea communities are also receiving funds. Area projects include replacing the water tower at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and updating water/sewer systems in Ashburn, Adel, Alapaha, Arabi, Fitzgerald, Ray City, and Irwin County. The governor said the funding grants will ensure communities in "high-need areas" have reliable and safe drinking water and wastewater systems. "Because we remained focused on protecting lives and livelihoods throughout

the pandemic, Georgia is now in a position to make strategic, transformational investments in our state's water and sewer infrastructure," Kemp said Tuesday. A state committee worked with the Office of Planning and Budget to prioritize the projects to be funded, he said. Tifton is receiving \$3.77 million. In the city's proposal to the state, the money will be used to replace "old, leaking pipes" in the water system, replace aging fire hydrants, make major upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant and lift stations, replace deficient pipes in the stormwater drainage system that cause sinkholes, and incorporate GPS data with city systems "providing for quicker and more accurate responses to facility failures such as leaks and pipe breaks." The Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation, on behalf of ABAC, is receiving \$758,477 to drill a new well and install a new elevated water tank on the ABAC campus. The current water tank is inadequate "to meet required fire flow," and the current well is more than 50 years old and has no backup. Among other communities receiving grants for water/sewer projects are: Alapaha, \$750,000; Arabi, \$4,510,685; Ashburn, \$1,680,000; Adel, \$946,100; Fitzgerald, \$2,542,348; Irwin County, \$358,400; and Ray City, \$840,000.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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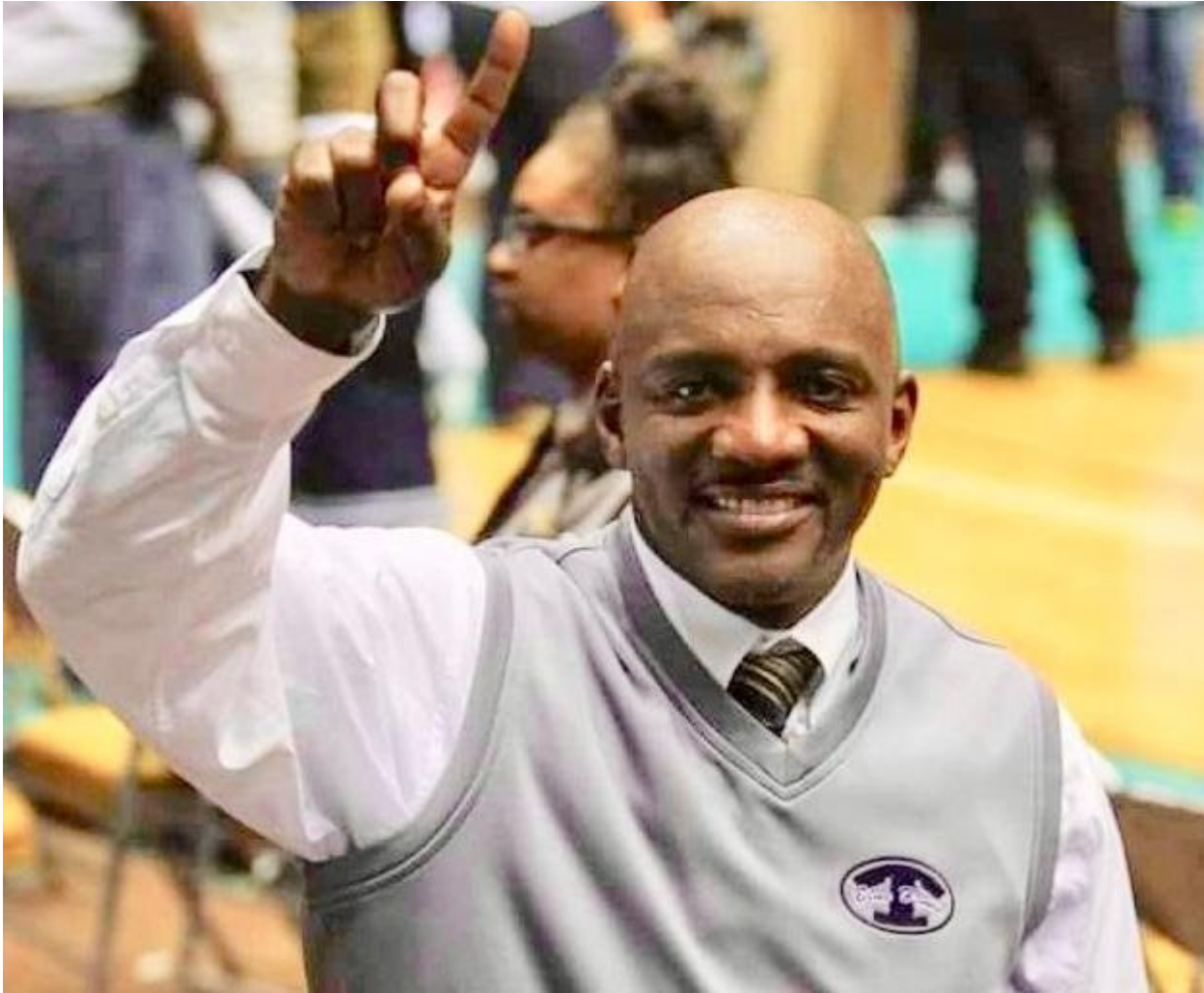


Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

New Tifton Youth Center Named For Coach Bateman



The new Tifton youth center under construction in South Tifton will be named for the late Tift County High coach Anthony G. Bateman, Tifton City Council decided Monday night. Coach Bateman, or "Bate," was an assistant football, basketball and track coach. He had been part of the Tift County coaching staff since 1991, but Bateman was a Blue Devil all his life. He was part of the Class of 1986 at Tift County High School. Beyond athletics, he had touched the lives of many stu-

dents. Bateman, 52, died in 2019 of a sudden, unexpected heart attack. "This is an honor that we all in our family will cherish for the rest of our lives," Bateman's widow Freda told City Council. "I'm so proud to know that Bate made such a positive impact in the lives of our youth in this community." Also at Monday night's meeting, City Council appointed Dr. Tonja Tift as executive director of the Tifton Urban Redevelopment Agency and appointed Elizabeth Torres as assistant city attorney.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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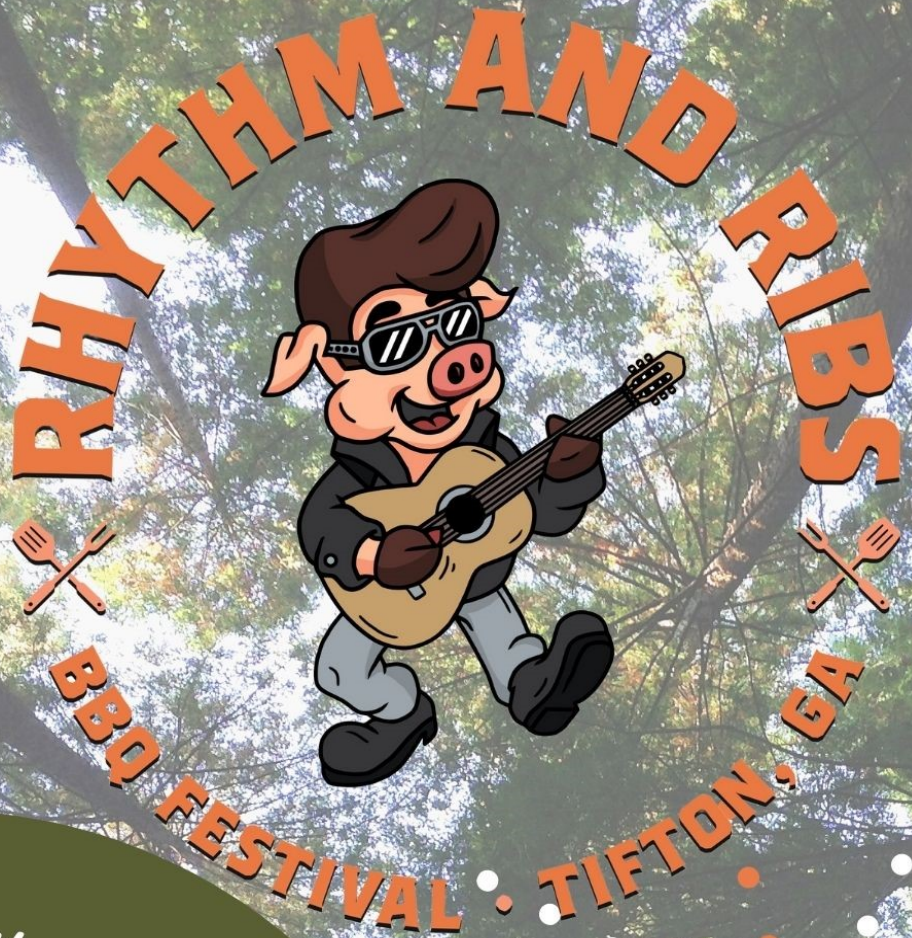


Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

RHYTHM AND RIBS
BBQ FESTIVAL • TIFTON, GA



Saturday

March 5

10 am to 10 pm

Fulwood Park

BBQ COMPETITION | SHOPPING

FOOD & DRINKS | KIDZONE

MUSIC ALL DAY

www.tiftonribsfest.com



LIVE MUSIC ON THE *Coca-Cola* MAIN STAGE

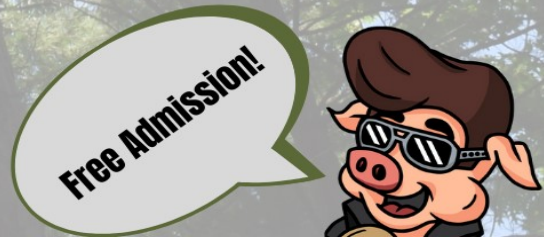


SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH IN FULWOOD PARK

DERRICK DOVE & THE PEACEKEEPERS	10:00 AM
PINE BOX DWELLERS	12:15 PM
SCOTT WARREN & BOOZE MOUNTAINEERS	2:30 PM
LIZZ FAITH	5:00 PM
HANNAH DASHER	6:30 PM
THE LEGENDARY JC'S	8:30 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH KICK-OFF PARTY

WITH MUSIC BY
County Line Band
 AT 6:00 PM
 &
TYLER NEAL BAND
 AT 8:00 PM



National Peanut Butter Lover's Day

National Peanut Butter Lover's Day first made its appearance in 1990 commemorating the anniversary of when peanut butter made its commercial debut in the United States. Promoted by both the Adult Peanut Butter Lovers Fan Club and the National Peanut Board, the day found full cover peanut butter spreads in newspapers across the country. An un-named doctor was given credit for first providing peanut butter to his patients. In March of 1890, he began providing the spread to those patients who had difficulty chewing. More than 100 years later, we continue to celebrate the benefits of peanut butter, and its history, too. March 1st is National Peanut Butter Lover's Day. Fall in love with some peanut butter or a new peanut butter combination. Try peanut butter and apples. Or maybe fried peaches and peanut butter. Try one of the recipes above. Or how about peanut butter and bacon. Use hashtag #PeanutButterLoversDay to post on social media. And since Sylvester is the Peanut Capital of the World, what a great reason to eat some peanut butter.



WCPS First Grade Students Visits Destination Ag

First grade students at Worth County Primary School had a wonderful time at Destination Ag. Students learned all about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives and how agriculture gives us food to eat, clothes to wear, and a place to live. Students rotated through four different stations where they learned about careers in agriculture, how food gets from the farms to our tables, and how sheep are used in agriculture. Some of the students' favorite parts were petting the sheep, milking the fiberglass cow "Buttercup", and playing on the amazing playground.

Source: WCSD



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The Margaret Jones Public Library had another fantastic morning at Books and Bubbles! They sang songs, read stories, and had a craft! Pete the Cat even got to join them! Join them on Tuesday's at 10:30 for fun stories, songs, and crafts! They all have so much fun. Be sure to visit them on Facebook for all the pictures from the event.

