

Dates to Remember

September

- 14th - Paint Class at the Margaret Jones Public Library**
- 14th - Girls WCMS Softball at Thomasville at 4:30 PM**
- 14th - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball at Lanier Co. at 5:30 PM**
- 15th - Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 10:30AM**
- 15th - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball vs Berrien Co at 5:30 PM**
- 16th - Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon**
- 16th - Girls WCMS Softball vs Early at 4:30 PM**
- 17th - WCMS Football at Fitzgerald 5pm**
- 19th - Toddler Time at Georgia Museum of Agriculture 10:30am-11:30am**
- 19th - Wiregrass Kids at Georgia Museum of Agriculture 1:30pm-3pm**
- 21st - Girls WCMS Softball at Fitzgerald at 4:30 PM**
- 21st - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball at Tift Co. at 5:30 PM**
- 22nd - Toddler Time at Georgia Museum of Agriculture 10:30am-11:30am**
- 22nd - Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 10:30AM**
- 22nd - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball at Cook Co. at 5:30 PM**
- 23rd - Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon**
- 23rd - Girls WCMS Softball vs Cook at 4:30 PM**
- 24th - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball at Fitzgerald at 5:30 PM**
- 25th - Worth County Rams Football at Rutland 7:30pm**
- 26th - RACE Tifton 5k & 1 mile run Flashover Dash 7am**
- 29th - Picture Day at WCHS for 9th - 11th grades**
- 29th - Books & Bubbles at the Margaret Jones Public Library 10:30AM**
- 29th - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball vs Early Co. at 5:30 PM**
- 30th - Kiwanis Club Meeting at Noon**
- 30th - Girls Varsity Fastpitch Softball at Thomas County Central at 5:30 PM**





November 3, 2020

VOTE



**APPROACHABLE ACCOUNTABLE
COMPASSIONATE CHRISTIAN**

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER

43 YEARS OLD

1 Programs- I will develop programs centered around: depression, suicide, bullying, and water safety for our youth

2 Response Time- All calls involving the coroners office will be addressed in a timely manner.

3 Proper handling of paperwork- Any death certificates handled through the coroner's office will be returned to the prospective funeral home promptly.

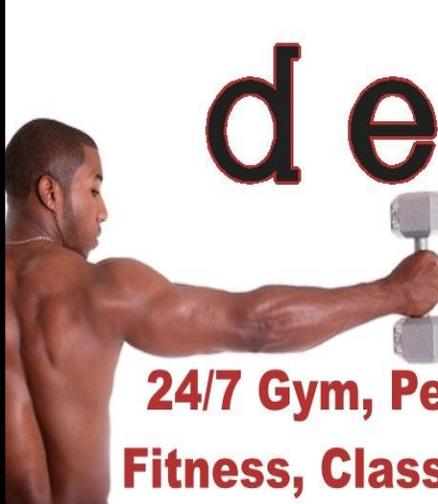
4 Care Packet of unused toiletries from hotel stays to give to families that have lost homes to fire or storm damage and stuffed animal drive for kids who lose parents tragically or naturally

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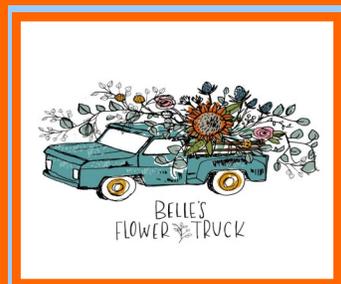
The 24th annual Family Health & Fitness Day USA is a national health and fitness event for families, set for Saturday, September 26, 2020. It is always on the last Saturday in September. The event's purpose is to promote family involvement in physical activity, one of the goals of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. There are so many different things you can do on that day even in Sylvester! Plan a walk at the duck pond. The family can gather and walk the track a few times, feed the ducks and enjoy the fresh air of fall. Be sure to plan something for that day even if it is as simple as kicking the ball around together outside. You can even plan a family walk together around the block. I know it's still a little warm but if you do it first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon, it will be nice. I don't know many children that don't want to be outside and I don't know many of us parents that don't need to be outside. Even though Corona is still very present, we can do many things with just our family and stay safe. So have fun with the family while enjoying health and fitness day! Be sure to take many pictures and post them on Facebook and even tag The Martin News.

