

School News

HAPPENINGS FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

MARCH 2018

Vol. 6 — Issue 7

Students take on Odyssey of the Mind regionals

By Alex Wilson
School News

ORANGE PARK – Deep in space, in an alien cantina, Callahan's Cadets stumbled upon a treasure map which could lead them to the fabled "Aurora's Tears," a mysterious elixir which can transform any droid or robot into a human being.

The Cadets are a diverse crew, with members hailing from a variety of planets. One cadet sported a rainbow unicorn horn on her forehead, while another's purple skin proved her alien origins. The bartender seemed to be the only human around.

"You can call me Solo, mostly because I work this place alone," said the bartender.

In reality, the cantina was actually a music room at St. Johns Country Day School, and the cadets were just sixth grade students. Yet for a moment, reality was suspended, and the crowd of on looking parents were transported to a galaxy far, far away.

On Feb. 18, two teams from Orange Park Elementary took time out of their Saturday to represent Clay County in the 2018 Odyssey of the Mind Manatee Regional Tournament. A creative problem-solving competition, Odyssey of the Mind pits the wits of students of all ages against each other in an effort to foster innovation and teamwork.



One team performs their skit for the "A Stellar Hangout" category.

The first team competed in a mockumentary category that focused on classic literature. The team chose "Charlotte's Web," told from the perspective of the other farm animals. The second team participated in the "A Stellar Hangout" category, which focused on a sci-fi themed skit.

"It's about team-building, but also about exploring yourself," said Piper Coleman, from the mockumentary team. "You can be weird, without being weird."

Beyond their chosen categories, each team also had to tackle a "spontaneous" problem. Only the team and the judges are

allowed in the room during the problem, and no hint as to the subject is given beforehand. Both the spontaneous and chosen categories are scored on a variety of components, primarily focusing on creativity and

SEE ODYSSEY, 10



Sylvan Gets Results!

Our students typically see up to two times more growth in math and reading scores than other students.

reading • math • writing • algebra • geometry
ACT/SAT Prep • robotics, coding & engineering courses



**1/2 OFF A SYLVAN
SKILLS ASSESSMENT
269-2000**

Expires 03.29.18 Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Regularly \$150. ct0318

LINDA LAKES



Clay County's Newest Gated Community with Amenities The Whole Family Will Love

- Gorgeous outdoor recreation center that includes a lakeside park with lavish swimming pool, cabana with covered deck & playground and a scenic lakefront pavilion and deck
- 5 interior community parks
- Conservation areas & 4 large lakes
- Hiking & walking paths
- A Pooch Park
- Gated community entrance
- All lots are **preserve, park or lakefront**
- Convenient to shopping, **great schools**, restaurants & St. Vincent's Hospital

**No
CDD
Fees**



**From the
upper \$200's**

(904) 573-6026

Directions: South on
Blanding Blvd, west on
Old Jennings Rd.,
3.5 miles on the left

SEDA
NEW HOMES

BUILD NOW

PICK YOUR PLAN • PICK YOUR LOT • PICK YOUR OPTIONS

& RECEIVE

\$10,000 in FREE Options of your choice, plus
\$7,000 toward total closing costs, plus
the following free options:
(valued at \$5,000*)

- Pendant lights
- Upgraded dishwasher
- Upgraded disposal
- Ceiling fan
- Cabinet hardware
- Rollout trash can cabinet
- Raised vanities in secondary baths
- Wifi thermostat
- Arbor pull-out kitchen faucet
- \$2,000 Design Center gift card

www.SEDAnewhomes.com

SEDA Construction Company-CGC020880 *See agent for details-\$22,000 special offer applies to homes to be built in Linda Lakes only and does not apply to spec/ inventory homes. *SEDA pays up to \$7,000 toward total Closing Costs with SEDA approved lender. \$10,000 must be used toward free options and can not be taken off of the sales price. See agent for exact product number for items listed in the \$5,000 in free options- items can not be substituted. Applies to full priced contracts only written between 3/1/18-3/31/18. This offer is for a limited time only & cannot be combined with any other specials. Price & availability subject to change without notice.



Clay County Schools releases instructional culture survey results

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County District Schools announced the release of the 2017-2018 Instructional Culture Insight Survey results this month. The District made significant improvements in all domains measured in the survey.

The survey, which gathers teacher feedback on critical aspects of school culture, was conducted over the month of January throughout the District. The intent of the survey is to measure a strong instructional culture, rigor and respect within schools, along with instructional leadership practices. Teachers answer questions on many aspects of their school's learning environment, such as professional development, student growth measures, instructional planning, evaluation, workload, career progression, peer culture, retention, hiring process, and observation/feedback.

Clay County District Schools outpaced the national average growth in 10 of the 13 domains. Areas including Instructional Plan-



ning, Observation and Feedback, Professional Development, Peer Culture, Leadership, Academic Expectations, Compensation, and Family & Community Engagement garnered these improvements (Table 1).