Source: MJPL



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Former State Sen. Ed Perry Seeking Return To Senate

Former state Sen. Ed Perry of Nashville has announced he is running to return to the Georgia Senate to represent District 13, which includes Tift County. State Sen. Carden H. Summers, R-Cordele, is the incumbent in District 13. Nashville and Berrien County were added to the district at the end of last year following redistricting. Perry was a state senator from 1982-92, serving as a Democrat. He had served in the Ga. House of Representatives from 1980-82, and was a city commissioner and mayor pro tem for Nashville during 1975-78. He currently is the owner and operator of Perry Vineyards and Horse Creek Winery. In a press release, Perry was described as a conservative small business owner, decorated veteran, and longtime community leader running to "defend South Georgia's way of life against the overreach of Atlanta." "For far too long, South Georgia has been ignored and taken for granted. Now more than ever, District 13 needs a fighter who will stand up for our way of life," Perry said. "Whether it's the radical Atlanta special interests trying to impose their way of life onto South Georgia or the attempted leftist indoctrination of our children we see in our schools, it's past time to stand up and say enough. I'm not running to be a compromise candidate or support whatever way the wind blows on a particular issue. I'm running because I am going to fight for our home and preserve it for generations to come." Born and raised in Berrien County, he graduated from Valdosta State and served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Perry said he has been involved in agriculture for 50 years, and has owned several small businesses and created jobs in South Georgia.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

Dates to Remember

February

28th ~ After School Art Club at Albany Museum of Art 4pm-6pm

28th ~ WCMS Baseball Home 4pm

28th ~ WCMS Soccer Boys/Girls Home 4:30pm

28th ~ WCHS Varsity Baseball Away 6pm

March

1st ~ Guns & Hoses Sylvester Community Blood Drive at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm-7pm

1st ~ WCMS Baseball 4pm Away

1st ~ WCHS Tennis 4 Home

1st ~ WCHS Soccer 5:30 Away

2nd ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon

2nd ~ WCHS Soccer Boys/Girls 4:30pm Home

2nd ~ WCHS Varsity Baseball 5:30pm Home

3rd ~ WCMS Baseball 4pm Home

3rd ~ WCHS Tennis 4pm Home

3rd ~ Dr. Seuss Birthday Party at the Margaret Jones Public Library 5pm-6pm

4th ~ WCHS Soccer 5:30 Away

4th ~ WCHS Varsity Baseball 6pm Home

4th ~ Rhythm & Ribs Festival in Tifton

5th ~ Rhythm & Ribs Festival in Tifton

5th ~ WCHS Track 9:30am Home

7th ~ Bunny Paint Night at Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm

7th ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 6pm-7pm

8th ~ Worth the Red Book Club March Meeting at Margaret Jones Public Library 5pm

8th ~ BFHS Bingo at Ed's Truck Stop 6pm-8pm

8th ~ City of Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm

9th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon

10th ~ BFHS Monthly Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm

10th ~ Worth County Board of Education Meeting 7pm-8pm

11th ~ Winter Break for Worth County Schools

14th ~ Winter Break for Worth County Schools

14th ~ Town of Sumner Council Meeting 7pm-8pm

15th ~ Planning Day for Worth County Schools

15th ~ City of Warwick Council Meeting 7pm-8pm

16th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon

17th ~ Happy St. Patrick's Day

17th ~ Books & Barks at the Margaret Jones Public Library at 4pm

21st ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 6pm-7pm

22nd ~ City of Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm

23rd ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon

28th ~ Lunch & Learn - Get your business online with Google Search & Maps Noon-1:30pm

30th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon

Operation Butterbean

A SERVICE PROJECT BY THE WCHS KINDNESS CLUB (YLC)

The WCHS Kindness Club (YLC) is collecting small items for the local senior adult assisted living community, *Pruitt Health*. Items collected will be used as prizes for monthly activities for their some 100 residents.

SUGGESTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- INDIVIDUAL BAGS OF CHIPS
- LITTLE DEBBIE CAKES
- SOCKS (MALE AND FEMALE)
- BODY LOTION
- COOKIES
- CALENDARS
- PICTURE FRAMES
- ART WORK
- HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- STATIONARY
- HAND SANITIZER
- COSTUME JEWELRY
- CRAFT SUPPLIES
- GAMES
- PUZZLES

We are asking the community to partner with us in collecting items. If you would like to donate, please place the items in a bag and label it "Operation Butterbean." Donations can be turned in to the WCHS Front Office. ITEMS DUE March 2nd. THANK YOU for your support!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Cummings or Mrs. Perrin at the WCHS 776-8625.

