



The Martin News

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May 24, 2021

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It Wasn't Just A Three Day Weekend

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day however Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee. In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.



American Idol Duo

When I tell you that I was vested in this season of American Idol, I was totally vested! From the auditions, I was a Willie Spence fan. Willie being a Georgia Boy was just icing on the cake! He could sing so beautifully. He literally could sing the phone book! After hearing his story about him taking care of his mother, I was definitely hooked.

This year's top 24 finalists were amazing! I am almost certain this year had the best group of contestants. I was absolutely thrilled with the top three contestants on Sunday's night show. The top three were Grace Kinstler, Chayce Beckham and Willie Spence. After about the first hour, they eliminated one contestant after the voting closed which was Grace Kinstler. The voting opened back up for the remaining of the show and the entertainment continued for almost two hours. At the end though, Willie Spence was named the runner up for American Idol and Chayce Beckham was named American Idol 2021.

Normally the show goes off and the next day along with that week will be filled with interviews of the winner but one thing I absolutely LOVE is the next morning on Good Morning America they interviewed both Willie and Chayce at the same time. It was simply amazing! The guys both respect each other. Willie stated that he was happy whether he won or Chayce. Chayce commented that he was sad Willie didn't win. This shows their respect for each other and the bond they have. You can't replace that with anything! Where I was sad that Willie didn't win, I know without a shadow of a doubt that God has a bigger plan. Luke Bryan stated on one of the shows to Willie that he would save lives with his music and I have no doubt that will happen. Congratulations to both Chayce and Willie. We are very proud of you both!



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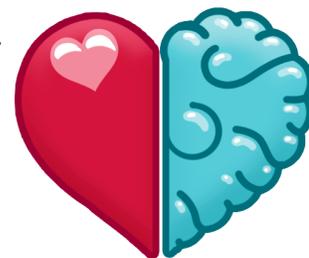
303 Peachtree St., NE Suite
4100 Atlanta, GA 30308

Living With Mental Health

May is known as Mental Health Awareness Month. Nearly 450 million people worldwide are currently living with a mental illness, yet nearly two thirds of people with a known mental illness never seek treatment. The Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) is dedicated to helping those living with anxiety, depression, and co-occurring disorders and their loved ones find treatment, support, and resources.

During May, The Martin News wanted to interview someone that personally has dealt with Mental Health Issues that now shares it for others' Mental Health Awareness. Please let me introduce you to my friend, Justin Kardamis. Justin was in the United States Air Force for two years as a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst (1N1) and cross-trained for special missions with RQ-4 Global Hawk. Justin and I talked about his mental health journey, where he was and where he is now. "I can say my mental health journey has been nothing short of the word. I have been to the bottom of many bottles in an attempt to find sanctuary. I've been military, turned homeless, turned sheltered, turned business owner" explained Justin "That being the case, while I may not have formal training when it comes to the psychiatric world, I do have a bit of experience under my belt. I spent years trying to self-medicate before seeking medical professional help. I've been through almost every antidepressant in the book. These days, I have found the right combination that keeps me from manic episodes while giving me the ability to have mental clarity to continue my growth. While no medicine is a panacea of salvation, I strongly advocate for medicinal and professional help when it comes to the battles we face internally. When you see a Veteran with a missing leg, I see a Veteran with a missing part of their mind from their experience. And the absolutely abysmal state of the VA is no help to us as a whole. Long story short, the battles we fight that can't be seen are just as severe as the ones we can see".

Justin's perseverance to survive his mental health challenges is why he is where he is today. For about seven years, Justin watched Twitch as his sole form of entertainment rather than cable or Netflix. It always made him want to try it himself. So he decided to start his own Twitch channel and play the games he was already playing but with people to talk to all the while. His twitch channel name is J_Kard. You can join him at https://twitch.tv/J_Kard. Justin's goal was to one day start a foundation that supports and/or subsidizes Veterans' mental health. To be there for anyone in a time of need or crisis is very important to Justin. He hopefully wants to be the one "rock band in the neighborhood that makes it out of the garage and onto the stage". He absolutely loves and enjoys his Twitch channel but never expected it to turn into what it is now, though. He has been streaming for about eight months now. Recently another Veteran came to Justin and they talked for a good while. In that conversation he revealed to Justin that he had gone past the point of contemplating suicide and had decided to commit, but as a last ditch effort he went on Twitch for the last time, found a random mental health stream which happen to be Justin's. The Veteran explained to Justin that his Twitch Channel was the only reason he didn't commit suicide that evening. All Justin did was simply speak to him but that made all the difference in his life. Another viewer and friend has had one of Justin's emotes tattooed on themselves over a previous suicide attempt scar. Pictured to the left is the said emote. "So regardless of what happens, I already feel like my mission was successful" expressed Justin.



Justin and I have talked about many things he would like to do to help others. He had made mention that he would love to start a foundation to help with suicide awareness in the future. He tells me that he truly doesn't have the first idea as to what it takes to begin, run or maintain a real foundation however that doesn't take his interest away of wanting to start one. "If the traction maintains and the growth continues at the rate it has, I will call in a fellow military Veteran and we will lay out the ground work to get foundation started" stated Justin.

