

The Martin News

Covering Worth County and Surrounding Counties

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

June 6, 2022





Adult Prom Night Set For July 30th In Sylvester



L&H Community Outreach is proud to announce that an adult prom is set for July 30th. It will be held at the Worth County Community Center located at 1310 North Monroe Street in Sylvester. This is for everyone

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased via cashapp - \$lynnmanley; Venmo - @lynn-manley-5; PayPal - lmanley1210@gmail.com. L&H Community Outreach is placing a limit on the number of people, so please get your tickets in advance. Advance tickets are \$50 for a couple and \$35 for singles. There will be tickets sold at the door if they are still available. The cost at the door will be \$65 for a couple and \$45 for singles. After you've made payment, your name will be added to the guest list.

There will be a photographer on site to capture this special night for you. If you would like to rent a limo or SUV, please contact Lynn Meeks Manley at 229-272-4356 and she will get you registered. This will be a night to remember! Thank you in advance for your support to L&H Community Outreach. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Justin Lucas, Nykemius Hamilton or Lynn Meeks Manley.

Get off the couch and on the road!

Worth County Residents

FREE COOKIE

Just let us know you're from Worth Conty and enjoy one of our fresh-baked cookies on us!



How far would you go for a free cookie?

The Blue Goose is waiting for you!

128 East Main Street • Irwinton, Georgia looseatthegoose.com • 478-233-1548

> Hours: Tues. - Fri. 10 to 6 Most Saturdays 10 to 4



Donation Made To Margaret Jones Public Library From WCMS

The Worth County Middle School Staff fundraiser for this school year was proudly donated to the Margaret Jones Public Library. Pictured is WCMS Principal Cornellius Frazier presenting the \$1405 check to Leigh Wiley, director of the Margaret Jones Public Library in Sylvester. "Worth County Middle School surprised us with a \$1,405 donation exclaimed Leigh "We are so grateful to the WCMS staff. These funds will put lots of new books on our shelves!"

Source: WCSD



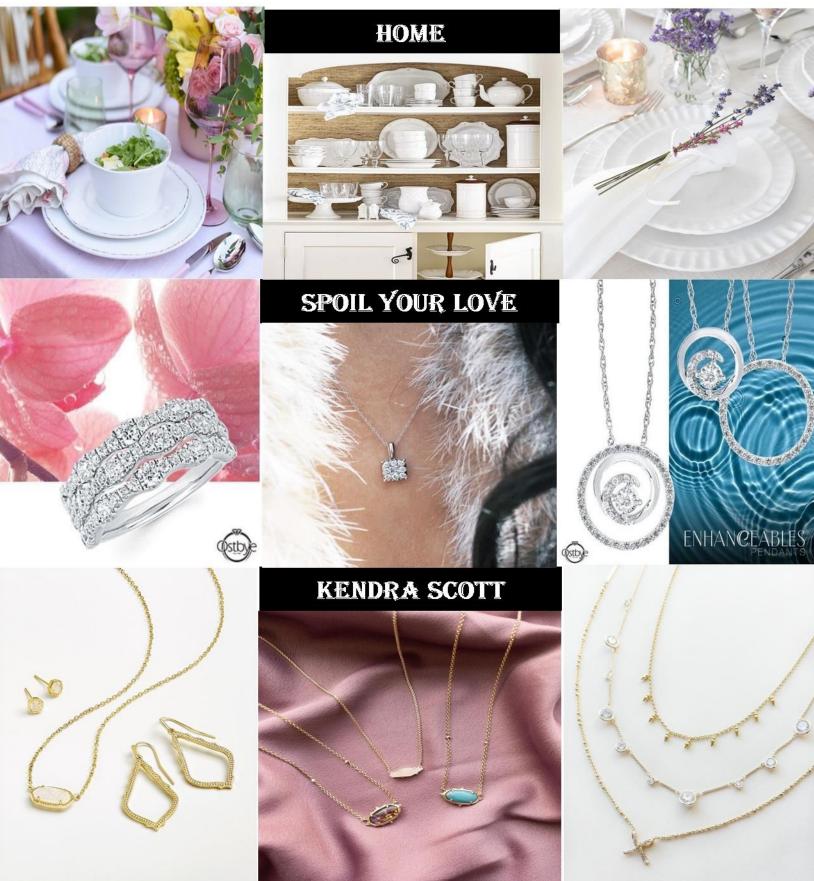
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Be sure to like our Facebook page: Sugar Hills Charms Boutique

