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City provides Easter fun

Police Chief Scott Anderson holds one of the tents of the day on Saturday morning (March 31) as he looks across a vacant park that within two hours



with 1,000 Easter eggs; 300 sets of hotdogs, chips and drinks; at least 16 cakes for a cakewalk; two huge inflatable bounce houses; scores of toothbrushes and more. Powered by their love for children and families, a set of volunteers created the second-ever Chiefland Easter Egg Hunt event at Delma Locke Park.

Photo By Jeff M. Hardison

By Jeff M. Hardison © April 1, 2018 at 10:38 a.m.

CHIEFLAND – Volunteers and other donors provided the manpower, money and other resources to create opportunities for plenty of fun on Saturday (March 31) in Chiefland and elsewhere.



Chief Scott Anderson (left) and Capt. Ray Tremblay are the first Chiefland Police Department members going to work Saturday morning to create a safe,

fun, family-oriented event in Chiefland.

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Chiefland City Commissioner Donald Lawrence totes an air pump from a trailer as one of the first steps in creating two large bounce houses.



Chiefland Fire Capt. Cal Morgan connects a part of a bounce house to an air pump.

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Betty Anderson shows some cupcakes donated for the cakewalk.



Helping the Easter Bunny hide the 1,000 eggs are (from left) Tyler Brown, Karon Henry and Ella Anderson.

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There are three plastic Easter eggs here. One is on a growth that creates a platform on the oak tree, one is to the right of the tree and one is seen partially behind the tree.



This castle bounce house has children's shoes outside (hidden behind the copyright watermark) as parents, grandparents and other adults watch the children play.

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Chiefland Mayor Betty Walker, initiator of what might become an annual event, holds a cooked hotdog.

Matthew Cline holds a pan full of hotdogs before they were placed on buns for people to have easy access to the free food – with condiments available.

The Nine Photos Above Are By Jeff M. Hardison

Under the direction of Mayor Betty Walker, the City of Chiefland conducted its second-ever Chiefland Easter Egg Hunt event at Delma Locke Park on Northwest Fourth Drive.

Last year was the first year for this event, which was initiated by Mayor Walker. And there were hundreds of free hotdogs, potato chips, fruit juice drinks, soft drinks and water. Another thing, beyond the 1,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy that



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were found is that again this year there were special eggs, which resulted in cash prizes. This event was free and open for all children to participate in hunting for the eggs.

The free hotdogs, chips and drinks were available for adults as well as children.

The hunt was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., however the heavy rain from the previous night and the relatively chilly weather apparently influenced many parents and guardians to not bring their children to the park for the planned start.

The start of hunting for plastic eggs filled with candy was delayed for an hour, until 11 a.m.

By then, the sun had come out and the park was a bit warmer. While some adults might have had visions of muddy children, the park drains very well and the potential for children to be any more mud-covered than usual was not present.



The youngest set of children begin their search for Easter eggs with help by parents and other older egg hunters.

Photo Provided By Police Chief Scott Anderson

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Two cakewalk winners (above) show their winnings.

Photos Provided By Police Chief Scott Anderson

There was a cakewalk again this year, like last year.

Making the event happen took planning and volunteer work in advance of the day. Many firefighters at Chiefland Fire Rescue, under the direction of Fire Chief James Harris are said to have filled the 1,000 plastic eggs with candy for the children participating in the Chiefland Easter Egg Hunt.

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Chiefland Police Chief Scott Anderson donated his own money as well as sought donations successfully from Walmart, Save-A-Lot and a couple of smaller business owners in the Chiefland area. The chief even found free toothbrushes to give to children thanks to donors who care about dental hygiene for youths.

Chief Anderson's mom Betty Anderson and his wife Ella Anderson volunteered by donating a cake and helping to hide eggs, and in any other way they were asked to help.

The cakewalk this year featured cakes, cookies and cupcakes with 10 cakes being made and donated by members of the First Baptist Church of Chiefland, and three from Cheryl Ortiz, two from Laura Cain, and one from Betty Anderson.

Chiefland City Commissioner Donald Lawrence was a moving force for the whole event too. Thanks to Pastor Jamie Brock at Concord Baptist Church of Rocky Hammock, where Commissioner Lawrence, a retired educator, is a parishioner, and thanks to that church being part of the Harmony Baptist Church Association, there was a big inflatable bounce device and a very nice bounce house for children.

Commissioner Lawrence had told Mayor Walker at a recent City Commission meeting that he would see that bounce houses were at the park, and he kept his promise.

The strongest force for the event was the set of city employees, and family members who gave of their time, talent and love as they all worked as one team to provide a chance for free fun for children and families.

Joining Chief Harris from the CFR was Capt. Cal Morgan.

Also joining Chief Anderson from his family and the CPD were Capt. Ray Tremblay, Lt. Jay Bolton, Officer Tyler Brown, Deborah McDowell and Candace Cline.

Another CPD-oriented volunteer was Karon Henry, and from the Cline family were also Vic Cline and Matthew Cline.

Other city workers on the scene were Cheryl Ortiz and Laura Cain. Cain even brought her niece Brittney Scheetz. Deputy City Clerk Cain's niece Scheetz was in the area visiting family from her residence in upper New York state.

This park, which includes an area for skateboard fun, is located behind Chiefland Middle School in the 800 to 900 Northwest Blocks of Fourth Drive in Chiefland. Delma Locke Park. It is adjacent to the Nature Coast State Trail.

There were three hunt areas where the 1,000 eggs were hidden in that long park behind CHS and CMS. The plastic eggs were placed in sections divided for children aged 1 to 4 years old; 5 to 8 years old; and 9 to 12 years old. One of the big golden Easter eggs for a cash prize was well-hidden under a branch so that only part of the gold showed for an older child to find it.

OTHER EVENTS

On Saturday (March 31), children hunted and found Easter Eggs in John Henry Park in Williston -- next to the corner of Northwest Fourth Street and First Avenue.

The 12th Annual Rotary Club of Williston's Easter Egg Hunt provided opportunities for fun on Saturday (March 31) too. Some of the eggs had cash in them. All of the eggs had candy in them. There were 300 hotdogs set to be grilled and served in Williston as well. This whole event was free and open to the public, thanks to the Rotary Club of Williston.

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Also, on Saturday (March 31), the Tri-County Cruisers presented its Spring Classic Car Show at NAPA Chiefland Speed & Machine Shop, 1512 N.W. Fifth St., in Chiefland. There were five cash prize awards, door prizes, dash plaques, a 50-50, a 3-foot Best of Show trophy, and a burn-out contest.

Meanwhile, beyond the Tri-County Area on Saturday, there was the Annual Walk for Christ (non-sponsored) event at Paul Langford Stadium in Live Oak. A similar walk was held in Chiefland recently.

With Easter Sunday today (April 1), there was a conclusion of Easter-oriented events, including a number of sunrise services at churches and in parks, and elsewhere, as well as Easter services during the normal worship time at churches across the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties – and (of course) beyond.

The previous week (Saturday, March 24), there were Easter Egg hunts too on church grounds, in public parks and on private property, for members of the general public as well as more exclusive egg hunts for specific sets of workers, property owners in certain subdivisions and at residences of families all across the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties (and beyond).