

**YOU'RE SAFE**



**SUBARU**

7023 BLANDING  
888-686-8178  
subaruoforangepark.com

# School News

HAPPENINGS FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

February 2017

Vol. 5 — Issue 2



## G-r-a-f-f-i-t-i for the win

### Cuffe to represent Clay in Regional Spelling Bee

By Wesley LeBlanc  
*School News*

OAKLEAF – The third time’s the charm for the winner of the Clay County Spelling Bee, with this year’s competition being his third consecutive competition.

The cafetorium erupted in applause January 31 when Shiloh Cuffe correctly spelled the word “graffiti” to win the 2017 Clay County Spelling Bee.

A tussle between Doctor’s Inlet sixth

grader, Shiloh Cuffe, and Oakleaf Junior High student, Joe Antonacci, that began in round 13, came to a close a few rounds later as the two finished round 16. In the final round, Cuffe correctly spelled “androcentric” while his opponent, Antonacci misspelled “linden.”

Cuffe still had one more word to spell to be crowned champ, though. Had he misspelled “graffiti,” a new round would have begun, but because Cuffe spelled it correctly, he was given the title of first place, while Antonacci became first runner-up.



PHOTO BY WESLEY LEBLANC

Shiloh Cuffe, center, stands with his dad and twin brother behind him after winning the Clay County Spelling Bee on Jan. 31 at Plantation Oaks Elementary. Cuffe spelled graffiti for the win.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

	<p>Call for Spring Break STEM Class schedule for Robotics &amp; Engineering.</p> <p><b>904-269-2000</b></p> <p>reading • math • writing • algebra • geometry ACT/SAT Prep • robotics, coding &amp; engineering courses</p>		<p><b>Sylvan Gets Results!</b></p> <p>If your child could use a boost or needs to get ready for the spring FSA or EOCs call Sylvan now.</p> <p><b>Schedule a Skills Assessment for only \$95.</b></p>
---	--	---	---

# 2016 Clay County District Schools

## ELEMENTARY

- Argyle Elementary**  
Theresa Roman, Principal  
(904) 573-2357
- Charles E. Bennett Elementary**  
Shelly Lester, Principal  
(904) 529-2126
- Clay Hill Elementary**  
Adele Reed, Principal  
(904) 289-7193
- CopperGate Elementary**  
Amy Dyal, Principal  
(904) 291-5598
- Doctors Inlet Elementary**  
Thomas Gerds, Principal  
(904) 213-3000
- Fleming Island Elementary**  
Dana Archibald, Principal  
(904) 278-2020
- Grove Park Elementary**  
Scott Voytko, Principal  
(904) 278-2010
- Keystone Heights Elementary**  
Melanie Sanders, Principal  
(352) 473-4844
- Lake Asbury Elementary**  
Sarah Lawson, Principal  
(904) 291-5440
- Lakeside Elementary**  
Jeff Schriver, Principal  
(904) 213-2966
- McRae Elementary**  
Marcus Dooley, Principal  
(352) 473-5686
- Middleburg Elementary**  
Becky Wilkerson, Principal  
(904) 291-5485
- Montclair Elementary**  
Bill Miller, Principal  
(904) 278-2030
- Oakleaf Village Elementary**  
Tracey Kendrick, Principal  
(904) 291-5458
- Orange Park Elementary**  
Carole McCullough, Principal  
(904) 278-2040
- Plantation Oaks Elementary**  
Jennifer Roach, Principal  
(904) 214-7478
- R.M. Paterson Elementary**  
John O'Brian, Principal  
(904) 278-2078
- RideOut Elementary**  
Joyce Orsi, Principal  
(904) 291-5430
- Ridgeview Elementary**  
Tracy McLaughlin, Principal  
(904) 213-2952
- S. Bryan Jennings Elementary**  
Tiffany Outman, Principal  
(904) 213-3021
- Shadowlawn Elementary**  
Nancy Crowder, Principal  
(904) 529-1007
- Swimming Pen Creek Elementary**  
Rodney Ivey, Principal  
(904) 278-5707
- Thunderbolt Elementary**  
DeeDee Phillips, Principal  
(904) 278-5630
- Tynes Elementary**  
Laura Fogarty, Principal  
(904) 291-5400
- W.E. Cherry Elementary**  
Angie Whiddon, Principal  
(904) 278-2050

## Wilkinson Elementary

- Heather Teto, Principal  
(904) 291-5420
- Clay Charter Academy**  
Angela Galyn, Principal  
(904) 276-9515
- ## JUNIOR HIGH
- Green Cove Springs Junior High**  
Jen Halter, Principal  
(904) 529-2140
- Lake Asbury Junior High**  
Becky Murphy, Principal  
(904) 291-5582
- Lakeside Junior High**  
David McDonald, Principal  
(904) 213-2980
- Oakleaf Junior High**  
Anthony Williams, Principal  
(904) 213-5500
- Orange Park Junior High**  
Al De Jesus, Principal  
(904) 278-2000
- Wilkinson Junior High**  
Christina Cornwell, Principal  
(904) 291-5500

