



# Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House Annual Campaign

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**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR ONE: \$20**

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION: \$25**  
**PROGRAM SUPPLIES FOR VICTIM AT THE PATTICAKE HOUSE: \$50**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING: \$50**



**SHELTER ADMISSION FOR ONE ADULT IN SHELTER: \$250**  
**FORENSIC INTERVIEW FOR CHILD ABUSE VICTIM: \$500**

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[www.stopthehurtga.org](http://www.stopthehurtga.org)



Venmo: @ruthscottage\_thepatticakehouse





SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY  
**family connection™**

**STUFF THE BUS EVENT**  
**9:00 AM-6:00 PM TUESDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**PIGGLY WIGGLY PARKING LOT**

Help us **STUFF THE BUS** with much needed school supplies for children and families in need in Worth County

### Most Needed Supplies

- Crayons
- Markers
- #2 Pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Composition Notebooks
- Glue Sticks
- Index Cards
- Highlighters
- Safety Scissors
- 3 Ring Binders





# Worth County Schools 2021-2022 Calendar

Planning (no students)
Holiday (no students or staff)
Last day of 9 weeks

July '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 9/6 Labor Day
- 10/8 & 11 Fall Break
- \*11/11 Veterans Day celebrations will occur at each school.
- 11/22-26 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/17 Early Dismissal
- 12/20-31 Christmas Break
- 1/17 MLK Day
- 2/21 President's Day
- 3/11 & 14 Winter Break
- 4/4-8 Spring Break
- 5/25 Last Day of School
- 5/25 Early Dismissal
- 5/28 Graduation
- 5/30 Memorial Day

Approved 3/18/21





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**(404) 523-3611**

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4100 Atlanta, GA 30308

# RAISE THE STANDARD



*Rams*

VS.



**CAMERON  
MARSHALL**

**8.13 | 7:30 PM  
SYLVESTER, GA**



## **WCHS Competition Cheerleader Mini Cheer Camp**

*July 26<sup>th</sup> - July 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12pm*

*Worth County High School Gym*

*\$45.00/ child by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*\$55.00/ child after June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

### **Are You An Aunt or Uncle?**

### **Where Are Your Driving Thru?**

If you are an aunt or uncle then July 26th is YOUR day! We all know they recognize mothers and fathers but now I see they recognize aunts and uncles. I LOVE being an aunt! I only have two nephews, one is about to turn 21 on Saturday and one is the same age as my son which is 17. Being an aunt is fun because you can spoil them and send them home. I am also an aunt to those that are not related by blood. When I was growing up, for years and years, I use to think I had many aunts and uncles when all in all there was many that we called aunt and uncle that were just very close friends to the family. Aunts and uncles, whether blood related or not, are just an extra set of hands to the parents. They tend to love your children the same as you would all while teaching and guiding them the way you would as well. The Lord knew what he was doing when he added extra people to a child's life. The saying "it's take a village to raise children" stands true maybe even more today than ever.

National Drive Thru Day is Saturday, July 24th. Where will you drive thru on Saturday? Here in Sylvester alone, we have several drive thru places. Now I wonder if they are considering this drive thru places to eat or drive thru places to do business? Think about it. These days, we drive thru to get food, medicine and even clothes at the cleaners. We drive thru to drop off mail and to go to the bank. Many places have drive thru services so where will you drive thru on National Drive Thru Day?

### **Turpentine Distilling Set July 24 At GA Museum of Agriculture**

Source: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

The running of the turpentine still will be the featured demonstration July 24 at the Ga. Museum of Agriculture at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. "Our visitors that day can enjoy a seldom-seen piece of South Georgia history," Museum Director Garrett Boone said. "Guests will see up close and personal the age-old process of turpentine distilling that is central to South Georgia's cultural heritage." In addition to the turpentine processing demonstration, guests may also ride train cars pulled by the museum's 1917 steam-powered locomotive and tour the grounds of the museum, which include a grist mill, cotton gin, school, and other structures from Georgia's history.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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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### **Wine and Its Benefits**

The list of wine's benefits is long—and getting more surprising all the time. Already well-known as heart healthy, wine in moderation might help you lose weight, reduce forgetfulness, boost your immunity, and help prevent bone loss. With America likely to edge out France and Italy in total wine consumption in the near future, according to one analyst, and with women buying more than 6 out of every 10 bottles sold in this country, we're happy to report that wine may do all of the following:

