



The Martin News

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July 13, 2020

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First Baptist Church Provides Lunch to Sylvester Police Department



Doing for others is always a wonderful thing and that is exactly what First Baptist Church of Sylvester did. They recently provided the Sylvester Police Department with lunch. The members at First Baptist Church went a step further by leaving a positive message on each plate. The Police Department stated that they appreciate all those who supports them and will continue to serve and protect the city of Sylvester. In a world with so much uncertainty, be the one the gives a smile and a helping hand. We live in an awesome community of Sylvester and Worth County.



Colleges To Require Face Masks As COVID-19 Cases Surpass 100,000 In State



The University System of Georgia (USG) has backtracked and now will require everyone to wear face masks in campus buildings at public colleges and universities as students return to campuses for the fall term. Meanwhile, confirmed coronavirus cases surpassed 100,000 on Tuesday in Georgia and reached nearly 900 cases in Tift County, say health officials. And as cases continue to rise in the Peach State, Gov. Brian P. Kemp has begun a safety campaign to remind Georgia businesses and the public of the importance of following COVID-19 safety guidelines. After initially declining to mandate face masks on campuses, the USG announced late Monday that, effective July 15, all USG institutions will require "all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible."

The university system said masks are not required in one's own dorm room, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. The move is an acknowledgment that COVID-19 remains widespread in the state. A total of 3,406 additional cases were reported Tuesday in Georgia, bringing the statewide total to 100,470, according to the Ga. Department of Public Health (DPH). As of Tuesday afternoon, the state reported 2,899 deaths related to the coronavirus, with hospitalizations totaling 12,226. Tift County reported a total of 892 positive cases, 26 deaths and 113 hospitalizations as of Tuesday. The number of cases in Tift grew by 142 in the past week, the DPH reported. On Monday, the governor kicked off his "Georgia Safety Promise" campaign, which Kemp called a "pledge between business owners and the public to join together to maintain a safe environment following Georgia Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines." The campaign asks Georgians to commit to wearing face masks, to social distance, to wash hands frequently and to sanitize surfaces – and to promote their commitment on social media and in businesses around the state.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

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Articles That Make Your Mind Go Back In Time

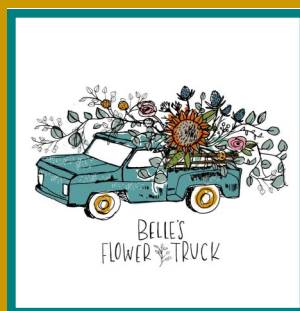
So I don't know if you all saw recently an article about clothes patterns but there has been just over 83,000 clothes patterns that have been put online for downloading. Boy when I read that, the memories started flowing. I can remember when both of my grandmothers, Louise Dupree and Lorene Meeks, would sew and quilt. I always wanted to. To be like your grandmothers when I was little was someone everyone wanted to be. I can remember one time Granny Dupree was going to help me to learn how to piece a quilt together before the quilting process. I learned to cut the patterns. She used a card board box to cut a square design to follow then you used your cloth material scissors which was the scissors only used to cut material and nothing else. I would cut material and then learn to sew each square together. I just never got as far as I needed. She would always show me how to do things. Now about those scissors.... She meant business! You were not to cut anything but cloth material and if you did you were in BIG trouble. And please don't think you could cut paper with them and not get caught.. WRONG! I got caught every time! She didn't even have to see you do it. She could tell by the way the scissors cut. I definitely miss the good ole days of being young and learning from my grandmothers. Now even though I did not learn to sew or quilt, I do have all those memories of spending time with them and watching them sew and quilt. Sharing those memories with others make those times wonderful to remember.



GEORGIA AGRICULTURE BINGO

Take a picture of you doing the activity then color in the box so you know you completed that activity. When you have BINGO (5 across, down or diagonally) you will receive a bookmark that will tell you how to enter to win a prize from Georgia Farm Bureau. Each BINGO is an additional entry!