## HIGH SCHOOL

- R.C. Bannerman Learning Center**  
Mike Elia, Principal  
(904) 529-2100
- Clay High**  
Cary Dicks, Principal  
(904) 529-3000
- Fleming Island High**  
Thomas Pittman, Principal  
(904) 541-2100
- Keystone Heights High**  
Angela Gentry, Principal  
(352) 473-2761
- Middleburg High**  
Rob Feltner, Principal  
(904) 213-2100
- Oakleaf High**  
Treasure Pickett, Principal  
(904) 213-1900
- Orange Park High**  
Clayton Anderson, Principal  
(904) 272-8110
- Ridgeview High**  
Debbie Segreto, Principal  
(904) 213-5203
- Clay Virtual Academy**  
Lana Racine-Haffner, Principal  
(904) 336-9875
- Adult and Community Education**  
Shannah Kosek, Supervisor  
(904) 336-4450
- Orange Park Performing Arts Academy**  
(904) 269-0039  
Jacqueline Ottosen



## First Lady visits three schools

*First Lady Ann Scott visited three Clay County Schools Jan. 11. The purpose of her visit was to read to students and share her passion for reading and literacy. Scott read to classes at Plantation Oaks Elementary, Clay Virtual Academy, and Lake Asbury Elementary Schools.*

## Clay County School News published monthly by Clay Today

3513 U.S. Highway 17, Fleming Island Florida, 32003

**Managing Editor:** Eric Cravey (904) 579-2151

eric@opcfla.com

**Publisher:** Jon Cantrell (904) 264-3200

jon@opcfla.com

**Staff Reporters:** Jesse Hollett

**Sports Editor:** Randy Lefko

**Circulation Manager:** Rob Conwell

**Legal Notices:** Christie Wayne

**Sales:** Peg Oddy, Sandra Conklin, Susan Sawyer

IN CLAY COUNTY, MAIL DELIVERY		OUT-OF-COUNTY & OUT-OF-STATE	
Subscription	Rate	Subscription	Rate
1 year	\$34.00	1 year	\$44.00

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS CALL 904-264-3200

[claytodayonline.com](http://claytodayonline.com)



# Bily, Garcia honored as tops in their field



PHOTO BY NICK BLANK

From left, School board members Carol Studdard, Chair Janice Kerekes, Robert Garcia, Michelle Bily, school board members Betsy Condon and Ashley Gilhousen pose at the school district's annual Teacher of the Year celebration.

By Nick Blank  
School News

ORANGE PARK – Months of filling out nomination forms, enduring interviews and scrutiny from their peers came down to one moment Tuesday night for the five finalists for both Teacher of the Year and School Related Employee of the Year for Clay County as the school district honored its best and brightest.



Michelle Bily



Robert Garcia

Lakeside Elementary School teacher Michelle Bily is the district's 2018 Teacher of the Year and Orange Park High School groundskeeper Robert Garcia is the district's 2018 School-Related

Employee of the Year. Both were honored Tuesday night at a ceremony at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts. School Superintendent Addison Davis commended the efforts of the teachers and school employees on the stage from the 41 schools in Clay County. Davis said teachers are the heart of the school system.

"Teachers are the No. 1 influence on student achievement," Davis said. "Many of us have been impacted by a teacher in some way, shape, or form that's made us better personally and made us better professionally."

The rigorous selection process involved

six essays written by the nominee, then the 41 teachers were observed in their classroom. Judges combined the scores from the written portion and the observation to whittle the field down to five finalists. A panel comprised of education professionals and community leaders then interviewed the finalists to determine the winner for both awards.

Robert Garcia is a groundskeeper and track coach at Orange Park High School. He started as a volunteer because his kids attended school there, but Garcia's been at the school for 14 years.

Garcia said he was humbled by the award.

"It's really an awesome honor. It's [Orange Park High School] really a family atmosphere," Garcia said. "I'm really lucky not only to coach at Orange Park, but also be a part of the staff and I enjoy everybody."

Bily, who teaches fourth grade at Lakeside Elementary, said she was excited and it's wonderful to have the appreciation from other people.

"It's nice to be recognized because my family does share me so much, it's a real honor," Bily said with her family around her on stage.

Bily said the best part of teaching is the children she teaches and the fact that she is not stuck in a cubicle all day like some jobs afford.

"I get a lot of fun [out of teaching] and a lot of joy from it. I go in every day and I learn something new," Bily said. "I'm challenged every day by my kids to be better than I was the day before and I couldn't ask for more than that."

