

HAPPENINGS FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

October 2016 Vol. 4 — Issue 2

Oakleaf High students help feed the world

By Jesse Hollett

School News

OAKLEAF – Oakleaf High students clad in red hairnets help each other level scoops of dried rice, lentils and salt into bags as they snake their way through a line in the media center.

In 15 minutes, 30 students sorted 75 meals for hungry families joining in a chorus of other students packing meals at the same time all across the country. When the packaging is completed, students will have fed roughly 1 million people. But that's just the beginning of what the students are planning next.

It's all part of 'kickoff day' for Chick-fil-A's Leadership Academy. The national program selects participating high schools' top leaders to complete monthly leadership exercises and



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Oakleaf High students packed food for families last week as a way to launch the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy for the 2016-17 school year.



work together to create a culminating "impact" project.

An impact project can be anything from holding a toy drive at an orphanage to feeding the homeless.

Last year, Oakleaf High helped jumpstart an agriculture program in Haiti by sending over supplies to teach residents in the impoverished nation how to develop their agriculture skills.

On Sept. 30, representatives from Chick-fil-A met with Oakleaf students for the academy's kick off day to help them start to mull over

what exactly their school's impact project might look like through motivational speeches, team building exercises and breakout group discussions.

"The leadership academy is an outlet for young adults in our schools to come up with an idea to impact the world around them," said Allison Harris, Chick-fil-A marketing director for the Oakleaf and Middleburg area. "The entire plan around this is that we facilitate that idea and help that become a reality, to teach kids

SEE WORLD, 9



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Middleburg High School adds VyStar branch

By Christiaan DeFranco School News

ORANGE PARK – Growing up, many kids just aren't financially aware.

It often isn't until college or later when they learn about maintaining a bank account, balancing a personal budget, investing and establishing solid credit.

Middleburg High School has teamed up with VyStar Credit Union to change all that and give students a head-start when it comes to

On Tuesday of last week, VyStar opened a branch inside the school that is manned by students and available to students, faculty and staff. Its main hours of operation will be during lunch periods.

"It's a great partnership," said Rob Feltner, MHS principal. "We're super-excited about it. It teaches the kids about finance, holding down a job, being professional, handling different accounts and being trusted. It offers them lots of important life skills and real-world experience."

Students are not paid at the school branch, but they receive academic credits by working



there. The program is related to business-oriented coursework within the school's Academy of Business and Finance. Many of the students already have worked at other VyStar branches or done paid internships in the summer

Middleburg High joins Fleming Island High School and Orange Park High School in joining forces with VyStar, which is installing limitedservice branches in schools throughout Clay County and the Jacksonville area.

"We are privileged to partner with Clay County Schools to provide practical work experience and experiential learning to the students of Middleburg High School," said Terry West, VyStar's president and chief executive officer. "Our High School Branch program is VyStar's flagship financial literacy program, which has introduced financial education and the credit union difference to high school students for



more than 10 years."

School personnel and VyStar management selected 12 students to work in the Middleburgh High branch through an interviewing process. These students went through a 10week paid training period this past summer.

The branch's opening highlighted a big week for Middleburg High School, which insti-

tuted a separate program on Friday called "C2G," which stands for "Commitment to Graduate." The school held a ceremony in which its 469 freshmen pledged to complete high school in four years

"We've had a lot of things going on," Feltner said. "It's all about preparing our students for graduation and life beyond high school."





Terry West, VyStar chief executive officer, addressed attendees.

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Friends supporting longtime teacher

By Christiaan DeFranco School News

ORANGE PARK – Cathy Moore Rangeo taught physical education at Orange Park Junior High School for 37 years where she coached boys track and field and everybody seemed to know her and love her.

"She's funny, outgoing," said Janet Coleman, a friend of 25 years and fellow teacher. "She's always there, saying, 'I can do that."

When anyone needed help, Cathy always seemed to be around to lend a hand. Whenever a cause needed a champion, such as the walk to fight multiple sclerosis or a fundraiser to beat cancer, Cathy was there.