 Plant a flower seed that is beneficial to pollinators. Visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Flower for plant suggestions.	 Listen to the book "Right This Very Minute" on Youtube. https://gfb.org/Bingo-RVM	 Create a sign thanking farmers for producing your food, then post a picture of you holding the sign on social media using #GeorgiaFarmBureau and/or tagging @friends of Georgia Farm Bureau on Facebook.	 Eat your favorite Georgia grown vegetable. (GA ranks 3rd in the nation in fresh market sweet corn production.)	 Science Activity: Compost in a Bag. For directions visit: https://gfb.org/Bingo-Compost
 Read a book under a tree. (GA's forested land covers about two-thirds of the State's 57.1 million acres, about 24.8 million acres.)	 Go on a picnic for lunch that includes a Georgia grown commodity. (Georgia is 1st in the nation in peanut production.)	 Color a commodity coloring page from GFB. To find a page visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Coloring	 Plant a vegetable. Visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Vegetables to learn how to plant a vegetable garden.	 STEM Challenge-build a barn using toothpicks and marshmallows. For directions visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Marshmallow
 Eat your favorite Georgia grown fruit. (Georgia ranks 3rd in the nation in watermelon production.)	 Dig for earthworms. (Earthworms help improve soil structure, and they create tunnels in the soil for air, water, and plant roots.)	FREE SPACE	 Find a bee outside and/or watch a video. For the video visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Bee . (Bees are responsible for 1 in every 3 bites of food we eat.)	 Make a no bake recipe. Visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Recipes to find lots of recipes!
 Help make supper with a Georgia grown commodity. (Cattle are raised in all 159 counties of GA. 1 cow will provide over 400 lbs of beef.)	 Draw your favorite farm animal. (3 out of 4 counties in GA are involved in poultry and GA ranks 1st in the nation for broiler production.)	 Play an educational online farm game. Visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-Games to find a game.	 Play outside. (Kids and teens should get at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily.)	 Eat your favorite dairy product. (GA currently has over 120 dairy farms and is home to over 72,000 dairy cows.)
 Go to the grocery store and find a GA or American grown fruit or vegetable.	 Visit a Certified Farm Market. Visit https://gfb.org/Bingo-CFM to find a CFM near you.	 Look at the tags inside your shirts to find one that is 100% cotton and wear it. (Georgia ranks 2nd in the nation in cotton production.)	 Write a letter to your family or friends. (Georgia ranks 1st in the nation in annual timber harvest volume.)	 Help make breakfast with a Georgia grown commodity. (Georgia ranks 5th in the nation in table egg production.)



**Belle's
Flower Truck**
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Tifton's flower truck located at Espresso 41 offers fresh cut flowers.

Pick your own or they will create a custom bouquet for you!

Need arrangements for your special event, give Belle's a call!



Bingo with our friends at the Georgia Farm Bureau is going on all summer long. When kids complete a "bingo" (vertical, horizontal, diagonal), they earn the chance to win a FREE age appropriate book from the Farm Bureau. More information can be found here https://www.gfb.org/ag-in-the-classroom/other_contests.cms.

Source: Margaret Jones Public Library

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Staying Safe in the Heat this Summer

With this South Georgia humidity and heat, you can never get too much education on this topic! Extreme heat is defined as summertime temperatures that are much hotter and/or humid than average. Because some places are hotter than others, this depends on what's considered average for a particular location at that time of year. Humid and muggy conditions can make it seem hotter than it really is. Heat-related illnesses, like heat exhaustion or heat stroke, happen when the body is not able to properly cool itself. While the body normally cools itself by sweating, during extreme heat, this might not be enough. In these cases, a person's body temperature rises faster than it can cool itself down. This can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs. Some factors that might increase your risk of developing a heat-related illness include: High levels of humidity, Obesity, Fever, Dehydration, Prescription drug use, Heart disease, Mental illness, Poor circulation, Sunburn and Alcohol use. Older adults, the very young, and people with mental illness and chronic diseases are at highest risk. However, even young and healthy people can be affected if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. Summertime activity, whether on the playing field or the construction site, must be balanced with actions that help the body cool itself to prevent heat-related illness. Use this website to learn more on how to stay safe in the heat this summer, including how to prevent, recognize, and cope with heat-related illness. Stay safe this hot summer.

WARNING: Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 7 after Jan 14th.

But don't throw your current computer out just yet! Windows 10 will probably work on it just fine as-is or with a couple easy upgrades.