Bily was joined as a finalist by Charles E. Bennett Elementary sixth grade teacher Lance Addison, Coppergate Elementary Guidance Counselor Erika Gilbert, Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High music teacher Charlie Propper and Ridgeview Elementary sixth grade teacher Jamie Randall. Garcia was chosen from among finalists Clay Hill Elementary media technical assistant Paula Leasure, Orange Park Elementary media technical assistant Abigail Rosario-Castillo, Ridgeview High principal's secretary Sherry Hall, and W. E. Cherry Elementary principal's secretary Michelle Solomon.

**Proud Supporter  
of Clay County  
District Schools**

**AON**  
Empower Results®



## Paterson student artwork to be on statewide calendar

TALLAHASSEE – A fifth-grade student at Paterson Elementary has been named a winner in The Florida Council on Economic Education's 2016-2017 Economic Poster Contest. Jana Hur was one of 12 students selected out of entries from Duval, Clay, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Collier, and Broward counties.

According to FCEE, the contest is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance and economic terms and concepts while stretching their creative muscle. Students pick a vocabulary word from a provided list and create an illustration that defines it. Hur selected the word savings for her contest entry.

"This contest is an excellent opportunity to engage our students' creativity while they study and digest personal finance concepts, knowledge that we know will serve them for a lifetime," said Addison Davis, superintendent school of Clay County. "I want to congratulate Jana on her winning entry, and thank FCEE and the Centers for Economic Education across the



state for supporting our students through this opportunity."

"The FCEE, in partnership with our sponsor Bank of America, is proud to host the 2016 – 2017 Economic Poster Contest. Our belief is that any student, regardless of age, can learn important concepts about personal finance and the economy that they will carry on throughout the course of their lives. We congratulate Jana Hur, and all of this semester's winners, as their hard work and creativity truly is an inspiration to their peers," said Suzanne Costa, vice-president of the Florida Council on Economic Education.

The contest is hosted annually by the FCEE, with support for the Centers for Economic Education based at FSU, USF, Miami-Dade College, FSCJ, and FAU. Copies of the calendar are available by calling the FCEE at (813) 289-8489.

For more than 50 years, students who began their collegiate journey as SJR State Vikings have voyaged ahead in pursuit of local, national and international careers - from doctors and judges, to editors and artists. No dream is too big for SJR State.  
BEGIN HERE. GO ANYWHERE.

A VIKING KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES  
**BE A VIKING**



**ST. JOHNS RIVER**  
STATE COLLEGE

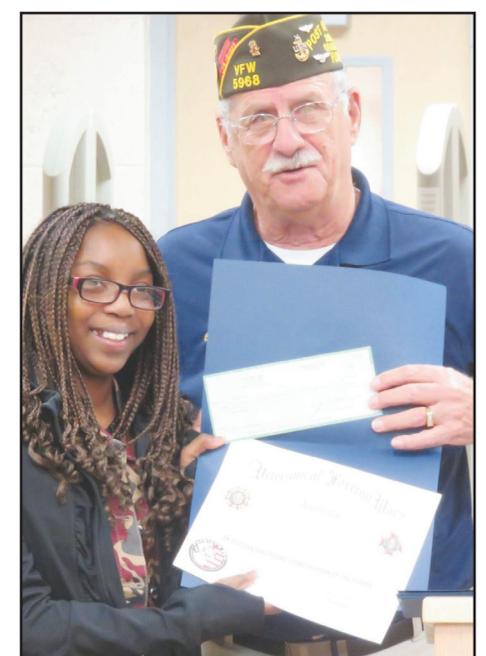
SJRstate.edu

4 • Clay County School News • February 2017

## Brown wins first place in VFW Patriot's Pen competition

OAKLEAF – A number of Oakleaf Junior High students were recently awarded certificates and medals for taking part the VFW for their essay entries in the annual Patriot's Pen competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Students across the nation wrote essays expressing their views on this year's theme "The America I believe in."

The first place winner was Saniya Brown, left, who is shown here with Carl Yochelson, commander of VFW Chapter 5698 in Orange Park. Second place went to Tylah Dyer. Dyer and Brown also received a cash award in addition to their certificate and medal. Also honored for their essays were students Ethan Albrecht, Sophia Allen-Mireles, Jackson Keppel, Shawn Mergen, and Maya Orłowski.



# Author places students writing in university library collection

ST. PAUL, MINN. – Five Shadowlawn Elementary School students recently learned that their writing will be memorialized in one of the world's great children's literature archives.

In January, sixth-grade reading teacher Angie Sullivan's classes completed a novel study using the book "On My Honor," by Marion Dane Bauer. Students were assigned the challenge of writing alternate endings for the story, which were later mailed to Bauer. The author responded in late January with a letter to the classes honoring them for their hard work. She also said she would have the students' work placed in the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries along with her own writing.

