

# School News

HAPPENINGS FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

May 2017

Vol. 5 — Issue 5



## Student Art Show

## Bringing it all together

By Kile Brewer  
School News

ORANGE PARK – Several Clay County students showed their work to hundreds of Orange Park Mall visitors over the weekend in the annual student art show.

The show took up two wings of the mall, with one wing dedicated to the work of Clay County's elementary art students, and the other wing consisting of the work of "senior" level artists from high schools and junior highs throughout the county.

The elementary exhibit is purely for the enjoyment of the viewers, the parents, and

perhaps most of all the young artists who get to see their work hanging on the wall.

"The best part is seeing the kids take photos with their art," said Joy Keith, Fleming Island Elementary School K-6 art teacher while putting the finishing touches on her students' space. "It's also great meeting all the other art teachers because we never get a chance to see

each other. Next year every elementary school is hiring an art teacher, so I'm excited for next year."

Keith thinks that the participation will be higher than ever with more schools providing students with a teacher to promote the



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Joy Keith arranges her Fleming Island Elementary School students' works on a board that would be included in the Clay County student art show at the Orange Park Mall.

SEE ART, 6

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- 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

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- 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

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(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



## Bringing home the hardware

*LAKE ASBURY – The Future Business Leaders of America chapter at Lake Asbury Junior High recently came home from its state leadership conference with a large piece of hardware. The chapter was honored for having the "Largest Percent of Increase in Membership, Middle School" at the FBLA conference held March 23-26 in Orlando. Students worked hard to increase membership this year to 40 members up from its 11 members in the previous school year, a whopping 263 percent increase. For next year, chapter members have set a goal of tripling membership when they begin classes in the fall.*

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# MAKING DIRTY JOBS Sexy

## Awareness can redirect young workers to greying industries

By Jesse Hollett  
School News

OAKLEAF – Lindsey Estevez is a tattoo covered, recent high school graduate working with men who, often, are two to three times her age.

Estevez, 18, is a statistical anomaly in a field where she works as a wastewater operator for the Clay County Utility Authority. That agency, and many other specialties like it, currently faces an aging workforce incapable of capturing the interest of younger generations.

As the younger generation increasingly turns to science, medicine and technology fields, the 'somebodies-got-to-do-it jobs' have seen a slow decline in youthful new hires and a gradual climb in the average age of their employees.

Now, as many of these employees are primed to retire, employers are looking for new ways to fill what could be an impending workforce void.

Before the crisis reaches critical mass, companies have begun the search for a remedy. And for many, the solution comes from education.

"We have a lot of aging employees," in their wastewater treatment plants, said Celeste Laffy, public information officer for CCUA. "It's not really sexy, but it's something that we all have to rely on. And when you ask kids when they're in school what they want to be, they always think of really interesting careers, and you can't really imagine most of them saying 'hey, I want to be a wastewater operator.'"

Two years ago, the utility began an internship program with the Clay County School District to reach out to students who may be interested in related fields, whether it be environmental sciences, engineering or technology.

That's how Estevez first got involved.

"I wanted to work with my hands, be outside, have on the job training," said Estevez, a graduate of Middleburg High. "I didn't even know it was a job, wastewater operators, people don't even think about it."

It's reasons like this that contribute to the utility's worker age range of 27-years-old to 66. Wastewater operators are especially in demand



Lindsey Estevez stands overlooking a water treatment tank at the Spencer's Crossing wastewater plant in Oakleaf. She said she would have never learned about what is now her career path if not for an internship designed to entice a younger generation into a greying workforce.

now, considering there is only a finite number to serve an ever-growing population who rely on that water for irrigation and aquifer replenishment.

Often, Laffy said, utilities will fight over workers, offering ever-increasing benefit packages and wages to licensed operators.

By no means, however, is this worry exclusive to the field.

"Young people come out of school now and they're not interested in being plumbers or concrete workers...they all want to go be [Information and Technology] workers," said Bill Garrison, president of the Clay Economic Development Corp. "How do you make these occupations sexy again? How do you make them where young people are attracted to them? There's no easy way to address that, I can tell you right now, there's no easy way."

The EDC is currently in talks with multiple companies in Clay County on how best to remedy the growing problem of workforce greying.

So far, the best ideas to come from talks have all revolved around education. Exposing teens, in particular, to potential careers through expos, fairs, career days and internships to help remove the stigma hanging over some of these careers and help groom a new generation of skilled workers, said Garrison.