Chiquita Wilburn

229-881-0451



CRW Tax Services LLC

Tax Preparation Services

*3rd Annual "Snow Better Time to
Read" Adult / Teen Reading
Challenge*

**Read 10 books between Dec. 20th
and March 11th to be entered into a
drawing for a prize. More than 1
bookmark can be submitted.**

**Fore more information, please
contact us at 776-2096 or at
worthlib.org**



ROBERTS & CO BRIDAL REGISTRY



*Rachel Parker & Don Leebern
March 5, 2022*

*Mary Alice Dotson & Monty Copeland
March 12, 2022*

*Karley Bryant & Hayden Bledsoe
March 26, 2022*

*Taylor Pearson & Jeffrey Wessel
April 2, 2022*

*Devyn Muhlhauser & Clint Brownlee
April 2, 2022*

*Kristen James & John Paul Reinhardt
May 14, 2022*

*Jane Anne Veazey & Michael Bowen
May 28, 2022*

*Meg Marshall Moore & Blake Moore
Already Married*

Roberts & Co.

JEWELERS

2022 Sylvester - Worth County Chamber of Commerce 40th Annual Awards Meeting

Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce 40th Annual Meeting and Awards Program Business and Community together we are WORTH it!



SYLVESTER- WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40th Annual Chamber Awards Meeting
February 24th, 2022 11:00 AM

Welcome

2021 Chair Gina Connell

Invocation

Jean Brooks

Pledge of Allegiance

Sherry Curry, Johnny Bryan & Debbie Bridges

State of the Chamber

Gina Connell

Induction of 2022 Directors

President/CEO Karen M. Rackley

Introduction of 2022 Ambassadors and Staff

President/CEO Karen M. Rackley

Passing of Gavel

Gina Connell

Chairperson Presentation

2022 Chair Sarah McCrary

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Business of the Year

Presented by Becky Geer

Goodwill Ambassador

Presented by Lisa Davis

Life Time Achievement

Presented by Jean Brooks

Closing Remarks

Sarah McCrary

SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSOR

ComNet Technical Solutions (CTSI) • SafeAire Heating & Cooling • Southwell Medical Sylvester Primary Care

BRONZE SPONSORS

Lisa Davis, Realtor Century 21 • Miss Georgee's Play Kare • The Howard Center for Women's Health • Shipp Shape Lawn Service • South GA Banking Co • Sylvester Computer Guy



The Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce held its 40th Annual Chamber Meeting and Awards Ceremony, on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the Worth County Board of Education. The Events Committee wanted to do things a bit differently this year. The Committee decided to hold a luncheon and networking hour from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM and the Annual Meeting and Awards program directly following from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM on February 24th. An evening event will be held on September 8, 2022, at Southern Woods Plantation. All sponsors were given the opportunity for the same sponsorship amount to be recognized at both events if they committed by February 22, 2022. At the Luncheon and Networking hour, everyone was treated to a wonderful, boxed luncheon, prepared by The Station, that included a sandwich (turkey, BBQ, or chicken salad) chips, cookies, and tea. Over 70 people, businesses, community leaders, directors, ambassadors, and staff were in attendance. Incoming Chair Ms. Sarah McCrary asked that everyone take a moment to introduce themselves and allowed them to tell where they were from and what organization they represented. The crowd then adjourned from the luncheon to the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. Ms. Gina Connell, Chamber Chair for 2020 and 2021, welcomed everyone. Ms. Jean Brooks said the invocation and Mr. Johnny Bryan, Ms. Debbie Bridges, and Ms. Sherry Curry led everyone in the Pledge. Ms. Connell stepped up to the podium to deliver the State of the Chamber for 2021, which by far was one of the best years the Chamber has seen to date, she also thanked our financial supporters, the City of Sylvester, Worth County EDA, Commissioners and Chamber Membership President/CEO Karen M. Rackley then stepped to the podium. Ms. Rackley took a moment to recognize all Past Chairs of the Chamber and asked those present to stand to be acknowledged and thanked them stating our past leadership is why we are where we are today. She then proceeded to introduce our Ex Officio Directors, Executive Board, and Board of Directors. Once all were acknowledged and standing, they were sworn in for service. Ms. Rackley then introduced and asked all our ambassadors present to stand and be acknowledged. Last but not least Ms. Rackley introduced her staff who are an integral part of what we do at the Chamber. The staff includes Ms. Emily Castleberry, Ms. Easton Cummings and Ms. Trinity Archer. We are looking forward to seeing great things from these young ladies. The next part of the program was the passing of the Gavel. Chair Gina Connell performed her last duty as Chair by passing the gavel to Chair Sarah McCrary. In turn, Chair Sarah McCrary performed her first duty as Chair by presenting Past Chair Gina Connell with a special gift designed and made by our very own WCHS Welding Class overseen by our Welding Teacher Cory Miller. All the awards that were given were also done by our WCHS welding class. The program proceeded to the Awards Presentation. 2022 Business of the Year - Nominees: Barnyard Creations, ComNet Technical Solutions (CTSI) and The Gift Barn. The winner was Barnyard Creations Barnyard Creations Presented by Becky Geer 2022. Good Will Ambassador Nominees: Ms. Gina Connell. Ms. Gail Lee and Mr. Isaac Jackson. The winner was Ms. Gina Connell Presented by Lisa Davis, Realtor Century 21. 2022 Lifetime Achievement Nominees: Mr. Charles Jones, Ms. Marilyn Herring and Ms. Sue Youngblood. The winner: Mr. Charlie Jones Presented by Ms. Jean Brooks. Chair Sarah McCrary then ended the program by congratulating the awards winners, recognizing the Events Committee and Chamber Staff for a job well done, thanked all our chamber members and supporters, recognized The Station for the outstanding lunch, Mr. Randy, Ms. Selena, and Staff outdid themselves. Ms. McCrary in closing also thanked the Worth County School Board for their wonderful hospitality and the use of the facility. Pictures from the event can be seen on the Sylvester - Worth County Chamber of Commerce page. Photo Credits: Emily Castleberry and John McPhaul. We would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for the event: GOLD: City of Sylvester, Mitchell EMC and Phoebe Worth Medical Center. SILVER: ComNet Technical Solutions (CTSI), SafeAire Heating & Cooling and Southwell Medical Sylvester Primary Care. BRONZE: Lisa Davis, Realtor Century 21, Miss Georgee's Play Kare, The Howard Center for Women's Health, Shipp Shape Lawn Service, South GA Banking Co. and Sylvester Computer Guy.