"For years and years, even years beyond your lives and mine, people who are interested in studying children's literature will be able to come to the Kerlan and read your chapters. It will tell those researchers how children thought in 2017 and how they reacted to my book. So be proud of yourselves. You have written something that will last," wrote Bauer.

"I was very surprised and excited to receive the honor of my writing being placed in the vault," said Megan Simandl, one of Sullivan's students.

"I felt so grateful when I found out about my writing," agreed her classmate, Kayla Philbert.

"At Shadowlawn Elementary we strive to not only develop strong readers, but also strong writers. My students were so excited to create their own endings to the novel. It was so kind of Marion Dane Bauer to respond back to my students. They now recognize the importance of writing in their lives," Sullivan said.

The book, a painful story of love and loss, surrounds the relationship between 12-year-old Joel who has unwillingly agreed to bike out to a state park with his daredevil friend Tony. "On his honor," Joel promises his father to be careful, knowing that Tony wants them to climb the dangerous park bluffs. When they arrive, however, Tony abruptly changes his mind

## Dean Angela Sullivan's sixth graders,

Thank you for sending me your new endings for On My Honor. I was very pleased to read them. You write very well. You use colorful descriptive words, and you have thought carefully about what you want your ending to mean. Those are things an author has to do when creating a story, and you are all authors now.

Now let me explain to you what is going to happen to your new chapters. I live in Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota has a collection of manuscripts of children's books called the Kerlan Collection. All my old manuscripts are in there. People who are studying how children's writers do their work come to the Kerlan Collection and study the manuscripts of many different writers, including mine.

I am going to send your new chapters to the Kerlan Collection. They will be stored away with the rest of my papers in a specially sealed vault where the temperature and the moisture are always kept constant to preserve paper

**SEE PAGE 8**

and heads for the river. With his promise jangling in his mind, Joel follows Tony in for a swim. Tony drowns in the dirty, turbulent water, leaving Joel to face his guilty conscience, and his father, alone.

The book study was carried out in concert with Celebrate Literacy Week, which ran Jan. 23-27, a time to help ensure every student in the preK-12 system reads at or above grade level, and make literacy a priority of every citizen in the state of Florida.

"All week long, our school district has celebrated the books we love and the literacy skills that are vital to student success. It is such a joy to cap off that celebration with this gesture from an acclaimed author who made such a

**SEE PAGE 8**



**HURRY!**  
This program is only available for a limited time.

**In appreciation for you hard-work and contributions, we thank you!**  
**Ask about our special pricing for educators.**

**272-2200**  
**www.gordonchevy.com**  
**1166 Blanding Blvd. • ORANGE PARK**

# Butcher, baker, candlestick maker

Candlemaking project teaches students business and more

By Nick Blank  
School News

LAKE ASBURY – Laurie Corcoran's classroom at Lake Asbury Elementary resembles a bustling workshop.

Some students are painting glasses, some are pouring hot wax into containers, some are hammering crimps out of old candles, some are making wicks, others practice selling. Everyone has something to do.

In a roomy mobile unit, Corcoran oversees students making candles from donated glass and old candles. The class consists of 17 elementary students from three different classes, two students from Lake Asbury Jr. High, and two from Ridgeview High. They use the money to fund field trips to Seaworld, St. Augustine or host class parties. Corcoran said the project has a practical value to the student that mundane assignments can't provide.

Candlemaking works for several different kinds of students because of the variety of work. There's physical tasks such as cutting wicks and pouring wax. Candlemaking allows students to be artistic when they decorate the glass and wrap the candles. Then there's the entrepreneurial side with people skills, that crop up when students sell the candles and manage money.

"The students work to their strengths whether it be wrapping, selling, something artistic, or pouring," Corcoran said. "It's so different than the traditional paper-pencil task and life skills are not something you cannot get in the classroom, so we're taking it on the road."

Corcoran's class set up booths at the Lake Asbury Elementary library, Asbury United Methodist Church, booth between the schools and the Hometown Holiday Festival at Clarke Park in December. Corcoran said the earnings from these booths was a little over \$500, well enough for the field trips.

"One of 10 kids, maybe two, would be able to pay the full amount," Corcoran said. "It's an expensive field trip."

While Corcoran said she's seen great support from the school concerning the project, she pays about \$500 for materials such as scents, glasses and bags. Corcoran expressed gratitude at the amount of glass and donated used candles she received.

A teacher for 30 years, this isn't the first time Corcoran has used a hands-on assignment to teach students about problem solving. Her previous classes have made clocks, birdhouses and Christmas ornaments out of recycled materials.

Allen Bauer, a 6th grader, and Jasien Cope, a 7th grader, liked how the repur-



Science recently merged with business in Laurie Corcoran's candlemaking project at Lake Asbury Elementary. Here a student pours melted wax into a cocktail glass while two pencils hold up the wick to make sure it does not fall into the melted wax.

posed candles helped the environment.