1. **Feed your head.** Wine could preserve your memory. When researchers gave memory quizzes to women in their 70s, those who drank one drink or more every day scored much better than those who drank less or not at all. Wine helps prevent clots and reduce blood vessel inflammation, both of which have been linked to cognitive decline and heart disease. Alcohol also seems to raise HDL, the so-called good cholesterol, which helps unclog your arteries.
2. **Keep the scale in your corner.** Studies find that people who drink wine daily have lower body mass than those who indulge occasionally; moderate wine drinkers have narrower waists and less abdominal fat than people who drink liquor. Alcohol may encourage your body to burn extra calories for as long as 90 minutes after you down a glass. Beer seems to have a similar effect.
3. **Boost your body's defenses.** In one British study, those who drank roughly a glass of wine a day reduced by 11% their risk of infection by *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria, a major cause of gastritis, ulcers, and stomach cancers. As little as half a glass may also guard against food poisoning caused by germs like salmonella when people are exposed to contaminated food, according to a Spanish study.
4. **Guard against ovarian woes.** When Australian researchers recently compared women with ovarian cancer to cancer-free women, they found that roughly one glass of wine a day seemed to reduce the risk of the disease by as much as 50 percent. Earlier research at the University of Hawaii produced similar findings. Experts suspect this may be due to antioxidants or phytoestrogens, which have high anticancer properties and are prevalent in wine. And in a recent University of Michigan study, a red wine compound helped kill ovarian cancer cells in a test tube.
5. **Build better bones.** On average, women who drink moderately seem to have higher bone mass than abstainers. Alcohol appears to boost estrogen levels; the hormone seems to slow the body's destruction of old bone more than it slows the production of new bone.
6. **Prevent blood-sugar trouble.** Premenopausal women who drink one or two glasses of wine a day are 40 percent less likely than women who don't drink to develop type 2 diabetes, according to a 10-year study by Harvard Medical School. While the reasons aren't clear, wine seems to reduce insulin resistance in diabetic patients.