Justin and I were Facebook friends but started talking all because of the event posted here. I noticed a shirt he was wearing said "Do Not Give In To The War Within... End Veteran Suicide". I had been helping Ms. Emma Lynn promote her event and thought I would share this with Justin. He immediately mentioned the event on his Twitch Channel and hung up flyers at his business. He was thrilled about this event and hopes to stop by. We are all excited for Ms. Emma Lynn and their committee for this event and wish it much success.

Thank you Justin for sharing your story not only with The Martin News but with the many that will read this. Your story is helping to save lives. We appreciate you and you will continue to be in my prayers.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Sylvester's 1st Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

Where:
Worth County AG Pavilion
102 Rebecca Dr., Sylvester, GA 31791
When: June 5, 2021
Event will begin at 10am with presentation of colors, live national anthem, dual taps, and a prayer.

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

Patrons: Art Silent Auction: Any local or South Georgia artist are invited to donate a patrons piece to be silent auctioned at the event! Any signs are welcome!

Classic Car/Truck show

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- Overall Favorite
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Pre-Registration \$15
Late Registration \$20

Surprise Guest Speakers and special guests on Veteran Suicide Awareness

There will also be live music from local artist and bands

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

If you would like to sign up for any of these events or sponsor, please contact:
Cody Humphrey (229)374-4426
Emma Lynn (229)603-4859
Adam Ivey (229)206-1427

Co-hosted by American Legion Post 395 and The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 338

Don't Forget Every Day

Big Ticket Raffle Items \$1 per ticket

TICKET

C & L

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Wipe Down**

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Wash
Tire Shine
Wipe Down**

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(Trucks, SUV's and Cars)**

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appointment, please call:**

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Chan: 229-347-0253



The Worth County Rams Touchdown Club Presents:

Three Man Scramble

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 7, 2021

Pine Knoll Country Club 409 Pineknoll Road Sylvester, GA 31791



Registration: 12pm

Tee-off: 1pm

Cost: \$300 per team

This includes entry into all events, 18-holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, and chance to win various prizes!

Longest Drive - Closest to the Pin – 4 mulligans per person

Hole Sponsorships are available

To Register Contact: Will Peacock (229) 881-9921

All proceeds will benefit the Worth County Rams Touchdown Club which is for Middle School and High School Rams



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Infinite STEMZ

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Helpful Contacts

Hannah Fletcher:
Email:

hannah1234567840@gmail.com
Phone Number: (229) 733-5542

Michelle Smith

Email: mismith@worthschools.net



Price:

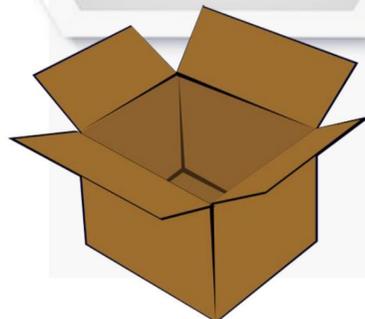
Each month, we offer two kits. You may choose to purchase both kits for **\$15** or choose just one for **\$10**.

How it Works

Once the kits have been picked up on the scheduled time from Worth County High School, students will read instructions and watch the youtube tutorial to complete labs. Parents are expected to watch over the students to be sure safety is a number on priority. If any question arise feel free to Contact either Mrs. Smith or the video host, Hannah Fletcher (229 733-5542). There will also be a scheduled zoom meeting for each lab.

Infinite STEMZ Kits

- March Physics Kit
Bean Kit
- April Sparks Flying Kit
Build a Website Kit
- May Personality Quiz
Ecosystem Kit
- Jone Among Us Kit
Climate Kit
- August Weather Kit
Transportation Kit
- September Rocket Kit
Escape Room Kit



Why Infinite STEMZ?

Due to COVID-19 many students have chosen to learn virtually. The downside to virtual learning the lack of hands-on activities. The Infinite STEMZ box allows students to get hand-on experience in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related topics.

Who are We?

We are the iRambots - also known as the WCHS Robotics Team. Our mission is to stimulate interest in STEAM using hands-on learning and real-life experiences, while encouraging creativity, communication, critical thinking skills, and collaboration to prepare students for their future. Supporting our team helps us be able to fulfill this mission.