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JEWELERS



ROBERTS & CO BRYDALREGISTRY



Andi Branch & Avery Mathis September 10, 2022

Amy Bartley & Jeremy Doss October 22, 2022

Sarah Beth Bennett & Kyle Rhodes November 12, 2022

Avery Barber & Denzell Gon'dy December 17, 2022

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Downtown Tifton





Our mission is to make this a perfect day for you. Gin Creek will be the most unique and beautiful experience you have ever been a part of in your entire life.

> 251 Demott Road Hartsfield, GA 31756 229-941-2989 info@gincreek.com



It sounds scary: A child can seem fine after getting out of a pool or body of water but then start to have trouble breathing an hour -- or up to 24 hours -- later. You'll worry a whole lot less once you know the signs of submersion injuries, and how to prevent them. Chances are you've read scary warning stories about "dry drowning" or "secondary drowning" -terms you probably never even knew existed before you became a parent -- on social media. The idea that your child could "drown" on dry land is admittedly terrifying, and makes many parents feel helpless. But these rare incidents can be prevented. Get the facts you need to help keep your kids as safe as possible in and out of the water. The terms "dry drowning" and "secondary drowning" (also called submersion injuries) are often used interchangeably -- even by some experts -- but they're actually different conditions. In dry drowning, someone takes in a small amount of water through his or her nose and/or mouth, and it causes a spasm in the airway, causing it to close up. In secondary drowning, the little bit of water gets into the lungs and causes inflammation or swelling that makes it difficult or impossible for the body to transfer oxygen to carbon dioxide and vice versa. Dry drowning usually happens soon after exiting the water, but with secondary drowning, there can be a delay of up to 24 hours before the person shows signs of distress. Both can cause trouble breathing and, in worst-case scenarios, death. Rest assured: Dry drowning and secondary drowning incidents, while incredibly scary, are rare and account for only about 1 to 2 percent of drowning incidents. There are no specific stats on how many kids die each year from these types of submersion injuries, but it's very few in reports noted. The good news is, dry drowning or secondary drowning (submersion injury) doesn't happen out of nowhere. No matter your child's age, be on the lookout for: Water rescue. Any child pulled from the pool needs medical attention at the very least, call your pediatrician. Coughing. Persistent coughing or coughing associated with increased work of breathing needs to be evaluated. Increased "work of breathing." Rapid shallow breathing, nostril flaring, or where you can see between the child's ribs or the gap above their collarbone when they breathe, means they're working harder to breathe than normal. This is a sign that you should seek medical help immediately. Sleepiness. Your kid was just excitedly playing in the pool, and now she's fatigued? It could mean not enough oxygen is getting into to her blood. Don't put her to bed until her doctor gives you the go-ahead. Forgetfulness or change in behavior. Similarly, a dip in oxygen level could cause your child to feel sick or woozy. Throwing up. Vomiting is a sign of stress from the body as a result of the inflammation and sometimes a lack of oxygen, also from persistent coughing and gagging. Any time you're concerned about your child and think he could have symptoms of dry or secondary drowning, whether you're in your backyard pool or on a beach vacation, call the pediatrician right away for advice. Your child's doctor should be able to talk you through it and might advise you to go to the ER, a primary care doctor, or a national urgent care center. But if your child is really struggling to breathe, call 911 and/or head to the emergency room right away. Necessary treatment may not be available in settings other than the ER. Treatment for submersion injury depends on the severity of the patient's symptoms. The doctor will check the child's vital signs, oxygen level, and work of breathing. Patients with more mild symptoms just need careful observation, in more serious cases, the doctor may also do a chest x-ray or give him oxygen. In cases of respiratory failure, or when a child can no longer breath on their own, extra support is needed -- such as intubating or putting the child on a ventilator -- but that's very rare. The goal will be to increase blood flow in the lungs and get the child breathing well again. Prevention is the same for dry drowning and secondary drowning as it is for any other kind of drowning: Swim lessons. Kids who are comfortable and skilled at moving around in the water are less likely to go under and take in water. Around age 4 is a good time to start. Supervision. Monitor kids closely in and around the water, and enforce pool safety rules. Water safety measures. Children should wear floatation devices on boats; pools should have four-sided fencing around them; and you should never leave standing water where a child could get into it. As long as you practice water safety, pay close attention to your kids after swimming, and get them checked out if you notice any signs of trouble breathing, you shouldn't have to constantly stress about dry drowning or secondary drowning.