"It doesn't pollute the earth," Bauer said.

"It's teaching us how to recycle," Cope said.

"Learn how to use money in the real world, in the future if I'm a cashier I'll know how to give change back and all the teachers showed me how," said Aurora Danielle, an 11th grader.

Making the candles teaches students the importance of working in groups and relying on each other.

"If you don't do it [your job], it's still there, here if you don't do it the whole process is ruined."

"When people are purchasing the product, that's like the payoff," Corcoran said.

**Award-Winning Dentistry For Your Family**

Network Choice WINNER 2015  
Michael Vanover, DDS  
top DENTISTS 2010-2016

**VANOVER DENTISTRY**  
of Orange Park  
IMPLANT - FAMILY CARE - COSMETIC

2014 SUPER SERVICE AWARD  
Michael Vanover, DDS

Call Today  
904-272-2438

JACKSONVILLE BEST DENTISTS  
JACKSONVILLE TOP DOCS 2015  
JACKSONVILLE HEAVY METAL TOP DENTISTS  
JACKSONVILLE FOCUS ON STYLE TOP DENTISTS  
JACKSONVILLE HOW TO FIND A TOP DENTIST

**I HEART ART**

NO JOINING FEE  
with donation to our art supply drive.

the Y YMCA

904.265.1775  
FirstCoastYMCA.org

# Roundtree to serve statewide president role

ORLANDO – Oakleaf High School student Madison Roundtree was recently elected to serve as state president for the Florida Future Educators of America organization at the organization's 28th Annual State Conference held Jan. 20-22 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

She will begin her term as president on July 1 and serve until June 30, 2018. Founded by the Florida Department of Education, FFEA provides a forum for students to become aware of career opportunities in education and nurtures their interests in teaching as a career.

In her new role, Roundtree is required to deliver a welcome address at the following FFEA Annual State Conference, as well as be expected to deliver an address at the Florida Teacher of the Year Award Ceremonies during the summer.



Madison Roundtree, a student at Oakleaf High, was recently elected state president of the Florida Future Educators of America.

## School Happenings

### Clay students named Presidential Scholars candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two students from the Clay County School District have been named as candidates for the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Rhoddra J. Johnson, a student at Oakleaf High, was named a candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education and Bryanna E. Williams of Green Cove Springs and a student at Clay High, was named a candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Established in 1964, by executive order of the President, the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program recognizes and honors some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

### Concerto competition accepting applications

JACKSONVILLE – The First Coast Wind Symphony and Jacksonville University are currently accepting applications for the FCWS 2017 Concerto Competition for High School and Collegiate Musicians. This annual young artist event is designed to promote music education in Florida by providing talented students an opportunity to perform a solo work with wind symphony.

The Concerto Competition has

separate high school and collegiate divisions whose winners are each chosen through a competitive audition process. Both the high school and collegiate winners will perform with the First Coast Wind Symphony in concert on April 23 at Jacksonville University. Each winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award from the First Coast Wind Symphony.

The concerto competition high school division is open to Florida high school musicians in grades 9-12 who play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments. The student must reside in the state of Florida.

The concerto competition collegiate division is open to all undergraduate woodwind, brass or percussion musicians freshmen through senior – who are currently in a degree program at a Florida college or university. There is no Florida residency requirement, but the musician must be enrolled in a Florida college or university.

Applicants must provide an unedited DVD video recording with piano accompaniment of the first or last movement of a work for their instrument, not to exceed 10 minutes. Repertoire selected by the applicant must exist as a published band arrangement. Consult the approved repertoire list provided for suggestions. Applicants may also post a video recording on YouTube. Send the link to Artie Clifton at [aclifto@ju.edu](mailto:aclifto@ju.edu).

Application form, recording and non-refundable \$25 application fee must be postmarked by March 1 and sent as one packet to: FCWS Concerto Competition Committee, Music Department, Jacksonville University, 2800 University Blvd. North, Jacksonville, FL 32211.

Applicants will be notified by March 8

regarding their selection as a finalist for the live audition.

Live auditions for both divisions will be held before a selection committee at Jacksonville University on March 18. Finalists are required to provide their own accompanist for the audition. Finalists are not required to perform from memory. The winner in each division will be announced by March 25. The decision of the judges is final.

SEE HAPPENINGS PAGE 8

An advertisement for Orange Park Mall. The background is a blue-tinted image of a person's foot in an orange sneaker stepping onto a blue ramp. Text includes 'ORANGE PARK MALL' in a blue box, 'WHERE TO SHOP' in white, and 'For Every Occasion' in large white font. At the bottom, logos for Dillard's, Dick's Sporting Goods, francesca's, American Eagle Outfitters, and Bath &amp; Body Works are displayed. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are also present, along with the website 'ORANGEPARKMALL.COM'.

