



# The Martin News

PO Box 5003 Sylvester, GA 31791  
lmanley1210@gmail.com  
www.themartinnews.org  
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May 31, 2021

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## UGA Extension To Offer Virtual Solar Energy Seminar To Inform Rural Georgia Landowners



University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is offering a new virtual seminar, “Solar Energy in Rural Georgia: Opportunities and Considerations for Landowners,” on Tuesday, June 8. The event, set for 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom, is structured to help landowners understand the benefits and possible liabilities of hosting solar panels on their land. The event is free and open to the public, but participants must register at zoom.us. Investing in solar panels as an energy provider or leasing to outside companies has been a growing topic in the last few years, and UGA Extension offices have recently been fielding more questions on the subject. “Landowners should be cognizant of the implications of entering into a solar lease agreement,” said UGA Extension agricultural economist Amanda Smith. “The decision to convert land into solar is complex and has long-term implications. We hope to provide landowners with information to help them in their decision-

making process.” Incentive programs and tax credits available for those willing to switch to solar power have reduced in recent years, but future programs are likely. The Biden administration has placed renewable energy expansion as a key environmental priority. Speakers from UGA Extension, Georgia Tech, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and The University of Tulsa will discuss what landowners and communities need to consider before installing solar panels or contracting with a solar energy company. Opportunities to implement solar in the agricultural industry, including on the roofs of poultry houses and other options, will also be covered during the seminar. To register and see the full agenda of the seminar, which includes talks on the state of solar in Georgia and an examination of opportunity costs, visit zoom.us. For more information, contact Amanda Smith at aziehl@uga.edu. The virtual solar seminar will help Georgia landowners navigate the complex world of solar energy options. The pictured solar tracking demonstration project was established at UGA in 2015.



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# 72nd Annual Watermelon Days Festival in Cordele, Georgia June 2021



Watermelon Capital of the World



**\$5 PARKING FEE at Georgia  
Veterans State Park**

June 19th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Watermelon Days Car & Truck Display**

@ Georgia Veterans State Park

Sponsor: Cordele Cruisers Car Club

Gene Arnett 229-322-1621

June 19th 12:00 noon - 5 pm

**Watermelon Days Entertainment**

@ Georgia Veterans State Park

Sponsor: The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club

Contact: Linda Hawkins

229-401-1205

June 19th 1:00 pm

**Watermelon Chunking Contest**

@ Georgia Veterans State Park

Sponsor: Waste Management

229-271-8718

June 19th 8:00 pm

**Acoustic on the Patio @ Cypress Grill**

Luke Martin

Sponsor: Cypress Grill

229-276-1004

July 4th 9:30 pm

**\$\$ Fireworks on the Flint**

@ Georgia Veterans State Park

229-276-2371 or 229-273-1668

Parking Fee \$5



**Fireworks Sponsors:**

Cordele-Crisp Chamber

Cordele-Crisp Tourism

City of Cordele

Crisp County Bd of Commissioners

Crisp County Power Commission

Friends of GA Veterans State Park

Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club

Lake Blackshear Homeowners Association

Mike Fraser's Auto Repair

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Waste Management

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Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club

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Flint Ag Turf Division

Georgia Watermelon Association

GreenPoint Ag

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The Cordele Dispatch

WALB

Waste Management

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**June 19, 2021 FREE Shuttle Rides to Ga. Vets State Park from Southgate Shopping Center 9am-5pm compliments of RMS Transit of Cordele & Vienna**

May 22nd 6:00 pm  
(Ages 0-24)  
**\$\$ Watermelon Capital Queen Pageant**  
@ Crisp Co. Middle School Auditorium  
Sponsor: Kristen Card  
229-322-7001

May 28th—June 12th  
**Glider Practice Days & Contests**  
@ Crisp County Airport  
Sponsor: Cordele-Crisp Tourism  
229-273-1668

June 10th 10:00 am  
**Watermelon Days Ribbon Cutting**  
@ Cordele Farmers Market (Front Gate)  
Speaker: Ag Commissioner Gary Black  
229-273-1668