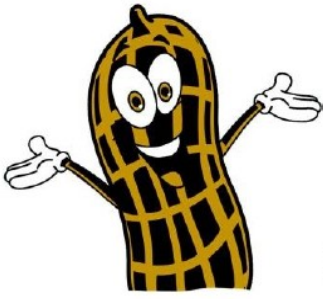
Source: Karen Rackey - Sylvester Worth County Chamber of Commerce

Making Memories: Sponsored by Tatina's Taxes

*TT's Taxes
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CALLING ALL STUDENTS!

Designer needed for 58th Annual Peanut Festival T-shirt Theme!

The Peanut Festival Committee would like to invite any student to enter the contest to be the designer of this year's Peanut Festival theme! The winning theme will appear on all promotional and marketing materials including the 2022 t-shirt! So, grab your pen and paper... or crayons, markers, paints, whatever medium you prefer... and enter for your chance to be this year's artist! Winning designer will win a **cash prize of \$100.**

See full contest rules below:

2022 Peanut Festival Design Theme Contest Rules:

1. Contest is open to any student (Grades Pre-k through 12) who is a resident of Worth County.
2. Contest is open to individual students or classes.
3. You may enter as many designs as you wish.
4. Entries will be judged on the following criteria: Originality of Theme, Use of Peanut Festival Mascot, and Ease of marketing production.
5. Entries must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2022
6. Entry must be your own original concept.
7. Designs must be submitted with artist name and contact information.
8. All entries must be submitted by uploading design to the Peanut Festival Design Contest email address info@swcountycommerce.com or submitted in person to the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce.
9. Winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$100, be in the Georgia Peanut Festival Parade, be featured in this year's Peanut Festival Magazine and artists name will be on the T Shirt.
10. All entries may be subject to display, either in digital or original format.
11. Most importantly, have fun! It's WORTH it!

Updated 2/15/22



SENIOR WALK



INFORMATION



SENIOR WALK WILL BE HELD AT THE FOOTBALL STADIUM ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH AT 4:00 PM.

GATES OPEN AT 3:30 PM.

SENIORS AND THEIR ESCORTS SHOULD BEGIN LINING UP AT 3:45 PM.