# School Happenings

## Scholarship for students with ADHD now accepting applications

Clay County students who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder are encouraged to apply for a unique college scholarship through the Shire pharmaceutical company.

The 2017 Michael Yasick ADHD Scholarship by Shire will award 50 students each a \$2,000 scholarship and one year of ADHD coaching to help meet the challenges of higher education.

The scholarship now open to eligible students who are accepted to or enrolled in graduate programs, in addition to the undergraduate student population, in the United States.

The scholarship program is for legal residents of the United States who have been diagnosed with ADHD are accepted to or will be enrolled in a 2- or 4-year undergraduate or graduate program of one or more years in length at an accredited college, university, trade school, technical school, or vocational school

located in the U.S. Applicants must also be under the care of a licensed health care professional for ADHD.

Coaching services are provided through the Edge Foundation and the deadline to apply is March 8. Call 1-855-474-4732 for questions and rules. Apply online at [shireadhdsscholarship.com/default.aspx](http://shireadhdsscholarship.com/default.aspx)

## Students invited to apply for DAR scholarship

Students graduating this spring are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Sophia Fleming Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Applicants must be graduating from either the Clay County Public School District, St. Johns Country Day School or a home school program. Students are eligible if they are going to attend any post-secondary program of study, including colleges, universities or vocational or technical schools. No GPA

information is required.

Applicants are requested to write an essay, provide a list of their awards and recognitions and two letters of recommendation. Scholarship applications due to Lynda Lewis, Sophia Fleming Scholarship Chairman, on Feb. 24.

The forms are also available by clicking on Sophia Fleming Scholarship at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsfcdar/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsfcdar/)

Do not mail applications by certified or registered mail. Applicants will be notified once his or her application has been received.

Mail to Lynda Lewis, Sophia Fleming Scholarship Committee, Sophia Fleming Chapter, NSDAR, 316 Scenic Point Ln., Fleming Island, FL 32003.

## 2017 Concert on the Green Poster Contest underway

It's time for the annual Concert on the Green Poster Contest. All students from public, private and home schools are encouraged to enter through Feb. 24 using the theme "A Celebration of Symphonic Music in an Outdoor Setting."

An online application must be submitted with final entries delivered to Great Hang Ups Gallery, 1560 Business Center Drive, on Fleming Island on or before Feb. 24.

There are three categories separated by grade level, grades 4-6, grades 7-8 and

grades 9-12.

Poster designs must cover a 11-inch by 12-inch section of a 11-inch by 17-inch paper or canvas (saving 5 inches on bottom) using any artistic medium.

Winners will be public around March 31. More info at [ConcertOnTheGreen.com](http://ConcertOnTheGreen.com).

## T-shirt design contest underway

The Black Creek Bowl Association is accepting designs for the Black Creek 5K, scheduled for Oct. 2. The winner receives four 5K run entries, which includes four t-shirts, and an article in a local newspaper featuring the artist and the design. This year's theme is "The Beauty of Black Creek."

The winner will be selected by the Association's board at its March meeting. Designs will not be returned and become the property of the Association. Designs should be 11" by 8.5" and submitted on unlined white paper. Designs must be drawn in black only; can be hand drawn using markers, paint, pencils or ink.

Designs may be computer-designed and submitted in vector format on CD, flashdrive or email. Designs must include the phrases "6th Annual," "Black Creek 5K" and "October 21, 2017."

No company logos or names can be used in the design. Designs can be mailed no later than Feb. 28 to BC5K, P.O. Box 2096 Middleburg, FL 32050 or emailed to [info@blackcreekbowl.com](mailto:info@blackcreekbowl.com).



**IS TODAY THE DAY YOU IGNITE YOUR FUTURE?**

If you have the spark, we have the programs to guide you toward a rewarding career. FORTIS offers programs in the following areas:

- Associate Degree in Nursing
- Medical Assisting • Dental Assisting
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Healthcare Management
- Surgical Technology
- Sterile Processing Technician

CALL 1.855.445.3276  
TEXT "IGNITE" TO 367847  
**FORTIS**  
FORTIS.EDU **IGNITE YOUR FUTURE**

**FORTIS COLLEGE**  
700 BLANDING BLVD. SUITE 16 • ORANGE PARK, FL 32065

Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. Career Placement Assistance for All Graduates.  
Approved for Veterans Training. For consumer information, visit [Fortis.edu](http://Fortis.edu).

## Continued from page 8

and ink. That means for years and years, even years beyond your lives and mine, people who are interested in studying children's literature will be able to come to the Kerlan and read your chapters. It will tell those researchers how children thought in 2017 and how they reacted to my book.

So be proud of yourselves. You have written something that will last.

If you'll look in the front pages of *On My Honor*, you will see that it was published in 1986. I'll leave you to do

the math to see how many years ago, that was. By this time, I have written many more books, all kinds from board books for babies to nonfiction to fiction for teens. I'm tucking some books marks inside this letter that will tell you about a couple of my newer books. There is one for each of you.