204 E Kelley Street. Sylvester, GA 31791





Cheers, Dance, Jumps, Tumbling, and more... taught by our WCMS Spirit Cheerleaders & Coach

June 18, 2022 **9AM-2PM*** *1:30PM Participants **Show their Skills**

Grades PreK - 8th Registration begins at 8:30am on day of event

Location: WCMS Gym

Wear white top, black bottoms, & sneakers \$20 per participant

Snack & Certificate provided

Ouestions? Email Coach Bodiford: kbodiford@worthschools.net

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South Georgia Produce Going Worldwide

South Georgia watermelons are heading to Dubai and muscadines to Taiwan thanks to the marketing efforts of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, its domestic trade director told the Tifton Rotary Club on Wednesday. Sarah Cook told Rotarians that she traveled to Dubai in February to visit the world's largest food trade show. "Dubai is a city in a desert where they cannot grow enough food to supply their population," she said. "They are happy to pay \$7 a pound for watermelons that are flown over to the Gulf area." They will pay top dollars for premium watermelons, she said. "The commissioner always says, 'Agriculture makes Georgians' lives better," she said, referring to state Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black. "Whether you're a farmer or not, you benefit from agriculture, and it's our state's No. 1 industry. "We have a \$69 billion economic impact on the state. Everyone is eating, everyone is clothed, everyone is sheltered, everyone is fueled; that is due, in large part, to our farmers here in Georgia." Cook said that in "two-thirds of Georgia counties, agriculture is the first- or second-largest employer. There's a great chance if you're not in agriculture that a family member is or benefits from that commerce." Tift County is the 10th-largest vegetable producing county in the state. "We have \$200 million worth of produce grown here in Tift County. It's in the top 10% of all ag production in the state." Cook works in the agriculture department's marketing division, whose job is to promote Georgia agriculture to consumers in the state, country, and around the world. One of those ways is the Georgia Grown program, she said. Cook has been involved with the Georgia Grown initiative since its inception about 12 years ago. For the first eight years, the initiative's purpose was to encourage Georgia residents to buy Georgia-grown products to support local producers. "We encourage every Georgian who makes \$75,000 to spend \$10 a week on Georgia Grown products. If we did that, we'd have a \$5.5 million economic impact in our state," she said. Even if Georgians only purchased Georgia-grown products, there is still a surplus, so the marketing focus is extending throughout the nation and globe. Through the domestic marketing program, Cook attends 13 trade shows across the U.S. to get producers in front of key buyers, such as supermarkets. "We've had a lot of success in the past four years getting on the shelves of Publix, Whole Foods, Kroger and others. "Even still, we have an abundance of production," Cook said. "Georgia is very positively located internationally. We have access to two international ports." For the past two and a half years, Cook has been working to get Georgia products to international buyers. "We have been able to host international virtual trade shows in my home office upstairs," Cook said. From her home in Coverdell, she has been able to connect a farmer in Wray with buyers in Taiwan for his muscadines. She is also working to bring international buyers to South Georgia. Recently, she brought Canadian buyers to Tifton, and next week Indian and Taiwanese buyers are coming to see South Georgia produce. She said Georgia Grown.com has a product locator to see where people can buy specific local products, such as crooked-neck squash.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

Project Appleseed 2022 Tour

is coming to

Martin, GA

Red Hill Range 2208 Toms Creek Rd

Marksmanship and History Events

April 2-3, April 16, May 14, May 15, June 12, September 10-11, November 5, November 6

Events start at 08:30. Please arrive early to allow time for setup and sign in.

Heritage

- The Debt We Owe To Our Forefathers
- The Duty We Owe To Our Posterity
- · The Story Of Our Nation's Birth
- The Lessons Of April 19, 1775.