June 10th 7:00 pm  
**\$\$ Kiwanis Club Annual Talent Showcase**  
@ Crisp Co. Middle School Auditorium  
Sponsor: Cordele Kiwanis Club  
478-718-2735

June 11th 10:00 am  
**\$\$ Crisp County 4-H Dog Show**  
@ Community Clubhouse  
Sponsor: Crisp Co. 4-H  
229-276-2612  
\$\$ Pre-registration required by June 4th

June 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27th  
**\$\$ Day Out With Thomas**  
@ Georgia Veterans Depot  
Info Call: SAM Shortline  
229-276-0755

June 12th 8:00 am-10:00 am  
**Kiwanis Fishing Rodeo**  
@ Buford Pond on Kelly Road  
Sponsor: Cordele Kiwanis Club

June 12th TBA  
**\$\$ Watermelon Classic Races**  
@ Crisp Motorsports Park  
229-938-8814

June 14th-19th 11:00 am Virtual  
**Reading With The Queens (Virtual)**  
11:00 am daily Facebook Live  
Sponsor: Cordele Carnegie Library  
229-276-1300

June 15th 10:00 am  
**Downtown Taste of Melon**  
@ Cordele Main Street Office  
229-276-2902

June 15th 10:00 am  
**WALB Noon Show (Filmed)**  
@ The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club  
Aired: June 17th @ 12:30 pm  
Sponsor: WALB, Tourism & Chamber  
229-273-1668

June 17th 7:00 pm  
**\$\$ This Is Your Life**  
**Honoring Susan Leger-Boike**  
@ The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club  
Sponsor: Chamber  
229-273-1668

June 18th 7:30 am  
**Watermelon Walk**  
@ Perry G. Busbee Walking Track  
Sponsor: Crisp Regional Health Services  
229-276-3284

June 18th 6:00 pm  
**Food Trucks, Cypress Grill, Cordelias**  
@ Georgia Veterans State Park

June 18th 7:00 pm  
**Watermelon Gospel Sing**  
@ Grace Baptist Church 1997 Royal Road  
GoodBread & Co  
Kenny Croft Band  
Sponsor: Arlene & Charles Holmes  
229-322-6333

June 18th 8:00 pm  
**Accoustic on the Patio @ Cypress Grill**  
**Soulshine Band**  
Sponsor: Cypress Grill  
229-276-1004

June 18th, 19th & 20th  
**\$\$ Hot Air Balloon Festival**  
**Weather Permitting**  
Fri-Sun mornings flying over Cordele @ sunrise  
Fri & Sat 5:00 pm balloons flying from GA Vets Park  
Fri & Sat evenings Balloon Glows 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
@ GA Vets State Park  
(no tethers or rides due to COVID)  
Ben Drennan 229-322-2275  
\$5.00 parking fee

June 19th 9:30 am  
**\$\$ Watermelon Festival Parade**  
**Route: 15th Avenue from 6th St.- Owens St.**  
Cordele-Crisp Chamber & Cordele Lions Club  
Line Up 8:30 am @ Southgate Shopping Center  
229-273-1668

June 19th 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**\$\$ Watermelon Days Arts & Crafts**  
**& Food Booths/Trucks**  
@ Georgia Vets State Park—Park Fee \$5  
Sponsor: The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club  
Linda Hawkins 229-401-1205

**Unless guidelines have changed, masks and social distancing will be required at some events.**

# C & L

## *Auto Detailing Services*

**Basic Detail  
(small cars and mid-size vehicles)**

**\$30**

**Vacuum  
Wash  
Tire Shine  
Wipe Down**

**Basic Detail  
(pick-up trucks and SUV's)**

**\$50**

**Vacuum  
Wash  
Tire Shine  
Wipe Down**

**Full Detail  
(Trucks, SUV's and Cars)**

**\$120-\$180**

**(depending on severity of job)**

**Shampoo carpet  
Shampoo seats  
Tire and wheel cleaner  
Engine bay  
Headliner  
Wax  
Cleaning the bed of pick-up truck**