"It pays to invest in the budding workforce," Garrison said. "And I think we're going to see more and more of that."

SEE JOBS, 8



## CCEA: The Clay County Educational Association.

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## 11 graduating seniors awarded Wes Widdon Scholarships

FLEMING ISLAND – The Wes Whiddon Foundation has selected its scholarship winners from the Class of 2017. All recipients are selected based on the difference they make in the lives of others.

This year's recipients are Emma Weiskopf

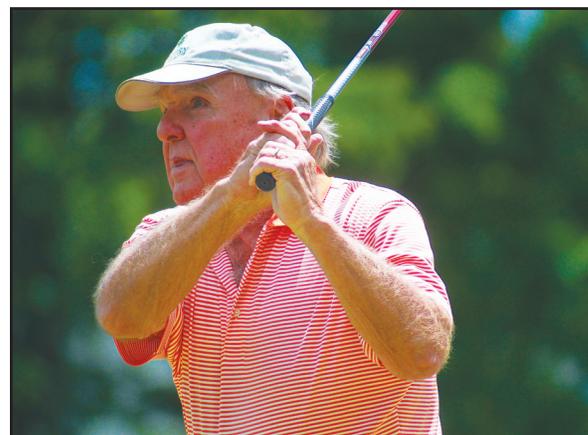
of Middleburg High, Kennedy Comes, Corey Solomon and John Walsh, all of Fleming Island High, Ethan Fields of Oakleaf High,

Michael Dickinson of Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High, Liz Fogarty of Clay High, Charlotte Cox, Brandon Loporati and Bridgett Flanagan, all of Orange Park High and Maegan Burns of Ridgeview High.



### Wes Whiddon Scholarship Golf Tournament action

Area golfers got to show off some golf skills while raising money for the Wes Whiddon Foundation recently at the Fleming Island Golf Club. Left are the Whiddons; Seth, Wes Sr., Angie and Heath; below, Neal Goldblatt blasts a bunker; below left, Bill Ballou tees off at three and Tyler "T-Rex" Robison urges close putt to drop.



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# Alumni Updates

## Caton honored at Mary Baldwin convocation

STAUNTON, Va.— Students, faculty, staff and friends of Mary Baldwin University gathered inside Francis Auditorium on March 30 for Honors Convocation, a ceremony to recognize student academic achievement.

Hailey Caton of Orange Park earned an award at the honors ceremony.

Mary Baldwin University, founded in 1842, is a deliberately small, coeducational university with the foresight to see possibility, the courage to act and a profound commitment to community. Offering a range of degree programs from bachelors to doctoral, it serves a diverse student population on its main campus in Staunton, Virginia, at its nearby health sciences campus in Augusta County, online, and through regional advising centers throughout Virginia. All programs are coeducational except the Mary Baldwin College for Women. Throughout 2016-17, MBU is celebrating its 175th anniversary.



ger of Orange Park was initiated at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, Phi Kappa Phi membership is through invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.

## Heichel awarded scholarship at Valdosta State University

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Ashley Heichel of Orange Park was recently awarded the Georgia Power Foundation and Retention Scholarship at Valdosta State University for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Heichel is one of 24 currently enrolled, incoming first-year, or transfer students selected to receive a scholarship through the VSU Foundation Inc. These scholarships were established by private donors and are awarded each year to students with excellent academic achievement and/or financial need. Each recipient represents the high standards of the university.

Established in 1906, Valdosta State University is a comprehensive university characterized by outstanding instruction, a wide range of



student life opportunities, and a close connection to the community.

## Clay students inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — The following local residents recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Garrett Van Dyke of Fleming Island was initiated at Samford University. Initiated at the University of North Florida were students Jose Zermeno, Kyle Cohen, Peter Dalve Jr. and Stacey Little, all of Fleming Island, along with Brandy Rodrigues, Brooke Lawrence and Trevor Weyandt, all of Middleburg and Orange Park residents Michael Zeolla, David Queen III, Dyllan Cole, Elizabeth Benites, Haley Branscome, Jessica Hamelin and Rebecca Billiot.

Chad Tennant of Keystone Heights was initiated



ated at Florida Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, the Alpha Epsilon Lambda chapter at St. Johns River State College's Orange Park campus added 11 new members to its ranks: Vanessa Chavez, Phillip Dechambeau, Jessica Dechman, Harold Goslee, Morgan Malone, Kelli Mulford, Casandra Nolen, Ashley Richardson, David Santana, Emmy Pedro Santiago and Danielle Torres.

