



# Cedar Key BEACON

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## Meridian: new Chiefland Center expected before fall

By Lori Prevatt  
Beacon Correspondent

Meridian, a North Central Florida non-profit mental health and addiction treatment provider, is nearing the final phases of preparations to open their Chiefland Office, reported President Maggie Labarta at the Levy County Commission meeting July 2.

Labarta said Meridian purchased two buildings across from Chiefland City Hall, which are currently being renovated, and Meridian is hoping to have the new office open by the end of this summer. Meridian's Levy County base is currently in Bronson.

"The plan is to move operations from Bronson to Chiefland," Labarta said. "We will have to wait and see what happens before we decide to close the Bronson office."

The Commissioners were concerned about the Bronson office closing due to the frequency of court-ordered counseling. The topic of the new office was raised while Meridian was negotiating it's yearly budget during the County Commission's budget workshop.

"We are hoping to increase our budget from \$75,000 to \$78,050," Labarta said. "The funding requested would all go toward patient care."

See MERIDIAN Page 6



## Cedar Key gains county approval for dredging dump site

By Lori Prevatt  
Beacon Correspondent

At the Levy County Commission meeting July 2, Cedar Key Mayor Heath Davis sought approval for sharing a waste site with the County upon the completion of a dredging project under a bridge at the marina entrance channel in Cedar Key.

"It will make it a lot cheaper to put our spoils there," Davis said.

Davis is currently seeking approval from the state for the dredging project. The material under the bridge has seeped out and is making the area impassable for many vessels.

The Commission passed a motion 5-0 to allow Cedar Key to use the Levy dumping area, as long as the mayor coordinates with the Department of Transportation and County Coordinator Wilbur Dean.

The county entered into a coordinated

agreement in the past when a similar problem occurred, and that inter-local agreement solved similar problems.

Davis mentioned that arsenic was detected in the area and that was a concern. "If arsenic levels are at five, that will create problems dredging, but the arsenic levels under the bridge are not even at a one," Davis said.

Davis said engineers from the state must approve the final proposal for the dredging.

The Commissioners voiced concern about whether the spoil material would have to be treated.

"It is not required to be treated because of the low levels of arsenic," Davis said. "As long as the levels stay in the parameters we gave, it should remain safe. We need a place to dump the dried out material."

There was a previous incident where arsenic levels became too high and it cost \$130,000 for



Photo by Sean Arnold

Cedar Key Mayor Heath Davis at a County Commission meeting in 2017.

treatment.

Commissioners questioned Davis on where the fill that settled under the bridge came

from.

"High levels of organic material from the rivers filled in," he said. "When the bridge wasn't properly

maintained, that settled. The organic material is tiny."

## Sheriff's budget requests come up short

By Lori Prevatt  
Beacon Correspondent

Sheriff Bobby McCallum addressed the Board of Levy County Commissioners in a long discussion on July 2 in an attempt to secure additional funding for the fiscal year and left the meeting short of his goal.

McCallum sought additional funds to pay for full-time security on campuses during school hours, meeting a new state law requirement that came in the wake of the school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland in February.

If the County would have provided McCallum the funding requested, it would have generated a deficit of \$300,000.

McCallum requested \$1.2 million additional dollars more than the prior year, in addition to the \$550,000 the County is already providing each year for school resource officers.

"We have currently spent \$515,000 through May of this year," McCallum said. "We currently have six school resource officers and one part time Agriculture deputy covering schools for us. We need to hire seven brand new deputies. Ten other schools need deputies. That would give us three extra deputies in case someone had to be off, or

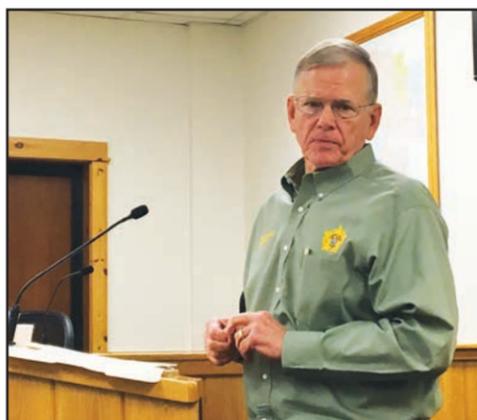


Photo by Lori Prevatt

Sheriff McCallum discusses his concerns to the County Commissioners.

leave a school."

This would allow McCallum the manpower needed to meet the Safe Schools mandate, which requires every school in the state to have a school resource officer or school guardian present at all times.

