

HardisonInk.com

Dixie County Chamber preps for Third Annual Expo and Fly-In at Cross City Airport



SBDC Consultant Mark Yarik speaks to the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © March 10, 2017 at 4:17 p.m.

CROSS CITY – The Third Annual Business Expo and Fly-In is set to be at Cross City Airport on April 15.

Scheduled to be April 15, this event includes airplane rides, blimp rides, hot air balloon rides and helicopter rides – given there is not a weather issue such as a strong breeze.

Once again, the other aspect of the event will be to showcase the many business offerings in Dixie County.

HardisonInk.com



For more information about the Chamber, go to this website <http://www.dixiechamber.org/index.html>.

Meanwhile, regular airport traffic at Cross City Airport is anticipated to happen that Saturday as well. It promises to be an exciting scene, and everyone is well-

advised to remain alert. Do not walk in front of aircraft.

The Dixie County Chamber of Commerce conducted its monthly meeting Thursday (March 9) at the Dixie County Public Library in Cross City.

Capital City Bank Branch Manager Jennifer Thompson (left) dishes out her homemade pulled pork barbecue onto a bun held by Dixie County Chamber Member Katrina VanAernam of the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition. The Dixie County Chamber officers are President Carol West, Vice Presidents Arthur Bellot and Andrew Rains, Treasurers Debbie Dembo and Cheryl Jones, and Secretary Cindy Bellot. Vice President Rains announced that people who want to buy an American flag for placement along the Memorial Day Parade route have a deadline of April 15 to do so. There will be forms available at the Expo and Fly-In on April 15. The Dixie County Chamber of Commerce flag project has taken off, thanks to Terry Dembo, Debbie Dembo and Rains working on it. The flags begin flying along the parade route seven days before the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Parade through Cross City and seven days before the Memorial Day Parade. The memorials are for any American veteran, including from the Confederate Army, who fought in a war for America. The flag, though, will be the current one that has 50 stars and 13 stripes. Dembo said he recognizes that people of faiths other than Christianity fought in those wars, too, but the cross will be the single symbol available from the Chamber on this project for people who want that. People can buy one or as many of these memorial crosses and flags as they want. They cost \$40 each for a two-year term. They are made of sturdy wood and metal conduit. These memorials are for any American veteran, not just those from Dixie County. The name of the person and the branch of service will be on the cross. A form must be completed, in addition to the \$40 payment per memorial, per each two years. The name of the veteran and their branch of service will be noted on the form, as well as if they are

HardisonInk.com

alive or deceased. To get a form or more information, contact the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 547, Cross City, FL 32628, or by email at info@dixiechamber.org.



Here is a closer view of the lunch for Chamber members. There were other flavors of chips, too, although the diner who placed his meal next to a camera bag chose barbecue chips from Lays. There was sweet or unsweet iced tea available in red Dixie cups. Each monthly meeting of the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce, a member provides lunch. The next meeting is April 13 at noon in the Dixie County Library branch in Cross City. Cindy and Arthur Bellot have volunteered to provide lunch for that meeting.

The keynote speaker on March 9 was Mark Yarik a consultant with the Small Business Development Center's office in Live Oak.

One point in Yarik's speech was for business owners to adopt strategic planning so that they see the daily relationship of revenue versus expenses.

He said financial management is mandatory for business to succeed. Yarik works in a one-man SBDC office that covers 18 counties. He offers free services to business owners.

This particular office is in Live Oak and serves Gilchrist and Dixie counties, and 16 other counties.

Consultants in the SBDC office in Ocala serve Levy County business interest, Yarik said.

The SBDC is state-designated as Florida's principal provider of business assistance. The Live Oak office is connected with the University of North Florida.

The SBDC at UNF is a member of the Florida SBDC Network, a statewide service network funded in part through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Defense Logistics Agency, State of Florida and other private and public partners.

It is hosted by the University of West Florida, and nationally accredited by the

HardisonInk.com

Association of SBDCs.

To learn more about this SBDC, please visit <https://www.sbdc.unf.edu/>.