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Southwell Partners With UGA Tifton Veterinary Lab For COVID-19 Testing

In March, while the Tifton area was getting hit hard with COVID-19 cases, Dr. Jessica Beier, medical director of Southwell Laboratories and of quality and patient safety, was quarantined at home after returning from a vacation in Chile. “While I was gone, we had used the CDC lab, the state lab, our usual reference lab, and all those labs were becoming overwhelmed. Their turnaround times were starting to increase, and we were looking at people potentially having to wait a week to know whether they had tested positive for COVID-19,” she said. “I was quarantined at home, and it was really not a good time. I brought my microscope and started doing pathology from home. In the midst of all of this, I had a lot of time on my hands to think, and because I have a horse farm, I am well aware that we have a vet diagnostic lab here in Tifton that’s part of UGA. I also know that this lab here does high complexity molecular diagnostic testing because of all of the infectious disease testing they normally do on animals.” Something clicked in Beier’s head. Why not partner with UGA and the lab that was right in her own backyard to meet the pandemic head on? Although she had no contacts with anyone at the diagnostic lab, she was able to find the email address for Dr. Hemant Naikare, Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Lab (TVDIL) director and associate professor of infectious diseases in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. “I remember Dr. Beier reaching out to me on a Saturday at the end of March,” Naikare said. “She wanted to know if we could assist with COVID testing, so we started correspondence the first week of April. I told her that we had the infrastructure, and we do polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, which is an essential component of processing COVID-19 tests. I explained to her that we could help, but our major hurdle was CLIA.” CLIA stands for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, and for labs to process human samples, they must be registered and certified under CLIA. One aspect of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and TVDIL’s mission is service to the state. Usually, that means aiding local livestock producers, veterinarians, or companion animal owners in South Georgia— but the pandemic provided a unique situation. “I knew that these long turnaround times were a huge problem, especially here in rural Georgia, so I took this issue to my department head, Dr. Jesse Hostetter, and CVM Dean Lisa Nolan,” said Naikare. “Dr. Beier and Southwell were in need of support, and it was clear to me that we could help. I explained that we had the equipment needed for human testing, and we had the trained personnel. It was just a matter of getting started. With the permission and the right credentials, we could definitely help out.” The TVDIL is able to run an average of about 125 COVID-19 tests per day, many of which are sent over from Southwell’s drive-thru testing site, and these are processed usually within 24 hours. Most inpatients at Tift Regional Medical Center who need to be tested use a rapid test that is processed through the in-house laboratory there. “We can run up to 270 tests per day without impacting our mission of animal testing. Just within the last four weeks, the TVDIL has conducted over 3,000 tests for hospitalized patients, pre-surgical patients, symptomatic patients, potentially exposed individuals, and patients and staff from various healthcare settings,” Naikare said.

Source: Tifton Grapevine



Nursing Students Set ABAC Record

More students are enrolled in nursing classes this semester at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College that at any other time in the 54-year history of the program, officials say. "The reputation of the ABAC nursing program has never been higher," said President David Bridges. "ABAC turns out quality graduates who are much sought after in an industry that looks for more nurses every day." Registrar Amy Willis said 326 students are enrolled in associate-degree nursing classes at ABAC Tifton and ABAC Bainbridge. That tops the 304 students enrolled in classes at the two locations in 2019. A total of 895 ABAC students are pursuing nursing degrees, many of them taking core curriculum classes to prepare for the nursing program. Fifty-nine of those students are enrolled in the nursing bachelor's degree program.

Source: Tifton Grapevine

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Georgia 4-H Holiday Card Contest

4-H youth are encouraged to design a December holiday card for the Georgia 4-H Foundation, which will be sent to 4-H supporters to express our gratitude and well wishes. Top prize is \$100!

Holiday Card Contest Rules

1. All entries must be the student's original drawing on an 8.5 x 5.5 inch (or 5.5 x 8.5 inch) sheet of white, unlined paper.
2. All entries should somehow include 4-H in the theme for the message or design.
3. All entries must be colorful, so they can be reproduced on the card.
4. Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry form filled out by the 4-H'er and signed by the county 4-H staff member. Digital signatures accepted.
5. All active 4-H members are eligible to participate.
6. Hard copy entries must be postmarked no later than the deadline and mailed to: Georgia 4-H Foundation Attn: Holiday Card Contest
311 Hoke Smith Annex - UGA Athens, GA 30602
7. Scanned color copies of the original drawing and entry form can be sent via email to 4hfndtn@uga.edu (subject line: 2020 Holiday Card Contest) by the deadline. Note: These entries must still be the hand drawn entry- just scanned so they can be submitted by email. No digitally created entries will be accepted.
8. If any of the above rules are not followed, the entry may be disqualified.
9. Georgia 4-H reserves the right to modify the entry.
10. Deadline: Friday, October 2, 2020. Ask Mrs. Kristen for the Entry Form.