&

<u>Marksmanship</u>

- New Shooters Learn fundamentals and make quick progress
- Experienced Shooters learn new techniques
- Experts polish skills and become an RWVA Instructor in Training
- · Master the Riflemans Quarter Mile

Project Appleseed is a nationwide program that teaches rifle marksmanship skills that have been passed down from generation to generation and reconnects Americans with the people and events of colonial America. Participants are taught skills that allow a Rifleman to be accurate out to 500 yards using a standard rifle with iron sights. This ability is traditionally known as mastering the 'Rifleman's Quarter Mile' and is an American tradition that has been part of this nation from its very first days. So join us and hear some little-known Revolutionary War history, reaffirm your heritage, and make America a better place.

Learn More, Find Directions and Register at: www.appleseedinfo.org/search-states-location.php?locationid=755

For more information contact: GA State Coordinator GA@appleseedinfo.org

Attendees are responsible for determining applicable firearms laws.

Sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association, a 501(c)(3) organization



https://appleseedinfo.org/

For Immediate Release

Project Appleseed Rimfire Pistol Clinic Offered at Red Hill Range in Martin, Georgia – June 12th (One Day Event)

In today's world of 24-hour news cycles, changing technologies and push-button gratification it is a challenge to stay connected to the values that our great country was built on. Ideals such as integrity, commitment and personal responsibility are what founding fathers relied on to win our independence and to then make America a great nation. At Project Appleseed™, we are dedicated to keeping these timeless values alive. We promote civic responsibility through the teaching of colonial history and the American traditions of rifle marksmanship. Even after all of these years, there is much to be learned from our forefathers' examples of perseverance, commitment and civic virtue. With a full calendar of shooting clinics and events Project Appleseed™ is here to make sure these timeless principles live on for generations to come.

The cost for our one day pistol clinics is \$75 for adults. No youth allowed. There are discounts for law enforcement, active and retired military and guard and more*. And just a \$10 range fee per day.

Project Appleseed™ is a fast-growing, 501(c) (3) non-profit educational community of dedicated volunteers.

The Project Appleseed pistol marksmanship clinic will be held on June 12th at Red Hill Range, at 2208 Toms Creek Rd, Martin, GA 30557.

Registration begins at 8am. The clinic starts at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m.

We are pleased to offer Appleseed Pistol Clinics. Our pistol clinic is a fun challenge for everyone, even those who have qualified with pistols in other programs. The program is beneficial for folks who have no pistol experience or have some experience shooting pistols but want more instruction on use for personal defense. It can be offered on either indoor or outdoor ranges depending on location. This class focuses on defensive techniques such as rapid target acquisition and engaging multiple targets but stops short of teaching drawing from the holster and firing. It's a challenging course of fire and we think it's a lot of fun. Although most locations permit pistols of any caliber, many shooters choose to bring a .22 caliber pistol for initial instruction and for practice. Of course, an Appleseed Pistol Clinic includes history. The history shared will include stories you won't hear at traditional 25m and KD events.

Please bring your own ear/eye protection, a rifle with sling, ammunition, rifle mat, bug repellent, hat, sunscreen, a packed lunch, snacks, drinks, and plenty of water to stay hydrated.

To register online, go to <u>www.appleseedinfo.org</u>. Or for more information, contact the Georgia State Coordinator, <u>GA@appleseedinfo.org</u>.

TRMC Opens Chest Pain Unit



On Wednesday, June 1, a new Chest Pain Unit (CPU) opens at Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC) on the first floor of the recently opened patient tower. The new unit is a seven-bed observational unit specializing in evaluating and caring for patients who come to the ER with acute chest pain and are considered at a low-to-intermediate risk of a heart attack. While in the CPU, patients will receive ECG monitoring, cardiac biomarker testing, and other diagnostic tests. The unit will work closely with the Emergency Department and the Heart and Vascular Center to provide streamlined care to reduce inpatient admissions, decrease length of stay, decrease healthcare cost, and improve patient satisfaction, TRMC said. "We are excited about this new unit and the possibilities it offers for an improved patient experience," said CPU Nurse Manager Eric Morris. "This will help take some of the burden off our Emergency Department and may improve ER wait times. This can also help lower the amount of people we have to admit as inpatients, which will, in turn, decrease length of stay."