I hope you have a great year in school and find lots of books by many different authors to read and enjoy.

**Fondly,  
Marion Dane Bauer**

## Continued from page 8

positive impact on our students," said Clay County School Superintendent Addison Davis.

Bauer wrote "On My Honor" in 1986, one of many works she has written in her storied career, which also includes

a Newbery Honor Award from the American Library Association in 1987 for her novel "On My Honor." She was one of the founding faculty and the first Faculty Chair for the MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

# Roney reaches 2,000 points for Broncos

By Randy Lefko  
School News

MIDDLEBURG – Middleburg High senior point guard Hannah Roney was amongst friends and family before her final home regular season game against Bradford County High School and seemed to be enjoying the moment.

"I have the butterflies in my stomach, but I'm excited about tonight," said Roney, who entered the non-district game with 1,992 career points in her illustrious four years of varsity action as a Bronco point guard. "I know it will be memorable. I don't want it to ever end."

Roney's father, James, had other thoughts about his daughter's steeliness before the big night.

"She forgot her shoes, her uniform and other things," said James Roney. "I think she's thinking about it."

Also a factor in the scoring for the Lady Broncos, Roney's sophomore sister Mallory has become a near 20 points per game shooter for coach Michael Hayward and may have the hot hand against Bradford.

"She can get 56 points for tonight," said Hannah Roney. "As long as I get eight, she can score whatever she wants."

After introducing Roney amongst her other senior teammates; Bryanna Ridgon, Amber Schumacher and Garielle Huffman, Bronco coach Michael Hayward watched

the first quarter action with some tepid anticipation.

Roney's first pass went way overhead of sister Mallory under the basket.

1,994: Roney steals the ball near mid-court and drives left to right for a layup.

Two missed jumpers; one a three-pointer, raise the anticipation level for the 2,000th point as Bronco Nation fans jump to their feet with each jumper.

1,995: Roney gets fouled on another drive to the basket and makes just one of two from the charity stripe.

1,998: Two minutes later, Roney sets up just off right center of the three point stripe and floats a long jumper that sings through the nets.

2,000: Again, Roney steals an errant pass near midcourt and flies to the basket for a layup and the coveted 2,000 mark is met.

Officials stop the game and Hayward presents Roney with a plaque.

By the way, Middleburg (22-4) won 56-28 with Roney finishing with 27 points with two of seven from three points. Roney also had seven steals and five rebounds. This after an overtime 47-45 loss to district 3-7A rival Nease High School three days prior.

Roney returns to Middleburg this week for the district 3-7A championship tournament.



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Middleburg High senior point guard Hannah Roney with dad, James, and some friends, after hitting layup for her 2,000th career point for the Lady Broncos Friday night.



## Baptist Primary Care – serving families in Clay County.

### Pediatrics

- 1 6353 Argyle Forest Blvd., Suite 4  
904.908.0200
- 2 2140 Smith St.  
904.269.2140
- 3 1747 Baptist Clay Dr., Suite 110  
904.520.6620

### Family Medicine

- 4 8355 Merchants Gate Drive  
904.771.2900
- 5 769 Blanding Blvd., Unit 7  
904.458.4882
- 6 440 Kingsley Ave.  
904.264.9293
- 7 2349 Village Square Pkwy., Suite 110  
904.264.6404
- 8 1747 Baptist Clay Dr., Suite 340  
904.264.4405



Learn more at [baptistprimarycare.net](http://baptistprimarycare.net).

Changing Health Care for Good.®

© Baptist Health 2016

# CLAY COUNTY CURBSIDE RECYCLING NEW GUIDELINES

**NEW** (Now accepting plastics 1- 7) **NEW**

## PAPER

- Mail, office, and school papers
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Paperback books & telephone books
- Shredded paper - should be placed in 13 gallon or smaller plastic trash bags
- Fiberboard boxes - cereal, cracker and storage boxes
- Corrugated cardboard - flattened and cut into pieces 2' x 3' or smaller



## CARTONS - Food and beverage cartons including:

- Milk/creamer cartons **NEW**
- Juice boxes **NEW**
- Soup & broth **NEW**



## METAL

- Beverage containers
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Steel and aluminum food containers
- Baking Tins **NEW**



## PLASTIC (#1-#7)

- Plastic beverage and food containers **NEW**
- CD's and CD Cases **NEW**
- Detergent bottles
- Cleaning containers
- Solo Cups & Plastic Cutlery **NEW**



## GLASS

- Glass bottles and jars: green, brown and clear  
(Please place tops/lids in garbage. Labels do not need to be removed.)



### Items NOT Included in Recycling Program

Plastic toys, plastic bags, clothes hangers, pizza boxes, motor oil containers, pool & other chemical containers, mirrors, window glass & broken glass, aerosol cans, electronics and pesticide containers.