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Tifton, GA



## Springin' Up The Yard!



# 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.**

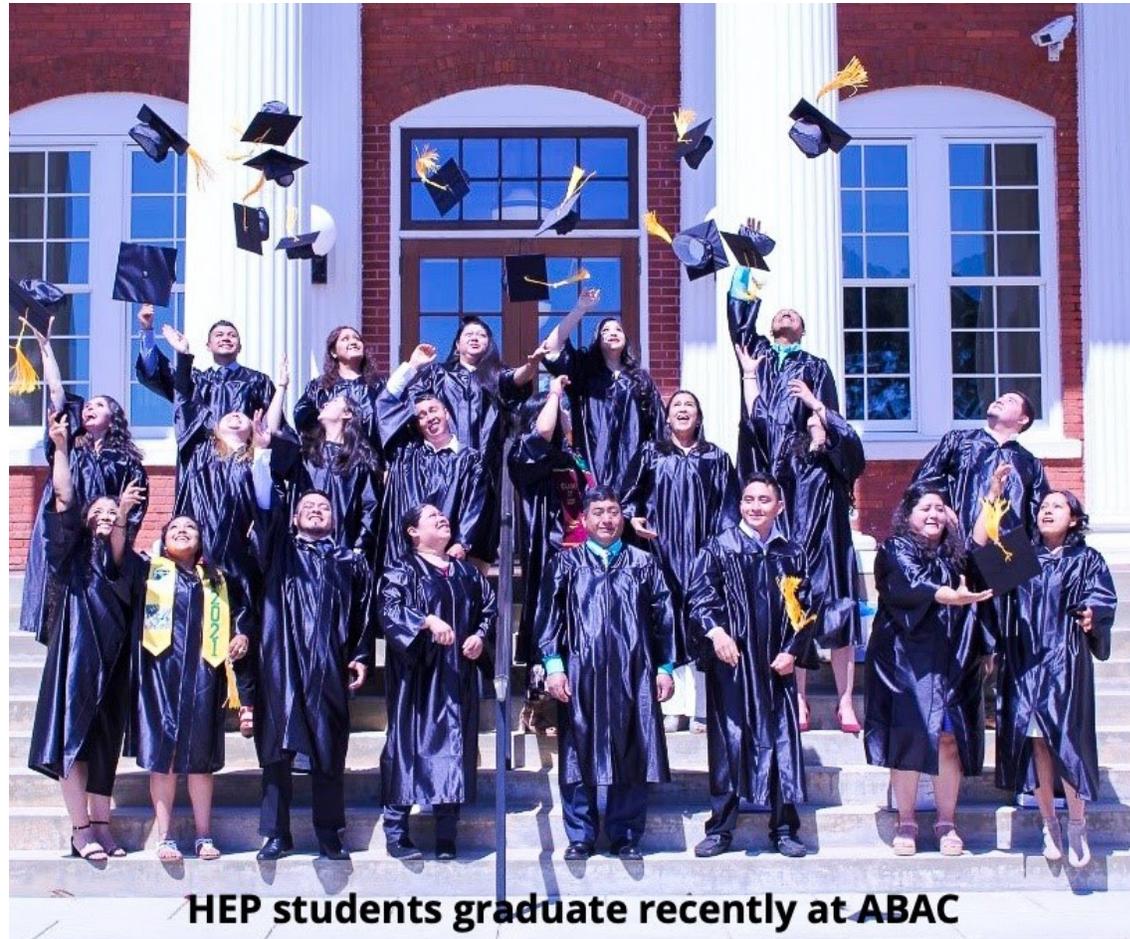


**All bookmarks must be submitted at the Margaret Jones Public Library by July 30th.**

**For more information, please contact us at 776-2096 or at [worthlib.org](http://worthlib.org).**



**ABAC Gets \$2.4 Million Federal Grant For Migrant Education**



**HEP students graduate recently at ABAC**

With a five-year \$2.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Migrant Education, the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will continue assisting farmworkers for the 21st consecutive year. Scott Pierce, ABAC sponsored programs program, said the college’s program is one of only two in the state that provide these services to the agricultural workforce. “HEP is ABAC’s largest grant at \$475,000 a year. This money helps support the students, the instructional staff, the educational resources, and a small project team to organize everything. The fact that this grant has been funded for 20 years is a real testament to our fantastic team,” Pierce said. Since 2001, HEP has served more than 1,400 students from

Georgia and neighboring states. The program assists 70 agricultural workers and their dependents each year in receiving a high school equivalency diploma and subsequently finding better employment, enrolling in an institution of higher education, or enlisting in the military. The program has produced many professionals and entrepreneurs including Dr. Remigio Padilla-Hernandez, an assistant professor and director of mathematics at Thomas University in Thomasville. He credits the program and obtaining his General Educational Development (GED) diploma as the foundation for his professional career. “The fact that HEP is housed at ABAC is a significant factor in inspiring GED graduates to pursue their college careers,” Padilla-Hernandez said. “Taking classes on a college campus allows HEP students to envision what it would be like to attend college. It inspired me to pursue my education after earning my GED.”

Source: Tifton Grapevine



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

visit us at  
**TiftonTourism.com**



Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

## Local Tourism Improving, Tourism Rep Tells Rotary Club



“We are on the upswing from the pandemic,” Angela Elder of Tifton-Tift County Tourism told the Tifton Rotary Club on Wednesday in presenting a “Snapshot of Tourism” locally. Tifton-Tift County has 16 hotels with 1,267 rooms, and “tourism has a kiosk in about half of those hotels,” she said. “We keep them updated on upcoming events.” She said the kiosks have to be refilled monthly, so people are getting and using the local information. With more than 100 restaurants, Tifton is a popular meal stop for locals and travelers. More than 40 of the eateries are local. “This is very exciting for a town our size to have this many local restaurants,” she said. On Interstate 75, 115,000 cars travel through Tifton going north and south daily. On U.S. Highway 82 at I-75, 55,000 cars travel east and west daily, and on U.S. Highway 82 at Main Street, 40,000 vehicles are traveling daily. Elder said four new billboards have gone up on I-75 recently with the new theme, “Something for Everyone,” promoting Tifton as a shopping, eating, and touring destination. Tifton