In addition to the strain on the budget for the resource officer program, McCallum also expressed the need for additional funding for

additional overtime hours paid to the deputies covering the schools, insurance costs for his employees, FICA and new vehicles for deputies. He also mentioned the need for a new forensic investigator.

"One of my forensic investigators has to be on call 24/7 every other week," McCallum said.

McCallum and the Commissioners discussed School Board funding for Safe Schools. The School Board had provided \$409,496 to the Sheriff's Office to go toward the safe schools program. The School Board is also committed to \$510,000 per year.

Commissioner Lilly Rooks asked McCallum if he were to receive the \$1.2 million increase, less the \$550,000 already promised, would he be able to approach the School Board for more funding.

"I just feel like we are holding a whole lot of the bag right now," Commissioner Matt Brooks said.

Commissioner Rock Meeks also commented: "We are in this situation with a partially funded mandate. We have been funding school resource officers for years."

The Commissioners also suggested the Sheriff may want to approach the School

See SHERIFF Page 6



**Oct. 20-21**  
**49th Annual Cedar Key Festival**

Organized by the Cedar Key Lions Club, the festival offers fine food, entertainment, shopping and family fun. The Festival will also mark the opening ribbon cutting ceremony for the Florida Shellfish Trail tourism guide. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The festival parade is at 11 a.m. Saturday

For information visit [cedarkeylionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:cedarkeylionsclub@gmail.com)

**Oct. 20**  
**Seahorse Key Open House**

Seahorse Key is an island located three miles from Cedar Key by boat and is managed by the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. It is open to the public about four times per year. Open houses are great oppor-

tunities for the public to experience the peacefulness, history and natural environment that Seahorse Key has to offer. Visitors can also tour the pre-civil war lighthouse. Access to Seahorse Key is available to the public through Tidewater Tours, Cedar Key Boat Rentals and Island Tours or accessed by private boats during the open house dates.

For information visit [ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu](http://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu).

**Nov. 30 – Dec. 2**

**Pirate Invasion Weekend**  
**Cedar Key City Park**

The sixth annual pirate invasion gives visitors and local alike an opportunity to put on their best pirate gear and enjoy a weekend of music and entertainment in the park, including a historical weapons demonstration and live-fire performances.

July						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <small>Canada Day</small>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <small>Independence Day</small>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Community Calendar is sponsored by the  
**Levy County Visitors Bureau**  
[www.VisitLevy.com](http://www.VisitLevy.com)

**Christmas dinner in July**

The Cedar Key Eagles are once again hosting their Christmas Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Annual Santa Shop at Cedar Key School. The dinner is Saturday, July 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Little Red House, Eagles Aerie 4194, at 7010 3rd corner of B Street in Cedar Key. The dinner is \$10 a plate and includes turkey, gravy, all the fixings! All are welcome. It's home cooking and hospitality for a good cause. See you there. The Eagles are people helping people.



**Cedar Key Beacon**  
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*Levy County*  
**Almanac**  
*Temperatures, Rainfall, Winds*  
Thursday, July 12 through Wednesday, July 18, 2018

	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
Low Temp.	75	77	76	74	76	77	78
High Temp.	86	86	87	87	86	86	85
Rainfall%	20	30	20	30	40	40	20
Hum (%)	76	79	77	76	78	77	77
Wind Speed	9	8	10	9	8	8	11
Wind Direction	SW	S	W	NW	SW	W	W
Fire Danger							

**Levy County Coast Tides at Cedar Key**  
Thursday, July 11 thru Wednesday, July 17, 2018

11	High 1:44 AM	Low 6:56 AM	High 12:40 PM	Low 8:02 PM
12	High 2:37 AM	Low 7:48 AM	High 1:29 PM	Low 8:51 PM
13	High 3:24 AM	Low 8:37 AM	High 2:18 PM	Low 9:37 PM
14	High 4:08 AM	Low 9:25 AM	High 3:08 PM	Low 10:22 PM
15	High 4:49 AM	Low 10:13 AM	High 3:58 PM	Low 11:06 PM
16	High 5:29 AM	Low 11:03 AM	High 4:51 PM	Low 11:48 PM
17	High 6:07 AM	Low 11:56 AM	High 5:46 PM	

**Suwannee River Levels**  
at Wilcox, near US 19 Bridge.  
Readings relate to Mean Sea Level

Tues., July 10	3.88 Feet Rising
1 week ago	3.7 Feet
2 weeks ago	----- System Down
3 weeks ago	4.04 Feet Falling

