



Tifton Tourism News

Service of the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association & Tift Area Hospitality Association

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TIFTON TOURISM NEWS – June 30, 2014 – (07)

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - A spectacular fireworks display, free watermelon, and sensational sounds from the top 4-H vocalists in Georgia will highlight the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village.

Gates will open for fireworks and evening activities at 6 pm. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to set up on the Opry Shelter Lawn to hear live music from the very talented 4-H Clovers & Company beginning at 7:30 pm. Clovers & Company includes talented singers, dancers, and instrumentalists from across the state.

Tasty concessions including pizza, sausage and peppers, funnel cakes, snow cones, and cotton candy will be available for purchase. Visitors will also enjoy free watermelon slices while they last. Guests can also test their rock climbing skills on Rockin' Roland's Rock Climbing Wall, and children can participate in traditional games led by Museum staff members.

The cost for the Independence Day celebration is \$10 per car. Guests with military ID cards will be admitted at no charge. Participants are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, and coolers. Alcohol and pets are not permitted. The Museum will also be open from 11 am until 4 pm on July 3 at the regular admission cost.

WATERMELON CRAWL IN TIFTON - The first-ever Watermelon Crawl 5K, Fun Run, and Festival will take place on July 12 on the campus of ABAC.

This event is a fundraiser to establish the Jerry Moore Memorial ABAC scholarship, which will be awarded each year to a student majoring in Diversified Agriculture. Moore was an ABAC alumnus who passed away in December of 2013 at the age of 46.

The Watermelon Crawl is open to the community. To participate in the 5K, there is a registration fee of \$23 that includes a t-shirt and a runner's bag. Registration will begin at 7:15 am the day of the race, and the 5K will start at 8 am. Those who aren't participating in the 5K can walk the 5K path or take part in a 1-mile Fun Run, which begins at 9 am. Registration is required for anyone who would like to receive a t-shirt and a runner's bag as part of the race.

The festival is open to everyone beginning at 8:30 am. It will feature lots of watermelon-themed activities for kids and adults alike. The festival will be located in the grassy area just north of Conger Hall on the ABAC campus.

For more information on these events or to register, interested persons can visit www.thewatermeloncrawl.weebly.com. You can also email rsmith@abac.edu or thewatermeloncrawl5k@gmail.com.

MUSEUM OFFERS KIDS WORKSHOPS - Children from 6 to 11 years old can explore a variety of workshops during the summer season at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Camp Wiregrass will sponsor three-hour workshops during July for various age groups. Each workshop offers age appropriate activities and themes.

The workshops begin with the July 2 Revolution is Coming! "Celebrate Independence Day by joining the Museum's militia." This workshop is for children 8-10 years of age.

"Creative Jewelry" will take place July 8-9 for children ages 8-10 years old. This class allows participants an opportunity to create their own jewelry with a Native American flare.

Strengthen hunting skills through playing games, throwing spears, and practicing archery in "Primitive Hunting Skills" on July 11. This workshop is geared to children ages 6-8 years old and reflects how Native American children used games to enhance their hunting skills.

“Orienteering...Huh?” on July 15 is a class that focuses on the traditional means of navigating with a compass. The target audience is 9-11 year-olds.

The final workshop, “Nature Art,” is geared to 6-8 year-olds on July 18. This workshop will allow campers to create artwork inspired by their outdoor experiences.

Snacks and all supplies are provided for each workshop. Each workshop will run from 8:30-11:30 am. Siblings, ABAC employee, or Friend of the Museum discounts are available. The cost is \$25 per camper for one-day workshops and \$40 per camper for all two-day workshops.

To register for any of the workshops, interested persons can e-mail Kelly Scott at museumcamp@abac.edu or register online at www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp. For more information, you contact Scott at 391-5224.

SAVE THE DATE FOR LIBRARY FOUNDATION EVENT – “The Return,” the ultimate Beatles experience, will headline the Tift County Public Library Foundation’s annual dinner and show on Saturday, September 27. It will again be held at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. The reception will begin at 6 pm with a catered dinner to follow. The Beatles tribute band takes the stage at 8 pm.

This year is the 50th anniversary of The Beatles first coming to America. The Return has performed all over the world and is in high demand. They perform in character and are guaranteed to get the audience up on their feet.

Tickets for the event, as well as table sponsorships, will go on sale soon. For more information, please call 386-2237.

ARE YOU THE NEXT AMERICAN IDOL? – Fox 31 is coming back to Tifton to hold a local audition to find undiscovered talent between the ages of 15 and 28 years old, who could represent Southwest Georgia at American Idol Auditions in Nashville, TN!

Auditions will be held on Saturday, July 12 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center from 9 am until 4 pm. Beginning now through 9 am on Friday, July 11, interested artists can pre-register online to guarantee an audition, or they can register at the event on July 12, from 8 am until 11 am.

The winner(s) will receive a guaranteed audition with accommodations to the American Idol Auditions in Nashville, TN on August 4 to audition in front of show producers for a chance to become the next singing superstar. The runner up will go to the road show in Tallahassee (date TBA).

More information will be announced soon on Fox 31’s website at www.mysouthwestga.com.

TASTE OF AFRICA CONVENTION COMING TO TIFTON – The Mbo-Munyang National Convention is coming to Tifton on July 18-20. It will be held at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. The Convention will feature a State of the Art Cultural Show and Fundraising Gala. Funds raised from the Gala and Convention go to help educate children of the Mbo clans of Cameroon.

Additional activities that will take place around Tifton during the Convention include an International Soccer Tournament, bringing in competitors from around the state, Farm Tours, Kids Basketball Camp, Golf outings, plus traditional dances and attire. Elected officials, Chiefs, Title Holders and the Elite will also be present.

Registration for the Convention is \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of 10. A full schedule and agenda will be on their website once it is finalized. Visit <http://benaorca.wix.com/mbo-munyang-convene> for more information on the Convention.

The Mbo-Munyang Inc. USA is an association that was created in 2001 under the common goal of unity, education, cultural and economic growth and development of the Nkongho-Mbo people overseas and in Cameroon. For more information on the Convention, please call Chief Dr. Greg Fonsah at 392-1238.

SWIMMERS TAKE OVER TIFTON – The District and State Recreation Swim Meets are coming back to Tifton! The District meet will be held on Saturday, July 12 at the Baldwin Drive/Recreation Department Pool, located at the corner of 2nd Street and Baldwin Drive. Opening ceremonies will be at 9 am.

The State Swim Meet will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. Swimmers and their families will begin arriving on that Thursday. The state meet usually brings in thousands to Tifton. The State Meet will also be held at the Baldwin Drive Pool. Opening ceremonies will be at 9 am. Competition will be held all day.

Please make these swimmers and their families feel welcome if you see them around town. This is major economic development for our community!

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