has three local conference centers, five hotels with meeting spaces, and 20 unique meeting spaces. ABAC's Ga. Museum of Agriculture is back open with good attendance, especially on Saturdays, and its Country Store is a good place to shop, she said. Downtown Tifton has a lot of revitalization going on and is a destination of its own. Two you-pick farms – Berry Good and Rutland farms – bring tourists to the area. Elder said that 2019 before the pandemic was a very good year with \$109.16 million in direct tourism spending. Jobs directly relating to tourism numbered 931 with \$22 million in payroll. Local tax revenues from tourism spending was \$3.09 million. Festival planning is on track this year with the Omega Pepper Festival scheduled for the first weekend in September and La Fiesta del Pueblo the last weekend of September. Rhythm & Ribs Barbecue Festival is coming to Fulwood Park on Oct. 9 this year and is going back to March in 2022. In the past year, movie “filming gave us a boost right when we needed it,” Elder said. “Gasoline Alley” in February-March involved more than 1,200 hotel room nights, and \$118,000 just for hotels. The movie crew also ate in restaurants, paid rent for buildings, bought props and fuel, used a local chiropractor and caterer, and went bowling and played golf. The film “White Elephant” in May focused on downtown Tifton and used more than 2,000 hotel room nights, spending \$150,000 in hotels, and additional spending on food, props, etc. “Bandit” was filmed for a week in Tifton, and in Thomasville and Valdosta in June, and had 754 room nights in Tifton over one week, spending \$49,000 just in hotels, plus additional spending. The movie industry discovered Tifton in November-December 2019 with the film “The Tiger Rising.” That crew had 750 room nights, spending \$52,000 in hotels with additional spending. “They love Tifton,” she said about the film crews. “They have nothing but good things to say about working here.”

Source: Tifton Grapevine



Events, Dining, Shopping...  
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**SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY**

visit us at

**TiftonTourism.com**



Think Tifton



ThinkTiftonGA

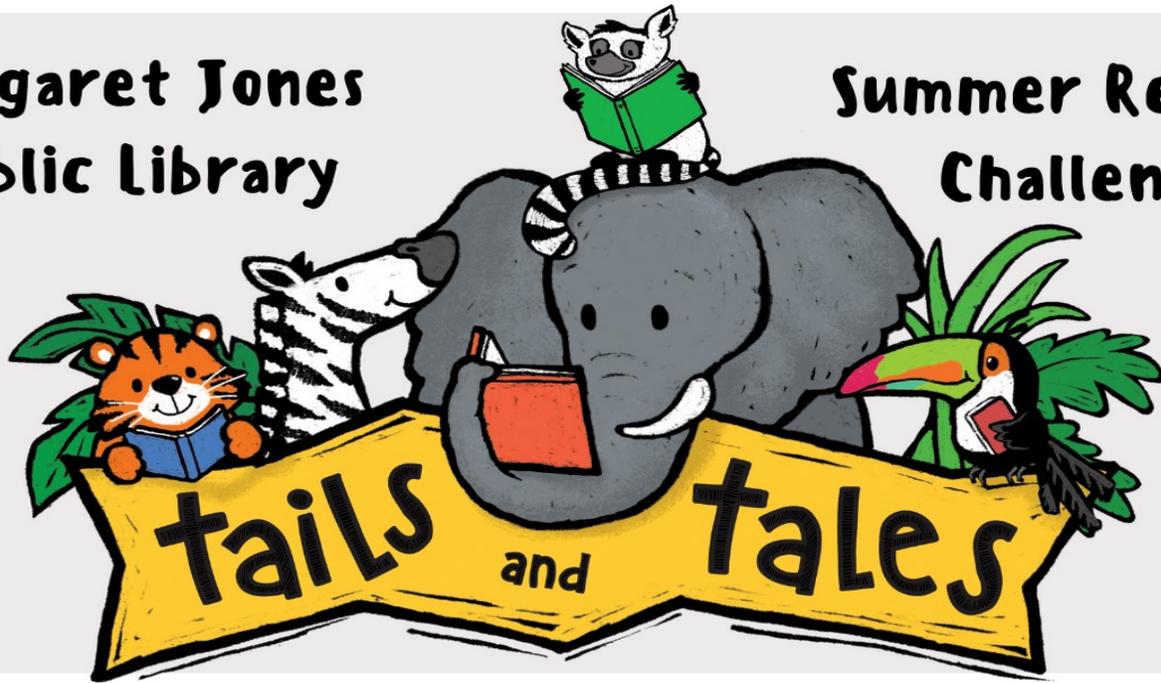
Sign up begins in May. Pick up a book tracker at the library. Print books or digital books count towards your reading goal.



