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BMHS hosts Annual College and Career Day



Ryan Watson, representing Central Florida Electric Cooperative, shows some equipment that is utilized to keep linemen safe as the co-op provides safe and reliable electric service to its members. Watson mentioned that the clothes are fireproof because a phase to ground arc flash can generate molten copper and aluminum wire that is 9,000 degrees Fahrenheit. He showed the students helmets and masks to protect workers' heads and faces, as well as gloves that can withstand high voltage electricity. Linemen check their equipment daily to assure that it meets safety standards.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 4, 2017 at 4:47 p.m.

BRONSON -- Various businesses, military groups, colleges and government interests sent representatives to Bronson Middle High School on Friday (Nov. 3) to give students information for the young people to consider as they think about what to do after high school.

The event -- the Annual BMHS Career and College Day -- marks more than the 10th consecutive year when this has unfolded at BMHS. Some students found representatives who are involved in what they might think of as a dream job now, but if they work toward it that dream can become a reality.

Sherry Tindale, a secretary in the Levy County District School System office, High School Guidance Counselor Tina Wilkerson and Middle School Guidance Counselor Heather Nemeth are three of the adult leaders who helped bring everything together.

Eight student helpers were extremely conscientious in assuring that all of the participating interests had their food, beverage and logistical needs met. Those students were Student Government Association Vice President Alyssa Jo Strickland, SGA Secretary Christina Coughlin, and student helpers Christian Alicea, Autumn Boyd, Leslie Fankhouser, Melody Martinez, Caitlin Nickolls and Jarius Thomas.

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.

Jesse Baggett of the Levy County Department of Public Safety was in the gymnasium to speak

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with students. He is also the safety officer on Bronson Fire Rescue. The LCDPS had an ambulance in the parking lot for students to see.

Kat Davis of the College of Central Florida was at the table on one side of the door leading to the parking lot. The College of Central Florida has a new and active campus in Levy County now. To learn more about CF, click [HERE](#).

Among the many other colleges and institutions of learning at the event were the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, Marion Technical College and Tulsa Welding School.



Justin Hicks, 18, of Chiefland stands in front of a John Deere 6Y8H Grapple Skidder. Hicks works primarily in the shop for Usher Land and Timber, where he keeps machines like this maintained. He has gone into the planted tree farms for harvesting operations, though, he said. A machine known as a tree feller buncher is what cuts the trees, he said. Then the skidder operator uses the skidder to drag the trees to an area where the log loader puts it on a trailer built to take the logs to a mill. Before going there, he said, the trailer is weighed with its logs on it to assure that it does not have too much weight. There is also a machine at the central office on State Road 345, where the logs can be readjusted for the best weight distribution on the trailer.

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Eric Handley (left) and Shawn Gilbert, both foresters with Usher Land and Timber, speak with students about a career in forestry.



Trudi Durgee, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Florida College of Entomology and Nematology, shows a 5-year-old Chilean Rose-Hair Tarantula named Buttercup.



Durgee said there were several students who enjoyed the opportunity to pet the tarantula earlier in the morning, however by this point Buttercup had experienced enough of that. The large hairy spider, which is found chiefly in tropical and subtropical America (this one especially in Chile), gets to eat crickets as a treat for her work that day at BMHS, Durgee said. Durgee mentioned that UF has a Traveling Arthropod Petting Zoo to bring to schools to help young students learn about this type creature and its invertebrate relatives in the large phylum of Arthropoda.

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Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones speaks with an interested student about the jobs available in the business of helping people to vote.



Angie Phillips, R.N., and Environment Health Scientist Kyle Bason of the Florida Department of Health's Levy County Unit stand prepared to share with students all

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of their knowledge of the rewards from being a professional nurse and from being a professional scientist who studies, tests and researches environmental factors that influence health.



Levy County Sheriff's Deputy Trish Horne is part of a two-deputy team that is restarting an Explorer Scout program in Levy County at the direction of Levy County Sheriff's Bobby McCallum. The Levy County Sheriff's Office is restarting its Law Enforcement Explorer Program. The Explorer program was established in the 1960s as a way to attract young motivated individuals with an interest for a career in Law Enforcement, Corrections or Telecommunications/Dispatch. Through Sheriffs' Explorer Association programs, young adults ages 14 to 21 can be associated with a Sheriff's Office, train and learn about the profession to determine if it's the right career track for them. Explorers are introduced and receive training in the basics of law enforcement including, traffic control, report writing and radio procedures. Explorers are also given the opportunity to assist officers in controlled settings, such as parades or athletic events. If you are interested in the Levy County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program, please contact Dep. Trish Horne or Dep. Julie Girona at 352-486-5111 or come to the first meeting at the Levy County Sheriff's Office, 9150 NE 80th Avenue, Bronson, Florida on Nov. 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.

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United States Army Staff Sergeant Shawn Golike (left) and Army Sgt. Regina Upton are recruiters who spoke with students about considering the Army as an option after high school. There were other branches of the military at the event as well



Members of the West Point Society of Tallahassee (Ret.) Army Col. Charles Lawson (left) and (Ret.) Col. Claude Shipley were present to share with students

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information about the United States Military Academy, which is also known as West Point. The United States Military Academy's mission is to educate, train and inspire cadets so that each one of them graduates as a commissioned leader of character who is committed to the values of duty, honor and country. The USMA at West Point prepares young men and women for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army. These two retired colonels are graduates of West Point.