"I charge you to explore always for truth and to dedicate yourselves to the cultivation of the well-reasoned life, a prelude to service and honor," said SJR State faculty advisor Don Lafond.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Since its founding, 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist David Baldacci and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley.

## Clay students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Four college students from Clay County recently joined the more than 30,000 members of the prestigious honor society Phi Kappa Phi.

Lynn Phillips of Fleming Island and Joseph Hansknecht of Green Cove Springs were initiated at Florida State University; Charles Christ of Orange Park was initiated at State University of New York at Oswego and Pia Bad-



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Sculptures sit on a table as part of the senior division of the Clay County student art show at the Orange Park Mall.



Middle school students hang their work while setting up the senior division of the Clay County student art shows at the Orange Park Mall last week.

## Art from page 1

event and get the younger kids interested in creating and displaying their work. Sparking their interest at a young age could get some of the young artists into the senior level of competition once they head to middle school.

Keith has several hundred students and chose 40 pieces to be displayed in the show, which she said really builds the self confidence in those chosen to continue to create art.

Across the mall, the senior exhibition is a little different.

The students in this portion of the show have been working on projects for the entirety of the school year in preparation for this culminating event. Some, though, are more serious than others.

There are two categories for two different types of artists, one category is judged and the other is just for the fun of showing work.

"Some of the students here are high-functioning artists, and some just want to show their work and we're including both," said Paul Suter, a ceramics and sculpture teacher at Fleming Island High School. "That's what I think is fun about this event is that everybody gets to participate."

Not everyone showing work in the exhibit will grow up to be an artist or art teacher, but being pushed by their teachers to follow their creativity and show their work should they be selected is a fulfilling experience for even the art hobbyists.

"I wouldn't do [art] as a career, but I really like the creativity," said Kelly Ventura, 14, a student at Oakleaf Junior High School. "I like showing my work. We work really hard all year, staying after school as late as 9 p.m. to work on our projects, so it's really nice to get recognition. Most of my work is kinda gloomy,



The Clay County elementary student art show sits on display in front of Belk in the Orange Park Mall Friday before the official opening of the show.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

but a good kind of gloomy."

Ventura, who was hanging her paintings and charcoal drawings next to the work of her friends from class, showed work for the second year in a row.

This year marked the first time that the

show was arranged by school, and by teacher within the schools allowing viewers to note the differences in the schools' art programs. Everything was included: photography, sculpture, ceramics, painting, drawing, and a

variety of mixed media work.

"It's neat to see aspects of each school's environment in their artwork and the focus of students from different schools," Suter said. "A show like this brings it all together."

## Innovating for good

# OP grad wins award at MIT

By Jesse Hollett  
School News

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – An Orange Park High graduate is one of five winners of a prestigious competition for pragmatic innovation for work she and her team did in creating a real time, pocket-sized text-to-braille converter.

Charlene Xia, 22, is part of a six-woman team of Massachusetts Institute of Technology students to win \$10,000 as the winners of the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize.

The competition is a national collegiate invention prize program supported by The Lemelson Foundation, which celebrates young inventors that have designed and built prototypes of inventions to solve social problems.

The competition awarded four undergraduate teams and five graduate inventors a total of \$115,000 for their ideas, according to an April 19 announcement. The money will go to further fund research.

Xia's invention, dubbed Tactile, translates printed words into braille by translating a block of text onto a refreshable display of moveable dots the user can run their fingers over to turn any pamphlet, menu, or book into a readable form.

"We all believe that this would be amazing to help the visually impaired community have access to information that we have every day," Xia said.

Tactile won the competition's "Use It!" category for their invention.

"It is so important to have people who have

the capacity to solve social problems and to invent novel solutions," said Stephanie Couch, executive director of the Lemelson-MIT Program. "We want to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the Tactile team and Charlene and these other student prize winners, because it is creative and inventive mindset that has made America great."

Couch said additionally, Xia's team is a role model for women in an industry overpopulated by men.

"We have a real diversity challenge," Couch said. Only "10 percent [of innovators] are female, 90 percent are male, so there are some real gender issues."

Xia, a graduate of Orange Park High's engineering academy, developed the design with her team last February during a hackathon, a marathon for software developers and techies. The team was provided with materials and mentorship during a 15-hour period until they had finished their first prototype.