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](http://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**

**It was all smiles at the magical unicorn paint day held at Margaret Jones Public Library recently . Check out these young artists.**

**Source: MJPL**



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SCHOOL  
SNAPSHOTS!**

# TOMLINSON

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



**Ashburn Youth Wins  
National Junior Olympic Air Pistol Title**

Source: UGA Cooperative Extension

An Ashburn youth has earned a spot to compete in the International Shooting Sports Junior World Championships this fall in Lima, Peru. Remington Smith of Ashburn recently won the men's division at the National Junior Olympic Air Pistol Championship. Winning the women's division was Katelyn Abeln of Douglasville, who will also represent Georgia at the international competition. Both sharpshooters are products of the Georgia 4-H Air Pistol Team. Volunteer coach Faye Belflower became involved with the 4-H Air Pistol Team in 2015 through the Turner County 4-H, which was coordinated by the local 4-H agents with UGA Cooperative Extension. Belflower built from there to create a large program in the state. Remington was one of Belflower's first students. He has been shooting for seven years. He had told Belflower that he is setting his eyes on the 2024 Olympics. After only being firmly established for six years, the Georgia 4-H Air Pistol competition is still the smallest shooting sport, but its growth and achievements are making it a top-tier competition sport.

### Worth County School District Leaders "Sharpened Their Saws"

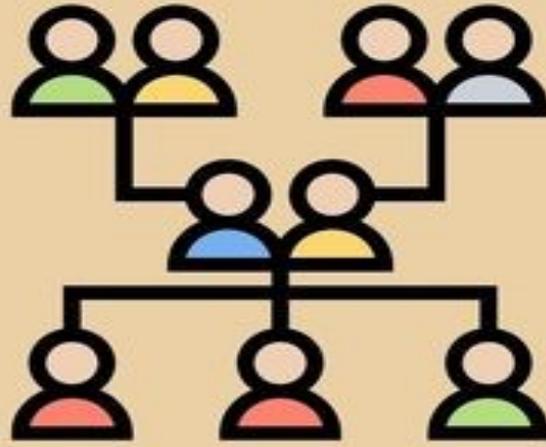
Leaders from the Worth County School District 'sharpened their saws' this week at Summer GAEL (Georgia Association for Educational Leaders).

Pictured from left to right: Melissa Edwards, WCHS Principal; Cornellius Frazier, WCMS Principal; Jared Worthy, WCPS Principal;

Nehemiah Cummings, WCSD Superintendent; Will Smith, WCAC Principal; Steven Rouse, WCES Principal; Djana Goss, WCSD Curriculum Director.

Source: WCSD

Source: Tifton Grapevine



## FAMILY TREE HELP AT MJPL

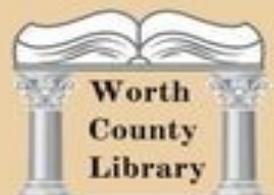
Members of the Barnard Trail Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) will be at the library to answer genealogy or DAR related questions.

When: Wednesday, July 21st  
1-3pm

Where: Margaret Jones  
Public Library



Walk-ins are welcome or  
appointments can be made  
by calling 776-2096





# **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

## July

- 19th ~ Darkness to Light Training at Ruth's Cottage 11:30am-1:30pm
- 19th ~ Flamingo Paint Night at Margaret Jones Public Library 6pm
- 19th ~ VBS at Gordy New Bethel Baptist Church
- 19th ~ City of Sylvester Work Session 7pm
- 19th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 20th ~ Stuff the Bus in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot
- 20th ~ Books & Bubbles at Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 20th ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Tifton Methodist Church 12:30pm-5:30pm
- 20th ~ End of Summer Party at the Margaret Jones Public Library 2pm
- 20th ~ VBS at Gordy New Bethel Baptist Church
- 20th ~ BINGO Night at Ed's Truck Stop 6pm
- 20th ~ City of Warwick Council Meeting 7pm
- 20th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 21st ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Synovus in Albany 10am - 3pm
- 21st ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon
- 21st ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Tifton Mall 3pm-7pm
- 21st ~ VBS at Gordy New Bethel Baptist Church
- 21st ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 22nd ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 22nd ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Byne Memorial Baptist Church Albany 2pm-7pm
- 23rd ~ American Red Cross Blood Drive at Dougherty County Community 1pm-6pm
- 23rd ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 24th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 24th ~ Sylvester Farmers Market 9am-3pm
- 25th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 26th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 26th ~ WCHS Competition Cheerleader Mini Cheer Camp 9am-noon
- 27th ~ WCHS Competition Cheerleader Mini Cheer Camp 9am-noon
- 27th ~ Books & Bubbles at Margaret Jones Public Library 1030am
- 27th ~ Family Connection Meeting Noon-1pm
- 27th ~ BINGO Night at Ed's Truck Stop 6pm
- 27th ~ City of Poulan Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 27th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 28th ~ Worth County Schools New Hire Orientation
- 28th ~ WCHS Competition Cheerleader Mini Cheer Camp 9am-noon
- 28th ~ Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon
- 28th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 29th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 29th ~ WCHS Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 8am
- 30th ~ WCPS Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 8am
- 30th ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 31st ~ Chamber 50/50 Raffle Tickets Sale
- 31st ~ Sylvester Farmers Market 9am-3pm