Source: Tifton Grapevine



Events, Dining, Shopping... SMALL TOWN with loads of SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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Think Tifton

ThinkTiftonGA

Tifton To Honor Col. Ralph Puckett, Mark City's 150th



Friday, July 1, will be a big day of celebration in Tifton. Not only will the city be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding with a birthday cake and fireworks that evening, but the day will also be Col. Ralph Puckett Jr. Day honoring Tifton's recent recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Puckett, 95, a Tifton native who resides in Columbus, is scheduled to be present as he is honored at 11 a.m. with a city proclamation, a key to the city, and a Tifton street named in his honor. The public is invited to attend the ceremony at Tifton's First United Methodist Church. As he arrives in town from the Henry Tift Myers Airport, local folks are encouraged to line Main Street waving flags and signs. Puckett, an Army Ranger legend, was honored with the Medal of Honor by the president at the White House last year for heroics during the Korean War, fighting alongside his soldiers as they were severely outnumbered 10 to one during six assaults by enemy troops. Puckett was injured multiple times but refused to leave his men. While the Puckett observance will be in the morning of July 1, Tifton will continue celebrating that evening with a "Rock the Block" event from 6-10 p.m. with live music, food, drinks, a water slide, a city birthday cake, and fireworks. Other sesquicentennial events are being planned for later in the year.



Events, Dining, Shopping...

SMALL TOWN with loads of

Source: Tifton Grapevine

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

visit us at TiftonTourism.com





Think Tifton Th

Sylvester's 2nd Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

Where:

Worth County Ag Pavillion

When:

June 11, 2022 Gates open at 10am

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

We will also have a special guest performing at the event!

Details to come!

Classics, Jeeps & Bike Show Entry Fee: Early \$20 Late \$25

There will be several entry categories including Oldest & Overall Favorite

For more info. contact Emma Lynn (229)449-4568 or Cody Humphrey (229)376-4426

Big ticket raffle items

AUCTION

All proceeds will be donated to Jon's Mission for

22

50/50 Raffle

Thursday the Ken Scott Comedy Magic Show was held at the Margaret Jones Public Library and they had a full house. They had 254 come out for the magic show! How amazing is that? They all enjoyed Ken Scott and Croco The Ken Scott Comedy Magic Show was part of the Summer program at the Margaret Jones Public Library. Be sure to check out the Margaret Jones Public Library Facebook page for all the events planned this summer.

Photo Credit: MJPL





Proud Sponsor of This Weeks' SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS!



2022 SCHEDULE

Dates to Remember

June

6th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Tifton Day Reporting Center 11am-4pm 6th ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 6pm

6th ~ Sail Away Paint Party at Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm

7th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Albany Technical College 10:30am-3:30pm 7th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at US 19 Church of Christ in Albany 1pm-6pm

7th ~ Summer Stem Camp 9am-3:30pm

7th ~ Self Defense Class 6pm

7th ~ Worth County Commissioners Meeting 7pm

7th ~ Trivia Tuesday's at Pretoria Fields 7pm - 9pm

8th ~ Summer Stem Camp 9am-330pm

8th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon

8th ~ Brews & Bingo at Pretoria Fields 7pm-9pm

9th ~ Animal Bingo at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm

9th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Byne Memorial Baptist Church 2pm-7pm

9th ~ Summer Stem Camp 9am-3:30pm

9th ~ BFHS Monthly Meeting 6:30pm 9th ~ Board of Education Meeting 7pm

10th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Tift Area Conference Center 2pm - 7pm

10th ~ Sip & Stroll in Downtown Sylvester 5pm-7pm

10th ~ The Tams in Concert in Downtown Sylvester 7pm

11th ~ Sylvester 2nd Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Event

11th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Teresa's Catholic Church 9am-2pm

13th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Porterfield UMC - Albany Noon - 5pm

13th ~ Doc Magic Fun Time Variety Show at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm

13th ~ Town of Sumner Council Meeting 7pm

14th ~ BFHS Bingo Night at Ed's 6pm-8pm

14th ~ Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm

14th ~ Trivia Tuesday's at Pretoria Fields 7pm - 9pm

15th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon

15th ~ Brews & Bingo at Pretoria Fields 7pm-9pm

16th ~ Books & Brushes at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm

20th ~ City of Sylvester Council Meeting 6pm

21st ~ 4-H2O Camp

21st ~ Margaret Jones Public Library June Book Club Meeting 5:30pm

21st ~ Warwick Meeting 7pm

21st ~ Trivia Tuesday's at Pretoria Fields 7pm - 9pm

22nd ~ 4H2O Camp

22nd ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon

22nd ~ Animal Tales at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm

22nd ~ Brews & Bingo at Pretoria Fields 7pm-9pm

23rd ~ 4H2O Camp

23rd ~ AARP Safe Driver Course 9am - 4pm

23rd ~ Travis Tritt at Albany Civic Center

28th ~ Sea Mobile at Margaret Jones Public Library 10am

28th ~ Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm

28th ~ Trivia Tuesday's at Pretoria Fields 7pm - 9pm

29th ~ Kiwanis Meeting at Noon

29th ~ Brews & Bingo at Pretoria Fields 7pm-9pm

30th ~ Ocean in a Jar at Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm



Summer reading through your library can prevent the summer learning slide and help your kids be ready for school in the fall. Reading just 15 minutes per day is all it takes.

Pick up a book tracker to record your books read this summer and earn great prizes.

Earn prizes for books read

Picture Book Readers

Read 10 books = Pencil
Read 20 books = Paint
Sheet
Read 30 books = Bubbles
Read 40 books = Clownfish
Launcher
Read 50 books = Submarine
& Luau Party Ticket

Chapter Book Readers

Read 5 books = Magnetic
Bookmark
Read 10 books = Cup
Read 15 books = Hi-Bounce Ball
Read 20 books = Clownfish
Launcher
Read 25 books = Ocean Animal

Squish & Luau Party Ticket

Teen Readers

Read 10 books =
Canvas Bag & Luau
Party Ticket.
Every 10 books
read earns a
chance in the
grand prize drawing

Adult Readers

Read 10 books =
Canvas Bag
Every 10 books
read earns a
chance in the
grand prize
drawing



Join us at our Finale Luau Party at the Sylvester Splash Pad on July 14 at 2 pm By ticket only



Attend Fun Programs for the Whole Family

May 20 - June 2: Scholastic Book Fair

Books & Bubbles on Tuesdays at 10 am

June 2: Ken Scott Magic Show at 2 pm

June 9: Stuffed Animal Bingo at 2 pm

June 13: Doc Magic Fun Time Show at 2 pm

June 16: Books & Brushes - Mermaid at 2 pm

June 22: Animal Tales at 2 pm

June 28: SeaMobile 10 am - 4 pm

June 30: Ocean in a Jar at 2 pm

July 7: Books & Brushes - Mister Seahorse at 2 pm

July 11: Sand Art & Storytime at 2 pm

July 14: Luau Party at 2 pm - ticket required!

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digital library with
your library card!



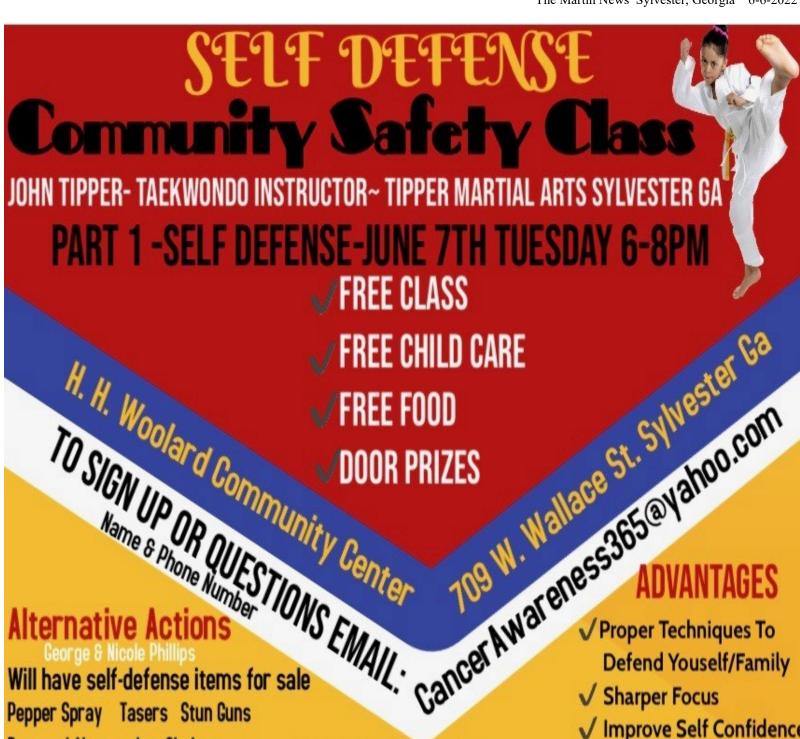
Anything you read counts toward your reading goal.
Print books, audio books, magazines, eBooks, or comic books.
Just read whatever you like to earn a prize.

