Up-Coming Events

Saturday May 8, Taylor County Master Gardener Plant Sale

Tuesday May 4, Culinary 4-H Club Meeting

Tuesday May 4, 4-H Master Grillers Course

Thursday May 6, 4-H Master Grillers Course

Tuesday May 11, Mayo Community 4-H Club Meeting

Tuesday May 11, Family Garden Workshop

Mayo Library

Thursday May 13, 4-H Master Grillers Course

Tuesday May 18, 4-H Anglers Club Meeting

Thursday May 20, 4-H Master Grillers Course

Friday May 21, LHS Graduation 7:30 PM

Taylor County Master Gardener Plant Sale
Saturday May 8 9:00-1:00

Taylor County Extension office

4-H Grill Masters Learn Tricks of The Grill

The first meeting of the Lafayette 4-H Grill Masters was held in April. Thirteen middle and high school youth participated in the three-hour grilling class on how to safely prepare delicious chicken on a charcoal grill. Tips on how to grill chicken to perfection was given by Robbie Thomas, chef and proprietor at the Dixie Grill in Live Oak Fl. One of the lessons learned at the hands-on course was the difference in grilling boneless chicken breast and bone-in chicken quarters. While grilling the chicken breast was relatively simple, the leg quarters were challenging and required more patience and time on the grill. Participants also learned the difference between using dry rubs, marinades, and brine. The grill master’s course will continue in May with youth grilling pork, beef and seafood.

April Local Rain Fall

Lafayette County saw an abundant amount of rainfall through mid-April but the final 10 days of the month had little to no precipitation. Approximately 5 inches of rain fell in most of the county during the month. This has creeks and area lakes full as we move into late spring and warmer temperatures.

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
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**Lafayette 4-H Summer Day Camps**

**June 8-10 Clover Buds Camp.** Youth ages 5-8 are introduced to the fundamentals of 4-H. Kids will enjoy three days of fun including making crafts, playing games, learning basic life skills such as tying shoes, and developing relationships with peers.

**June 14-17 Cherry Lake Tri-County Day Camps.** Youth ages 8-12 will enjoy 4 days of camp-life (without those long nights away from home) with 4-H members from Taylor and Suwannee Counties. Activities will include kayaking, swimming, crafts, shooting sports, and many more fun activities.

**June 22-24 Life Skills for Kids Camp.** Youth ages 8-12 will spend 3 days learning skills that will help them succeed in life including how to deal with peer pressure, social media etiquette, preparing simple kid friendly recipes, and career exploration. Camp will also include plenty of arts and crafts, as well as recreation time.

**June 29-July 1 Camp USA.** This camp will focus on all things America as we prepare for our nation’s birthday. Youth will learn about the rights, responsibilities, and civic duties of Americans and what makes our country exceptional. There will be lots of patriotic crafts and plenty of time for games and outdoor activities.

**July 6-8 Mrs. Long’s Spa Camp!** Participants in this camp will learn self-care while taking trips to local salons for instruction on how to clean nails, safely give their friends manicures and pedicures, give facials, and maintain proper hair care. Other activities include making bath bombs, soaps and learning relaxation strategies.

**July 13-15 Science Fun.** A camp dedicated to learning all about how science works. This hands-on science camp will peak your child’s love for science by doing experiments and watching science demonstrations. There will also be lots of time for crafts and recreation.

**July 15-16 LOMO Camp** For youth in grades 9th-12th. Living on My Own (LOMO) is a hands-on, real-life simulation that gives young people the opportunity to experience their futures in a fun and exciting way. During the simulation, students assume they are 25 years old and are the primary or sole support of their household. After being assigned an occupation and monthly gross income, participants make routine deductions for taxes and medical expenses. Using sample checks and registers, they learn how to record and manage their bank accounts. They move from one station to another in the simulation, making spending choices in areas of housing, transportation, groceries, utilities, entertainment, insurance childcare and electronics. This is a fun day camp for older youth that prepares them for challenges they will face as young adults.

**July 21-25 Plan It, Build It!** A weeklong summer 4-H day camp for youth ages 13-18. Participants will learn how to use woodworking tools safely, effectively and (ultimately) independent of adult assistance. Camp begins with a demonstration on a tool or technique, and then students work on projects that increase in complexity as the youth’s skills increase. Students accumulate a working knowledge of techniques such as sanding, sawing, drilling, setting screws, using clamps, and hammering. These students will construct and finish a 6’x8’ house using prepared blueprints which will be raffled in the fall of 2021, proceeds benefiting Lafayette 4-H programing.

