



Patricia Steele | Daily Sun

Central Beef LLC, has been a business in Sumter County for more than 50 years in one form or another. In March 2016, the company filed for bankruptcy, and in January a new business, Center Hill Acquisitions LLC, purchased the business.

Central Beef LLC Has a New Owner

The new owners have not discussed their plans for the Sumter County facility.

By PATRICIA STEELE
Daily Sun Staff Writer

CENTER HILL

A new owner is taking over Central Beef LLC, the beef processor that closed almost a year ago, leaving more than 200 employees without jobs.

Central Beef recently was purchased by Center Hill Acquisitions LLC, according to Sumter County Property Appraiser records.

The 70-year-old business filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in March 2016. When the court approved the plan of reorganization Jan. 12, it opened the door for Central Beef to move forward with its plans to sell the facility.

In addition to the loss of jobs, the closing sent ripples through the beef market in Florida because of the scope of Central Beef's services. As the largest packing house in the state, about 75 percent of meats processed in Florida went through the facility, said Jody O'Dell, of O'Dell Properties and Cattle in Oxford.

During the past year,

Sumter County Economic Development has worked with the owners of Central Beef LLC as they went through the reorganization process.

Sumter County Administrator Bradley Arnold told commissioners at a recent meeting that Sumter County Economic Development was rescinding an incentive offer of \$200,000 to restore operation at Central Beef Industries.

"We were notified by Central Beef that a buyer has purchased the Central Beef facility on Jan. 27," Arnold said.

Currently, Sumter County Economic Development is

working with Center Hill Acquisitions.

"We have communicated with the attorney for the new company," said Jada Glover, economic development professional with Sumter County Economic Development. "We wanted to welcome the new company to the county, and introduce ourselves."

At this point, the principals in the business have not discussed their plans for the facility, Glover said.

Patricia Steele is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9029, or patricia.steele@thevillagesmedia.com.

CONSUMER NEWS

MEAT PROCESSOR CENTRAL BEEF GETS NEW OWNER

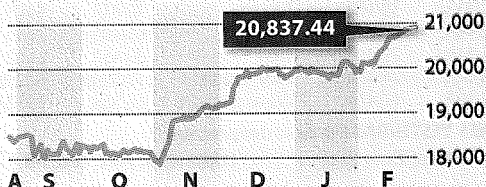
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MARKET NEWS

Wall Street notched another set of milestones Monday as the Dow Jones industrial average closed at a record high for the 12th consecutive time. **Full report, C7**

Dow Jones Industrial Average



Dow



+ 15.68
Close:
20,837.44

Nasdaq



+ 16.59
Close:
5,861.90

S&P 500



+ 2.41
Close:
2,369.75