Since then, the team has gone through multiple iterations of the device until they were able to refine it into a size slightly larger than a smart phone for portability.

There are no real-time translators of this kind currently on the market that will translate braille directly from paper. Many translators will only translate online documents, and often those devices can run a user thousands of dollars.

Xia and her team hope to take Tactile and put it on the market for a fraction of that cost. Current estimates put manufacturing costs for



PHOTO BY BRIAN SMALE, MICROSOFT

From left, the team of Chandani Doshi, Jessica "Jialin" Shi, Chen "Bonnie" Wang, Charlene Xia, Tania Yu and Grace Li developed the Tactile, a real time, pocket-sized text-to-braille computer that uses a refreshable display of dots to translate blocks of texts into streams of braille letters for the blind and visually impaired.

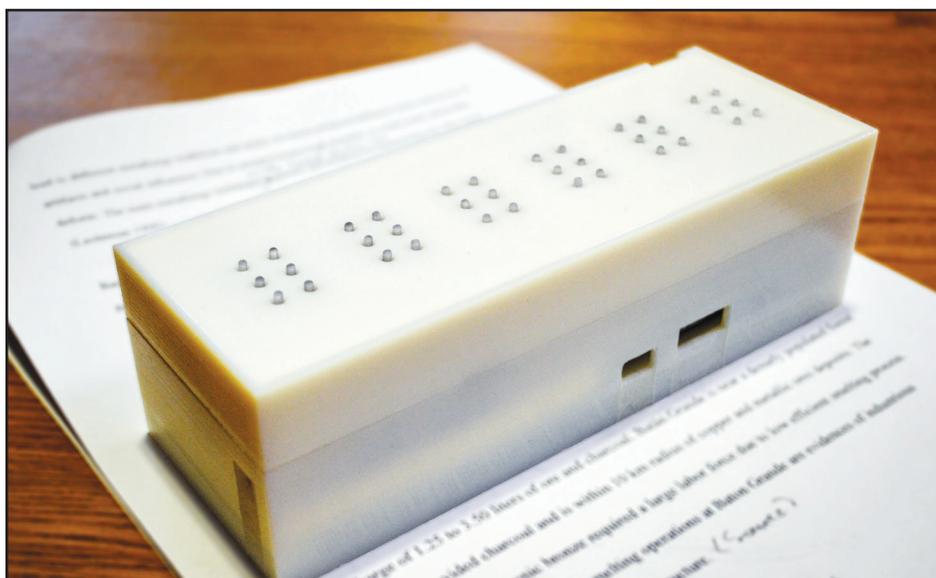
the device around \$100. The team hopes to make Tactile much more affordable than other similar devices.

Growing up in Shanghai, China, Xia more or less stumbled upon her love of hands-on design work when custom remote control car construction was the prevalent fad of the day.

"In my neighborhood it was popular enough that they built a racetrack that you could race against your friends," Xia said.

She took the enjoyment she got from building her custom racers into a classroom setting when she moved to America in 2005. Those

SEE MIT, 8



Orange Park high alum Charlene Xia, 22, is part of a six-woman team of Massachusetts Institute of Technology students that won a \$10,000 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for creating the Tactile, a text-to-braille converter, shown here.

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# OPHS student named corporate sponsored Merit Scholarship winner

EVANSTON, Ill. – An Orange Park High School senior is among a group of more than 1,000 students who were awarded corporate-sponsored scholarships on April 19 from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Catherine N. Bruns won the National Merit CSX Corp. Scholarship. Bruns hopes to use the college scholarship to study environmental science. Headquartered in Jacksonville, CSX Corp. "is committed to supporting the communities where it operates" through grass-roots volunteerism and focused corporate," according to the press release.



Catherine Bruns

Scholarship winners were selected from students who advanced to the finalist level in the National Merit Scholarship competition and met criteria of their scholarship sponsors. Corporate sponsors provide National Merit Scholarships for finalists who are children of

their employees, who are residents of communities the company serves, or who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most of these awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$500 to \$10,000 per year. Some provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Recipients can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice.

Funding for these National Merit Scholarships is provided by corporate organizations that represent nearly all sectors of American industry. Sponsors from the business community have underwritten awards offered in all 62 competitions, expending or committing more than \$767 million to support the intellectual development of the nation's scholastically talented youth.