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Tift Schools Open Aug. 3 - But How? Officials Plan For Various Scenarios



Tift County Schools plan to open on time Aug. 3, but as Superintendent Adam Hathaway told the Board of Education recently, officials are still working "to see what that is going to look like." "Gov. (Brian) Kemp has not given approval to start back yet" with face-to-face instruction, Tift County Schools spokesman Jonathan Judy told the Tifton Grapevine on Monday. The school system is operating under three scenarios involving possible community spread of the coronavirus, as determined by state and local health officials: Levels Green, Yellow and Red. **Level Green** (low/no spread) means schools are open and will run in a traditional manner following proper precautions. **Level Red** (substantial spread) would mean that all schools and facilities are closed with all

students, faculty and staff working from home. **Level Yellow** (minimal/moderate spread) is still being determined for Tift County Schools. The school system has been surveying parents for possible scenarios involving a combination of physical and online instruction, and/or staggered daily schedules and separated classrooms. "Feedback from the survey will be used to assist us in developing the plan," Judy said. There have been more than 3,000 responses to the survey. "We're working as if Aug. 3 is going to be Green," Judy said. "We're planning to start school normally, but also getting ready for Yellow and Red; we plan on starting school with three different options." But Judy added: "We are waiting on the state to give us guidelines. We still have a month where anything can happen."

Source: Tifton Grapevine



American Dairy Science Group Honors Dairy Cattle Expert At UGA Tifton

University of Georgia animal and dairy science Professor John Bernard of Tifton has been named the winner of the 2020 Nutrition Professionals Inc. Applied Dairy Nutrition Award from the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA). Bernard, who joined the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Department of Animal and Dairy Science on the UGA Tifton campus in 1998, is an expert in the nutrition and management of dairy cattle. His work focuses on improving nutritive efficiency, profitability and cow comfort. "It is an honor to be selected as the recipient of the Nutrition Professionals Inc. Applied Dairy Nutrition Award, especially when I look at the list of previous recipients. During my 32-plus-year career, I have been fortunate to be able to conduct applied research and contribute to our understanding of dairy nutrition," Bernard said. Bernard's research involves improving the use of nutrients provided by forages and by-product feeds in dairy rations. Current projects involve using winter annual and perennial grass for lactating dairy cows, enhancing the use and digestibility of whole cottonseed and other by-product feeds, studying protein and amino acid metabolism by lactating dairy cows, and reducing heat stress. "Dr. Bernard's background and training prepared him perfectly for the work for which he is now recognized. Growing up on and then managing his own dairy farm, working as a field agent for a major dairy cooperative, excellently trained at the University of Georgia in applied nutrition, John is definitely the dairyman's scientist as he truly understands their needs," said Francis Fluharty, animal and dairy science department head.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

think TIFTON

This Page Brought To You By:

A stylized logo for the Tifton - Tift Co. Tourism Association. It features a large, colorful, textured 'TIFTON' where the 'T' is green, 'I' is red, 'F' is orange, 'T' is yellow-green, and 'ON' is orange. A stylized sun with rays is positioned behind the 'T' and 'F', and a green road with white lines curves from the bottom left towards the sun.

TIFTON - TIFT CO. TOURISM ASSOCIATION



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Thank you for your loyalty. We appreciate

Each School Will Have Their Own Facebook Page

With school starting right around the corner, we are excited to announce that each school will have their own Facebook page again this year. Please be sure to like each page of the school where you have children going so you do not miss out anything. This will be a great way of keeping up with all events and important announcements pertaining to your children.

School News

WCPS

The school supply list should be ready by the end of this week, July 17th. Worth Count Primary will host an in person Open House for all grades utilizing social distancing and exterior classroom doors on a date TBD.

WCES

The school supply list for the new school year is ready and posted on the Worth County Elementary School Facebook page. Worth County Elementary School will have in person Open House for all 3rd graders and 4th and 5th graders who will be new to WCES on a date TBD.

WCMS

The school supply list for the new school year is ready and posted on the Worth County Middle School Facebook page. Worth County Middle School will have an Open House for all 6th graders on a date TBD.

WCMS

Worth County High School will host an Open House for 9th graders and 10th – 12th graders who will be new to WCMS in person on a date to be determined (TBD). Worth County Achievement Center will hold an in person Open House on a date TBD. The BE KIND t-shirts that were sold prior to school being closed will be available for pickup July 28th at 10:00 AM in front of Worth County High School. Shirts that are not picked up will be sent home with students or given to staff once school returns.

