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Chiefland Chamberbrings Christmas downtown



#130 Michelle Porter and #131 Cindy Lawn dressed in a festive manner while participating in the Rudolf Run at the Chiefland Christmas Festival.

Story and Photos

By C.L. Watson © Dec. 12, 2018 at 4:08 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- The Greater Chiefland Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a successful Christmas Festival on Saturday (Dec. 8).



Members of the Chiefland Police Department along deputies and COP volunteers from the Levy County Sheriff's Department put in long hours to ensure the safety of all patrons attending the Chiefland Christmas Festival.

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Simon Hernandez placed 1st in the adult division as well as 1st runner in for the Rudolph Run at the Chiefland Christmas Festival.

Local vendor Jimmy Swilley had a booth of handmade knives at the 2018 Chiefland Christmas Festival. He offered an assortment of hardware using antlers, wood, metal and bone. Each leather sheath was custom made per knife.



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Miss Dean performed several classic Christmas songs during the earlier part of the Chiefland Christmas Festival on Dec 8.



Jason Hurst of Hurst Hives is at the Chiefland Christmas Festival. Hurst Hives has a unique product of raw honey that is aged in a bourbon barrel giving the honey a slight hint of bourbon without being overpowering in taste. This business has ventured outside of the Tri-County Area

and can be found at the St. Augustine Distillery (source for the bourbon barrels).

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Long Pond Baptist Church put a lot of work into creating a traditional style nativity scene float for the Chiefland Christmas Festival parade.



What's a Christmas parade without a tradition old red truck? Dolphin Golf Carts is captured giving Jeff Hardison the thumbs up during the Chiefland Christmas Festival parade.

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Santa and Mrs. Claus happily waived to the patrons attending the Chiefland Christmas Festival parade. The covered wagon was loaned from Manatee Springs State Park and worked as a suitable ride for this iconic couple.



John Skelly prepares the bonfire at the Chiefland Christmas Festival. Patrons trickled down to the festival site after the parade. Visitors enjoyed a toasty bonfire, marshmallow-roasting, live entertainment and lighting of the tree.

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The day started off with 20 runners participating in a Rudolf Run in two separate divisions. Simon Hernandez placed first in the adult division with Nate Geerson coming in second and Nicholas Knopp at third.

The children's placement was Luke Stockman in first, Hunter Boyd in second and J.T. Richards in third. Winners received a ribbon for placement as well as a goodie bag from the Chamber.

Just as the race finished, vendors bustled around to set up booths as patrons trickled about, in hopes to find that one-of-a-kind treasure. The variety of vendors attending the festival ranged from bounce houses, homemade edibles, woodwork, jewelry, décor, ornaments and much more.

Local businesses had information booths and networked with the community. Entertainment was provided throughout the day to enhance the Christmas spirit – bringing smiles and joy to the masses.

Later in the evening, the Christmas Parade attracted thousands of guests that lined Main Street (U.S. Highway 19), including children with hopes of getting a few pieces of candy and to be marveled by lighted floats.

The parade included local politicians, businesses, churches and students. Following the parade, patrons were welcomed to enjoy a bonfire with marsh mellows, live entertainment, carriage rides and the lighting of the Christmas tree.

In all, it was a wonderful day in downtown Chiefland as the Chamber provided an attraction for everyone.