**Engine Bay Cleaning  
(for any vehicle)**

**\$25**



**For questions or  
appointment, please call:**

**Lake: 229-272-0260**

**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

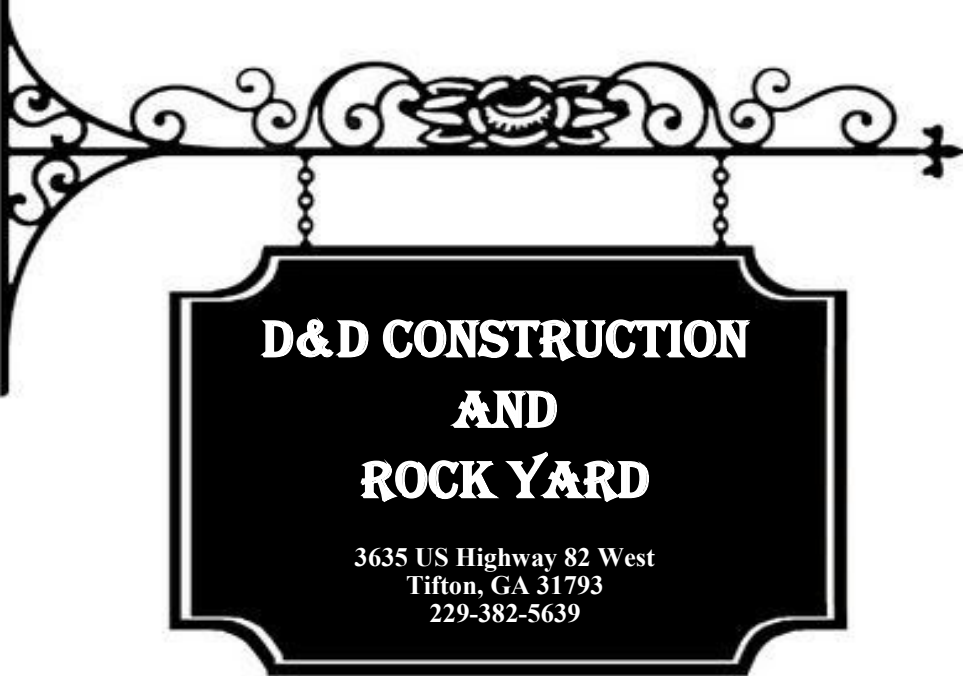
This includes entry into all events, 18-holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, and chance to win various prizes!

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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## Words From Worth County Primary School

WCPS is excited to announce that we will be having awards day for all grade levels. Please know that we are very excited that we get this opportunity, but to ensure the safety of students and staff, this awards day will be very different from our traditional awards day. WCPS has worked extremely hard this year to follow protocols to ensure the safest environment we possibly can, and we want to continue to do so during awards day. I would like to personally thank every parent/guardian for following the protocols we have had in place. This year we will be having awards programs in the gym with a couple of classes for each program. PreK and Kindergarten will go on Thursday, June 10th. First and Second grade will go on Friday, June 11th. Each teacher will send home a letter on Tuesday, June 1st with the time that your child's class will be having their awards program. We will have guidelines to follow to continue to ensure a safe environment. This year each student will be allowed 2 parents/guardians to come to the awards day ceremonies. Please do not bring younger siblings or older siblings to the program. All visitors that come on the awards day will park in the back of the school and enter the gym. Parents/guardians will sit in the bleachers during the ceremony. After the ceremony the parents/guardians will exit the gym. To ensure all parents are able to get a parking place during their child's ceremony, we ask that you not arrive early and that you exit the gym promptly after your child's ceremony. WCPS is looking forward to finishing this year on an awesome note and we are glad we will have the chance for parents to be a part of the end of year ceremony.