"You never really had to ask, she just did it," Coleman said.

Now, it is Cathy who could use a little help from her friends.

Over the summer, Rangeo found a lump and was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent treatment, and just this week had a second surgery to remove lymph nodes. Her prognosis is optimistic, but medical bills are piling up.

A teacher's retirement in Clay County only goes so far.

"She never does for herself, she always does for other people," Coleman said. "She's always been more concerned about others. She's not someone who thinks about asking for help. I'm just trying to get the word out."

Rangeo didn't want to go public about her illness herself, but she gave her friends the 'OK' to do so on her behalf. Coleman is among those who is trying to raise money for her medical bills. She set up an account at VyStar under "Janet Coleman/Cathy Rangeo" for people to give.

"I just really hope people will help out, if they can. Cathy has been such a major part of our community for many years. She has always been out front, leading the way when it comes to helping people in need and promoting important causes. I know she'll be doing that again, even if it takes her a year or however long to get past her illness. So it would be wonderful if people can show their support for her."

- Janey Coleman

There's also a GoFundMe account, initiated by another friend. Just go to GoFundMe.com and do a search for Cathy Rangeo.

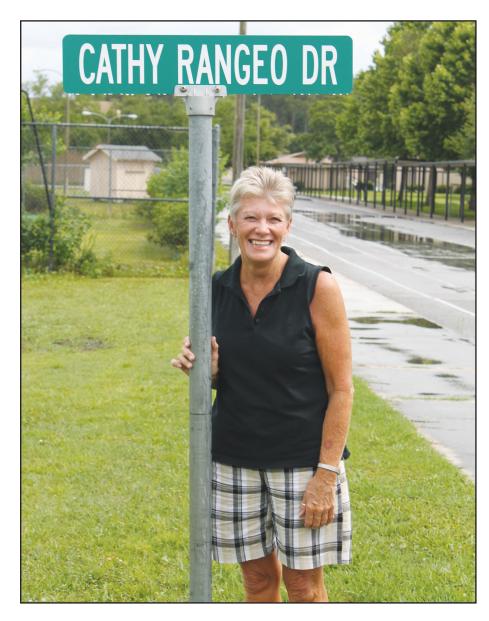
"She was there for me in 2012 when I had open-heart surgery," Coleman said. "I was recovering for six months. She has done a lot for so many people."

Rangeo, who retired four years ago, has two grown children, a son Alex and a daughter Kristen. She has two granddaughters – Madison and Morgan – by Kristen. She also has a grandson on the way, as Alex and his wife are expecting.

Alex overcame testicular cancer within the last few years.

"I just really hope people will help out, if they can," Coleman said. "Cathy has been such a major part of our community for many years. She has always been out front, leading the way when it comes to helping people in need and promoting important causes.

"I know she'll be doing that again, even if it takes her a year or however long to get past her illness," Coleman said. "So it would be wonderful if people can show their support for her."



FILE PHOTO

At Cathy Rangeo's final Orange Park Junior High staff meeting on June 4, 2013, her fellow physical education teachers revealed the surprise that the street where she coached track and P.E. for her entire 37-year career is now named Cathy Rangeo Drive.

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2016 FIFA U-17 Women's Soccer World Cup in Jordan



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island High freshman Lia Godfrey has had a hand in many of the trophies at the Clay County Soccer Complex on Fleming Island. Now she heads to Jordan for the U-17 World Cup.

Godfrey gets international soccer nod

By Randy Lefko

School News

Note: USSoccer.com added to this story

CHICAGO – The U.S. Under-17 Women's National Team will face Paraguay, Ghana and Japan in Group D at the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, taking place at four stadiums in Jordan from Sept. 30-Oct. 21.

On the United States' roster will be 14-yearold Lia Godfrey, a freshman at Fleming Island High School.

"I was overwhelmed when I got the call to travel with the Under-17 team," said Godfrey, a standout at Lakeside Junior High in both soccer and track most recently listed on the U.S. Under-15 girls national team as a forward. "I've been to other camps including the Under-17s all summer. It's an honor that I hope I can represent to the best of my ability."