While each school's data is unique, the district will continue to look at the data across all schools as a whole to identify trends and

Table 1:

Insight Category Increases	Clay Winter 16-17	Clay Winter 17-18	Annual Growth
Instructional Culture Index Score	8.0	8.5	+0.5
Schools Meeting Top Quintile Criteria for Clay	9.1	9.4	+0.3
Overall Satisfaction with the Learning Environment	8.1	8.2	+0.1
Overall Satisfaction with Instructional Planning/Student Growth	7.9	8.2	+0.3
Overall Satisfaction with Observation and Feedback	7.3	7.8	+0.5
Overall Satisfaction with Professional Development	7.5	7.9	+0.4
Overall Satisfaction with Evaluation	7.6	7.8	+0.2
Overall Satisfaction with Peer Culture	7.8	8.3	+0.5
Overall Satisfaction with Leadership	8.2	8.5	+0.3
Overall Satisfaction with Academic Expectations	8.0	8.4	+0.4
Overall Satisfaction with Career Progression	6.4	6.6	+0.2
Overall Satisfaction with Compensation	4.5	4.8	+0.3
Overall Satisfaction Family & Community Engagement	8.2	8.6	+0.4

Note: The New Teacher Project (TNTP) recognizes a one-year's growth on the Instructional Culture Insight Survey is equivalent to +0.25 on each domain measured.

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: Kile Brewer, Wesley LeBlanc, Alex Wilson

Sports Editor: Randy Lefko

Circulation Manager: Rob Conwell

Legal Notices: Christie Wayne

Sales: Peg Oddy, Susan Palazzolo, Bob Neiman

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

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS CALL 904-264-3200

claytodayonline.com

patterns where continuous improvement and refinements can be made. Additionally, the district will identify best practices that have been implemented at the Top Quartile Schools with the commitment to share and duplicate.

“Over the last 15 months, I have focused on building the capacity of school-based leaders in the areas of observation and feedback, along with creating a peer culture that establishes consistent expectations through professional dialogue. The results of this survey show that our leaders are focusing not only on instruction, but cultivating a climate where everyone can succeed. The honest feedback and rich data sets are valuable tools for school leaders as they continue to strengthen the instructional culture in their schools,” said Superintendent Addison Davis.

This data will be used to plan how to address areas of greatest need in Clay County schools, according to areas of strength and opportunity revealed by the report. It will also be used to execute these action plans, drawing support from examples of best practices locally, district resources, and the Teacher Talent Toolbox provided by TNTP, the organization that makes the survey available to school districts. The district has identified four specific goals to work toward using this data. The goals are to prepare all students to become college, career and life-ready; ensure excellent instruction in all classrooms; develop great educators and leaders; and build positive, learning-focused school communities.

Table 2:

School	Instructional Culture Index
Argyle Elementary	9.9
Orange Park Elementary	9.9
Paterson Elementary	9.7
Fleming Island Elementary	9.6
Shadowlawn Elementary	9.5
Keystone Heights Elementary	9.5
Lake Asbury Elementary	9.2
W E Cherry Elementary	9.1
Clay Virtual Academy	9.0
Montclair Elementary	9.0

Clay County District Schools that demonstrated the greatest growth from 2016-17 to 2017-18 are as follows:

School	2017-18 Index Score	Instructional Culture Index Annual Growth
Argyle Elementary	9.9	+3.3
Keystone Heights Jr Sr High	7.9	+1.8
S Bryan Jennings Elementary	8.7	+1.5
Ridgeview Elementary	8.9	+1.4
Orange Park Elementary	9.9	+1.4
Lakeside Junior High	7.9	+1.3
Fleming Island Elementary	9.6	+1.3
Grove Park Elementary	8.6	+1.2
Montclair Elementary	9.0	+1.1
Ridgeview High	8.0	+1.1

Lifetime Warranty on Every New Vehicle Sold
Unlimited time. Unlimited miles. Service at any Dealer!

Exclusively at

**KEITH
PIERSON
TOYOTA**

SUPER STORE



Where You're #1
(904) 771-9100

**BELIEVE.
ACHIEVE.
SUCCEED.**

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

**Nursing • Dental Assisting
 Medical Billing & Coding
 Medical Assisting**

CALL 1.855.445.3276
 TEXT "IGNITE" TO 367847
FORTIS.EDU

FORTIS
 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. For consumer information, visit Fortis.edu.