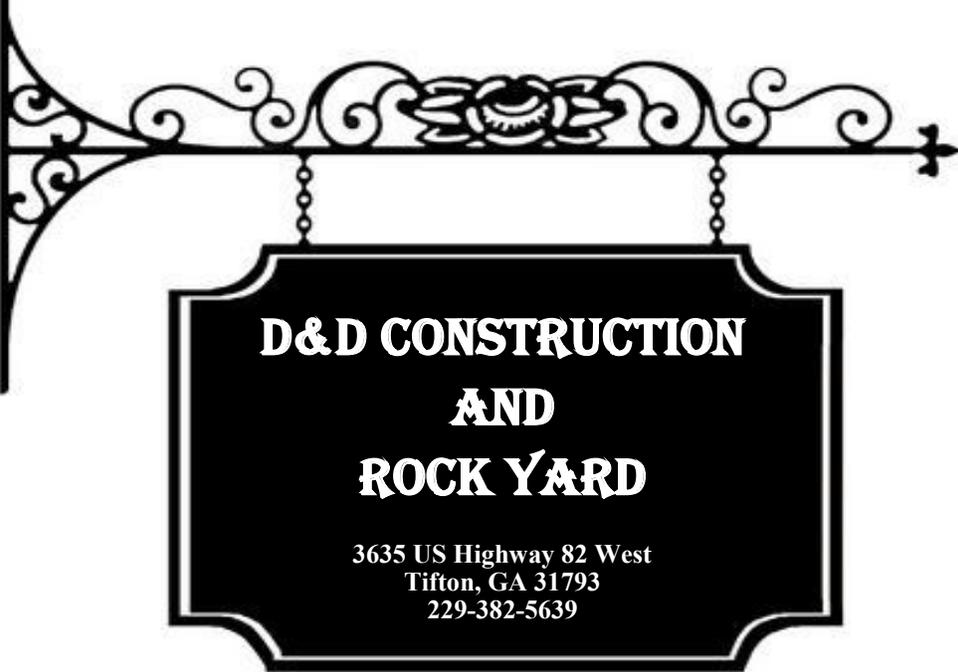
Georgia Peanut Farmers Donate 70,560 Jars of Peanut Butter to Georgia Food Banks

TIFTON, Ga. (May 20, 2021) - To celebrate the beginning of the 2021 peanut season, Georgia's 4,500 peanut farmers are donating an additional 50,400 jars of peanut butter to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Feeding the Valley Food Bank, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Golden Harvest Food Bank, and Middle Georgia Community Food Bank through a partnership with the Georgia Food Bank Association. A donation of 20,160 jars of peanut butter have already been distributed to the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Second Harvest of South Georgia in March. The donation is made possible by the Georgia Peanut Commission through Peanut Proud, the peanut industry's humanitarian relief organization. Georgia-based truckload carrier, SouthernAG Carriers, graciously donated their trucking services to deliver the peanut butter. The peanut butter is manufactured with Georgia-grown peanuts by Tara Foods in Albany, Georgia. "As a farmer, we are proud to partner with Georgia food banks to help feed more of our neighbors in need during this time of uncertainty for many families," says Armond Morris, chairman of the Georgia Peanut Commission. "Peanut butter is one of the most requested food items at food banks due to its shelf life. Peanuts are a nutritional superfood which contain more protein than any other nut, as well as a good source of vitamin E and folate." The Georgia Food Bank Association is comprised of seven Feeding America affiliated food banks that serve 133 counties in Georgia. Their network of food banks distributed over 180 million pounds of food in 2020 through more than 2,000 partner agencies to children, seniors, and families struggling with hunger. "We are grateful to partner with the Georgia Peanut Commission and Peanut Proud to help feed more struggling Georgians during these difficult times," said Callie Roan, Corporate Partnerships Manager of the Georgia Food Bank Association. "Georgia's food banks have been responding to a sustained 50% increase in the need for food assistance in Georgia since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This donation of protein-rich peanut butter will contribute greatly to the food banks' shared mission of ending hunger in our state." Peanuts are Georgia's official state crop, and the state boasts the largest share of peanut production in the U.S. at nearly 53 percent for the 2020 crop. Georgia's 4,500 peanut farmers contribute approximately \$2 billion annually to the state and local economy. The non-profit organization, Peanut Proud, Inc., serves as the humanitarian relief organization for the peanut industry. Volunteers participate in food drives to collect peanut butter and donations are made by individuals, organizations and businesses to assist with peanut butter donations to food banks. Donations are accepted at any time for Peanut Proud and are tax deductible. Contributions can be mailed to: Peanut Proud Inc., P.O. Box 446, Blakely Georgia, 39823. For additional information on the peanut industry's humanitarian relief project, visit www.peanutproud.org. Additional information about the Georgia Food Bank Association and its member food banks is available online at www.georgiafoodbankassociation.org. Information about the Georgia Peanut Commission is available at www.gapeanuts.com.

CONGRATULATIONS GRAD'S!

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Worth County Farmer Directs America's Farmers Grow Communities Donation To WCHS iRambots Robotics Team



The America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by Bayer Fund, partners with farmers to provide grants to local nonprofits to help their communities. Through the program, farmers enroll for the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a local eligible nonprofit organization of their choice. The America's Farmers programs have given more than \$59 million to rural America since 2010.

SUMNER, GA (May 17, 2021) – Local farmer, Angel Young, recently directed a \$2,500 Bayer Fund America's Farmers Grow Communities donation to Worth County High School's iRAMBOTS Robotics Team. The iRAMBOTS will use the funds to purchase parts for the robot and equipment that allows us to compete virtually. Since COVID-19 has limited our ability to compete in person, we needed technology and software that allowed us to record, upload, and edit competition videos. We will also use this money to purchase team shirts and a team banner. "Mr. and Mrs. Young are amazing supporters of our team, and I am extremely grateful to them for designating this generous Bayer Fund grant to us. Our team is honored to be selected for two years in a row, and I am especially thankful for the receipt of this money during this particularly challenging year," said, Michelle Smith, WCHS iRAMBOTS Coach. Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded more than \$59 million to nonprofits, aspiring ag students and public schools across rural America. Farmers are leaders in their communities, which is why America's Farmers programs rely on them to help identify the most worthy causes. Dedicated to making a difference in rural farming communities, the Grow Communities program asks farmers across the country to participate by nominating nonprofit organizations with resources to strengthen their local communities. Last August, farmers entered for the chance to direct a \$2,500 Grow Communities donation to a local eligible non-