Godfrey, who has two games under her belt with the Under-17 team prior to her selection to attend the World Cup, has been a soccer prodigy since her seventh grade days at Lakeside, but has recently amped her game with club soccer action at the Clay County Soccer Club in Eagle Harbor. Known for her outstanding foot skills on top of her footspeed on the pitch, Godfrey thinks her inclusion to the national team is more of a challenge to the other girls on the team.

"I really think they chose me to kind of challenge the older 16, 17 year old girls a little as we head into the World Cup games," said Godfrey, who was preparing to leave on Sunday,

SEE SOCCER, 5



Private school kids meet deputy

ORANGE PARK – While working off duty on Sept. 20 at St. Johns Country Day School, Sgt. Robert Punsky of the Clay County Sheriff's Office asked the pre-k and kindergarten teachers if they would like their students to explore his police car. When they said yes and got to explore with the officer, they loved it. CCSO Public Information Office Mary Justino said the impromptu visit was a great opportunity for the students to interact with a deputy and to see some of the equipment police use. The school administrators were also appreciative of the connection the children made and expressed their appreciation for police officers everywhere.

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Soccer

from page 4

September 18 for a five-week stint in the Middle East. "I played in two games against Venezuela in Tampa; 63 minutes (August 30, 4-0 win) and 46 minutes (Sept. 2, a 5-1 win) in the other, and got to feel the tempo and speed of the game. I hope to make the best of whatever opportunity I get in the games. Soccer around the world has very unique styles; South American, European and Middle Eastern soccer is very different."

Godfrey, a frequent flyer with her soccer ambitions with camps around the nation, sees this trip as a little more intense with the level of competition on the agenda.

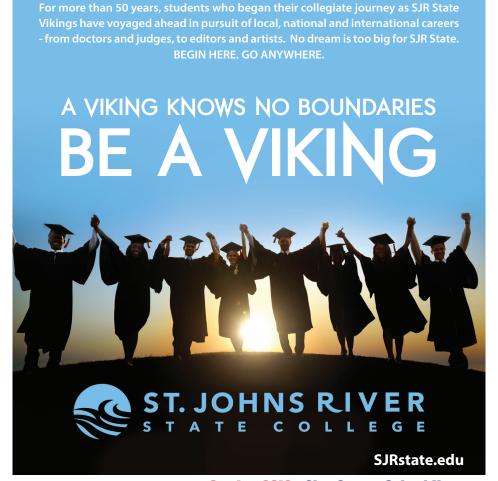
"We will go to Cypress for a week long training camp prior to the tournament," said Godfrey. "Once the tournament starts, as long as we keep winning, it could last up to five weeks of tournament play."

One aspect of being a freshman high schooler on the team is her studies where Godfrey is in the Fleming Island AICE program with many of her classes involving lots of study and homework

"The school and my teachers have been great preparing me for the trip as far as studies," said Godfrey. "Most of it will be on-line type of study so I have to try and focus a little on that and on soccer as the days go by."

Officially, among the teams expected to compete in Jordan are European champion Germany, defending champion Japan and Korea DPR, the 2008 U-17 Women's World Cup winners and 2012 runners-up, who all earned the seeds across the four groups. In Group A, Jordan drew Spain, Mexico and New Zealand. Group B features Venezuela, Germany, Cameroon and Canada. Group C features Nigeria, Brazil, England and Korea DPR.

The U.S. plays its first Group D match against Paraguay on Oct. 1 at Prince Mohammed International Stadium in Al Zarqa (4 p.m. local / 9 a.m. ET) before facing Ghana on Oct. 4 at King Abdullah II International Stadium in Amman (4 p.m. local / 9 a.m. ET). The USA will finish group play on Oct. 8 against Japan at Amman International Stadium (7 p.m. local / Noon ET).



Student headed to international conference on food security

By Jesse Hollett School News

OAKLEAF – A penchant for sustainable agriculture and some bright ideas has landed one Oakleaf High senior the opportunity to share his ideas on global food security at an international conference.

