Lafayette 4-H Prepares For Fall Meetings

Lafayette 4-H is currently making plans to re-boot club meetings this fall. Face-to-face 4-H events have been not taking place since the COVID Pandemic forced shutdowns in March. UF IFAS and Florida 4-H have released strict guidelines for restarting programs which include limits to the number of participants at events, moderately less restrictions on outdoor activities and virtual meetings when possible (see guidelines ). To help make implementing these guidelines, Lafayette 4-H is asking members and youth to choose a club that fits their interest and attend those meetings only. This will assist club leaders in being able to work with youth whether it be virtual or in person. Current Clubs consist of the Lafayette Community 4-H Club, fishing Club, Culinary Arts Club, Jr. Master Gardeners club and the Lafayette Clover Buds Club. This inconvenience is temporary while restrictions due to COVID continue.

Making a Difference... From A Distance

As our community starts into the sixth month of living with limited contact due to the COVID Virus, it becomes more clear that normal as everyone knew it will not be returning in the near future. As your county extension services continues to find creative ways to serve the community, it is encouraging to reflect upon the accomplishments thus far.

March: Lafayette 4-H offers drive by services due to the sudden shut down of school and stay at home orders by the president and Governor. 4-H project material and activities provided to local youth. Lafayette 4-H initiates and participates in four county “Win the War Against COVID Poster Contest”

April: Lafayette Extension launches Online-Learning Lafayette 4-H offers online bingo to local youth each Thursday night for 8 weeks and has prizes delivered to over 30 youth. Lafayette County Seniors receive commodities through “curb side pick-up”. Lafayette 4-H Council releases Census Awareness Video with over 20 local youth.

May: Over 30 local youth participate in the “Tomato Plant Project” and start a home garden. Seven Youth use online videos to demonstrate a project they have mastered. Chick-chain participants attend zoom trainings online to prepare for the Chic-Chain Project. 22 local youth receive chicks for Chick Chain Project. 4-H members prepare and release Memorial Day Video.

June: Lafayette 4-H Establishes YouTube Channel. Virtual Day Camp “Rise and Shine” begins with 40 youth participating in the interactive daily shows and use prepared, delivered to home kits.

July: Lafayette Extension begins offering online pesticide training and license exams to the ag producers. Lafayette 4-H complete 40 Rise and Shine day camp video and have given away a total of 1000 daily camp kits.
Welcoming New Head Football Coach at Lafayette

By Lydia Gainey

Coach Derek Garland has been coaching for a total of 22 years and continues as he steps into the head coaching position for the Lafayette High School football team. Coach Garland played baseball at Faulkner University, however; he was never drafted to play past college. He knew he still wanted sports to be a part of his life. Coach Garland states, “Growing up as a child of a coach and my love of sports I knew I wanted to do something sports-related, and when I never got drafted out of college I knew coaching was the next aspect. Sports has been a huge part of my life and I knew I wanted to be involved in it.” All coaches leave an impact on athletes’ lives, no matter how far in their career they get, an athlete hears the words of their coaches in the back of their mind. When asked the question “What do you hope people learn from your coaching?” Coach Garland said, “I hope they learn the value of hard work, being a part of a team, that there is something bigger than the individual, and also that we don’t let the scoreboard determine whether we are successful or not but whether we can do everything we can do to help ourselves and our teammates.” Coach Garland is not worried about winning but rather what the player learns from the game. The numbers on the board do not determine the value of a player but rather the heart and hard work that is put into the game.

As we all know, COVID-19 has been a huge topic of conversation in many aspects of life. This is also true for high school sports. Many things are being taken into consideration for this football season. The coaches do not know for sure what the season is going to look like however, they are continuing to prepare like normal. To be honest, they are not even sure if there will be a season or how much of a season they are able to have. The health of the players is being taken into consideration and the coaches are really paying attention to sickness and the safety of the players on the team. Through all of this uncertainty, the team is working hard and plan on having a great season. Good Luck, Lafayette Hornets! We are rooting for you!

Derik Garland, 2020 Varsity Hornet Football coach

2019-2020
4-H Record Books
Due August 14
Extension Office
Local 4-H Clover Bud Crowned Little Miss Agribusiness

By Shawn Jackson

Derby Quinn Sherrell, of Mayo was recently crowned Little Ms. Agribusiness. She is the 6 year-old daughter of Garth and Toni Sherrell. Derby enjoys raising 4-H chicks and doing anything outdoors. She recently graduated Kindergarten and is looking forward to starting the first grade at Lafayette Elementary school. She enjoys participating in many 4-H activities such as growing a garden, raising chicks and doing daily crafts that are released by her local 4-H Organization. The America’s Ms. Agribusiness (AMAg) pageant/scholarship focuses on traditional American values. AMAg was created out of a love for the Agriculture Industry and a vision for the future of our great Nation’s young ladies in Agribusiness. AMAg’s goal is to educate the public and recruit the youth of America to become involved in Agribusiness.

Annual Pioneer Day Rescheduled

By Shawn Jackson

The Lafayette Activities Group is reporting that the 2020 Pioneer Day has been rescheduled for December 12, 2020. In a statement released on the Lafayette Activities Group FB page, the committee released a statement “With much consideration for the health, safety and well-being of everyone, Lafayette Activities Group has decided to postpone Pioneer Day.” The statement continued to explain the committee has not canceled the event but rather combined Christmas in the Park and Pioneer Day. The Lafayette Extension Service and Lafayette 4-H looks forward to participating and seeing everyone from the community at the joint event, Pioneer Christmas.

HURRICANE PREPARATION AND RECOVERY GUIDES FOR FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL

The tropical storm season is heating up. Don’t wait to get your family and your agriculture operation or forest property ready for the next storm. The USDA Southeast Climate Hub with other USDA agencies and university Extension experts, have developed a set of guides for Florida agricultural producers. The guides are each tailored to a specific agricultural commodity and designed to help producers prepare for and recover from hurricane events. The guides are available on the USDA Southeast Climate Hub Website.
**County Rain Totals for July**

By Chris Vann

Florida’s climate is characterized by wet and dry seasons with rain predominantly occurring between the months of June through October. The average amount of rain for Lafayette County is 55-56 inches per year. The oldest official rainfall records for Lafayette County the Extension Service has found begin in 1950. The wettest year was 1964 with 93.91 inches (Hurricane Dora struck North Florida) and the driest was 1955 with 34.26 inches. According to information provided by Suwannee River Water Management in 2019, Lafayette County averaged 68.20 inches of rain, which is 121% above normal.

The chart below shows total rain fall amounts at three different SWRMD stations across the county for July for three consecutive years including the current year.

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<th>July 2018</th>
<th>July 2019</th>
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**FBLA Members Compete in State Events**

By Victoria Newman

Future Business Leaders of America are excited to announce that Lafayette High School had five students place in the State level competitions in May. Victoria Newman and Amandia Smith placed third in Social Media Campaign as a team which led them to compete at the national level. Harrison Jackson competed in Middle School Elevator Speech in which he placed fourth. Davis Jackson and Cason driver participated as a team in Broadcast and placed fifth. Through all the last-minute changes due to Covid-19, the competition was moved to online which created additional challenges in navigating how to compete virtually. With the extra challenges these students surpassed expectations.

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An equal opportunity Institution. We encourage all races, religions and ethnicities to attend our summer programs. There are scholarships available for minority and underprivileged children. Please contact our office for more information.