profit of their choice. Farmers have directed donations to food banks, emergency response organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs and many others that reflect the spirit and support the vibrancy of rural America. "The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, including those in rural regions, and farmers play a critical role in helping communities overcome challenges, like the ones we're currently facing" said Al Mitchell, Bayer Fund president. "Bayer Fund is proud to work side-by-side with farmers to identify local eligible nonprofit organizations that are able to provide their residents with solutions that leave a lasting impact." To learn more about how America's Farmers programs are making an impact, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com. The Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.

Adult SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2021



READ 10 BOOKS TO EARN A LIBRARY BAG BETWEEN MAY 6TH AND JULY 30TH. THE FIRST BOOKMARK AND EVERY ADDITIONAL BOOKMARK OF 10 WILL BE ENTERED IN THE DRAWING FOR A GRAND PRIZE.



All bookmarks must be submitted at the Margaret Jones Public Library by July 30th.

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



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Saunders Makes Radio Debut

Hometown Proud is an understatement for what many Sylvester and Worth County folks were feeling recently. Brent Saunders made his radio debut on WTIF Hometown Country 107.5 last week with his new single Hero Across the Hall. Brent wrote this song about his late father Bobby Saunders. Congratulations Brent!

Source: WTIF Hometown Country 107.5

The Station Held Its Soft Opening

The Station, located at 202 North Main Street in Sylvester, held its soft opening on Friday, May 21st and from what I see on the Facebook posts it was great! During their soft opening, they offered you a choice of one meat, two sides, bread, drink and desert. It all seems so yummy! The meat choices were half chicken, pork BBQ or two scoops of chicken salad. Once you made that selection then you were off to choosing two sides. The sides to choose from were baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw or Brunswick stew. Now if that wasn't enough to get your bellies full, you were able to finish off the meal with peach cobbler. All of this sounds so delicious! Make sure to follow them on Facebook for updates of opening and hours.

Photo Source: The Station



GA Election Law Was Necessary, Senator Says



Georgia's new election law is good legislation, state Sen. Carden H. Summers, R-Cordele, told the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday at its first in-person membership meeting since the pandemic began. Summers was among the Tift County Legislative Delegation to speak to Chamber members Thursday. "The election bill was needed to make elections safe and secure," he said. "If