By the conclusion of the 2017 competition, about 7,500 finalists will have been selected to receive National Merit Scholarships totaling over \$32 million. Winners are the finalist candidates judged to have the strongest com-

bination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of

National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by some 420 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to honor the nation's scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.

## MIT from page 7

who remember Xia recall her as an extremely motivated and engaged mainstay of extracurricular activities who absorbed every opportunity for community involvement and lifelong learning.

"She's very smart, very interested in making society better and very interested in helping others – she was a great role model for any student that crossed her path," said Paul Parker, who served as director of Career and Technical Education for the Clay County School District the year Xia was a senior, witnessing her work at the OPHS engineering academy.

"She took all the extra courses that could be taken," he said. "I wish every student had her drive. They would be very successful without her brains if they just had her drive."

Xia said the Tactile team is currently in a waiting period while their patent is reviewed. When approved, the team hopes to market and sell the device to consumers who, otherwise,

"She took all the extra courses that could be taken. I wish every student had her drive. They would be very successful without her brains if they just had her drive."

– Paul Parker

would be stuck with braille translated books or nothing at all.

Xia said they've already received great reviews from device testers, who are blind.

"Ideally, we want to see our invention come to life, one thing that we believe that this device will fill an unmet need," Xia said. "We do want to get it commercialized within the next two years if everything goes well."

Until then, the team is still involved in shrinking down the braille converter to an even smaller portable size.

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## Jobs from page 2

The hunt for younger workers is increasingly frantic in the construction field. There are currently about \$1.2 billion in Department of Transportation projects in process in Northeast Florida.

"With that much work, we have a clear need for the next generation to help build the infrastructure in Northeast Florida," said FDOT engineer Scott Lent in a recent interview with Clay Today. "We are trying to educate students about the transportation and construction industry as a whole. We need contractors and consultants, so we're trying to engage the next generation into the industry."

Over the last four years, FDOT has participated in a regional expo to show students aspects of the construction field. Construction Career Day drew 600 students to the Jackson-

ville Equestrian Center March 30 in a showcase of almost every piece of machinery in the FDOT arsenal.

Vac-Con, the Green Cove Springs based truck-mounted machine manufacturer, employees 318 people. More than 50 percent of those employees are over age 40.

"We have this issue facing us," Garrison said. "It's not just Clay County obviously, it's everywhere."

When Estevez moved from intern to employee in June, another employee simultaneously retired. She expects by next year to move from a trainee to fully-licensed wastewater operator, a career that will make her \$50,000 annually before she even leaves her parents' home.

"I really didn't have a plan, I wasn't interested in anything," Estevez said. "I didn't really know where I wanted to go with life...Some of my friends have gone to college. I'm cool with that, it's just not for me."

# Chamber Foundation awards 16 scholarships

ORANGE PARK – The Clay County Chamber Foundation awarded 16 scholarships to Clay County High School students – the greatest number since its founding in 1991 – at its annual awards luncheon at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center.

Margaret “Molly” Urnek of St. Johns Country Day School was awarded \$2,000. Maxwell Adolph of Orange Park High, Brandon Becar and Lauren Eckert, both of Fleming Island High, Hope Miller of Ridgeview High and Elisabeta Smith of Clay High each received \$1,000.

Ridgeview High senior Daniel Olis was presented the \$2,000 David K. Robertson Scholarship.

Defense Acquisition University sponsored two STEM Scholarships and Acquisition, Training & Logistics scholarships this year, each for \$1,000. The STEM recipients were Dylan Strunz of Oakleaf High and Joshua Velez of Keystone Heights High. The Acquisition, Training & Logistics award winners were Kaitlyn Gates of Oakleaf High and Thomas McClymont of Orange Park High.

Each year, the Chamber’s Clay Women’s Empowerment Council raises money to contribute to a Clay County nonprofit organization. The Council donated \$2,000 to the Chamber Foundation, which was matched with \$1,000 from the Finally Friday Networking Group to award a \$3,000 scholarship to Hailey Brackin of Fleming Island High.

VyStar Credit Union gave three \$1,000 scholarships to students in its Academy program. Honorees are Savana Balaguer of Middleburg High, Bridgett Flanagan of Orange Park High and Daniel Piner of Fleming Island High.

The 2017 Scholarship Committee received more than 100 applications, which were evalu-



It was nothing but smiles at the recent scholarship presentation made by the Clay County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The scholarship committee received more than 100 applications at the same time Foundation and Chamber officials raised record levels of funds to increase the number of awards given this year.

ated in a blind review process that concealed applicant name, gender and school.