Presents:

# KIDS DAY IN THE PARK!

Saturday, September 4, 2021

**TC JEFFORDS PARK Sylvester, GA**

**11am-4pm**



Presented by: Men United Club, Inc.  
Worth County Family Connection

WORTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

# OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021

Worth County Primary School and  
Worth County Elementary School  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Worth County Middle School  
Worth County High School and  
Worth County Achievement Center  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



***American Legion***  
***Sylvester Post 335 Inc.***

# ***Indoor Yard Sale***

***Saturday July 24th In the Sumner Room at  
the Sylvester Library. Doors open at 8AM!  
Beat the Weather!***

***If you have items, you would like to donate please  
call Jim Hamsley @ 229-347-0808  
Or Ray Humphrey @ 229-343-6470***

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

## How Their First Library Card Teaches Kids Responsibility

Think of all the cards in your wallet right now. Visa? MasterCard? American Express? Starbucks? All those shiny plastic rectangles in your pocket signify bills to pay, money to spend, and all the other responsibilities that come with being a grown-up. But do you remember your first card? That first time you got a wallet and couldn't wait to fill it with grown-up things, like photos, money, and cards! Perhaps that first official card of your very own was a library card. But a library card isn't simply a way for kids to gain access to library materials, it's also an ideal way to start kids on a path to responsible adulthood. Kids can learn a great deal about responsibility (and how to be thoughtful members of society, in general) with a little guidance from wise adults and a trusty library card. Here are six lessons young people can learn by being proud bearers of a library card that will prepare them for the future: How to Participate in Civil Society. My library card was the first official document I was actually allowed to carry in my very own wallet. Being an avid fan of public libraries, our mother took us straight to the local branch's front desk so my brother and I could fill out a couple of crisp, official forms in exchange for keys to the magical kingdom of books. The cards were the first signal that we were part of a larger community. Who says bureaucracy can't be totally worth it once in a while? How to Keep Important Documents (or objects) safe and handy. You can't delve into the next installment of J. K. Rowling's universe of witchcraft and wizardry without keeping your library card free of damage and close at hand. Likewise, books, DVDs, and other items that belong to the community deserve some tender, loving care. A library card teaches kids to value meaningful objects and take special care of them for others' eventual use. How to Be a Good Borrower? Like looking both ways before you cross the street, certain rules in life are just common sense to adults. However, kids must be shown how to be respectful, polite, and law-abiding citizens. But becoming conscious of the span of time they get to enjoy that DVD or audiobook is not just about due dates. It's also about empathizing with that other kid who is patiently waiting to learn life lessons from Judy Blume, too. And you can be sure that when some thrilling adventure is coming due, your favorite kid will surely speed up those words-per-minute. How to Accept Consequences? A library card helps young people understand that forgetting (or refusing) to be responsible means suffering the consequences. Whether it's paying for overdue, lost, or damaged materials, kids benefit from learning that the effects of ignoring responsibilities can take a solid chunk of that cash they so proudly display in their wallets (as well as their trustworthiness). Ouch. How to Choose Thoughtfully? With row after row of books, DVDs, magazines, the library is a veritable cave of wonders—but one must choose wisely. Even though we'd like to take it all home with us, there are limits. A library card is an opportunity for youngsters to learn moderation and decision-making skills, as they grow to strike a balance between their desires, abilities, and means. That the System Works (if we're responsible together) Finally, a library card is symbolic of a society that takes responsibility for helping all people become more knowledgeable, better informed, and wiser. Libraries are places of discovery where everyone can learn about the universe, life, love, and all the things that make us human. That is, if the majority of people uses it appropriately. A library card is a key that allows kids to participate in what's right with society, while at the same time helping them to grow into decent adults. Of course, kids may not just accept these important responsibilities on their own. That is why wise adults must be there to offer guidance—a little nudge in the right direction—to help young people discover the awesome power of their first library card.

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