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**Citizens for an Engaged Electorate (CEE) members Drollene Brown, Michele Belew and Sue Vogt listen to WMHS confidential secretary Scarlett McGowan explain some of the features of the new middle high school's cafeteria in Williston, the venue for the upcoming Candidates Forum on Saturday, July 28. Brown and Vogt are also members of the Williston Area AARP Chapter 912, which is co-sponsoring the event.**

## Meet the candidates at WMHS in July

Citizen for and Engaged Electorate (CEE) and the Williston Area AARP are hosting a Candidates Forum July 28 at the Williston Middle High School cafeteria. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m. to give attendees time to write down questions for candidates who are on the 2018 ballot for U.S. Senate, U.S. House D2, Governor, Fla. House D22, Commissioner of Agriculture, Levy County School Board and County Commission.

Student volunteers will read selected questions after candidates introduce themselves. Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones will be on hand to register voters and re-register those who have a new address, handwriting that has changed, or a new name. The program will last from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendance is free to the public. Entrance will be made from Hwy 41; front gates will be closed.

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank you Cedar Key friends

I would like to write thank JD McCormick and his team and Andy in the mechanic shop at NAPA. We were broke down and stranded and Andy helped us out with contacting a few people, and the McCormicks helped us out with lodging. This is an amazing sweet little town. Hospitality is still here in Cedar Key. We thank everyone so much.

Holly Woodard  
Tennessee

## CF open house in Ocala

The College of Central Florida invites recent high school seniors and those looking to advance their career to an open house Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Ewers Century Center at the Ocala Campus, 3001 S.W. College Road.

Future students are encouraged to stop by and receive assistance with the application process, financial aid, placement testing, academic advising and registration for fall semester, which begins Aug. 20.

To apply for financial aid at the event, please bring these documents: Federal Student Aid ID available at pin.ed.gov; email address; 2017 W-2 and Federal Income Tax Forms (1040, 1040A or 1040 EZ) of you and/or your parents (if you are a dependent student); 2015 untaxed income (Social Security, disability, workman's compensation, etc.); driver's license or state ID; Social Security card; spouse or parent's Social Security number and date of birth. For Florida residency verification, please bring a copy of your Florida driver's license and a copy of your Florida vehicle registration or voter's registration.

Light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit [www.CF.edu/openhouse](http://www.CF.edu/openhouse) or call 352-854-2322, ext. 1379.

## Regional Planning Council hears from Florida Chamber

City of Waldo Mayor Louie Davis, Chair of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, welcomed Dr. Jerry Parrish, Chief Economist and Director of Research from the Florida Chamber Foundation to the June 21 meeting of the Council held in Lake City. Also in attendance was Levy County Commissioner John Meeks. Dr. Parrish's remarks provided Council members an overview of the Florida and North Central Florida economies as well as the Cornerstone 2030 strategic economic development planning initiative of the Florida Chamber Foundation to secure Florida's future economy.

The Council, whose members are local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees, administers a variety of state and federal programs for north central Florida including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton,

Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties. Programs include development of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, technical assistance to local governments in development of comprehensive plans, land development regulations and grant management, and administration of hazardous materials, homeland security and economic development programs. In addition, the Council staffs the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and The Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

The Council offices are located in Gainesville. More information about the Council can be found at [ncfrpc.org](http://ncfrpc.org).



**Front row, from left: City of Waldo Mayor Louie Davis, Chair of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Jerry Parrish, Chief Economist and Director of Research for the Florida Chamber Foundation; Commissioner John Meeks, Levy County; and Scott Koons, Executive Director of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.**

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We hope everybody had a safe and happy 4th

## Legals

### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

#### LEVY COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD ORIENTATION MEETING

The Levy County Canvassing Board will convene at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at the Supervisor of Elections office, 421 South Court Street, Bronson, Florida, to discuss matters pertaining to the 2018 election cycle. In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, all Canvassing Board meetings are open to the public.

TAMMY JONES  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Published: July 12, 2018

Shop Local, It Helps Everybody



The cast of the upcoming "Anne of Green Gables," which promises to be a treat for the whole family at the Chief Theatre later this month.

# Anne of Green Gables fun for whole family at Chief Theatre

By Will Rucker

The Chief Theatre, home of the Suwannee Valley Players (SVP), invites you to its upcoming show, "Anne of Green Gables," our summer children's production.