The Clay County Chamber of Commerce Foundation Scholarship Program was created in 1991 to recognize academically talented high school seniors and to give financial support for their college-level studies. The scholarship fund depends on fundraisers and members who pay an added amount in voluntary contributions as part of their annual dues.

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# 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.



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Keystone 1-352-473-3711 x 6374



## Mother Goose program instills the love of reading

LAKE ASBURY – The Early Learning Coalition of North Florida recently launched a reading program that uses different methods for literacy retention.

The Mother Goose program centers around teaching through nursery rhymes and was developed through the collaboration of the ELC staff and Literacy Outreach Assistant Sandi Dunnivant.

During her career as a media specialist in the Clay County School District, Dunnivant began teaching children to learn rhyming skills, which in turn, helped children learn to read more quickly and the response was always positive and fun for the children.

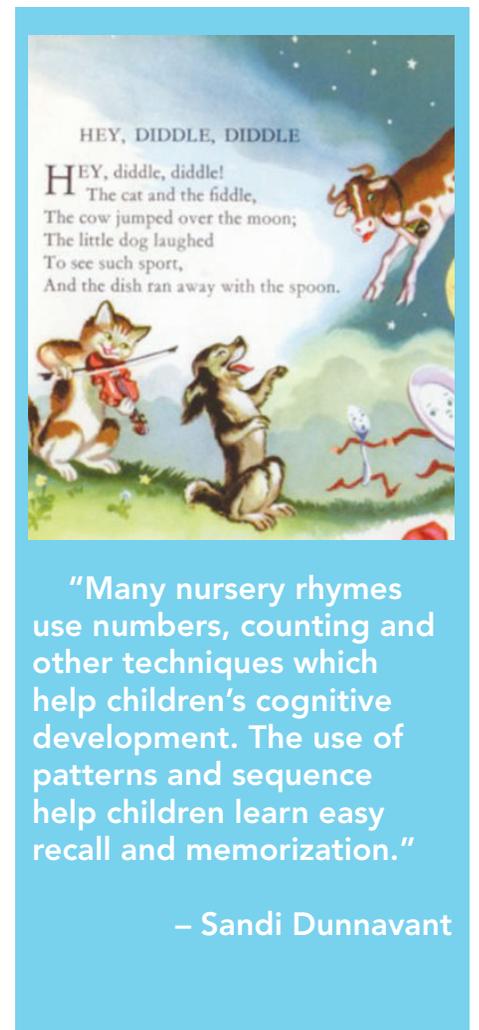
“Many nursery rhymes use numbers, counting and other techniques which help children’s cognitive development,” Dunnivant said. “The use of patterns and sequence help children learn easy recall and memorization.”

The new program was implemented by Dunnivant and ELC Reading Pal volunteers in local preschools and consisted of a Mother Goose theme. Different stories were performed which centered around music and rhythm sticks. All children in attendance also received a free book bag filled with Mother Goose books. The teachers all received a gift packet filled with books and resources to further instruct the children with nursery rhymes.

Due to the program’s success, ELC plans to continue the program and are looking for donations so more local daycare centers can enjoy the new program.

Here, Dunnivant along with Mother Goose and ELC volunteer Bonnie Nackino read on April 25 to students at Lake Asbury Elementary in their VPK classroom.

Based in St. Augustine, the Coalition serves Baker, Bradford, Clay, Nassau, Putnam and St.



Johns counties. To learn more about the program or donate, please contact Joan Whitson at [atjwhitson@elcnorthflorida.org](mailto:atjwhitson@elcnorthflorida.org) or call (904) 342-2267.

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# 3 things to remember before taking your child to the ER

- 1 Your child's doctor can help you decide.** If you're not sure if it's an emergency, your pediatrician's office is typically available 24/7 and can advise if you should go to the ER right away.
- 2 A children's ER is different.** An ER affiliated with a children's hospital has the specially trained staff to handle serious issues that may arise from seemingly minor symptoms.
- 3 Be calm and clear.** Even if your heart is racing, staying calm will help your child feel less anxious, and you'll be able to communicate more clearly to those who can help.

Where you take your child in an emergency matters. Wolfson Children's ER at Baptist Clay has specially trained staff who recognize subtle differences in children, which can be vital in an emergency.

For more helpful tips to know before taking your child to the ER, go to [wolfsonchildrens.org/ER](http://wolfsonchildrens.org/ER).



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