Trey Richardson, 17, will discuss his ideas on sustainable agriculture practices Oct. 13-15 at the Global Youth Institute, a prestigious international conference hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation and held each year in Des Moines, Iowa

He joins 200 other high school students from 30 states and seven foreign countries who will tour state-of-the-art research facilities with Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates.

"I think it's a huge honor to represent Florida at such a prestigious event," Richardson said. "I have the chance to get my research out to people working out in the agriculture field and I also get to hear other high schoolers' opinions as well."

Richardson will present his research and recommendations to his peers as well as scientific, humanitarian and agribusiness leaders from 65 countries in round table discussions.

This past July, Richardson's essay on promoting sustainable agriculture in Haiti earned him a spot at GYI when he presented it to a panel of judges at the Florida Youth Institute. FYI is a week-long summer program sponsored by the University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the World Food Prize Foundation. FYI provides students with hands-on experiments and demonstrations related to natural resources.

Richardson said the key to developing better agriculture practices in Haiti lies first in creating an environmental research center on the island to identify the best practices based on Haiti's climate and resources. From there, it's about identifying conservative farming methods with updated tools and education.

"Sustainable agriculture varies widely, so in the example of Haiti, a sustainable agriculture practice might be as simple as drip irrigation," Richardson said. "Water is a problem in Haiti, getting it to and from a household, so something that is a sustainable agriculture practice to do is to lessen the water amounts used on a field, but still having the same results as before."

Drip irrigation delivers water to crops in low volumes by keeping the roots moist but not soaked, therefore, conserving water.

Richardson's dream is to create skyscrapers in the centers of urban areas where hydroponic and aeroponic crops can prosper, something he has already accomplished at his house.

It's a do-it-yourself project, but Richardson has grown rosemary and is currently growing cabbages out of a plastic tub in his yard. A motor sprays water roughly every two minutes to the crops' exposed roots. Richardson occupies himself with Oakleaf High's Future Farmers of America chapter and other community service endeavors. Lastwinter, he and two other students taught a course at Oakleaf High and area elementary schools about the importance of urban farming.

Richardson and three other FYI participants will attend GYI this year. Once they enter college, all GYI attendees are eligible to apply for the Borlaug-Ruan International Internship, an eight-week all-expenses-paid, trip around the globe working with world-renowned scientists and policymakers at leading agricultural research centers.

The Pew Research Center estimates that the global population will grow to 9.6 billion. Richardson might just be a small fraction of that projection, but he's doing everything he can to make a big impact.

"I've really learned and seen the importance of sustainable agriculture and making the most of your resources," Richardson said. "Agriculture provides food fiber and shelter for people all over the world. It's a cornerstone of civilization. Agriculture is what has allowed us to advance as a society"



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Trey Richardson holds rosemary herbs he grew aeroponically at his house. He hopes to one day adapt this method for use in skyscrapers, where more food can prosper in less space requiring fewer resources. Trey Richardson's do-it-yourself aeroponic crop nursery uses two motorized jets to spray nutrient-rich water on exposed plant roots.



6 · Clay County School News · October 2016

School Briefs

Clay students named National Merit semi-finalists

EVANSTON, III. – Eight Clay County high school students from three different schools have been named semi-finalists in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program

sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corp.

The high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for



Nahool Earooc

a Merit Scholarship award, semi-finalists must

fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 90 percent of the semi-finalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about

half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship and earn the Merit Scholar title.

NMSC, a not-forprofit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholar-



Catherine N. Bruns

ships are underwritten by NMSC with its own



funds and by approximately 420 business organizations and higher education institutions. About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

The Clay County semi-finalists are Fleming

Island High students, shown in group photo from left in the photo are Lauren E. Eckert, Gisselle E. Palaca, Colton J. Braddy, Halle D. Gibson and Sydney H. Hayes. From Orange Park High, Catherine N. Bruns was named a semi-finalist, while Ridgeview High seniors Nabeel Farooq and Isaly A. Tappan were honored as semi-finalists as well.