The show runs July 20 through July 22 and July 27 through July 29. The Friday and Saturday shows are 7:30 pm, and the pair of Sunday shows are 2 p.m.

The Chief Theatre is located at 25 East Park Avenue in Chiefland. Tickets can be reserved by calling our box office manager at 352-493-2787. You can keep track of what's going on at The Chief Theatre by following us on our Facebook page.

We've had great audiences for our last two shows, "Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "Noises Off"; now we'd like to invite you back again for "Anne of Green

Gables." It's a wonderful show for the whole family.

Now that we're in the middle of summer, and school is looming just around the corner, it's time to take the whole family out for a nice dinner that ends with a fun show. We like to think of performance nights as times to bring families in the community together and enjoy one another's company. Live theatre is a great time to form new memories that will last a lifetime.

"Anne of Green Gables" is the final show the season. Our next season will kick off with Shakespeare's, "Much Ado about Nothing." Now is the time to contact the box office at 352-493-2787 and ask about our season pass, which delivers a great value for seeing all of next season's shows.



Photos by Debbie Goad

Several agencies combined efforts to put out a fire in Bronson July 7 after it spread across multiple properties.

# Small fire breaks out in Bronson

By Debbie Goad

Beacon Correspondent

Firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire in Bronson just before noon July 7.

The fire, which initially started as a landowner was clearing his property for a building project, quickly spread to two structures on the adjoining property.

The neighbors' buildings, containing ATV vehicles, go-karts, propane tanks, welding equipment and other items appeared to be totally lost to the flames. It took several agencies to contain the fire – Bronson Fire and Levy County Fire worked the south side, while Chiefland, Archer and Williston departments worked the north side.

A burn permit is required for land clearing, pile and acreage. A permit is not required to burn yard waste as long as required setbacks are met and there are not local, city or county ordinances in place that prohibit burning. Yard waste is considered vegetative debris, such as grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs, brush, etc.

Piles greater than 8 feet in diameter will require prior authorization from the Florida Forest Service. Setback requirements and suppression equipment must be on hand. Required setbacks for an 8-foot diameter yard waste pile are: 25 feet from a home, 25 feet from woodlands, brush or combustible structure, 150 feet from other occupied buildings, and 50 feet from paved roads.

If your fire escapes, you may be liable for costs of suppression and damage to the property of others.

It is illegal to burn household garbage, paper products, treated lumber, plastics, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint and aerosol containers.

## LEVY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

### YOUTH SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2018

FREE for all ages!! All programs include a special guest, fun activities, take home goody bags, and lunch (for children up to age 18) in the library!

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 10:30AM

	Williston Public Library	Bronson Public Library	Cedar Key Public Library	AF Knotts Public Library	Luther Callaway Public Library
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
June 18 – June 22	Moana & Maui				
June 25 – June 29	Trolls Poppy & Branch				
July 9 – July 13	Shimmer & Shine				
July 16 – July 20	Magic!	Magic!	Magic!	Magic!	Magic!
July 23 – July 27	Mini Angels Rescue Petting Zoo				
July 30 – Aug 3	Lego Obstacle Course				

For more information contact your local library or Jenny Rodgers, Youth Services Manager, 352-486-5552 or [jrogers@neflin.org](mailto:jrogers@neflin.org). Lunch will be provided by a partnership with Levy County Schools through the Summer Break Spot program.





### Patriotic quilts

The Florida Quilt Museum exhibit, "In Honor of Those Who Serve: A Patriotic Quilt Exhibit," will hang in the History Room of the Florida Quilt Museum through the end of August 2018. The Florida Quilt Museum, located in downtown Trenton, at 409 North Main Street, is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted. A preview of these quilts may be seen on the Museum website at [www.floridaquiltmuseum.com](http://www.floridaquiltmuseum.com).

The Patriotic Exhibit also features a "Service Members Corner," showcasing uniforms and gear from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm, including an

authentic World War I Army jacket and battlefield helmet. First Sergeant Jon Meinholz, USA, retired, who serves as the JROTC Instructor at Bell High School, coordinated this display.

"The uniforms represent our desire to band together to protect and defend our country and preserve the American way of life," Meinholz said. "Those who wear the uniform are willing to forfeit all they have for democracy and freedom."

The Florida Quilt Museum is home to The Florida Quilt Trail and Trenton's Suwannee Valley Quilt Festival. It's dedicated to preserving and displaying Florida's quilting heritage.