So much fun was had recently at the Margaret Jones Public Library T-Rex Tea Party. It was Dino-mite. The staff and families has such a good time. Be sure to check the Margaret Jones Public Library Facebook Page out for all upcoming events.



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of This Weeks'
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Guns and Hoses Event Has Been Postponed



The Sylvester Police Department is saddened to announce their Guns and Hoses event that was scheduled for July 18th have been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19. They all were looking forward to this event but everyone's safety is top priority. They are looking to push the event to September in hopes of Covid-19 not having an impact. To all of their vendors that were going to participate, the Police Department will keep in contact with you all and once they come up with another date they will reach out to you all. Covid-19 may postpone their event but they will not allow Covid to completely cancel the event. Thank you to those who have

been supporting this event and helping promote it. Stay tuned to the Sylvester Police Department Facebook page for updated information on the event as well as your local news sources.



Sylvester, Georgia
229-777-8333

- Available is a 4,000 sq ft gym that includes free weights, cardio equipment, & hydraulic machines
- Offered is Yoga & Fitness classes Monday - Thursday
- You can have 24 access available with purchase of key

FOR ALL THESE GREAT STORIES AND MORE, PLEASE BE SURE TO LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT THE MARTIN NEWS! WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

👋👉 **ATTENTION** 👈👋

● **YARD SALE: Saturday, August 8**
All Proceeds benefit BFHS 🐾💰

● Please donate your gently used items 🛍️📦📚🗄️🧸🪑🖼️🔧🔨

Drop off at the BFHS, on the porch of 505 North Isabella St., or Sylvester Animal Hospital

● Have unwanted furniture in good condition? Call [272.6200](tel:272.6200) for how-to donate

● Interested in volunteering for this event, contact Shelly at [272.6200](tel:272.6200)

● Come shop with us on August 8th and spread the word! 🙋

● **ThAnK yOu FoR yOuR sUpPoRt!**

Message from Dr. Shannon Norfleet, Superintendent
Please read this important message from Worth County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Shannon Norfleet

To all of our RAM families in Worth County,
 Yesterday in a called Board of Education meeting, our board members supported my recommendation to delay the start of school for just a few days to allow for additional preparations for student safety and for additional staff planning and training. I want to thank our board members for allowing us the additional time and for the unwavering support in providing us with what we need to make our children as safe as humanly possible at school. As you may know, it seems that guidelines are shifting constantly, but we are confident that we will open school on August 7, 2020 and will be able to provide meaningful instruction to all of our students. However, there will be many things done differently this school year. We will release the Reopening Plan soon.

Parents will be our first line of defense!

We want our schools to stay open! Please use a thermometer and check your child's temperature every morning. Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature above 99. There are several guidelines that use other temperatures- we are asking you to use 99 as the limit so that we are safer! If your child has any symptoms of cold, flu, or COVID-19 please keep them home; our reopening plan will have detailed guidelines on symptoms. It is highly recommended that each student have a mask with them every day. Students may not be required to wear it at all times, but there will be times when it will be HIGHLY recommended, such as during transition in the hallways.

Attendance

Again, if your child has a fever or symptoms of being sick, keep them home. There will be no awards given this year for perfect attendance. Yes, we believe school attendance is essential; after all, we are opening the schools. However, we want the schools to remain open so, if your child is sick or you even suspect that they may be sick, keep them home. It is our intent to hold students harmless for COVID-19 related absences as much as possible.

Transportation

School buses will be a point of contact where social distancing will be very difficult, if not impossible. I would ask that all parents bring their children to school and pick them up for the foreseeable future if they have the capability. We understand that many parents cannot, so buses will run usual routes. However, please be aware that riding the bus will increase the exposure risk to COVID-19, and we are asking every child who rides the bus to wear a mask or face covering at all times while on the bus.

School Closures Are Likely

Current DPH and CDC guidelines indicate that anyone in close contact with a person who has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 should be quarantined. (More specific details will be in our Reopening Plan.) If we have just a few positive cases in a school, contact tracing and quarantine protocols will likely cause schools to close due to the inherently close contact between students in schools. It is highly likely that a school closure for 14 days will occur within the first few weeks. We hope it doesn't happen, and we need you to do your part and help us keep the schools open!