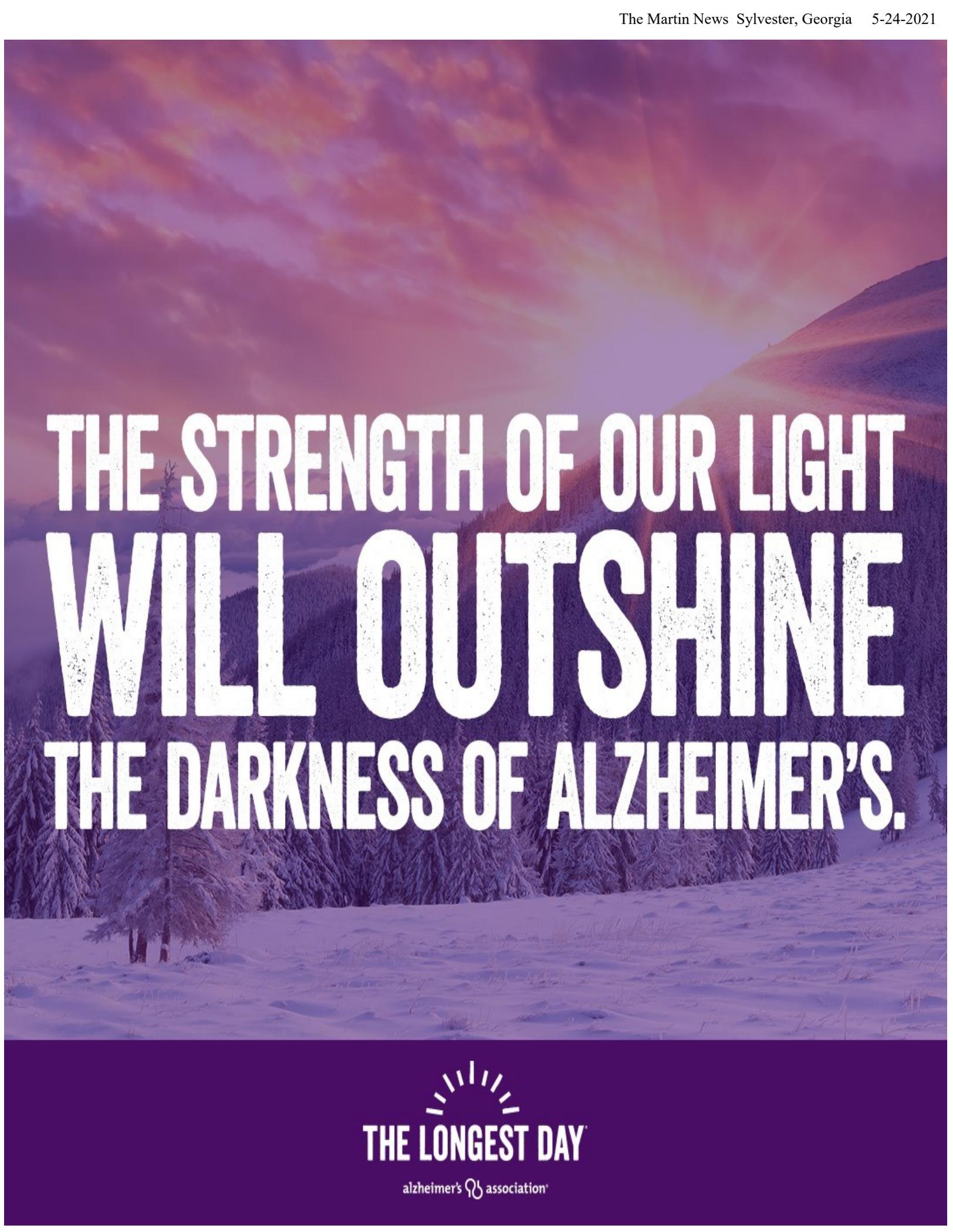
anyone says it's not a good bill, they are full of crap. Please read the bill. It's not a bad bill." The new law strengthens absentee voting identification and sets new rules for ballot drop boxes, among other measures. Summers also said, "Atlanta is a mess right now. We are so divided. Never in our history have the Republicans and Democrats been so divided. If we don't find a positive way to get together, it's going to get worse." He also said that Georgia will have to find a way to work with Dominion voting machines. "I hate Dominion machines. I wish we could bust them up with a sledgehammer, but we're going to work with them." Rep. Sam Watson, R-Moultrie, reminded Chamber members that he was born in Tifton and his grandmother still lives here. He is a farmer in Moultrie, and he represents western Tift County. He serves on the Appropriations Committee that oversees the budgets for all state departments. Watson said that state budget cuts last year were offset by unplanned income from federal programs because of COVID-19. Federal funds for pay increases for state employees, teachers and mental health professionals put money back in the state budget. Rural development and rural Georgia are still top of mind in state government and in new bills, he said. One of the recent bills passed that benefits farmers allows two unrelated farmers to come together on cattle and a dairy farm, for instance, and get the same tax exemptions they would qualify for individually. Watson mentioned a \$2 million allocation that has been approved for Southern Regional Technical College that will provide a new 83,000-square-foot building on the Moultrie campus for the diesel technology program and more. Rep. Clay Pirkle, R-Ashburn, said that although much of this year's legislative news seemed to be about election reform, Pirkle said the General Assembly passed many laws, especially some based on "common sense." One new law gives the right of way on roads to farm equipment, such as a cotton picker traveling on a highway without room to pull over. "We have to be a good neighbor," he said, and share the highway in rural areas. Another bill increases the tax credit for those who adopt children, helping get foster kids from being wards of the state into forever homes. "It went from \$2,000 to \$6,000," Pirkle said. "We actually passed bills that are good for us." A new bill addressed "porch piracy," adding teeth to the law and making it a felony to steal packages from porches after being left there by delivery services. "The law carries a punishment of one to five years," Pirkle said. Pictures at Thursday's Tift Chamber membership meeting are, from left, Rep. Clay Pirkle, Chamber President Melody Cowart, Sen. Carden Summers, Rep. Sam Watson and Chamber Chairman Dereck Sumner.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

Congratulations grad's!

The Martin News graduation edition will be published on June 7th...

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THE DARKNESS OF ALZHEIMER'S.**



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Worth County Middle School

SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

3:45pm @WCMS

Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls are eligible to try out. Students must have a physical on file to try out. Forms can be found on the Athletics webpage www.worthschools.net

Questions? Email Coach Hamilton: chamilton@worthschools.net

Sign up begins in May. Pick up a book tracker at the library. Print books or digital books count towards your reading goal.



Kids, teens and adults are invited to read for prizes this summer! Kids win a water bottle and a ticket to the party. Teens and adults win a bag.

Margaret Jones
Public Library

Summer Reading
Challenge



June Programs in the Library

Toddlers on Tuesdays, 10:30 am
6/14 Live Animal Show, 2 pm
6/20-7/2 Book Fair, daily
6/22 Magic Show, 2 pm
6/24 Purr-fect Pet Care with Best Friends Humane Society, 2 pm
6/30 Stuffed Animal Bingo, 2 pm

July Programs in the Library

Toddlers on Tuesdays, 10:30 am
7/3, 7/5 Library closed
7/8 Critter Tales, 2 pm
7/14 Unicorn Paint & Story, 2 pm
7/20 End of Summer Party, 2 pm

For more information,
call 776-2096 or visit
worthlib.org

2021 WORTH CO. FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



AUGUST 13TH
PELHAM
 WORTH CO. STADIUM

AUGUST 20TH
TURNER CO.
 WORTH CO. STADIUM

AUGUST 27TH
MITCHELL CO.
 WORTH CO. STADIUM

SEPTEMBER 3RD
AMERICUS-SUMTER
 ALTON SHELL STADIUM

SEPTEMBER 10TH
RUTLAND
 WORTH CO. STADIUM

SEPTEMBER 24TH
TIFT CO.
 BRODIE FIELD

OCTOBER 1ST
COOK
 COOK HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 8TH
THOMASVILLE
 VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM

OCTOBER 15TH
FITZGERALD
 WORTH CO. STADIUM

OCTOBER 22ND
BERRIEN
 RAYMOND JONES MEMORIAL STADIUM

OCTOBER 29TH
EARLY CO.
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RAISE THE STANDARD

The visit with their Pre-K friends at Worth County Primary School was filled with stories about animals stated Margaret Jones Public Library. They sure have enjoyed reading to Pre-K this school year and invited them to continue reading over the summer with their Tails and Tales Summer Reading Challenge.

Source: MJPL

**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE
AT
THE
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Southwell To Relocate COVID-19 Vaccination Site

Beginning June 3, Southwell will move its COVID-19 vaccination efforts to WorkSmart Clinic at 4468 Union Road. People who have received the first dose of the vaccine at the drive-thru clinic on Carpenter Road on or after May 19 will receive their second dose at WorkSmart. "As more community members become vaccinated, we found that it made sense to streamline our vaccine efforts with an existing clinic," said Carla Hall, medical clinics director. "We will have the ability to see more than 100 patients a day at WorkSmart, and we continue to encourage community members to receive their vaccine." Vaccines at WorkSmart, which are free, will be available for patients age 12 and up from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m. for lunch) on Thursdays and Fridays. Vaccine appointments may be made by calling 229-353-2200.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

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Candy

For corporate events, please call 229-402-7049



Mac's Snack Attack will be making rounds in the neighborhood's of Sylvester at least 4 times a week. Be on the lookout for him! Lots of goodies to enjoy! All items are \$1.



New Library Hours

Monday 9am-5:30pm

Tuesday 9am-7pm

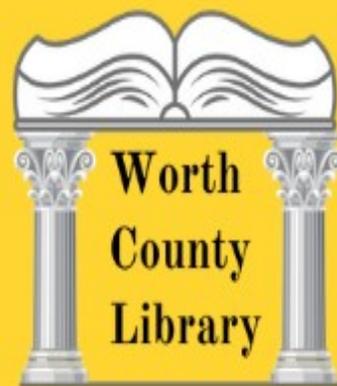
Wednesday 9am-5:30pm

Thursday 9am-7pm

Friday 9am-5:30pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Evening hours are back starting in May





Georgia 4-H Watermelon Growing Contest

Who: K-12th graders

**Weighed by Extension Office:
Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**Winners Announced:
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
National Watermelon Day**

Cash Prizes for State Winners!

1st place	2nd place	3rd place
\$100	\$50	\$25

Worth County Extension Office/4-H
204 East Franklin St. #9
Sylvester, GA 31791
229-776-8216

Dates to Remember

May

- 24th ~ 4H Meeting for 5th Grade at WCES During Science Class
- 24th ~ WCHS Fast Pitch Varsity Softball Tryouts
- 24th ~ End of Course Assessment at WCMS/WCHS
- 24th ~ WCMS Spring Football Practice
- 25th ~ WCMS Spring Football Practice
- 25th ~ WCHS Fast Pitch Varsity Softball Tryouts
- 25th ~ 4H Meeting for 5th Grade at WCES During Science Class
- 25th ~ Bingo at Ed's
- 25th ~ End of Course Assessment at WCMS/WCHS
- 25th ~ Sylvester - Worth County Family Connections Meeting
- 25th ~ Books & Bubbles at The Margaret Jones Public Library
- 25th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Grace Baptist Church 2pm-7pm
- 26th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon
- 26th ~ Brews & Bingo at Pretoria Fields 6pm-8pm
- 26th ~ WCHS Fast Pitch Varsity Softball Tryouts
- 26th ~ 4H Meeting for 5th Grade at WCES During Science Class
- 26th ~ End of Course Assessment at WCMS/WCHS
- 26th ~ WCMS Spring Football Practice
- 26th ~ Wonderful Wednesday at All American Fun Park
- 27th ~ WCMS Spring Football Practice
- 27th ~ WCMS Spring Cookout after Practice
- 27th ~ End of Course Assessment at WCMS/WCHS
- 27th ~ 4H Meeting for 5th Grade at WCES During Science Class
- 27th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Byne Memorial Baptist Church 2pm-7pm
- 27th ~ Trivia at Pretoria Fields 7pm
- 27th ~ Wild Adventures Open 11am-6pm
- 27th ~ Military Personnel Free Admission at Wild Adventures with ID or DD-214
- 28th ~ Wild Adventures Open 11am-7pm
- 28th ~ Military Personnel Free Admission at Wild Adventures with ID or DD-214
- 28th ~ Armband Special at All American Fun Park 6pm-10pm
- 28th ~ 4H Meeting for 5th Grade at WCES During Science Class
- 28th ~ Yoga in the Gallery at Albany Museum of Art
- 28th ~ End of Course Assessment at WCMS/WCHS
- 28th ~ Splash Island Dive In Movie at Wild Adventures at Dark
- 29th ~ Party for the Planet at Chehaw 10am-2pm
- 29th ~ Wild Adventures Open 11am-8pm
- 29th ~ Military Personnel Free Admission at Wild Adventures with ID or DD-214
- 29th ~ Splash Island at Wild Adventures Open 1130am-630pm
- 29th ~ Armband Special at All American Fun Park 11am-10pm
- 30th ~ Wild Adventures Open 11am-8pm
- 30th ~ Military Personnel Free Admission at Wild Adventures with ID or DD-214
- 30th ~ Splash Island at Wild Adventures Open 1130am-630pm
- 30th ~ Armband Special at All American Fun Park 1pm-8pm
- 31st ~ Wild Adventures Open 11am-7pm
- 31st ~ Military Personnel Free Admission at Wild Adventures with ID or DD-214
- 31st ~ Splash Island at Wild Adventures Open 1130am-630pm
- 31st ~ Happy Memorial Day from The Martin News
- 31st ~ Worth County Schools Closed for Holiday
- 31st ~ Memorial Day Parade in Sylvester 10am