Cougars place 10th, advance to finals

ORLANDO – The Green Cove Springs Junior High cheerleaders made history Feb. 10-11 as they placed No. 10 in the Large Junior High Division at the UCA National Cheerleading Championship held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando. After receiving a qualifying bid at the Regional competition in Tampa, the Cougars cheerleaders worked hard to prepare for Nationals. This is the first team in GCJH history that made it to finals at the National Championship. This competition marked the end of an extremely successful season for our Cougar cheerleaders. Pictured in the back row from left are Angel Olsen, Ashlee Taylor, Lauren Thompson, Megan Binderim, Taylor Peck, Ella Boyd and Tori Sassaman. In the middle row from left are Avery Guidi, Madison Gantea, De'Asia Watson, Baylee Jennings, Rachel Veniskey, Bella Mincey, Chloe Luper and Regan Smith. In front from left are Kennedy Davis, Liv Shipley, Jillian Labelle, Kylie Woods, Angie Arnold, Gracie Hartzog, Sierra Friedman and Kylie Bernard.

SNAP THIS.

Isn't it time you discover your real story?

THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS

Bigger value.
Better access.
Best fit.

- A.A. (transfer) degree
 - Online degrees
 - Bachelor's degrees
- AND MORE!



ST. JOHNS RIVER
STATE COLLEGE

Do you know a child who loves to sing?



Rehearsal Site in Clay County

AUDITIONING GRADES 2-12

To schedule an audition, visit

JaxChildrensChorus.org

No Fee to Audition
Need-Based Scholarships
Available



Jacksonville
CHILDREN'S CHORUS
Inspiring Excellence in Young Singers



Clay County School Board approves plan for controlled open enrollment

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County School Board approved its comprehensive plan for Controlled Open Enrollment for 2018. The policy allows students across the district and in other Florida counties to apply for a seat in Clay County Schools with capacity for additional students in 2018-2019 and subsequent school years.

In accordance with Florida Statute 1002.31, parents and legal guardians in the State of Florida are allowed to transfer their students to any school that has available capacity provided that the student is not subject to current expulsion or suspension.

Open enrollment is designed to give parental choice when families decide how and where they want their students to be educated. Open enrollment is being offered as another opportunity for school choice and will complement the district's already existing variety of special pupil requests. Parents or legal guardians who elect to transfer students through the open enrollment process will be responsible for providing transportation for

their students.

The Clay County School Board has established a capacity threshold of 85 percent. This means that any school with less than 85 percent enrollment will be open and eligible for open enrollment.

Families wishing to participate in open enrollment must submit a completed online application by March 9, available on the district's website at oneclay.net. Printed copies of the application are also available at the school district's offices in Green Cove Springs. Printed applications submitted via U.S. Mail must be received by March 9 for consideration. One application is required for each school for which the student requests consideration.

Pursuant to open enrollment, if there are more applicants than seats available at a specific school, a lottery shall be conducted to determine which students are granted admission. Students in the following categories will receive priority consideration in a lottery selection process:

- Dependent children of active duty mili-

tary personnel whose move resulted from military orders;

- Children who have been relocated due to foster care placement in a different school zone;

- Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; and

- Students residing in the district.

Any school with capacity under 85 per-

cent will be part of the open enrollment lottery. Students who qualify for one of the priority categories listed above will be drawn first, followed by any students who reside outside of Clay County. A waitlist will be maintained through the fifth day of the school year. A copy of the board approved controlled open enrollment policy is available on oneclay.net, along with the 2018-2019 implementation plan and a list of frequently asked questions surrounding the law and Clay County's plan.

TODAY ISN'T TODAY WITHOUT CLAY TODAY

YOUR COUNTY • YOUR PAPER

DIGITAL & PRINT SOLUTIONS

CLAY TODAY!
904-264-3200
ClayTodayOnline.com



For always putting students first... you deserve something extraordinary.



GORDON
CHEVROLET • ORANGE PARK



2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX



Combined Discount Pricing Example

MSRP of All-New 2018 Chevrolet Equinox Premier	\$32,130.00
Educator Discount Price ²	\$30,754.95
<p>Educator Discount Price After Offer¹ \$30,754.95</p> <p><small>Example only; your price may be lower. See us for details.</small></p>	

272-2200 • gordonchevy.com

1166 Blanding Blvd. • ORANGE PARK

1. MSRP excludes tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment.
 2. Tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment extra. See dealer for details. The GM Educator Discount provides a pre-established price from GM to the dealer. Dealers, however, may charge additional fees to customers in connection with the sale of a vehicle. These fees can be significant and vary from one dealer to another. GM makes no representation about the amount.
 *Must be employed by a public school, private school, college or university. Please note that employees of state or municipal governments may be subject to restrictions that limit their ability to accept this offer. Accordingly, this offer is void unless permitted by state and municipal laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, policies, codes of conduct, and other directives or standards regarding ethics and gift acceptance by state and municipal employees. By accepting this offer, you verify that it complies with all restrictions regarding ethics and gift acceptance that apply to you. Not available with some other offers.