Thanks for your cooperation and support.  
Mr. Worthy, Principal

## Words From Worth County Middle School

Our 8th-grade Foundations in Investing and Finance students benefited from the generosity of Southwest Georgia Bank who sponsored the Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum. Throughout the year, with this curriculum, students were introduced to many aspects of personal finance like saving & budgeting, credit & debt, as well as, investing, insurance & identity theft. The curriculum included textbooks and videos. Each semester, students took home their completed text to have as a helpful resource. WCMS and Mrs. Jodi Mitchell, CTAE Business Teacher are very thankful for the support from Southwest Georgia Bank for these incredible resources and for contributing to the growth and future of our students. We look forward to continuing this partnership in finance education.

Source: WCSD

Source: WCSD



# 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](http://worthlib.org).**



THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
*Worth County  
Middle School*

ACADEMIC HONORS DAY PROGRAM  
JUNE 9, 2021

BY INVITATION AND  
FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM

6TH GRADE 8:30AM

7TH GRADE 10:00AM

8TH GRADE 1:30PM

*at WCMS Cafeteria*



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](http://www.worthschools.net)

Questions? Email Coach Hamilton: [chamilton@worthschools.net](mailto: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.**  
 WORTH CO. STADIUM



**RAISE THE STANDARD**

**The First Annual (or the first in very many years) Memorial Day Parade held in Downtown Sylvester was a HUGE Success. With almost 50 participants in the parade and many watching it, fun was had by all. Thank you to all of the men and women that paid the ultimate price for all of us. There are many more pictures on The Martin News Facebook Page, please visit and enjoy.**



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of This Weeks'  
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# TOMLINSON

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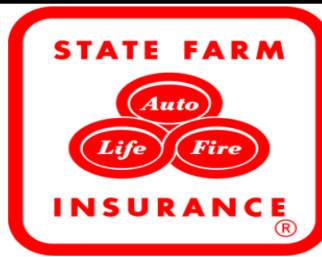


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**Thank you for your loyalty.  
We appreciate you.**

### Eat Your Veggies

June is National Vegetable Month so why not focus on eating more veggies. I know some people that like only vegetables. I know some that like absolutely NO vegetables. Which are you? It is funny how picky people are. For example, I love broccoli. I love it raw or cooked however my 17 year old son will only eat broccoli raw. He will dip it in ranch dressing but that is it. He will not eat it cooked at all. Another veggie that I love is greens but I will not in any form or fashion eat turnips. I will eat collard greens and mustard greens all day long but you will not catch this girl right here eating turnips. See how picky people can be. Well be sure to focus on veggies this month and maybe not be as picky as I am. Don't forget to go every Saturday to the Farmer's Market and pick up all the vegetable's that you will need or want. Thank you to all the farmer's for the hard work you do to provide such great fruits and veggies for our families!

# MAC'S SNACK ATTACK

Ice Cream

Soda's

Water

Chips

Pickles

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.*



# **Georgia 4-H Watermelon Growing Contest**

**Who: K-12<sup>th</sup> graders**

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

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

**Cash Prizes for State Winners!**

|                             |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b> |
| <b>\$100</b>                | <b>\$50</b>                 | <b>\$25</b>                 |