**July 8-9 Environmental Education and Natural Resources Camp** Ages 13-18, this two-day camp explores the local ecosystem. Youth will learn the environmental and economic value of the Suwannee River and other related natural resources in the community while kayaking, exploring local springs, and hiking.

*Spaces are limited! Reserve your child’s spot early.*
**First Federal Bank Support Lafayette 4-H Sewing Program**

Lafayette 4-H is excited to announce First Federal Bank is supporting Lafayette 4-H in the months of May, June and July with its “Community Rewards Program”. This program will allow First Federal Customers to support Lafayette 4-H at no cost to them. To participate, First Federal customers simply need to ask at the bank drive through or call the customer service and ask that they participate in Community Rewards Program Supporting Lafayette 4-H (program 332). Each time that First Federal Customer runs their First Federal Debit card as “credit” it will ask for the customer’s signature. When participating customers use their card in a signature-based transaction, First Federal will make a donation to Lafayette 4-H. All funds raised from the First Federal Community Rewards Program will be used to purchase sewing machines for 4-H members to learn basic sewing skills.

Sewing became a topic of interest when the COVID Pandemic began in the spring of 2020 and some local 4-H members participated in making masks for local hospitals, nursing homes and the community. This sewing program will be led by local volunteers.

**Harvesting and Storing Potatoes**

If you haven’t already, it’s probably about time to dig those potatoes that were planted a few months ago. For potatoes that will be eaten right away, this is a simple task of digging, washing, and preparing to cook. However, harvesting and storage can be more problematic if not done correctly.

When harvesting potatoes for storing, let them sit in the garden under the sun for about an hour so they can dry, allowing the soil on them to easily fall from the skin. Next, carefully brush any of the remain soil from the potatoes. Remember, the skin on freshly dug potatoes is thin and can peel off or bruise easily which will shorten their storage life. Lay the harvested potatoes on a screen or lattice that is raised from the ground and in the sunshine. Only allow them in the light for about an hour and move to a dark place to cure. Do not wash the potatoes that are going to be stored. Wetting the potatoes can lead to rotting. Store potatoes in a cool dark place for 2-6 months. Some have tried the refrigerator and had success but preferably choose a place with a bit more humidity to keep the potatoes from shriveling up.

Exposing potatoes to light will cause greening of the potatoes which will make them taste bitter. While new potatoes are best enjoyed fresh from the garden, these suggestions mentioned above will allow you to enjoy your home-grown potatoes for months.

Above, Local youth Miles and Emilee Elizabeth Jackson pick up freshly dug new potatoes in their family garden.
Lafayette County Resident Earns Master Gardener Status

By Lisa Strange

As you can see in the propagation training class, Mireya Burak, nick named the ‘A’ student always upfront, close, asking the questions, is resident of Lafayette County who graduated from the Master Gardener Class, April 29, 2021 in Taylor County. Please congratulate Mireya if you see her around town or at the Extension office giving advice. She did an awesome job. The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a volunteer – driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension and the citizens of Florida. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their communities. A volunteer hour is valued just at $25.00 in the state, resulting to a contribution worth $4.6 million to the citizens of Florida.

4-H Anglers Enjoy Afternoon of Fishing at Picket-Lake

Lafayette 4-H Anglers Club held its April meeting at Pickett Lake. Eighteen members were present and practiced baiting hooks and casting real and rods while having fun fishing. Anglers used earth worms as bait and caught gar fish, shiners, and blue gill. The blue gill fish was released back into the lake, the Gar and shiner fish were not due to being undesired or “trash fish”.

4-H Garden Club Plants Raised Beds, Builds Towers

The Lafayette County 4-H Gardeners continued work on its tower garden in April as well as planted new raised beds. After building and planting the tower gardens at the March 4-H meeting, some of the members wanted to replicate the towers with recycled plastic jugs. With some creativity and imagination, an additional tower was added made of five, one gallon water jugs. The tower gardens are now growing tomatoes, peppers and beans. Two raised beds made of a fifty-five gallon drum were planted with egg plants and an existing bed made of cross-ties was planted in squash.