Proud Supporter of Clay County District Schools



Empower Results®



Elijah Stevens

students.
Stevens, winner of the 2017 James A. Hefner Historically Black College and University Piano Competition, specializes in the classical genre but grew up playing piano in his church in the Bahamas.



Chris Kellam

Honored as the "World Premiere Grady-Rayam Principal Accompanist" of the Negro Spiritual Scholarship, Stevens has a bachelor of arts in music from Bethune-Cookman University.

Stevens will offer song writing, piano improvisation, vocal development, ear training and musicianship in his teaching at OPSM.

Kellam, who studied at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, has over 30 years of onstage experience as a full-time musician, vocalist and performer.

While Kellam specializes in rock, blues and metal, he excels at teaching aspiring vocalists how to stay in pitch using their voice correctly to avoid damage and helping the vocal cords when stressed.

Having produced more than 15 albums since 1998, Kellam will be offering in-house recording at OPSM.

Foundation accepting scholarship applications

FLEMING ISLAND – The Clay County Chamber Foundation Scholarship Program is seeking students who need money for college.

Each year, the Chamber Foundation awards scholarships to high school seniors to support their pursuit of post-secondary education that will develop and enhance skills and knowledge in their chosen fields. All high school seniors in Clay County are encouraged to apply, regardless of academic merit or financial need status.

All high school seniors are encouraged to apply as the scholarship committee will consider all eligible students, and will base award decisions on the entire application, not just test scores, GPA, financial circumstances. All applicants must apply online at claychamber.com/foundation.

The deadline to apply is March 15. For more information, contact Kellie Collins at kcollins@claychamber.com.

Music school welcomes new teachers

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park School of Music recently expanded by adding two new music educators.

Elijah Stevens, described as a virtuoso pianist, is taking new piano students of all ages and Chris Kellam, frontman for rock group Blistur, is accepting new guitar and vocal performance

2018 Clay County Cruzers Scholarships Available

ORANGE PARK – Clay County students who are graduating this year are eligible and encouraged to apply for a \$1,500 Scholarship from the Clay County Cruzers.

Applicants must be graduating from the Clay County School System. Students are eligible if they are going to attend any post-secondary program of study including colleges, universities or vocational or technical schools.

Applicants are requested to write an essay of approximately 150 words and complete a short application form. Scholarship applications must

HUNTINGTON

GET THE BEST REPORT CARD EVER



CENTER

FOR BETTER GRADES AND TEST SCORES GET HELP NOW!

Make the next report card the best yet! If your child is having trouble keeping up in school or you think they need to sharpen their study skills, Huntington can help your student get on track right now. Since 1977, Huntington has helped students **K-12** improve their grades, test scores, and confidence.

OUR PROGRAM FOR SUCCESS INCLUDES

- Thorough academic evaluations
- Proven programs tailored to each student's needs
- Individualized instruction from highly certified teachers

Personalized Attention. Proven Results.

Fleming Island
1960 E. West Parkway Suite 106
Fleming Island, FL 32003
904-215-1044

1.800.CAN.LEARN

SAVE \$100*
WHEN YOU CALL BEFORE 04/30/2018*

TUTORING
Reading - Writing - Math - Study Skills
Spelling - Vocabulary - Phonics

Algebra - Geometry - Trigonometry
Pre-Calculus - Calculus - Earth Science
Biology - Chemistry - Physics

TEST PREP
SAT - PSAT/NMSQT - ACT - Advanced Placement (AP) - FSA - ISEE - SSAT - ASVAB

\$100 OFF
AN ACADEMIC EVALUATION!*

OFFER EXPIRES 04/30/2018

Huntington
LEARNING CENTER
www.HuntingtonHelps.com

©2015 Huntington Mark, LLC. Independently Owned and Operated. SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) are registered trademarks of the College Board. PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark of the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc. None of these entities endorses or was involved in the production of the program.*Offer valid for Academic Evaluation, new students only. Not valid with any other offer. HLC1884.3

be received by Clay County Cruzers on or before the application deadline of March 31.

The scholarship documents will be provided to each high school guidance office. The instructions and application form provide all relevant information a student needs to apply. These forms are also available on the Clay County Cruzers website at www.clay-countycruzers.com.

Selected candidates will be asked to attend a Clay County Cruiser meeting to introduce themselves and describe their plans.

Applications and essays should be mailed to Clay County Cruzers, P.O. Box 65010-9998, Orange Park, FL 32065-9998. Each applicant will be notified once their application is received and winners will be announced in April.

Young Artists Music Competition applications being accepted

ORANGE PARK – Students with an ear for music are invited to participate in the Concert on the Green Young Artists Music Competition for the chance at a \$1,000 scholarship. Winners will also perform as a soloist with the Jacksonville Symphony during the annual Memorial Day weekend festival event on May 27 on the campus of St. Johns Country Day School.

The competition is for students in grades 6-12 who reside in or attend a school in Clay County. The application deadline is April 14.

