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FFA student donates to family



Emilee Munden is seen at the sale in Fanning Springs.

**Story and Photo
By Jeff M. Hardison
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BRONSON – The town of Bronson tags itself as “The Heart of Levy County.”

The county seat for this rural North Florida county is more or less at the upper center geographically for this political subdivision of the state.

From the perspective of “heart” meaning the emotional or moral nature as distinguished from the intellectual nature, such as in this instance a town with a generous disposition that is reflected by compassion and charity, there are individuals in and around this part of Levy County with those traits.

A 15-year-old student at

Bronson Middle High School is showing this trait of love for her fellow human beings.

After the sale of her hog on Wednesday (March 21), Bronson Middle High School FFA Treasurer Emilee Munden donated proceeds to help a fellow student at BMHS.

Emilee, a ninth grader, is going to help Lane Clevinger, an eighth grader, by giving him the money. Lane has cancer. Lane's mother Pamela Clevinger spoke about this planned donation in a telephone interview on Friday (March 16).

Emilee is the daughter of Jennifer Munden.

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Lane Clevinger, 13, was diagnosed with a T-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma in September of 2017, his mother said. The boy's prognosis is good, she said, and there is a 90 percent cure rate.

He has two more months of intense treatment, she said, and during this time he is homebound. She expects him to be able to return to school and continue his education at BMHS.

As for Pamela Clevinger, this single mother is having to take time off from work without any income. Bills continue to come. She is safe from being fired because of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and she expects to return to work after Lane completes this intense treatment for cancer.

Given the cancer goes into remission, Lane will still have to return to the doctor for examination every month until Jan, 6, 2020, she said.

As for now, Pamela Clevinger said she is very thankful for the gift from Emilee Munden.

Before Emilee sent the letter, Pamela did not really know the teenager or her mother. In the small town of Bronson, people "know" each other to recognize them as being in the area, and many people wave to each other when they see their familiar faces.

Pamela moved to the Bronson area in 1993, she said.

"When I got the letter," she said, "I was stunned that a girl so young would be so thoughtful and generous. It surprised me. It was really heartwarming."

Lane Clevinger is relatively well covered by health insurance for this battle against cancer, his mother said.

Insurance paid for most of the medical expenses so far. Having medical staff and insurance workers agree on certain coding is a challenge on occasion, she said.

The FMLA gives her some level of comfort to know she will not become unemployed as a result of having to care for her son. There are those other bills and FMLA does not provide revenue.

"We take it one day at a time," she said. "It has been pretty tough, but the community here is behind us. The support from our community is great. The blessings just keep coming..."

Pamela Clevinger is awestruck by the generosity of Emilee Munden.

"Now I know it isn't easy working with a hog and getting them ready for the fair," Clevinger noted in a Facebook comment. "It's hard work and many hours spent training so the fact that she wants to give her proceeds to our family is truly an amazing gift that none of us will ever forget."