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



# Dates to Remember

## May

- 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

## June

- 1st ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 2nd ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at 12Noon
- 3rd ~ Worth County High School Honors Night 6pm
- 5th ~ You Are Not Alone - Sylvester's 1st Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event 10am-3pm
- 8th ~ Worth the Read Book Club at the Margaret Jones Public Library 530pm
- 8th ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 9th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at 12Noon
- 9th ~ Field's Funeral Home Live on FB Show 10am
- 11th ~ Liquid Pleasure Concert Downtown Sylvester
- 11th ~ CTSI Ribbon Cutting
- 11th ~ Last Day of School for Worth County Schools
- 12th ~ Worth County High School Graduation
- 14th ~ Animal Tales and Tails at the Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm
- 15th ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 16th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at 12Noon
- 16th ~ Field's Funeral Home Live on FB Show 10am
- 17th ~ Worth County Board of Education Meeting
- 20th ~ Happy Father's Day from The Martin News
- 21st ~ Red, White & Blue Paint Night at the Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm
- 21st ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 22nd ~ Sylvester - Worth County Family Connection Meeting
- 22nd ~ Ken Scott Magic Show at the Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm
- 22nd ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 22nd ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 23rd ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 23rd ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at 12Noon
- 23rd ~ Field's Funeral Home Live on FB Show 10am
- 24th ~ Purr-fect Pet Care with Best Friends Humane Society at the Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm
- 24th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 24th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 25th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 25th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 26th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 26th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 26th ~ Georgia Peanut Festival 5K Run 7am
- 27th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 28th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 28th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 29th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 29th ~ Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 29th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 30th ~ Worth County Rams Football Firework Stand at Walmart
- 30th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at 12Noon
- 30th ~ Scholastic Book Fair at the Margaret Jones Public Library
- 30th ~ Field's Funeral Home Live on FB Show 10am
- 30th ~ Stuffed Animal Bingo at the Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm

## Think Tifton

### “A True American Hero” Tifton Native Col. Puckett Receives Medal of Honor



More than 70 years after his heroics in a bloody battle during the Korean War, retired Army Col. Ralph Puckett Jr., 94, a Tifton native and U.S. Army Ranger, received the Medal of Honor from President Biden on Friday at a White House ceremony. The medal's citation recognized Puckett for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" while leading his severely outnumbered men in battle during November 1950. Puckett, who resides in Columbus, is "a true American hero," Biden said, whose Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, is "long overdue." On Nov. 25, 1950, during one of the toughest battles of the Korean War, the Eighth Army Ranger Company seized and held a strategically important hill overlooking the Chongchon River. Separated by more than a mile from the nearest friendly unit, only 51 soldiers fought off several hundred Chinese attackers. "To make their charge, they had to cross about half mile of frozen rice

paddies under fire," Biden said at the ceremony. "And when enemy machine gunners slowed the Rangers' advance, Puckett risked his life by running across the area to draw fire that would reveal the location of the nest. He did it once. He did it again. It took three runs intentionally exposing himself to the enemy to pick off the gunner." Biden said that when Puckett's Rangers finally reached the top of Hill 205, they found it abandoned but knew the fight wasn't over. Soon, there were "mortars followed by a ground assault from the entire Chinese battalion. Puckett's Rangers were outnumbered almost 10 to one," the president said. "During the fight, Puckett abandoned the relative safety of his foxhole, moving from man to man, encouraging them in the fight, checking that the perimeter was holding. He took a grenade fragment in his left thigh, but Puckett refused to be evacuated. He was a Ranger. ... And over the course of the next several hours, four more waves of assaults came. "Each time, Puckett made his rounds, passing out extra ammo and extra encouragement to rally his men. Each time, he was able to call in artillery support — sometimes 'danger close' — to help break the advance of the Chinese soldiers. Each time, the Rangers held the hill, pushing the enemy back — at times, with hand-to-hand fighting. About 2:30 a.m., after more than four hours of near nonstop fighting, the sixth wave began," Biden said. "By this time, ... many Rangers had been killed, and those who are left were exhausted, outnumbered, and dangerously short of ammunition and grenades. Lieutenant Puckett had sustained a second wound, this time in his left shoulder. He had distributed all the ammo to his men, keeping only eight bullets and a bayonet for himself. "For the last time, Puckett called in artillery support, only to be told that the guns were supporting other besieged units. Then, two mortar rounds landed directly in Puckett's foxhole, tearing through both his feet and his backside and his left arm and shoulder," the president related. "Puckett's Rangers had been overwhelmed, and he himself was badly wounded. He ordered one of his men who found him on the ground to leave him behind. But that's not the Ranger creed." Puckett would eventually recover and go on to serve in Vietnam before retiring as a colonel in 1971 as one of the most decorated combat veterans in the nation's history. During his career, Puckett received the Distinguished Service Cross twice, two Silver Stars for valor, two Bronze Star Medals and five Purple Hearts. President Moon Jae-in of South Korea was present for Friday's Medal of Honor ceremony and said, "Colonel Puckett is a true hero of the Korean War. With extraordinary valor and leadership, he completed missions until the very end, defending Hill 205 and fighting many more battles requiring equal valiance. "Without the sacrifice of veterans, including Colonel Puckett and the Eighth Army Ranger Company, freedom and democracy we enjoy today couldn't have blossomed in Korea," the South Korean president said. Puckett, a 1949 West Point graduate, joined the newly established U.S. Army Ranger Department, serving as an instructor and tactical officer, and commanding companies at Fort Benning and in the Ranger Mountain Camp. He went on to lead companies in Vietnam, train cadets at West Point and organize military leadership courses in Colombia. The Col. Ralph Puckett Leadership Award series was named for him, honoring top officers in the U.S. Army Rangers, which is the most elite and highly trained of the Army's combat forces. Pictured is Col. Ralph Puckett Jr., a Tifton native, is awarded the Medal of Honor — the nation's highest military honor — on Friday by President Joe Biden at the White House.