Vocalists and instrumentalists are eligible for the competition. And new this year, Concert on the Green is hosting the inaugural Outstanding Jazz Musician Award. The first round of the competition will take place on April 21. Concerto Competition contestant finalists will perform in front of a live audience on April 23 for the final judging. All winners, including the Jazz Competition winner, will be announced on April 23. All finalists will receive an award or a scholarship.

The contest grand prizes are \$1,000 scholarships which may be awarded to the first place vocalist, first place instrumentalist and first place jazz musician.

The Concerto Competition scholarships are named after Howard Tappan, a chorus teacher for 30 years, and one of the founders of Concert on the Green, who was a Minister of Music at Penney Farms Retirement Center.

The new Jazz Competition scholarship is named after Dr. Bill Prince, Professor Emeritus of the School of Music at the University of North Florida. Prince is an internationally known jazz educator, composer and performer. These scholarships are supported by Penney Farms Memorial Church Commemorative Fund and Oxley-Heard Inc.

A 31-year tradition in Clay County, Concert on the Green has awarded over \$350,000 in scholarships to Clay County students and county schools since its inception. For more information and to apply, go to concertonthegreen.com.

Youth Institute seeks high school applicants for science camp

GAINESVILLE – Florida high school students have the opportunity to experience college life at the University of Florida while learning how the agricultural, natural and life sciences impact their families and communities around the world.

Rising high school juniors and seniors can now apply for the Florida Youth Institute, a week-long summer program sponsored by the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and The World Food Prize Foundation.

"The most impactful parts of FYI for me were the talks that we had with professionals in science fields," said previous participant and current UF animal sciences freshman Cole Hersom. "Through FYI, you get to learn more about the jobs and importance of these professionals' work. It's great for seeing what fields of study in

the sciences pique your interests."

FYI participants will take part in hands-on activities and demonstrations, indoor and outdoor laboratories and campus facilities, examine issues in agriculture, life sciences and natural resources and reflect on worldwide challenges such as food security.

Applications to FYI can be found on the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training website and are due Feb. 28. Cost of attendance to the program is \$350 per participant. Applicants will have the opportunity to select one of the two camp weeks, July 15-20 or July 22-27.

CLAY TODAY

EVERY ISSUE MAKES YOU FEEL GREAT TO BE INFORMED

Call 904-264-3200 To Subscribe or Advertise TODAY!

Fresh. Water Living.™

RiverTown is unlike any other master-planned community in Northeast Florida. It's a whole new town, set along the scenic St. Johns River!



SAVE THOUSANDS!

To show our appreciation to Clay County school teachers, we're offering you a special 1% discount off our RiverTown home prices.*



Spectacular Amenities

Resort Pools • RiverClub • Riverfront Park • Miles of Riverfront Trails
Amenity Center • Nature Preserves • Dog Park • Community Parks • And Much More

RIVERTOWN
mattamyhomes

The First Coast's New Hometown™

904.299.5686 | 90 Lanier Street, St. Johns, FL 32259 | RiverTownFL.com

6 Models Open Daily



*RiverTown Heroes include: Active, retired and honorably discharged military, Active Nurses (Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Nurse Practitioners), Active Field law enforcement, Active Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, Active School Teachers (in a classroom) Pre K-12th grade. Full price offers only. Prices, homesites, and plan availability subject to change or revocation without prior notice or obligation. For more information on available homes and incentives, see sales associate for details. ©2018 Mattamy Homes. All rights reserved. Builder Lic CBC#1261993 CB# C1260748



RiverClub Grand Opening Event April 7th!



Extraordinary New Home Values from the \$200s

All-County Coaches Cheerleading Teams named

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County School District recently named its “2018 Clay All-County Coaches Teams” for competitive cheerleading.

These outstanding young people work most of the year on their talents and recently competed in the state cheer competitions. Team coaches met to discuss the selection criteria and then made some tough decisions – selecting the honorees.

Six of the seven high schools in Clay County have competitive cheer programs. Sixteen members were selected to the “1st Team” and the same number for the “2nd Team.” The athletes have been notified of their selection and all “1st Team” honorees are invited to the inaugural “Clay All-County Coaches Teams” banquet on May 10 at Oakleaf High School.

Middleburg High School’s selections for the “1st-Team” were Blossom Machado, Tanner Nobles, and Jessica Hurlock. Machado and Nobles are seniors, while Hurlock is a junior selection. All three students expressed excitement and pride in being selected for this honor. Machados’ highlight of the year was attending the cheer camp at Florida

State University where she made some life-long memories. She plans on going to the University of Central Florida and obtaining a degree in aviation engineering. Her future plans are to become a pilot.

“An amazing person. She is not only an amazing cheerleader, but a great friend to everyone. I know that her future is very bright. She was chosen as captain because she knows how to lead the team,” is how Coach Rhiannon Weiskopf described Machado.

