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Parade opens festivities for Independence Day weekend



Williston Police Chief Dennis Strow rides in the parade on Friday (July 1).
Photos by Jeff M. Hardison July 2, 2016 @ 1:47 p.m., All Rights Reserved



A Williston Fire Rescue engine travels in the Independence Day Parade in Williston on Friday (July 1).
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Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat and some members of the Williston City Council and some of their families ride in the parade on Friday.
Photos by Jeff M. Hardison July 2, 2016 @ 1:47 p.m., All Rights Reserved

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Parade Participants



This float by Regional General Hospital is one of the pieces that the hospital had in the Independence Day Parade on Friday (July 1) in Williston. There was also a banner and people marching on behalf of the hospital.



Smokey Bear representing the Florida Forest Service waves to people along the parade route in Williston on Friday.

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Danielle Wolfe and her father Thomas Wolfe walk with a goat in the Independence Day Parade in Williston on Friday. They are part of the Levy County 4-H Outdoor Adventures Club. 'Make The Best Better.'



Some of the Levy County 4-H Outdoor Adventures Club ride on a float. There are many different clubs in Levy County 4-H.

(Please see the story, more pictures and the video on the Community Page, and more pictures on the Home, Police, Life and Leisure Pages.)

Photos by Jeff M. Hardison July 2, 2016 @ 3:07 p.m., All Rights Reserved

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The parade begins.



(More Pictures On Home, Police, Business, Life and Leisure Pages.)

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Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © July 2, 2016 @ 1:37 p.m.

WILLISTON -- The Independence Day Parade through Williston on Friday (July 1) was a fine start for celebrations that will ring throughout the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties all the way until the final rocket's red glare and bombs bursting in air on the Fourth of July.

There were fireworks in Williston on Friday night, and there are fireworks planned for both Cedar Key and Bronson on Monday night (the Fourth of July). For more details on Bronson and Cedar Key events, please visit the [CALENDAR PAGE](#).

People came from near and far to see the parade. One example of that is seen here



(from left) Nia Hamby, 11, of Bronson joins her grandmother Kathy Hamby of Williston and another of Kathy's granddaughters Autumn Smith, 13, of Cookeville, Tenn.

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The City of Williston sponsored the annual Independence Day Parade. Later in the evening there were vendors and fireworks at Horsemen Park, where music included performances by Butch Batts and The SouthBound Band.

The 40-minute parade was led by motorcyclists and a cruiser from the Ocala Police Department, which has been helpful to its sister city for many years.



Even though school is dismissed in Levy County for the summer, four members of the Williston High School unit of the United States Army Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps carried the colors as they served as the Honor Guard for this parade. As some people have noticed in regard to parades in Levy County, there are no marching bands from any of the schools.



A significant number of Corvette owners came as a group to be in the parade.

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A truck with decorations shows Levy County Court Judge James T. Browning and Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Senior Judge Joseph E. Smith participating. Judge Smith, the most recent Levy County judge prior to Judge Browning, is wearing the hat and standing in the back of the truck.

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Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones and her staff ride on the float with the slogan 'Land of the Free Because of the Brave.'

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Junior Miss Levy County Fair Madison Brice

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Parade Participants



Junior Miss Williston Madison Ervin rides in the Independence Day Parade in Williston on Friday (July 1).



Miss Levy County Fair Kami McCormick rides in the Independence Day Parade in Williston on Friday (July 1).

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Mackenzie Henderson of the Imperial Beauties of America rides in the Independence Day Parade in Williston on Friday (July 1). (Please see the story, more pictures and the video on the Community Page, and more pictures on the Police, Business, Home and Life Leisure Pages.)
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