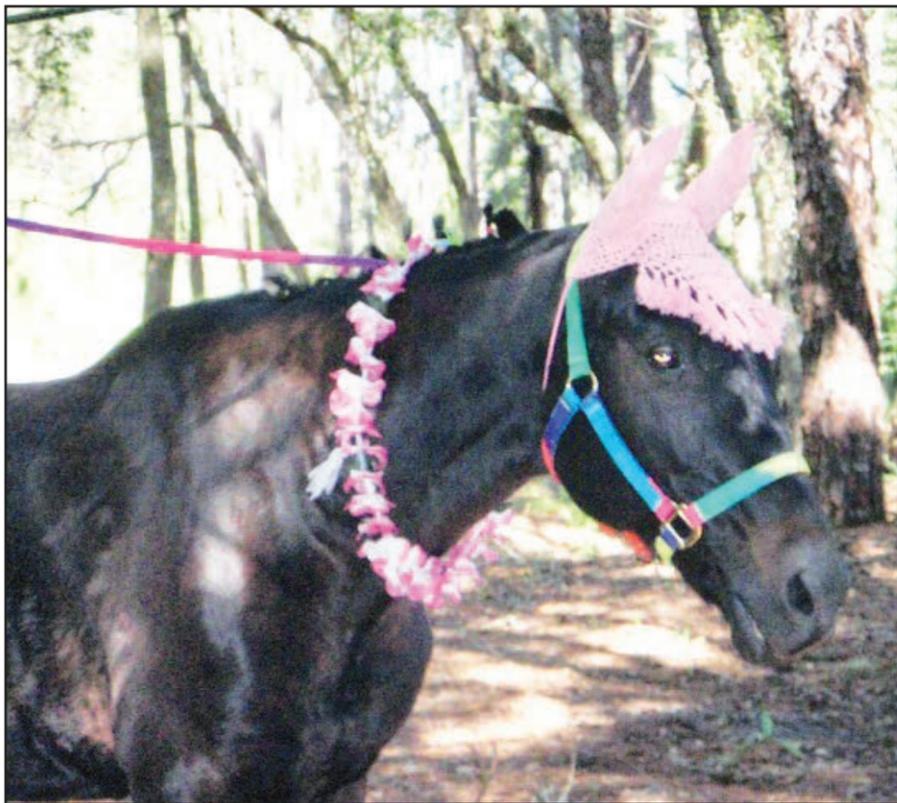


Photo provided

**A horse at the 17th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Trail Ride last October is dressed for the occasion. The Levy County Horse Club, which sponsors the fundraiser ride, is holding an online cake auction July 13 and July 14 with Marie's Sweets.**

**\$1,000 in CF scholarships for Levy County high school graduates.**



Levy County high school graduates may be eligible for **\$1,000 in scholarships** to attend the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus starting fall semester.

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## Cake auction helps breast cancer patients

**Sean Arnold**  
Editor

The Levy County Horse Club raised more than \$10,000 for Breast Cancer Awareness (BCA) last year, culminating its efforts with the 17th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Trail Ride in the Goethe Forest last October.

The Club is back at it again, raising funds for breast cancer patients. On July 13 and July 14, in conjunction with Chiefland cupcake shop Marie's Sweets, the group is holding its Cake Auction for Breast Cancer Awareness online. All of the funds will go towards breast cancer patients at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

"(Levy County Horse Club) sets a goal every year to raise enough money to help out breast cancer patients. The money helps (patients) with gas, bills, medication or anything else they might need help with," said Marie of Marie's Sweets, which is facilitating the delivery of the treats from bakers to bidders. "We all know someone, either in our family,

one of our friends or elsewhere, that has been diagnosed with breast cancer. It's awful what these ladies have to go through."

Anyone wishing to help can either donate a cake to Marie's Sweets on East Park Avenue or go to @MariesSweets15 and search Cake Auction for Breast Cancer in Events to purchase cakes. The auction starts at 12 p.m. Friday, July 13, and lasts until 3 p.m. Sunday, July 14.

Marie's Sweets is posting on Facebook photos of the treats, which may include cakes, cookies, bundt cakes, cheesecakes, brownies or other items, before the auction on Facebook. Marie encourages everyone to share the event on social media with as many friends as possible to attract more bidders and bakers.

The Levy County Horse Club is holding its 18th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Trail Ride this October. The Club president is Dave Wilson, and the Club secretary is Bonnie Wilson.