1. Each Senior participating in the walk must have purchased a prom ticket.
2. Seniors will receive 2 free Senior Walk tickets with their Prom ticket purchase.
3. Additional Senior Walk tickets are \$3.
4. Only one escort per Senior is allowed.
5. The escort must be a high school student or older.
6. The escort gets in free of charge (no ticket needed).

WCHS iRambots STEAM Club

FEB-APRIL VIRTUAL PICKUP DATES
\$10 PER KIT

Programming: Building Websites
and Coding Bracelets

Feb. 22 5-6 PM

Weather: Snow, Tornadoes, and
Storms

Mar. 22 5-6 PM

Plants: Bean Sprouts and Tree
Identification

Apr. 14 5-6 PM

**Margaret Jones Public
Library**

For More information:

Michelle Smith

(229) 344-6869

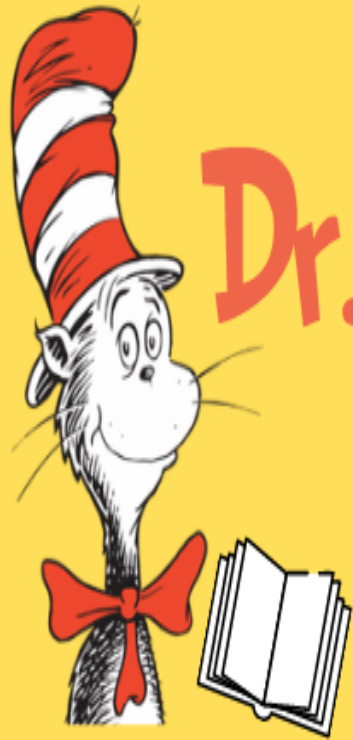
mismith@worthschools.net

Leigh Wiley

(229) 776-2096

leigh@worthlib.org





You're invited to
Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party

March 3rd at 5 pm

Come celebrate Seuss at Margaret Jones Public Library. We'll read stories, play games, make crafts and eat cake.





American Legion

Sylvester Post 335 Inc.

Indoor Yard Sale

**Saturday March 5th 2022 In the Sumner Room
at the Sylvester Library 205 E Pope Street
Sylvester Ga.. Doors open at 8AM!**

Beat the Weather!

If you have items, you would like to donate please call

Jim Hamsley @ 229-347-0808

Or Ray Humphrey @ 229-343-6470

**All proceeds go to support our Youth and Veterans
Service Programs**



**STRAWBERRY
JUBILEE**
© **RUTLAND FARMS**
**APRIL 2nd, 9th, 16th,
23rd & 30th**

Strawberry Picking
Wagon Rides Live Music
Bouncy House Games
Petting Zoo & More

CASA Speaks For Kids In Foster Care, Coordinator Tells Rotary



Local children are being removed from their homes every week for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, Julie Mitcham, advocacy coordinator for CASA, told the Tifton Rotary Club on Wednesday. CASA, or “Court Appointed Special Advocates” for children, began its local program in 2001. “The No. 1 reason for neglect and abuse is drug abuse,” Mitcham said. “Parents are abusing drugs in the home in presence of children.” The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) will go into to a home and investigate those reports, and suspects are brought to court under Judge Render Heard. In such cases, children involved are placed in the state’s custody. “We are a nonprofit organization with six employees and currently 45 volunteers,” Mitcham said. “We train volunteers to speak on behalf of children in foster care through the through the juvenile court system in Judge Render Heard’s circuit.”

There are currently 69 children in foster care in Tift County, 39 in Worth, 35 in Irwin, and 12 in Turner County for a total of 155 children currently in foster care, she said. A single case worker may be assigned 12 to 20 cases, so a CASA volunteer provides the children with an advocate looking out for their interests. Thirty CASA volunteers can support 75 children, she said. “Our CASAs handle one case at a time. The goal is for every child to have an advocate.” When possible, they work for reunifying parents with the child, if the parents are getting the therapy or help they need. Another alternative is guardianship with a relative. More than 1,000 children have been served since CASA began, Mitcham said. Volunteers participate in a five-week training that is now a combination of in person and online training. Currently they range in age from a 22-year-old to retirees. CASA is also hosting its third annual Cash for CASA fundraiser in which 350 tickets are available for donations of \$100 each. A winning ticket for \$10,000 will then be drawn at 8 p.m. March 5 at the Tifton Rhythm & Ribs BBQ Festival.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

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TAXES**

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