Photo Source: Official White House  
Source: Tifton Grapevine



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Redevelopment Projects, Programs Underway**



**Abbey McLaren, Downtown Development Authority**

Downtown Tifton Main Street has once again been designated as an accredited Main Street program for meeting rigorous performance standards, Main Street America announced Thursday. Each year, Main Street America announces the list of accredited programs to recognize commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization. Tifton is again on the list that includes 889 nationally accredited Main Street programs. Downtown Tifton’s performance is annually evaluated by the state Office of Downtown Development and the Georgia Main Street Program, which work in partnership with Main Street America to identify programs that meet 10 national performance standards, such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting program progress, and actively preserving historic buildings. “We’re very proud of this accreditation and to uphold this level of excellence,” said Abbey McLaren, executive director of Tifton's Downtown De-

velopment Authority. “Our restaurants and merchants had a very challenging year in 2020, but downtown was still able to gain new businesses and was very active in economic-based historic preservation. “With exciting developments on the horizon, we will continue to put downtown first because we know that is where the hub and the heart of our city is,” she said. On Wednesday, McLaren told the Tifton Rotary Club about several redevelopment projects that were put on hold for the pandemic, and which have restarted. For instance, Drs. Cameron and Margaret Nixon have completed the first phase of their Towne Center Lofts on Main Street. Two apartments are available for renting, and a new restaurant and three more efficiency apartments are on the way. The Nixons have purchased three more buildings in the block. The Golden Building, with three floors and a basement, is going to provide a new restaurant, boutique store and event space. The owner, Jenna Turner, applied for state and federal tax credits, McLaren said, and “we facilitated the tax credit applications.” Many changes are coming on Commerce Way: Steve Cooksey recently bought the 125-year-old building at 325 Commerce Way that formerly housed the Davis Music shop. Constructed in 1895 by Dr. G.W. Julian for his medical practice, the structure later became the city’s first African-American hotel. The finished project will provide living spaces upstairs and retail space downstairs. Farther down the block, the former Hawkeye’s location is going to be an Oyster Bar by the owner of a food truck, the Shrimp Box, from Nashville. Another building, formerly owned by Jack Stone, will provide six condos. The former Carey’s Antiques building will be an interior store, developed by Lamar Boyer. “I encourage you to drive down Commerce Way to remember how it is now,” McLaren said. Another project is around the corner at 136 E. Third St, where Regina’s School of Dance has been; the site will house two condos and three airbnb units.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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## SRTC Foundation Awards \$45,900 In Scholarships For Summer Semester



For the summer semester, which began May 13, the Southern Regional Technical College (SRTC) Foundation awarded scholarships to 54 students totaling \$45,900. The funds assist students with education-related costs such as tuition, fees, books, classroom and lab supplies. Among area students awarded scholarships are: Tabitha Section of Ashburn; Emily Boyd and Jessica Clarke of Nashville; Beth Weldon of Pavo; Tia Pendley of Sumner; Virginia Lamb of Sylvester; Amelia Hillmon, Sterling LeBlanc, Carter McKee, Brenda Morales Nunez, Reagan Pate, Hannah Walker, Samantha Walker, and Amber Cummings of Tifton; and Patricia

