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Bronson students enjoy College and Careers Day



Students look at a semi tractor-trailer loaded with logs as truck driver Crey Weston of Morriston tells them about being a professional truck driver. Weston has been a driver for 35 years, with 22 of those as a log truck driver. This set of trees weighs 58,000 pounds to make the total weight of the tractor-trailer combination 84,000 pounds. Weston picked up these logs from the forest area of Rocky Hammock in Levy County. On Friday he took them to Lake Butler, where they were turned into two-foot by four-foot boards by 8 p.m. on Friday (Dec. 2).

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Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 3, 2016 at 8:07 p.m.

BRONSON – There was almost everything from aardvark ranching to zucchini farming available for students at Bronson Middle High School to see Friday (Dec. 2), and that was just at one of the multitude of tables for the Annual College and Careers Day.

All of the middle school and high school students enjoyed the opportunity to visit with people from all types of jobs, as well as to visit with representatives from many institutions of higher education.

Three adults and 10 students formed the core group of hosts to the many different representatives of colleges, vocational schools, trades and professions.

Sherry Tindale, assistant superintendent secretary; High School Guidance Counselor Tina Wilkerson; and Middle School Guidance Counselor and Career Coach Alyssa Raykovitz invited the colleges, government agencies and business owners.

Students who volunteered to help provide support to the guests (and most of them are in the BMHS Student Government Association) are Cambria Ronaldo, David Piper, Glen Cooper, Alyssa Strickland, Katherine Eckelmann, Christian Coughlin, Noah Howerton, Leslie Fankhouser, Rebecca Rodgers and Eli Martinez.

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Brandy Weston helps students learn about the profession of being a taxidermist. Terri's Taxidermy of Gulf Hammock sent some of its specimens and Weston was there to represent the company.



Frozen Packaging Manager Charlotte Lawrence of Gourmet Rodent, a reptile breeding company based in Newberry, holds a California King Snake. This particular snake, she said, is relatively rare because of its dark color. Lawrence said Gourmet Rodent is one of the largest companies of its type in the world. Students who spent time at this table had an opportunity to learn about a unique profession and related activities at that company.

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Otis Evans of Rick Gooding Funeral Home stands next to a Hearse. Evans spoke to all of the students who were interested in the business of providing services related to funerals.



Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones enjoyed a two-fold day of success. First she was able to register a dozen students who were 18 or older. The other action she performed was to explain to any interested students about the jobs available in the business of helping people to vote. Here she is holding a roll of Future Voter stickers, which she gave to students who are not old enough to register to vote.

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Leanne Alvarez, yearbook representative, speaks with students about the careers available at Herff Jones. Among the job opportunities there are as a graphic artist, a marketer and IT.

Rachel Evans, an admissions officer from the University of Florida, speaks with students about attending UF. Other colleges and representatives included the College of Central Florida's Kat Davis, enrollment coordinator (the new Levy Campus is scheduled to open in the fall); the University of North Florida in Jacksonville with Admissions Coordinator Jemima Francique; Florida Polytechnic University of Lakeland, the 12th state university. FPU Associate Director of Admissions Tonya Chesnut was present to speak about the state university that includes core studies in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

Speaking specifically about the University of Florida's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are (from left) UF ambassadors Maggie Gullion of Houston, Tex., Caroline Nichols of Graceville, and Sarah Edison of Chiefland. Rachel Evans, an admissions officer from the University of Florida, agreed to join her neighboring table pals at the event. (Not pictured is UF Ambassador Emily Schmidt of Tampa.) Other institutions of higher education at the event included Santa Fe College and

St. Leo University. Career Education Facilitator Earl Scott of Marion Technical College of Ocala was present to speak with



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students about the 20 different careers they could learn about there – including IT, manufacturing, culinary arts and firefighter-EMT. From City College of Gainesville, Senior Admissions Representative Jessica D.S. Taylor and Admissions Representative Marina Underhill were present to help students. Tulsa Welding School and Summit Salon Business Center were a couple of other technical school options at the event.



Among the very strong and friendly showing from Bronson Fire Rescue Department are (from left) Corey Palmer, support, and Firefighter Jacob Arnold and Firefighter II – Lt. John Stephenson. BFR, like other municipal fire departments in Levy County, is especially seeking volunteers. Also present, were some members of Levy County Department of Public Safety - who told students about potential options to serve there. And there were other companies and agencies telling students about what they may choose in the future.