Clay County residents are encouraged to recycle. Recycling conserves natural resources as well as helps lower the cost of waste disposal. All containers should be emptied and rinsed clean. Place all recyclable materials in bins provided (one for paper products, one for plastic, glass & cans etc.) Do not place anything but recyclables in bins. Please place recycle bins curbside by 6:00 a.m. on service day.



**Advanced  
Disposal**

[www.advanceddisposal.com](http://www.advanceddisposal.com)

(904) 695-0500

1-866-779-CLAY (2529)



[www.claycountygov.com](http://www.claycountygov.com)

(904) 284-6374 or (904) 269-6374

Keystone 1-352-473-3711 x 6374

**Continued from page 1**

While his fellow competitors asked for the definition of words and their use in a sentence, Cuffe approached the microphone smoothly and confidently each time, often spelling his given word after hearing it only once.

In round 12, three students remained. While Cuffe and Antonacci spelled their words correctly, RideOut Elementary student, Blake Pu, incorrectly spelled "lithe." As a result, Pu would become the second runner-up.

"I practiced with my grandmother. My grandmother was awesome and she taught me a lot, and she was probably the best coach I had."

**- Shiloh Cuffe**

Pu took his place as second runner-up in stride, though, even taking to the mic during the awards ceremony to give a few words on his competitors.

"These are some of the smartest people I have ever met," Pu said.

To determine who competes in the Clay County Spelling Bee, students must first compete in their school spelling bee, and oddly enough, Cuffe's toughest competitor was his twin brother. The two went through 60 rounds of spelling words at their school spelling bee before Shiloh finally won.

"It lasted 60 rounds," Cuffe said. "They had to postpone our classes so we could finish."

Cuffe is no stranger to spelling bees, with this year's being his third consecutive one. Cuffe has competed in the Clay County Spelling Bee during his fourth grade, fifth grade and now, his sixth grade.

He attributes his success to the spelling practice he had with his grandmother.

"I practiced with my grandmother," Cuffe said. "My grandmother was awesome and she taught me a lot, and she was probably the best coach I had."

His father, Brian Cuffe believes his son to be a natural when it comes to spelling.

"The practice helped but I would say that he's kind of a natural," Brian Cuffe said.

While there was plenty of adoration to go around, nobody seemed more proud than Cuffe's teacher, Stephanie Helm.

"In 21 years at Doctors Inlet, I've never seen a child's intellect blossom like this,"



Shiloh Cuffe, third from left, was congratulated by school board members Betsy Condon, far left, Mary Bolla, second from left and Superintendent Addison Davis, board chair Janice Kerekes and vice chair Carol Studdard.

Helm said.

Clay County Superintendent of Schools Addison Davis is not only proud of Cuffe, but all 35 participants.

"I'm really excited about the winners and the participants," Davis said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for these kids to demonstrate their abilities and their skillsets."

For Davis, the Spelling Bee means so much more than just a trophy. It's an opportunity to expand the knowledge of Clay County students.

"We know that kids who participate in the Spelling Bee have an opportunity to develop a large vocabulary, which will eventually help them to comprehend high-level text," Davis said.

Each year brings a new Spelling Bee and a new opportunity for Clay County students to learn.

"These spelling bees help our students understand the role of literacy in the modern world," Davis said. "We're really excited about that."

Cuffe will go on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee on March 4, at Jacksonville Main Public Library downtown adjacent to Hemming Park.



**\$1,000 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP  
2016-2017**

**Awarded by: CLAY COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Graduating high school senior must attend school in Clay County
- Parent/Guardian of applicant must be a CCEA member in good standing
- Applicant should have a minimum of weighted 3.0 GPA

**HOW TO APPLY:**

<http://www.clayeducation.org>  
and at any  
Clay County District  
High School's Guidance Office

**APPLY NOW!**

**Deadline**

All materials must be postmarked by March 15, 2017

Addressed to: CCEA Scholarship Program

Attn: James Howell  
3798 Old Jennings Road  
Middleburg, FL 32068





## Cole's fever quickly became life threatening.

The fever Cole couldn't shake turned into every mother's nightmare. He began to have seizures and was rushed to Wolfson Children's ER at Baptist Clay. Cole stopped breathing, but the team of pediatric emergency specialists was able to resuscitate him. He was quickly transported to Wolfson Children's Hospital for a comprehensive evaluation and, after an overnight stay, the Clay County toddler was back to being his healthy, happy self. Parents Lydia and Ryan know firsthand and will tell any parent: Where you take your child for emergency care matters.

Watch Cole's story at  
[wolfsonchildrens.org/ER](http://wolfsonchildrens.org/ER)



**Wolfson Children's  
Emergency Centers**

Locations in Fleming Island & Jacksonville