Fellow senior Tanner Nobles hopes to play football at the next level and to major in radiology. While his favorite subject in school is government, he has time to play on the football and weightlifting teams. His favorite part of the season was going to nationals where the competition level was very high.

“Tanner came out this year after going to a couple of stunt clinics. He fit right into the role. He is a great asset to our team and has such a positive outlook on life,” Weiskopf said.

His favorite athlete is Tim Tebow.

Hurlock, the junior selection, plays flag football and wants to lead the squad to the state championship title in her senior year.

She will have a good opportunity to fulfill this dream as Weiskopf describes her as, “a phenomenal athlete who excels in the classroom as well as on the cheerleading team. She is one of the best flyers I have ever coached and she is always up to the challenge.”

Representing Ridgeview High are three seniors who have experience on the team. Adrianna Miranda, Sade Tate and Joshua Kuseck all bring leadership and experience to the Ridgeview campus. All three state that their fondest memory of the year was “competing at UCA Nationals.” As the Middleburg honorees stated, competing against the best is always a challenge, but is worth all of the hours of practice.

Like Nobles, Kuseck played football and lifted at the school. His favorite class during the day is American history. Along with excelling in the classroom, Kuseck plans on attending the University of South Florida upon graduating.

“Josh is a wonderful young man. He is everything a coach looks for in an athlete - dedication, positive attitude, self-motivated, and driven to be successful. He will accomplish

much in his life,” said Daniel Richardson head coach of the Panthers’ competition cheer team.

Tate plans on attend the University of Central Florida and enjoys participating on the RHS track and field team. Her position on the cheer squad was as a flyer. “Sade is a wonderful flyer. She is able to master any flying skill she attempts and does so effortlessly. It has been a privilege to coach her for four years,” Richardson said. Tate’s favorite hobbies are writing and baking and she enjoys her English literature courses.

Rounding out the RHS trio is Miranda. Having a sister (Nydia) who cheers for the all-girl team for the University of Alabama has been an inspiration for her. Maintaining that level of performance motivates Miranda each day.

“Adrianna is one of the most well-rounded and talented cheerleaders I have ever coached. She can fly, base, and tumble. What a pleasure to have coached her for four years,” Richardson said. Miranda plans to study engineering at the University of Alabama next year.

DENTISTRY



CHILDREN

904-215-4221

4

& TEENS

2



Specializing
in the Dental
Care of Babies,
Children,
Teens and
Patients with
Special Needs.



NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

with no insurance
upon mentioning this ad

Includes Bitewings,
cleaning, fluoride, &
comprehensive exam

\$99⁰⁰

1530 BUSINESS CENTER DR. SUITE 1 • FLEMING ISLAND • 904-215-4221

www.dentistry-4-children.com



Front row, from left, Makayla Grace, Lucy Jackson, Carrington Robinson, Jacquoia McCray, Li'Fenity Dismuke and R'Riana Moore. Back row, from left, Joshua Kuseck, Sade Tate, Adrianna Miranda, Daniel Moreland, Shannah Alwran, Samantha Migliore, Blossom Machado, Jessica Hurlock, Tanner Nobles and Kyle Nimitz.

Oakleaf High had two members of their squad on the "Coaches" team. R'Riana Moore, a freshman, and Li'Fenity Dismuke, a senior, displayed their talents for Coach Lauryn Philpot. "R'Riana was pulled up from the Junior Varsity and quickly became an asset to the team. her knowledge of cheer and her positive attitude were vital to the team's success this season," said Philpot. Moore's highlights of the year were being pulled up to the varsity and earning all "A's" for the first semester. She hopes to become an anesthesiologist and attend Florida State University. Her other sports are gymnastics and track and her favorite class is biology.

Oakleaf senior Li'Fenity Dismuke wants to attend UCF and major in criminology and then attend law school.

"She has knowledge of cheerleading that most people her age don't possess. Li'Fenity used her knowledge to push her teammates in order to help better their performances and, therefore, help the team," coach Moore said.

Dismuke also participates in track and field and enjoys her literature classes. Her highlight of the year was "becoming all out champs."

Shannah Alwran, Samantha Migliore, and Daniel Moreland represent Clay High School on the "1st Team." Moreland is the only senior among the three.

"He is a mature young man who excels in academics and athletics," coach Lori Davis said. "He has improved greatly from last year

and is ready to move on to the collegiate level."

Moreland's highlight of the year was winning the state competition. He plays football and plans on attending USF and to make the cheerleading team.

Migliore, a freshman, participated in track and enjoys science. Similar to Moreland, Migliore said that winning state was the memory she will take with her for the 2017-18 season.

"One of the hardest working, respectful, and dedicated athletes I have had. She is definitely a future leader," Davis said. Quite a compliment for just a freshman.