Think Tifton

**Tifton's Top Teachers
Education Foundation Taps Educators For "Excellence in Teaching"**

Six Tift County public school teachers were "tapped" Friday as recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence. Foundation representatives, school officials, and recipients' family members surprised the educators with the honor at their schools. The Foundation plans to tap one additional teacher who was not at school on Friday. The teachers honored Friday were: Stephanie Roberts, fourth grade, Len Lastinger Elementary; Amy Brooks, special education, J.T. Reddick Elementary; Lauren Duncan, fifth grade, Omega Elementary; Mike Beeman, marketing teacher at Tift County High School; Cindy Marzen, science teacher, TCHS; and Valerie Wilson, math teacher at TCHS. The teachers are nominated by a student, parent, peer or administrator. "This is the 30th straight year that the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence (TCFEE) has 'tapped' exceptional teachers in recognition of their outstanding performance in the classroom," said Mike Brumby, TCFEE executive director. "Like for most everything else this year, COVID raised its ugly head to challenge our educational system, but great teachers always find a way. Honoring them is at the heart of the TCFEE's mission." In the three decades that the Foundation has been recognizing teachers of excellence in Tift County public schools, more than 300 educators have been honored. Tift County's school year formally ends this Saturday with Tift County High's Class of 2021 graduation at Brodie Field.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



Lauren Duncan

Valerie Wilson

Stephanie Roberts

Cindy Marzen

Amy Brooks

Mike Beeman



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SMALL TOWN with loads of
SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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TiftonTourism.com



Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

ABAC's Polly Huff Gets Top Honor From GA Association of Museums



The Georgia Association of Museums recently honored Polly Huff of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with the Museum Professional Award, the industry's top honor. Huff, curator at ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA) in Tifton, received the award at a virtual conference meeting. "The Middleton Shoe Shop," an original exhibition that Huff curated, also won the Exhibit Award in the category of projects below \$25,000. The state association singled out Huff for "more than two decades of producing innovative exhibits, maximizing limited resources in incredibly creative ways, and being an advocate for the museum field." In her role as ABAC curator, Huff oversees a collection of more than 100,000 GMA artifacts. She has designed and installed more

than 100 exhibitions; overseen the institutional archives on campus and at the museum; handled curatorial duties at ABAC's Fulwood Garden Center; and is the staff liaison for Tifton's Wiregrass Farmers Market. "The Middleton Shoe Shop" project took the museum's curatorial staff on a journey across the country and back to the 1800s when a cache of mysterious shoe-shop artifacts donated by an Indiana resident was discovered at the GMA 40 years after the donation. Months of research with the assistance of museum colleagues from across the country eventually identified the shoemaker in the lone photograph with the artifacts as James Middleton, a Tifton shoemaker who lived and worked in the area in the late 1800s-early 1900s. Huff and restoration specialist David King built an exhibit duplicating the scene of Middleton's shoe shop depicted in the photograph. Working with local restoration photographer Charles Styer, Huff recreated a life-sized rendering of the shop with a wall mural of the Middleton wagon, a lifelike museum replica of Middleton himself, and a display of several hundred shoemaking artifacts. The exhibit's wooden shoe forms were treated with a special museum wax, which infused the experience with the scent of vintage shoeshine paste. When the pandemic brought everything to a halt in 2020, Huff and her senior media intern, Tristin Clements from Tifton, filmed the exhibit installation and converted the opening into a virtual event, offering it with an 1890s musical soundtrack. Pictured is ABAC's Polly Huff as she works with Tristin Clements on the shoemaker's project at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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SMALL TOWN with loads of
SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

You are invited!

WORTH COUNTY DISTRICT
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
MEETING

When: May 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Where: Worth County Board of Education
(Central Office)

RSVP: Christie Foerster by email at
christie@worthschools.net

Hope to see you there!



Volunteers Who Smoke Needed for A Telephone Interview!



Give your thoughts on the impact of
COVID-19 on your smoking
behaviors and the smoking rules
in your home and vehicles(s).