In The Event of Closures

If a school closure occurs, it will be for two full weeks (14 days). It is our intent that school staff will continue to come to work under social distancing guidelines. We are planning and preparing for each student to be in Google Classroom and at least one other online instructional platform from the beginning of school. Parents will receive many requests for contact information from each teacher. Please send the contact information back as quickly as possible and look for information sent home with students and posted online (school/district websites, Facebook, etc.) regarding how to use online tools and platforms. For those parents and students with internet connectivity concerns, we will have paper options in place for students to take home. Teachers will be on site at school and will be in contact with students and parents to facilitate return of materials and to assist with assignments.

Food service

Food service in each school will be done with safety and social distancing in mind. In the event of a shutdown, it is our intent to continue food service by pick up and possibly multi-point delivery throughout the county. Again, much more information will be shared in our Reopening Plan.

Dress Code and Supply Lists

It is our intent for Dress Codes and Supply Lists to be shared by the schools next week.

Open Houses

Full details, such as dates and times have not yet been set for Open House at each school.

Worth County High School will host an Open House for 9th graders and 10th – 12th graders who will be new to WCHS in person on a date to be determined (TBD).

Worth County Middle School will have an Open House for all 6th graders on a date TBD.

Worth County Elementary School will have in person Open House for all 3rd graders and 4th and 5th graders who will be new to WCES on a date TBD.

Worth Count Primary will host an in person Open House for all grades utilizing social distancing and exterior classroom doors on a date TBD.

Worth County Achievement Center will hold an in person Open House on a date TBD.

Worth Virtual Academy

Virtual learning is not for every child, but it can be great for many. I strongly urge parents to educate themselves prior to selecting this option. Virtual instruction will be via online curriculum through APEX Learning in grades 6-12, and via Edgenuity in grades K-5. Both platforms provide video and animated lessons followed by assignments, quizzes, and tests for students to complete and submit. Students can communicate with a teacher through the platform, but there is no real-time teacher instructing via computer.

See links below for more information:

Grades 6-12 APEX Learning <https://www.apexlearning.com/solutions/virtual-learning>

Grades K-5 Edgenuity <https://www.edgenuity.com/products-and-services/instructional-services/>

We look forward to seeing you soon. Go Rams!

Dr. Shannon Norfleet, Superintendent - Worth County Schools

A Day at the Beach

A trip to the beach can be a fun, relaxing way to spend your summer vacation. Included are some tips to keep your beach trip safe. Obey the signs. Warning flags come in different colors and have different meanings depending on which state you are in. Green flags usually indicate ideal swimming conditions while red flags usually indicate strong current and rough surf. If swimming is permitted during red flag conditions, it is best to swim near a lifeguard station for additional safety. Be prepared for ocean swimming. Ocean swimming is much different than swimming in a pool. There are strong waves, marine life, an uneven ocean floor, and possible sharp shells or rocks. Rip currents often form near piers and therefore swimming near them is not recommended. If you find yourself stuck in a rip current, it is important to swim parallel to the shoreline. Once you are out of the current, turn and swim towards the beach. It is best not to swim alone. If you are just beginning to swim, a life jacket should be worn for added safety. Pack the necessities. The beach gets hot in the summer. It is important to stay hydrated and cool. Some beach necessities include water, a beach umbrella or hat, sandals, sunglasses, sunscreen, a towel and a chair. Heat stroke or exhaustion can occur from too much sun exposure. If you have nausea, dizziness, headache, fatigue, or feel uncomfortable in any way, seek shade and drink water to cool down your body temperature. If symptoms persist, see a medical professional as soon as possible. Be aware of the weather. Check the weather before planning a day at the beach and pay attention to the weather while you are at the beach. Storms can roll in quickly. Thunderstorms with lightening do not mix well with open beach spaces and ocean water. If you are at the beach when a storm comes in, exit the water immediately and seek shelter until the storm passes. Share your day at the beach with your pets. Some beaches allow pets on the beach during certain seasons and some allow them all year long. If pets are allowed on the beach you are visiting, follow the rules allowed by the beach and be sure to clean up afterwards. Bring water to keep your pet hydrated and safe. Following these tips will help to ensure that you have a fun and safe day at the beach! For more information on beach safety, visit www.coastalchange.org.



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