

The SYLVESTER LOCAL NEWS

Football and softball hold scrimmage games this week. See Sports on page 7 for details.

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Serving Worth County Since 1884

229-776-7713

www.thesylvesteralocal.com

August 3, 2016

"Get your facts first. Then you can distort them as you please."
- Mark Twain



Banks
Funeral Home

210 N. Main St., Sylvester
(229) 776-2055
www.banksfh.com
banksfh@yahoo.com

Class of '66 Reunion

WCHS graduation class of 1966 will hold their 50th class reunion on August 27, 2016 at Southern Woods Plantation. For more information, contact Cynthia Knight at 229-777-8371.

Red Oak Homecoming

Red Oak Baptist Church will be celebrating with a Homecoming service on August 7, 2016. Please come join us for worship service starting at 10:00am with the message being delivered by Mark Cartwright. Special singing will begin at 11:00am featuring Mark and Scarlett Cartwright. Dinner will be served at 12:00.

Purple Heart Luncheon

American Legion Sylvester Post 335 Inc. will host the 2nd Annual Purple Heart Luncheon in the Summer Room of the Library on Sunday August 7, 2016 starting @ 2PM. Go to church then bring a guest to lunch. Honoring Our Wounded Heroes! For reservations please call: Jimmy Hamsley 229-347-0808 or Ray Humphrey 229-343-6470.

Peanut Festival Pageant

Georgia Peanut Festival Pageant August 27, 2016
Sumner Auditorium @ 5:00 p.m.
Non Glitz Scholarship Pageant
Contestant entry fee \$75.00
More information at www.gapeanutfestival.org or 229-776-7718

Obituaries

Wiley Jones,
Brooks County

Jimmy Peeples,
Sylvester

Nellie Collins,
Columbus

Stephen Massey, Jr.,
Sylvester

Ellen Patton,
Sylvester

Complete obituary information on page 4

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Thank You for allowing the Sylvester Local News to be your trusted news since 1884!

Fowler Pleads Guilty to Trafficking Cocaine

On July 15, 2016 Timothy B. Fowler pled guilty in Worth County Superior Court to trafficking cocaine which was reduced to possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Fowler was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He must serve 9 years in prison with the remaining to be served on probation. Fowler also pled guilty to possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and for this second count, he received a sentence of 10 years probation to run concurrent with count 1. As for the third count, fleeing or attempting to elude an officer, and the fourth count, obstruction of an officer, he was sentenced to 12 months probation to be served concurrent with the cocaine plea. Additionally, the Sylvester man was fined \$2,500 plus court fees.

On the evening of April 11, Worth County Sheriff's Office Drug Investigators and Traffic Interdiction Units attempted to stop a vehicle driven by Timothy Fowler. After a brief car chase through a residential area, Fowler stopped his vehicle then exited



Timothy Fowler

and ran on foot carrying a backpack. Drug Investigators gave chase and were able to apprehend Fowler. The backpack carried by Fowler was thrown and landed on the roof of a house.

The backpack was recovered and was found to contain over one and a half pounds of marijuana, digital scales, crack cocaine, and powder cocaine with an approximate weight of 36 grams. Fowler was charged with trafficking cocaine, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, failure to maintain lane, obstruction, fleeing or attempting to elude officer, and DUI (second offense).

Burglar Targeting Homes in Southern Portion of County

Sheriff Jeff Hobby issued a warning to residents in the southern portion of Worth County on Saturday when he took to social media and advised residents in Scooterville, Anderson City, and Bridgeboro to be on the lookout for a suspected burglar who is targeting homes and sheds in the area. Specifically, the sheriff's office asks residents in the areas including Wrights Chapel Rd, Phillip Causey Road, Bridgeboro-Anderson City Rd, and Bethel Church Rd.

Citizens are asked to be on the lookout for a blue or black Toyota Camry or Corolla car driven by a black male, 30 to 40 years of age, average height and build, and possibly wearing a ball cap. The suspect has been parking the vehicle on the side of the road and walking to houses to break into storage sheds and homes. Make sure that you are securing your property, and have serial numbers documented for your belongings.

The sheriff asks that if

anyone sees the person or vehicle matching this description and you can safely take down the tag number, call in the location, vehicle description and tag number to 911 or the Worth County Sheriff's Office. Do not attempt to approach the subject. Extra patrols have been placed in the area and both marked and unmarked vehicles will be riding the areas where the vehicle has been spotted. Sheriff Hobby would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Phone Scams Target Local Residents

Lisa Clark
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There have been numerous instances of local residents being contacted lately in a pair of recurring phone scams. Whether it be a sweepstakes or taxes these scam phone calls are very common throughout the U.S. There have been different cases in Sylvester and Worth

County of someone calling people in the community claiming to be an IRS agent from Washington, D.C. This person has left voicemails with a fake case number and has even went as far as threatening that if they do not hear back from that person or that person's attorney, a warrant for that person's arrest will be sent out. These calls are an example of scam phone calls and there are different

warning signs to be aware of and will help to identify these types of calls.