To participate in this 45-minute telephone interview, you must:

- be at least 18 years of age
- speak and understand English
- have smoked at least one cigarette in the past 30 days
- own a vehicle or have easy access to a vehicle (car or truck)

Compensation:

- \$40 gift card for your time

Contact:

- To learn more about this study, contact Ja'Shondra Pouncy at 404-727-2440.



Emory Prevention
Research Center

This research is conducted under the direction of Dr. Michelle Kegler, Director, Emory Prevention Research Center, and has been reviewed and approved by the Emory University Institutional Review Board.



Yummy Delicious Watermelon



Look at these cuties enjoying their watermelon over a hot weekend in South Georgia! Pictured is Spindel and Mackenzie Bridges, son and daughter of Kyle and Whitney Bridges. As you can tell from their smiles, that is some good ole watermelon.

It got me to thinking about the Watermelon Festival that happens in our neighboring community, Cordele Georgia! The Watermelon Days Festival is the oldest festival in the state of Georgia. It is held annually in June and includes events for the whole family. And great news is it is back this year! Last year COVID-19 paused many of our wonderful festivals and plans but this Summer things are trying to get back to somewhat normal.

The festival offers over thirty activities during the celebration of the fruit, which has made this festival so famous. They hold the festival to honor the farmers, growers, brokers, and buyers, which has a huge economic impact on Cordele-Crisp County. This is a family and friends festival with something for everyone! Their title "Watermelon Capital of the World" was challenged in the early '90s by Hope, Arkansas and Hempstead, Texas. The competition was tough, but Cordele-Crisp County proved that they truly have the best melons anywhere and proudly retained their title. Their melons were judged as the crispest, juiciest, and sweetest. This is due to the hot, dry nights and the type of soil in our county. Over 200 million pounds of melons are grown and shipped from their community each year. The watermelon festival and watermelon industry are a tremendous economic engine for the Cordele community. They hope you will come and check out our sweet slice of life!

Margaret Jones Public Library's

STUFFED ANIMAL DRIVE

Donate new and/or gently
used stuffed animals to be
used as Bingo prizes for
our Tails and Tales
Summer Reading Challenge

For more information, please call 776-2096



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

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



Sylvester's 1st Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

Where:

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

When: June 5, 2021

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



Big Ticket Raffle Items \$1 per ticket

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



Classic Car/Truck show

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

Pre-Registration \$15
Late Registration \$20



There will also be live music from local artist and bands



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

Surprise Guest Speakers and special guest on Veteran Suicide Awareness



SAVE 22

AWARENESS IS THE ANSWER



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

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

Cody Humphrey (229)376-4426

Emma Lynn (229)603-8859

Adam Ivey (229)206-1427

Tifton Woman Graduates At Age 44 With Motivation From Her Uber Passenger



Tifton native Latonya Young, 44, a single mother of three boys living in Atlanta, graduated this month with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Georgia State University – with help and motivation from one of her former Uber passengers. Her story continues to get national attention. The Washington Post this week told her tale of challenges, motivation and perseverance. When she received her associate's degree in December 2019, Young was interviewed by several national media including CNN, ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" and People magazine.

"Oh my God, I'm still getting calls," Young had told the Tifton Grapevine at the time. Readers may remember the beginnings of her story: Young, a hairstylist and Uber driver,

picked up Kevin Esch, 45, outside of Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium in May 2018. A few days after a 20-minute car ride and conversation about their respective backgrounds, Young was stunned to find that Esch had paid her \$693 college debt so the Tifton native could return to school. "I was literally blown away. A stranger has never done that, or done anything like that, for me," Young said. "I maintained my grades, As and Bs, just trying to make sure he knows I appreciate him." Young had dropped out of Tift County High School at the age of 16 when she became pregnant. She later got her GED and subsequently enrolled in college but had been unable to continue when a financial hold was placed on her because of the \$693 debt. She said she had difficulty paying it because of caring for her children. She and Esch, an estate manager, became friends, talking frequently. He became a mentor and offered her advice as she juggled two jobs and went to school, all the while raising her children, one of whom is now 14. Esch was there when Young got her associate's degree and was present again recently when she got her bachelor's, becoming the first member of her family to graduate from college. "I don't know what situation I would be in if I hadn't met Kevin," Young said, who recently got a new apartment for her family and left public housing after 12 years. "I hope his kindness inspires other people to help someone," she said. On Tuesday, Young told the Tifton Grapevine that she has written a book, "From Broken to Blessed," which is coming out in a couple of weeks. "It's my whole life story, the things I went through and my sacrifices as a single parent," she said. "I hope it inspires people to not think of their situation as a hindrance; I want them not to think that they can't do it." Pictured is Latonya Young at her recent graduation from Georgia State University with her friend and mentor Kevin Esch, whom she met when he was one of her Uber passengers.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

Field's Funeral Home Weekly Live Show

Did you tune in to the live show this past Wednesday at 10am with Field's Funeral Home? If you missed it, don't worry! You can still go back and watch it. You can see it on Field's Funeral Home Facebook Page and on The Martin News Facebook Page. It was a great show. The guest was Ms. Emma Lynn with the event "You are not Alone" that is coming up June 5th. Be sure to tune in this Wednesday morning or catch the replay after the show. The Martin News is excited to be a sponsor of the show! If your business or organization wants to be a part of it, please contact Fields's Funeral Home.

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