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# Dog days of summer

## Weiners remain all-American summer picnic favorites

By Julianne Munn,  
Citrus Chronicle food writer

Hot dogs! They're the perfect complement to summer picnics, from simply tucking them in a grilled bun to dousing them with favorite condiments and special toppings.

It's likely many of you were offered hot dogs if you attended a party or picnic on July 4, or anytime this summer and early fall, and you won't be alone.

How many hot dogs do Americans eat? Over the course of a year, Americans consume around 20 billion hot dogs and 150 million are eaten on Fourth of July alone. Over a third of hot dogs are consumed between Memorial Day and Labor Day, so we're in peak hot dog eating season, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council (NHDS).

Many folks joke about the type of ingredients that might be found in hot dogs, but take heart: The U.S. Department of Agriculture tries to keep those dogs as tasty as possible by setting certain standards for production. Hot dogs "may contain no more than 30 percent fat or 10 percent water. A fraction — up to 3.5 percent — can be a non-meat binder, like nonfat dry milk, cereal of dried whole milk or a 2 percent isolated soy protein.

And take note. A veggie or vegan sausage does not

qualify as a hot dog. Further, hot dogs are NOT classified as sandwiches.

The NHDS council says hot dogs are made from the pieces of meat trimmed from steaks and roasts, then ground up finely, mixed with spices and stuffed into a casing and cooked.

Today's Flair for Food has more than just hot dog statistics. There are recipes to upscale your dogs with topping additions and more for that July 4 celebration.

Hot dogs are so emblematic of the American July 4 observance, many communities stage hot dog eating contests on that holiday.

One of the best known is the Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest on Coney Island in New York City, a legend that historians say originated on July 4, 1916, when four immigrants gathered to compete for the title of "most patriotic" by eating the most weiners.

The Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest has occurred at the original Coney Island location every Independence Day since the first recorded contest in 1972, with entrants consuming as many Nathan's hot dogs as possible in 10 minutes.

This July 4 represented the 101st annual contest. The reigning champion is Joey Chestnut, with a world record of for the most hot dogs eaten at 73. The record was set in 2013.

Impaled on a stick and roasted over an open fire until the skins char and crackle, or grilled on a fancy backyard barbecue grill or even, as some chefs recommend, simply fried in butter in a skillet, you can't go too far wrong in fixing everyone's traditional favorite picnic treat.

All-beef dogs, beef and pork dogs, foot-long dogs, chili dogs, cheesy dogs — the list is endless about what you can do with hot dogs.

Add some potato and macaroni salads, baked barbecue beans, sweet corn on the cob, fresh grilled buns and plenty of ice cold beverages and you can set a picnic table fit for kings and queens.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

### HOT DOGS & SAUERKRAUT

- 4 hot dogs
- 4 hot dog buns
- 1/2 cup sauerkraut
- 1/2 cup grated Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup Thousand Island dressing

Split and toast or grill the buns. Place the hot dogs in the buns and, dividing equally, top with the sauerkraut, cheese and dressing.

### Thousand Island Dressing

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1 tablespoon sweet pickle relish
- 1/2 teaspoon worchestershire
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Mix together. Easy to double or triple recipe.

TIP: Make it even better by frying the sauerkraut in a little butter and a dash of brown sugar and caraway seeds before piling it on the dogs.

— *Recipe courtesy of the National Pork Council*

## Local school career programs receive 10K grant

Duke Energy continues to power awareness of public school career programs throughout the Citrus, Levy and Marion counties region.

Earlier this month, Dorothy Pernu, Duke Energy's Government and Community Relations manager for a six-county region which includes Citrus, Levy and Marion counties, awarded \$10,100 to CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion in continued support of its Career Awareness-Talent Pipeline video project highlighting public school programs that prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

The award, part of \$1.56 million in grants to 46-Florida based programs, is administered through the Duke Energy Foundation which provides philanthropic support to communities served by Duke Energy. Last year, Duke Energy granted CareerSource CLM \$21,000 toward the Career Awareness project which, to date, has resulted in 15 videos highlighting career programs in the Marion County Public School district. Plans are under way to produce similar videos in the coming school year for Levy and Citrus counties.

During the presentation on June 13, Pernu said that the videos "exceeded all expectations."

The Duke Energy grants focus on "K to Career" educational and workforce development initiatives, the environment and community impact.