Borrow ebooks & audiobooks



Titles for 5th grade to adults

Titles for pre-k to 4th grade



Will have self-defense items for sale

Pepper Spray Tasers Stun Guns

Personal Alarms key Chains

Organized By:

Sharon Lyles & Don Whitaker CancerAwareness365 Worth Co. Sherriff

"CancerAwareness365" Sharon Lyles

Spowsor's Family Connections The Martin News Lisa Dylinski

Lynn Meeks Manley

- Defend Youself/Family
- √ Improve Self Confidence
- √ practical Self Defense



Part 2-Gun Safety Class (TBA)- Participants Of Part 1 will be given priority slots.

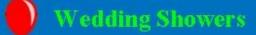


AARP Smart Driver Safety Course

AARP Smart Drivers Class will be offered
Thursday, June 23, 2022
9 am to 4 pm with lunch on your own
at Margaret Jones Public Library
205 East Pope Street, Sylvester, GA
Cost \$25 for non-members
\$20 for AARP members
Register by calling 229-776-2096

- Approved for drivers beginning at 16 years of age with valid driver's license, if accompanied by adult. Younger drivers should check with their insurance company to confirm whether the discount will apply before taking the class.
- Each class provides 6 hours of instruction.
- Automobile insurance discount is available for drivers who have had no moving violations or at fault claims for the past three years.
- Certificate for three years is provided when class has been completed. You must turn your certificate into your automobile insurance company for discount to apply.







Weddings



Single Balloon Orders



Baby Showers



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The TAMS have performed with well-known entertainers including Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Four Tops, Pattie LaBelle, Gladys Knight and The Pips just to name a few.

Concert Scheduled To Follow The Sip & Stroll

It's the moment we've all been waiting for... Sip & Stroll time! Many of us love the Sip & Strolls in Sylvester. Sip & Stroll is held in Downtown Sylvester on Friday, June 10th starting at 5pm and will last until 7pm. After you are finished there just hop right on over to the Downtown Concert that will be held at the Depot from 7pm until 10pm. If you have not been to a Sip & Stroll, it is so much fun. Many of the stores will be open late and will serve snacks and drinks for you to enjoy! Be sure to follow the Sylvester Main Street Facebook Page where Mrs. Karen Singletary will update during the week of which businesses are participating and the different things they are offering. Be sure to visit one of the restaurants downtown for dinner as well. Hope to see you all on Friday!



Reading Over The Summer Break

Help your child stay engaged and learning during summer break! Join the Margaret Jones Public Library for Books and Bubbles every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am. Reading over summer vacation may not be a priority for children, but parents and teachers should make it one. Why? Summer reading is critical to a child's ability to not only retain information learned the previous year, but also to grow in knowledge and critical thinking skills for the coming year. Literacy experts believe that it is necessary for children to read on a daily basis in order to maintain literacy skills learned in the previous school year. Be sure to follow the Margaret Jones Public Library Facebook page for all of their events this Summer and during the school year. They will be glad to help you and to see your family this Summer.

Photo Credit: MJPL



FRIDAY NIGHTS IN JUNE & JULY



The OPAL Project Plans To Serve Those With Special Needs in Sylvester and Worth County



We are always excited when new organizations become a part of the Worth County Community! The OPAL Project is now a part of our community, and we welcome them and want to tell you a little more about them. The OPAL Project is a nonprofit organization to help those with special needs.