Alwran, a junior, believes her gymnastics and dance background has helped her cheering skills. When not cheering, she enjoys hiking and swimming and her favorite class is American history. "Her skill level in tumbling and coed stunting is top level. She has been a consistent asset to our team," Davis said. Alwran wants to attend UCF and make the cheer squad.

Orange Park High had two athletes on the "1st Team" – seniors Carrington Robinson and Jacquoia McCray.

McCray also plays flag football and is on the weightlifting team. Like McCray, Robinson was on the weightlifting team and is receiving a college scholarship for her skills on the softball field.

"Carrington is a teammate and competitor to her core. She does an excellent job in her commitments to all of her activities. My

only regret is that she was not able to spend more seasons with us," said Coach Tyler Sason. Robinson, like Moore, wants to become an anesthesiologist.

Sason is also very complimentary of McCray. "Jacquoia is a great cheerleader who can always be counted on. She is a leader on the competition floor and in the classroom and has been a joy to have on the team." Her future plans are to go to college and become a lawyer. She should have no problem meeting this goal as she has been accepted by several colleges.

Rounding out the "1st Team" are a senior and two juniors from Fleming Island High. Lucy Jackson's highlight of the year was her team winning the FHSAA Regionals. Graduating in 2018, Jackson will spend a year on a mission trip and then attend UNF to study physical therapy. Coach Janae O'Dell de-

Here are the "2nd Team" honorees:

Kalei Cocco and Breanna Slate, both from OPHS; Jalen Turner and Caylin Bowles, both of OHS; Morgan Taylor, Emma Kelley and Jacolbi Sampson, all from RHS; Madison Renckert, Morgan Green and Lance Allen, all of MHS; Justin Merring, Nadyia Jones and Katherine McKenzie, all from CHS; and Courtney Googe, Ashley Byrd and Chase Russo, all of FIHS.

scribed Jackson as "a dedicated athlete for all 4 years of her career. She has shown leadership not only on the team, but in her community. She is a model citizen." Singing is Jackson's favorite hobby and American Sign Language is her favorite class.

Junior Makayla Grace says that "the feeling after hitting a solid routine for the first time" is her highlight for the year.

"Makayla has been a varsity cheerleader for 3 years. She is a motivated and dedicated athlete to her team. A great leader within her class and always represents the school with the utmost respect," said O'Dell. When she graduates, Grace wants to attend UCF.

Fellow junior Kyle Nimitz hasn't decided on his future aspirations, but has narrowed the decision to either a lawyer or surgeon. Whichever career he chooses, he has demonstrated outstanding determination and leadership.

"His determination pushes him to perfect his skill and to help others achieve. Kyle is a driven student and athlete," said coach O'Dell.

Nimitz participated in weightlifting and his favorite class was AP Calculus. Look for even bigger things to come from Nimitz in his senior year.

Award-Winning Dentistry For Your Family



2014



2013



VANOVER DENTISTRY
of Orange Park
IMPLANT - FAMILY CARE - COSMETIC



Michael Vanover, DDS

Call Today

904-272-2438






Michael D. Vanover, DDS

topDENTISTS™

2010-2017

Odyssey

from page 1

problem-solving capacities.

The mockumentary team of Orange Park Elementary students Sarah Younger, Sarah Koutz, Piper Coleman, Harper Herring, Emery Thomas and Bess Reddick. The sci-fi team consisted of Bella Feliciano, Caitlin Hinton, Salina Bui, Gabi Dowd, Aubri Martin, Jaevin Sturges and William Hague. The teams were coached by Anna Younger and Tracy Hinton.

"I'm as proud as a peacock," said Dale Hinton, grandfather of Caitlin Hinton. "This gives them such a great opportunity to express themselves."

Ultimately, the mockumentary team scored fourth in the region for their age group, while the sci-fi team scored second in the region for their age group. Neither team scored high enough to move on to the state competition, but that didn't stop the students from having and learning something at the same time. Before she even knew the results, Sarah Younger, who competed in the mockumentary category, emphasized that sentiment.

"You don't succeed until you fail at least once," Younger said.



Students from Orange Park Elementary School pose for the camera as they prepared for this year's Odyssey of the Mind competition held at St. Johns Country Day School.

ORANGE PARK MALL

WHERE TO SHOP

For Every Occasion

Dillard's DICK'S francesca's AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS Bath&BodyWorks

ORANGEPARKMALL.COM

\$1,000 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

2017 - 2018

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 weighted 3.0 GPA

HOW TO APPLY:

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

APPLY NOW!

DEADLINE:

All materials must be postmarked by March 23, 2018
Addressed to:
CCEA Scholarship Program
Attn: James Howell
3798 Old Jennings Road
Middleburg, FL 32068

Clay brings home State Cheer Championship

By Mike Zima
School News

GAINESVILLE – Clay won the Class 1A Large Co-ed Division while Fleming Island and Oakleaf earned Class 2A runner-up trophies at the FHSAA State Cheerleading Championships Feb. 4-5 at the Exactech Arena in Gainesville. Six Clay County schools competed.