In prepared remarks about the grants, Duke Energy Florida President Catherine Stempien said, "I am proud to say our 'K to Career' grant cycle is the largest investment we make in the state each year. It demonstrates our commitment to the future of our communities by preparing students to become leaders and enabling and

empowering a skilled workforce to meet the needs in high-demand fields."

The educational grants help fund STEM projects and the workforce development initiatives are designed to further bolster and expand the state's existing workforce.

"We are more than grateful that Duke Energy understands and appreciates the importance of the incredible public school career programs throughout our region," said Rusty Skinner, CEO of CareerSource CLM. "In many cases, students may earn certifications that prepare them for the region's workplace right after graduating from high school or they may apply the certifications toward college credits and degrees that can be earned locally."

Skinner said that all-too-often students and their parents, as well as area businesses, are unaware of the programs.

"We piloted the career awareness video program in 2016 to raise awareness of what area manufacturers and others businesses have to offer in terms of products, work environment and required skills for successful employment," Skinner said, adding that students view the videos through in-school television and are used to help educate guidance staff about opportunities.

"We are now working very closely with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) staff in all three school districts to highlight public school career programs."

Career Awareness-Talent Pipeline videos highlighting Marion County Public Schools may be viewed on CareerSource CLM's YouTube Playlist. For more information, call 352-873-7955 or 800-746-9950.

## SHERIFF, from Page 1

Board about implementing the school guardian program, at least in some schools. The program is a Safe Schools option whereby staff on campus are trained to use weapons in case of emergencies.

"The School Board does not want to take that approach," McCallum said. "Safe Schools officers have to have 132 hours of firearms training, in addition to 600 hours of other types of training. They would just assist with active threats. There are no doubts in the language in the Safe School Act. Guardians can't do anything else but respond to an active threat. They can't transport students and arrest students. Guardians can be any school personnel but teachers.

The School Board would be required to pay for guardians training as well.

Commission chairman John Meeks noted how difficult it is for school guardian applicants to pass the psychological evaluation. "I hear that one out of seven people can't pass the psych evaluation," he said.

Superintendent of Schools Jeff Edison has said all sides responsible for funding Safe Schools are struggling to find funds, but remain committed to keeping a deputy at every school.

"This is a mutual problem that we have," Edison said. "We'll mutually solve this problem. I can tell you that myself, the School Board, the Sheriff and the County Commissioners are committed to making sure that resources are allocated to make sure we have a deputy at every school. Exactly how that happens — the budget is a process, it is what it is. If we or the county were flush with a bunch of money, it wouldn't be an issue."

Edison noted that the school district is limited in how much it can levy for additional revenue. He said the state has provided \$350,000 for Safe Schools as well as additional funding that must be spent on mental health. He said enrollment is not predicted to increase this year, so no additional funding is expected.

"Our people would like an increase in salary, and that hasn't happened in a couple years," Edison said. "On the School Board side, we got, from the State of Florida, a 47 cent raise."

McCallum suggested that the commissioners possibly consider giving him the funding previously marked for building the new 911 call center, an amount of \$293,402.

"Maybe we could make some of the funding back in years 2, 3, and 4," McCallum said. The Commissioners were not in agreement to give that funding up. The

## MERIDIAN, from Page 1

all go toward patient care. This would be a five-percent increase from last year."

Larbarta illustrated Meridian's budgeting needs by sharing statistics about mental needs currently in Levy County. "We have seen 987 people from Levy already this year," she said. "There was a 60-percent increase in the number of of Levy residents seen last year — 20 percent of these clients are school-aged children. Most patients are below the poverty line. Eighty-two Levy patients used Telehealth for treatment, which is a phone treatment option; 177 of the Levy patients used our acute care center."

Larbarta said Bipolar Disorder, addictions and opioid addictions are major issues in Levy County.

"In the last five years, there has been a 16-percent growth in the amount of patients from Levy County. In 2017, we saw 1,035 Levy residents."

The County Commissioners approved a 3-percent budget increase instead of the requested 5 percent.

This put the total funding provided by the county at \$77,750.

funding for the center had been put away for a few years now.

After a couple of hours of deliberation, the Commissioners concurred that the \$1.2 million increase, less the funding already promised per year, was all the County could absorb. This left the County paying around \$800,000 in additional funding.

Commissioner Rooks made a motion to fund the Sheriff's Office \$13,577,299, which would still leave the sheriff's office short for operating costs at around \$275,000 for the school resource officer program. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff McCallum responded to the motion: "We will have to continue using our regular deputies in the schools and paying them overtime. This may affect the raises I planned to give my deputies. I may have to come back to request more money later on," McCallum said.