The OPAL Project was started by Mrs. Jakin Tillery and Ms. Nicole Braswell. They wanted the words "opportunity" and "purpose" to be in the name since this is the big focus for their participants. Ms. Braswell stated she was driving home one day, and the word opal came to mind. "I started to think about how the opal is such a unique gemstone just like many of our individuals with special needs; different but beautiful" explained Ms. Braswell "From there we created the acronym for OPAL-Opportunity, Purpose, Abundant Living." They felt that this embodies their whole mission statement. Helping individuals with special needs discover their purpose through opportunities that lead to an abundant life is the goals that Mrs. Tillery and Ms. Braswell have set.

The ladies have both taught special education for several years. Ms. Braswell has taught school for eight years and Mrs. Tillery has taught school for six years. Over the years they have noticed a need for re-

sources for their students after they exited high school. Many of their students were graduating and just going home because there was nowhere for them to transition to. Many times, this results in loss of valuable skills and a lack of socialization. The closest day centers are in Albany and Moultrie. Many of them have waiting lists and some are not able to manage specific behavioral needs that the individuals with special needs may exhibit. The more Ms. Braswell and Mrs. Tillery talked about these needs in their community the more we felt led to do something about it.

The OPAL Project will be located at the Shipp Senior Center building in Sylvester. They plan to begin their summer camp, Camp OPAL, on June 20th. It will run through July 15th, Monday – Friday from 8am to 3pm. Their day program is expected to begin in August and will be Monday through Friday, 8am to 3pm. Camp OPAL, which will run much like their day program for their adults with special needs, will include a variety of activities that focus on providing the participants with opportunities to socialize with their peers, be a part of the community, and learn independent living skills. If you visit the center, you may see participants doing crafts, exercising, participating in cooking activities, practicing cleaning skills, enjoying their individual hobbies, practicing how to make a grocery list, learning to budget for their monthly expenses, or even enjoying a Zumba lesson. If the group is not at the center, it is because they are participating in a community outing. They plan to volunteer at Best Friends Humane Society, local churches and the community garden, eat lunch at local restaurants, practice washing clothes at the laundromat, and learn how to appropriately utilize community resources such as grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, the courthouse, etc. Mrs. Tillery and Ms. Braswell also wants to educate individuals with special needs and their caregivers about resources such as the state funded Medicaid Waiver, Vocational Rehabilitation services, and supported living opportunities. The ladies also have a few special visitors scheduled to lead an activity with their campers. If someone is interested in leading an educational presentation or activity with their participants they can email them to find out more information. They also have plans to host support groups for parents and caregivers to discuss a variety of topics and concerns. There will more info on how to sign up for a group coming soon and it will be available on their Facebook Page, The OPAL Project. Mrs. Tillery and Ms. Braswell would also like to host informational sessions with some of our local first responders. Their hope is to provide our police officers, paramedics, and firefighters with helpful tools to build relationships with individuals with special needs as well as with their families and caregivers. Camp OPAL is for individuals with disabilities 16 and up. The Day Center is for adults with disabilities ages 18 and older. The Respite Events are for individuals with special needs of all ages and their siblings.

As a community, we all want to help when and where we can. When asked, the ladies explained that the most important thing the community can do for the OPAL Project right now is spread the word about what they are doing. There are individuals throughout our community that may benefit from their services and the best way Mrs. Tillery and Ms. Braswell can reach them is through word of mouth from our community members. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, most of their funding will come through donations and grants. If anyone would like more information on how to donate or become an OPAL Sponsor, they can reach out to the ladies via email at theopalproject.ga@gmail.com. Mrs. Tillery and Ms. Braswell would love to talk to you more about their organization.



SATURDAY

JULY 9TH

- >BOUNCY HOUSES
- >WATER SLIDES
- >FACE PAINTING
- >SACK RACING
- >LIVE DJ
- >KICKBALL TOURNAMENT
- >FIREWORK SHOW AT THE END

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (229) 272. 4356 (MS. LYNN)

JUSTIN M. LUCAS-C.E.O>>>>>NYKEMIUS J. HAMILTON SR. C.O.O



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