Source: Worth County 4-H



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Georgia Museum of Agriculture is Open

From old favorites such as a train ride featuring the 1917 Vulcan steam locomotive to new additions such as hand-scooped ice cream, visitors can take in all the sights and sounds of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Georgia Museum of Agriculture when it opens to the public on Sept. 5. Museum Director Garrett Boone said the Historic Village staff is glad to be back in operation after almost six months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are excited to be back and welcome all our visitors," Boone said. "The Country Store and Museum Main Hall have been up and running for a few weeks but now we're opening back up the Historic Village." Boone said ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture is an immersive experience into the agrarian and cultural traditions of the 19th century American South. Visitors can take a glimpse into the innovative and storied history of the Wiregrass region of Southern Georgia through hands-on learning experiences and a sweeping landscape of historic sites and artifacts. The Museum and Historic Village will be open on a Tuesday through Saturday basis from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Country Store, located at 1392 Whiddon Mill Road in Tifton, will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and from noon until 5 p.m. on Sundays. "Our Country Store is going to be one of our most popular spots with everything we have added to it," Boone said. "Besides the hand-scooped ice cream, we now have popcorn and cotton candy as well as all our toys and gift items. "We have also added some colorful picnic tables and umbrellas just outside the store where our guests can enjoy their treats. And perhaps most exciting to the little ones is the addition of three more large pieces of playground equipment." Museum Curator Polly Huff said a unique multimedia event titled "Blood, Bone, & Stone" will be in the spotlight at the Museum's Opry Shelter and the Museum Gallery on Sept. 19. "Presented in collaboration with ABAC's School of Arts and Sciences, the event features Jack McKey, a master craftsman of Naturalistic and Native American Technology," Huff said. "Guests of the day-long event will participate in the world premiere of McKey's biographical film, which was created by Dr. Thomas Grant, an associate professor in the School of Arts and Sciences, and a team of ABAC journalism students." The Gallery is located adjacent to the Museum's Main Hall, which features dozens of exhibits describing the history of Georgia's agricultural commodities, unique cultural pieces, and pays respect to the historic inventors and luminaries from eras past and present. The familiar whistle of the historic steam locomotive will once again sound throughout Tifton every Saturday this fall. Guests will purchase their train tickets inside the Country Store and then drive to the Museum Main Hall where they will be directed to where they can board the train in the Historic Village. "For the folks who have ridden the train in the past, this is a change," Boone said. "Everybody loves the train ride, and they will still get the full experience." In the Historic Village, guests can visit the Davis Grist Mill to see grits being made, the blacksmith shop, the print shop, the doctor's office, the turpentine still, the Langdale Nature Center, the drugstore, the sawmill, the cotton gin, and the Tift House, formerly the home of Tifton founder Henry Harding Tift and his family. Younger visitors always love the animals at the Traditional and Progressive Farmsteads as well as the desks at the Sand Hill School House where interpreters relate stories of Georgia's past and engage the youngsters in hands-on activities. Boone said school children will also return to the Museum for the Destination Ag program, which begins its fifth year this fall. "Destination Ag provides an interactive, educational experience for children and all guests focused on modern agriculture and natural resources," Boone said. "Learning stations and exhibits connect guests to where their food, fiber, and shelter come from." Destination Ag attracted a record 12,306 students to the Museum in 2019-20. Thanks to the Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation, the program is presented at no cost to the visiting students. Boone said conference and meeting facilities at the Museum will also be open at a reduced capacity to conform to federal and state guidelines. Masks are required for visitors at all indoor areas of the Museum. Admission to the Museum Tuesday through Friday is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens 55 and up, \$4 for 5 to 16-year-olds, and free for all children under four years of age. On Saturdays, admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens, \$5 for 5 to 16-year-olds, and free for all children under four. For more information, interested persons can visit the Museum's web site at <https://gma.abac.edu/>.

Source: Georgia Museum of Agriculture



Sylvester, Georgia

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Words from the Wise

Mother was telling me the other day about a brochure she was reading called House to House. She said “Lynn it has some really good little articles in it, you should read them”. Well I did and she was right, there was some really good articles, poems and stories but the one listed below was my favorite. It states the truth if I have never heard it. In our busy lives we sometimes forget where it all came from. We stay on the go but are we really too busy? Are we missing the meaning of the things we are doing, the places we are going and the people we are with? My son, Larry, is almost 16 and this below is so right. It may not be exactly how we as parents do it but it’s pretty close. Maybe just slowing down a notch or two would make us all see things so much different. I hope you enjoy this as much as I did.

If I Had My Child to Rear Over Again

I’d finger paint more and point the finger less.
I’d do less correcting and more connecting.
I’d take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I’d take more hikes and fly more kites.
I’d stop playing serious and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I’d do more hugging and less tugging.
I would be firm less often and affirm much more.
I’d build self esteem first and the house later.
I’d teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love.



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