Undersheriff Brett Beauchamp said the consequences for not being in compliant with the Safe Schools Act is not known. "I would think we could be sued by the state, if we don't follow the protocol," he said.

Sean Arnold contributed to this report.



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### 4 Temporary Farm Workers Needed.

**Asa Phillips - Glencoe, KY.**

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### 5 Temporary Farm Workers Needed.

**Darnell Farm Partnership - Cynthiana, KY.**

Perform all duties of Tobacco & Hemp Production; including, but not limited to cutting, harvesting, stripping, & storing; other alternative work. Employment Dates: 09/08/2018 - 01/16/2019. 12¢/stick cutting, 25¢/lb. stripping, but no less than \$11.19/hr. Worker guaranteed 3/4 of contract hours. Tools provided at no cost. Free housing provided to non-commuting workers. Transportation & subsistence reimbursed when 50% of contract is met. Random drug/alcohol test & criminal background checks after hire. Apply for this job at the nearest Florida CareerSource CLM and reference job order 870626321.

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### 6 Temporary Farm Workers Needed. Harry Harper Cline III - Foster, KY.

Perform all duties of Tobacco Production; including, but not limited to cutting, harvesting, & stripping; other alternative work. Employment Dates: 09/07/2018 - 01/20/2019. \$11.19/hr. Worker guaranteed 3/4 of contract hours. Tools provided at no cost. Free housing provided to non-commuting workers. Transportation & subsistence reimbursed when 50% of contract is met. Random drug/alcohol test & criminal background checks after hire. Apply for this job at the nearest Florida CareerSource CLM and reference job order 871184891.

### 1 Temporary Farm Worker Needed. Logsdon Spring Hollow Farms LLC - Nancy, KY.

Perform all duties of Tobacco, Forage, Row Crop, Fruit/Vegetable, & Nursery Production; including, but not limited to spraying, harvesting, & storing; other alternative work. Employment Dates: 09/10/2018 - 02/15/2019. 17¢/stick cutting, 32¢/lb. stripping, but no less than \$11.19/hr. Worker guaranteed 3/4 of contract hours. Tools provided at no cost. Free housing provided to non-commuting workers. Transportation & subsistence reimbursed when 50% of contract is met. Random drug/alcohol test & criminal background checks after hire. Apply for this job at the nearest Florida CareerSource CLM and reference job order 871191811.

### 4 Temporary Farm Workers Needed. Young's Farm Partnership - Simpsonville, KY

Perform all duties of Tobacco & Forage Production; including, but not limited to cutting, harvesting, stripping, & storing; other alternative work. Employment Dates: 09/03/2018 - 01/10/2019. 15¢/stick cutting, but not less than \$11.19/hr. Worker guaranteed 3/4 of contract hours. Tools provided at no cost. Free housing provided to non-commuting workers. Transportation & subsistence reimbursed when 50% of contract is met. Random drug/alcohol test & criminal background checks after hire. Apply for this job at the nearest Florida CareerSource CLM and reference job order 870096251.

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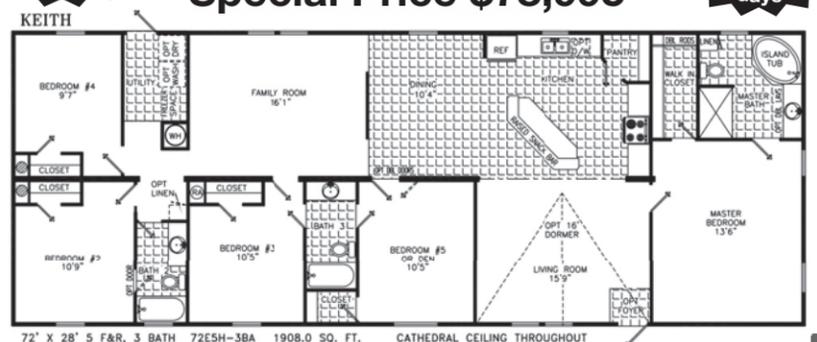
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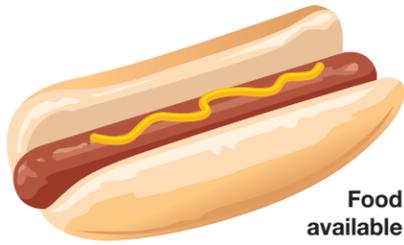
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