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## **Boosters garner support for CHS Softball Champs; *Cake auction brings in \$8,000***



**Players and coaches present for the cake auction are (from left) Kensley Durrance, Sydney Parks, Erika Gilliam, Samantha Rolfe, Assistant Coach Jimmy Anderson, Hannah Gore, Tataneisha 'Tot' Barnes, Morgan Anderson and Head Coach Wayne Weatherford at the podium. The season's starting pitcher Lauren Stalvey was absent due to being on vacation. Other winners who were not present at the cake auction were Emily Hallman, Takiya London, Lauren Parker, Aleaha Rhoomes, Taylor Simpson, Maci Thomas, Simone White, Karlie Meeks, and Assistant Coach Brian Gore and Assistant Coach Harland Stalvey. Lauren Stalvey, Hannah Gore, Tataneisha 'Tot' Barnes and Morgan Anderson graduated with the CHS Class of 2016. Simpson, Thomas and White came up from JV and are among the next set of softball players that show a strong potential of being on the team claiming another historic title – where they could become the fourth consecutive Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A State Champions in Softball. Right now, the Trenton Tigers Softball Team are seen as one of the stronger threats to that fourth title, but that season begins in the future.**

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**By Jeff M. Hardison © July 1, 2016 @ 11:27 a.m.**

**CHIEFLAND** -- One auctioneer, 32 cakes with almost as many bakers, several candidates, a bevy of business interests and a mixture of individual bidders blended together Thursday night (June 30,) at a cake auction in First Baptist Church of Chiefland to create the best icing on the cake so far.

The cake was the most recent statewide championship in softball by the Chiefland High School Varsity Softball Team. The icing is the successful fundraiser and the subsequent championship rings to be worn by those winners.

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Sponsored by the Chiefland Fast Pitch Boosters, this was not the first-ever cake auction for most in attendance.

**Sydney Parks carries drinks to tables where bidders made their offers to pay for cakes.**

For the winning team of players and coaches, it was the third time of seeking funds to go toward the purchase of rings for the Three-Time State Champions of Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A Softball.

The girls from Chiefland obtained all of the money they needed for their new rings. After a raffle of a Yeti cooler that was donated by Gray Drummond, that put the funding at \$1,500. The cake auction brought in at least another \$8,000.

Politicians present at the auction were State Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala, Dist. 22); Levy County Sheriff Robert "Bobby" McCallum Jr.; Levy County Judge J.T. 'Tim' Browning; Levy

County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones; School Board Member Chris Cowart; School Board Member Paige Brookins; Property Appraiser Osborn "Oz" Barker; Berlon Weeks for County Commission District 1; Matt Brooks for County Commission District 5; and Jeff Edison for Levy County Superintendent of Schools.

Politicians who were unable to be present, but who donated to bid on cakes were County Commissioner District 1 John Meeks; County Commissioner District 3 Mike Joyner; Levy County Superintendent of Schools Robert "Bob" Hastings; Levy County School Board members Brad Etheridge, Cameron Asbell and Rick Turner; and Jerry Lawrence for Levy County Superintendent of Schools.

Among the many business interests that bid on cakes included Haven Hospice, Wilson Gas, (Murray) Tillis Farms, Jim King Realty Inc., Beef 'O' Brady's, NAPA of Chiefland, Bennett



Heating and Air, B-3 Quail Farm, Pinnacle Home Health Care, Knauff Funeral Home, attorney Sunshine Baynard of Baynard Law, P.A., attorney Norm D. Fugate, P.A., attorney David Delaney of the Dell Graham Law Firm of Gainesville, Ralph's Burger House, and Chiefland Dry Cleaners.

**Auctioneer Chad 'Cracker' Johnson encourages bidders to up the ante to help the three-time state championship softball players.**

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**Hannah Gore carries a chocolate cake.**

Among the individuals who bid on cakes was Jimmy Jones Jr., who with candidate Weeks made the winning bid of \$360 on one of the cakes created by Wilda Long. Curtis Gore bought the first cake up for auction, which was a pound cake by Gloria Jones that went for \$150.

Karson Hutchison bought an old-fashioned (1950s recipe) chocolate cake by Kay Warner for \$150. Karson is the son of Louie and Melanie King Hutchison. They are very active in supporting Chiefland softball.

While Karson Hutchison was among the young people bidding, Lauren Jones, Scott Hallman's niece, was the youngest girl to bid. And she won a \$230 bidding war for a cheesecake with red, white and blue layers under the frosting.

Dave Wilson of Dixie County, a great fan of Chiefland softball, bought a \$235 chocolate delight cake that was made by Brenda Rolfe.

Charlie King bought some cakes with candidate Brooks, including a \$310 cake by Renee Redwine and a \$260 cake by Kaye Hallman. Doug and Mary Lee King bought a \$250 cheesecake made by Lou Jones.

Assistant Coach Anderson bought a \$250 Mandarin orange dreamsicle cake made by Melanie Naylor O'Neal and Coach Anderson donated it back for sale again, where it brought in another \$180 thanks to Haven Hospice and Alison Geiger Gilliam. The \$150 carrot cake that candidate Lawrence donated back brought in another \$75 thanks to attorney Norm D. Fugate, P.A.

Merci Bingaman made the candy bar cake that went for \$425 to the highest single bidder candidate Brooks. Another one of Bingaman's cakes, though, brought in another \$425 when Jim King Realty Inc. and Chiefland Dry Cleaners joined forces to outbid all others on that cake.

Baked items by Melissa Lott, Faye Sache, Lola Gore, Tammy Boyle, Vera Beauchamp and several others also helped the girls pay for their new championship rings as the many bidders did their part in this mission as well.

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Hanna Gore carries the Mandarin orange dreamsicle cake made by Melanie Naylor O'Neal.



Auctioneer Chad 'Cracker' Johnson calls for bids as Kensley Durrance holds one of the beautiful cakes sold that night.



(from left) Rep. Charlie Stone, Levy County School Board Member Chris Cowart and Ben Lott enjoy the cake auction. These three men and others bought one cake as a group, and they bought other cakes as individuals.

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**Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum Jr. waves as a carrot cake by Betty Anderson sits in front of him.**



**County Commission candidate Berlon Weeks and Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones sit with some of the baked goods they bought at the auction. Tammy's husband Jimmy Jones Jr. joined with Weeks to buy another item. Jimmy and Tammy's son Jimmy Jones III is home for a summer break from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he is earning a degree and playing baseball. He found the opportunity to enjoy the cake auction action Thursday night with his parents.**

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**In the foreground are Levy County Commission (District 5) candidate Matt Brooks and his wife Angie Miller Brooks. In the background are (from left) Charlie King, Louie Hutchison, Melanie King Hutchison, and Karson Hutchison. Even farther in the background of this photo are Murray Tillis, Karen Tillis (standing) and Brandy Crittenden Horne.**

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Three-Time State Champion Softball Player Hannah Gore carries the Mandarin orange dreamsicle cake made by Melanie Naylor O'Neal. To see the story about the players and the cakes, as well as to see more photos and to watch and listen to a video about this, please visit the [LEISURE PAGE](#).  
*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © July 1, 2016 @ 11:27 a.m.*

## Signs Of The Times



Thanks to the efforts of the Levy County Road Department making four signs and the Florida Department of Transportation posting them, four

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**entrance roads leading into Chiefland herald the good news of the Chiefland High School Varsity Softball Team being the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A State Champions. These signs are posted at the northbound and southbound city limits on U.S. Highway 19, on U.S. Highway 129 and on U.S. Alt. 27 coming into Chiefland.**

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*Photo Courtesy Of Jimmy Anderson*