Drawdy and Autumn Kirkland of Ty Ty. The SRTC Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote higher education and expand educational opportunities to students. The application period for fall scholarships opened Monday, May 24, and applications may be submitted until July 15. Brenda Morales Núñez of Tifton, SRTC's Adult Education Student of the Year, is now enrolled as a full-time college student at Southern Regional Technical College.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

**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

 The flyer has a light green background with large green leaf illustrations at the top. It features several cartoon animal illustrations: a brown bear with a blue scarf, a yellow and brown giraffe, a white and orange cat, a brown monkey, a light blue rabbit, and a brown dog.

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

## June is Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Awareness Month

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. In fact, more skin cancers are diagnosed in the US each year than all other cancers combined. The number of skin cancer cases has been going up over the past few decades. The good news is that you can do a lot to protect yourself and your family from skin cancer, or catch it early so that it can be treated effectively. Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Most of this exposure comes from the sun, but some may come from man-made sources, such as indoor tanning beds and sun lamps. You don't need x-rays or blood tests to find skin cancer early – just your eyes and a mirror. If you have skin cancer, finding it early is the best way to make sure it can be treated with success.

**What Is Skin Cancer?** Skin cancer starts in the cells of the skin. Some other types of cancer start in other parts of the body and can spread to the skin, but these are not skin cancers. There are 3 main types of skin cancers: Basal cell skin cancers (basal cell carcinomas), Squamous cell skin cancers (squamous cell carcinomas) and Melanomas. Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are by far the most common cancers of the skin. Both are found mainly on parts of the body exposed to the sun, such as the head and neck. These cancers are strongly related to a person's sun exposure. Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are by far the most common cancers of the skin. Both are found mainly on parts of the body exposed to the sun, such as the head and neck. These cancers are strongly related to a person's sun exposure. Basal and squamous cell cancers are much less likely than melanomas to spread to other parts of the body and become life threatening. Still, it's important to find and treat them early. If left alone, they can grow larger and invade nearby tissues and organs, causing scarring, deformity, or even loss of function in some parts of the body. Some of these cancers (especially squamous cell cancers) can spread if not treated, and can sometimes even be fatal. These cancers are discussed in more detail in Basal and Squamous Cell Skin Cancer. Melanomas are cancers that develop from melanocytes, the cells that make the brown pigment that gives skin its color. Melanocytes can also form benign (non-cancerous) growths called moles. (Your doctor might call the mole a nevus.) Melanomas can occur anywhere on the body, but are more likely to start in certain areas. The trunk (chest and back) is the most common place in men. In women, the legs are the most common site. The neck and face are other common places for melanoma to start. Melanomas are not as common as basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, but they can be far more serious. Like basal cell and squamous cell cancers, melanoma can almost always be cured in its early stages. But if left alone, melanoma is much more likely to spread to other parts of the body, where it can be very hard to treat. There are many other types of skin cancers as well, but they are much less common: Merkel cell carcinoma, Kaposi sarcoma, Cutaneous (skin) lymphoma and Skin adnexal tumors (tumors that start in hair follicles or sweat and oil glands). Together, these types account for less than 1% of all skin cancers. It's important for doctors to tell the types of skin cancer apart, because they are treated differently. It's also important for you to know what skin cancers look like. This can help you find them at the earliest possible stage, when they are easier to treat and most likely to be cured. For more information like this, please follow cancer.org.



June 4th is National Hug Your Cat Day! What a great day that is... Did you know that hugging your pet can help lower blood pressure and anxiety levels. I absolutely love pet therapy. It is a great thing to have and enjoy! I have one cat. Her name is Callie Mae and she will be five this year. She weighs almost 20 pounds. She is definitely spoiled rotten and we would not want it any other way. Love on your fur babies today!

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