For example, when it comes to the IRS phone calls, the call itself is a warning sign. According to Lt. Kenneth Washington of the Sylvester PD Crime Division, the IRS will never contact a person by phone; they will always send a certified

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Is Nelson Really a Felon?

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WARNING: THE FOLLOWING STORY INCLUDES GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF A DISTURBING NATURE.

Mr. Nelson Hufstetler has intrigued this county for many years now with tales of corruption and conspiracy theories. Though I cannot imagine that anyone would ever take his farfetched stories as anything more than tabloid entertainment, there always seemed to be a sliver of truth that kept his readers captivated.

I met Mr. Hufstetler, probably six years ago, and I have tried to avoid him ever since. For a while, my opinion did not matter when it came to him spending cash money to advertise in the Sylvester Local News. And, his ads ran like wildfire with wild accusations about our local officials. I was told at the time that it was good for sales and readership to have this maniacal voice paying for full page ads that demeaned and attacked public servants at random.



Eventually, the situation spiraled out of control, and Nelson Hufstetler did not have his ads in the Local for several months. Then, there were some changes in personnel and the overall direction of the paper. It did not take long for Mr. Hufstetler to once again darken our doorway. He told tales of corruption and collusion and outrage. His sister had been murdered with a poi-

soned milkshake in Warwick and tens of thousands of dollars was stolen from her residence.

The Warwick and Worth County cops were in on it. A computer with sensitive information on the case was taken. It all seemed outlandish, but we decided to give him another chance. Mr. John Porter

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County Freezes Salaries

Cale Colby
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The Worth County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on the morning of Monday, July 27, to discuss employee salaries. While the county administrator and all of the board members were in attendance, Chairman Mike Cosby explained that the county attorney, Ralph Powell, could not attend as he was hearing other cases.

While Cosby also mentioned that Worth County Tax Commissioner Tabetha DuPriest wished to address the board on the issue of salaries, the board immediately began discussing the need to go into executive session to discuss the matter. The commissioners then mentioned that they would need the attorney to be present before they would participate in an executive session discussion. The chairman asked for Judge Powell to be contacted and asked if he could call recess on his court proceedings and attend the meeting.

Commissioner Ken Hall asked if the board could hear

and consider the tax commissioner's comments before going into executive session and the remaining board members agreed. Mrs. DuPriest addressed the board by explaining that the county was essentially a business and the employees comprise the foundation. Without the personnel, the business would cease to exist. She continued,

"I'm talking about those at public works who we depend on to keep our roads kept up. Those in the sheriff's department and the fire department who risk their lives daily to protect us and our homes. And, even those here in the courthouse that keep this county running smoothly. Every employee in every department is just as important as the next, and it takes all of them to make our county function."

DuPriest also stated that low salaries and financial worries were the two leading causes of workplace stress. She also suggested that employees placed under these stresses are less productive and more likely to look for another job. The tax commissioner went on to state that the Finance Director, Bar-

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Commissioners Continue Finance Discussion

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The Worth County Board of Commissioners began their final work shop for the month of July on Tuesday, July 19, by discussing LMIG funding. As County Finance Director Barbara Francis explained that the state would contribute \$631,658.16, while the county must provide 30% matching funds at \$189,497.44. This brings the total amount of LMIG funding to \$821,155.60.

The board members did not specify which project they were accepting bids for, but County Administrator Alan Grindstaff stated that the low bid for the project was \$978,706. That means the county would need to come up with an additional \$157,500 to complete the project.

The finance director also explained that the county has \$1,232,000 in SPLOST funds in the bank currently, most of that money is obligated to fulfill pre-designated proj-

ects. Only \$103,000 is unobligated funds.

The commissioners also discussed a number of other financial agreements for the new fiscal year including the humane society contract, Southwest Georgia CASA, and the Motorola contract for E-911. While there was some discussion of the fact that the Motorola contract costs the county nearly \$4,500 per month, all of the contracts remained the same as the previous year. The board also discussed a contract for

financial software for the tax commissioner's office at \$50,000 for the year.

Next, the board discussed expenditures including a new laptop for a sheriff's patrol car. This prompted a discussion of how much money the sheriff's department is bringing in per month and where the money is dispersed through the court system and general fund. Ultimately, Chairman Mike Cosby requested a monthly report from the clerk of courts to outline how much money

is collected per month and where the money goes.

Following the work session, the board reconvened on the following Thursday, July 21, to hold their regular meeting for the month. The meeting began with a public hearing concerning the rezoning of the old NIKE base near Pine Knoll to change the property from residential to manufacturing. Commissioner Bettye Bozeman explained that the property had

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Our newspapers are promptly mailed every Tuesday morning. If your paper arrives late, please contact the postmaster.