Clay, a runner-up in 2017, earned the top spot on the podium this year with a routine that featured dizzying tumbling passes, a boisterous cheer portion, difficult stunts and an intricately built pyramid. The near-flawless display earned 75.3 points from the judges, easily outdistancing Fort Walton Beach (70.9)

and Eustis (63.4), the second and third place finishers.

“The team’s performance was full of energy and excitement,” said Clay head coach Lori Davis. “They did a great job throughout the entire routine.”

In Class 2A, Fleming Island and Oakleaf suffered similar fates, receiving lower scores than they had at the regional competition despite executing their routines without any falls. Oakleaf’s routine was the same one the Knights had scored a 78.55 with at the regional competition on January 19, except that it included an additional formation change during the dance portion. It earned a 69.9 in Gainesville.

“I’ve never been more proud,” said Oakleaf Head Coach Lauryn Philpot afterwards, who had added the formation change due to judges’ feedback at the regionals. “I cried. And I have never cried after a routine before. It is the first time Oakleaf has ever come to State and hit our routine.”

Lake Mary won Oakleaf’s 2A Extra Large Division with a score of 74.9.

Fleming Island received a 76.6 from the judges in the 2A Large Co-ed Division, compared to the 80.25 they had scored at the regional with a less difficult routine. The Golden Eagles’ new stunts included a “full-up to a handstand”—a stunt where the flyers start upside down and do a twist on their way up above the bases’ heads.

“They were awesome,” said coach Ryan Andrews said of the Eagles. “They were clean, energetic and they hit it.”

Andrews was philosophical about the scoring.

“This is a subjective sport,” he said. “All we can do is perform to the best of our ability—and I think we did that—and see where they [the judges] put you.”

Bartow won the division with an 82.3.

With a score of 65.3, Middleburg did not make it out of the semifinals of the 1A Small Co-ed Division, in part due to a three point penalty for extending their routine over the allotted time.

“They put on an amazing performance, their best to date,” said Middleburg coach Rhiannon Eiskopf, whose bases also executed copies. “I am so proud of them.”

Rounding out the finishes for Clay County schools, Orange Park finished ninth in the Semifinals of the 1A Small Division with a score of 60.2, not qualifying for the Finals, while Ridgeview finished fourth in the Finals of the 1A Small Co-ed Division with a 64.85.

Coach Angi Brannan and her Bishop Snyder Cardinals brought home the school’s first ever state cheer championship in the Class 1A Large Non-Tumbling Division. The Cardinals qualified for the state competition with a very difficult routine that included high to highs and “one and a half ups”—a stunt in which the flyer turns a full circle on her way up into a full extension while the base him- or herself twists 180 degrees.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

Clay High School’s competitive cheerleader squad won the Class 1A Large Co-Ed Division state championship in Gainesville at the FHSAA state championships held Feb. 4-5.

I HEART ART

ART

NO JOINING FEE
with donation to our art supply drive.

904.265.1775
FirstCoastYMCA.org

9/14–9/28

o2bkids.com

It's Included!

- Spring Break - Included!
- School Holiday Full-Days - Included!
- Lunch on Early Release Days - Included!
- Open Until 8PM - Included!
- Daily Homework Help - Included!
- Daily Snack - Included!
- Daily Specialty Class - Included!
- Daily Neighborhood Free Play - Included!
- Field Trips - Included!

- Transportation - Included!
- Doctors Inlet Elementary
- Thunderbolt Elementary
- Paterson Elementary
- Swimming Pen Creek Elementary
- Fleming Island Elementary
- Lake Asbury Elementary
- St. Johns Classical Academy

Plus CLASSES such as...
Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Karate, Dance,
Science' Art' Sports' Drama & MORE!

904-264-4202

O2B Kids Fleming Island
1821 Town Center Blvd • Fleming Island

Lic #: C04CL0092



Managing your family's health is easier with Baptist Clay Medical Campus.



Primary Care
family medicine
doctors and
pediatricians



Imaging and Testing
CT, MRI, X-ray,
ultrasound, lab
for children
and adults



Orthopedics
and sports
medicine provided
by JOI, where the
pros go



Cardiology
to diagnose, treat
and manage heart
conditions;
on-site testing



**Ear, Nose
& Throat**
specialists for
allergies, sinus,
hearing and more



Emergency
care for adults
and kids; backed by
Wolfson Children's
Hospital

Same-day and next-day appointments available.

 **904.202.CARE** (2273)

US 17 and Village Square Parkway
1771 Baptist Clay Drive
Fleming Island, Florida 32003



BAPTIST CLAY
Medical Campus

© Baptist Health 2018