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School Briefs

Continued from page 7

Workshops aim to end bullying

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – In recognition of October being National Bullying Prevention Month, the Clay County School District has teamed up with the Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Attorney General to host a series of parent meetings on cyberbullying at each of the junior high schools. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High: Monday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Asbury Jr. High: Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. Wilkinson Jr. High: Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m. Orange Park Jr. High: Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. Lakeside Jr. High: Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m. Oakleaf Jr. High: Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m. Green Cove Springs Jr. High: Nov. 15, 6:30

These meetings are open to all Clay County parents with a child in 5-12th grade. The content of this presentation is designed to educate parents, and is not appropriate for elementary

aged students, so please plan accordingly.



Get ready to be healthy

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - The October Nutrition and Exercise Challenge is here!

Students must have a parent or guardian sign their participation slip and return to them to their school cafeteria. The slip is the elementary students' entry form for a chance to win a new bike, while for junior high students, the permission slip is your entry for a chance to win a new Fitbit.



'Dad's day' a success

ORANGE PARK – Fathers or father-like figures converged on the campuses of Clay County Schools on Sept. 28 as part of the national movement called "Take Your Child to School Day." Officials at S. Bryan Jennings Elementary reported that more than 250 dads turned out for the event that is a national effort to encourage men to be more active in their child's education. Dads were treated to doughnuts, coffee, juice and fellowship with students and school leaders. Other CCSD schools report as equal, if not better, turnout for the event.

Details are online at http://bit.ly/2aU5g7V. **Exercise:** Can you do a pushup? See how many you can do in one minute as part of your 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

Nutrition: Make at least half of your grains

whole grains this month. Choose brown rice, whole wheat bread, or whole wheat tortillas.

Visit the Clay County School District's School Food and Nutrition Services office online at http://www.oneclay.net/food-services.







8 · Clay County School News · October 2016

World from page 1

they can be leaders. There's no age limit to being to how you can change the world."

The program receives funding through sponsorships from local Chick-fil-A operators, Chick-fil-A Inc. and Coca-Cola to offset the annual \$4,000 per school tuition, but students will also hold fund raising events throughout the year for the project. More than 300 communities nationwide take part in the seven-month program.

"Last year, we did a lot of community service...and I definitely notice that it betters people and makes them really understand more of our county, our world and the way people struggle," said Bailey Davis, an Oakleaf High junior. "It really helps them develop themselves as people and makes them a little bit more humble than the average person."

Davis said this year students plan to focus more on problems facing Clay County instead of other communities. There isn't a plan yet, but the students have plenty of time to brainstorm.

This is Davis' second year in the academy,



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Oakleaf High students packed food for families on Sept. 30 as a way to launch the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy for the 2016-17 school year.

but she said this year it's run a little differently. She said last year all leadership academy students in her area went to a central school

for the program's meetings, while this year they impact projects in their neighborhood schools.

Davis is also in Oakleaf High's Future Farm-

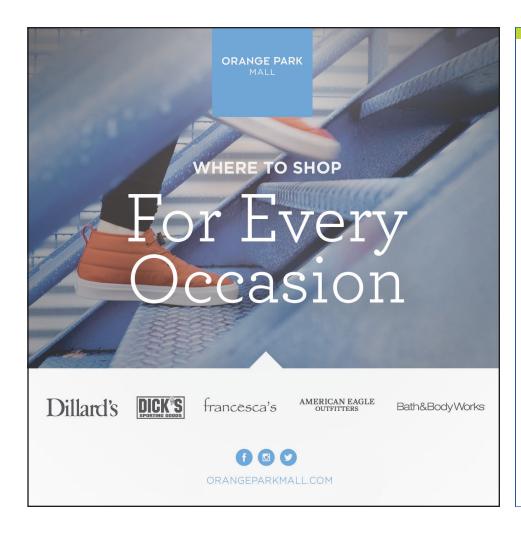
ers of America chapter.

This year, they collaborated with master gardeners to plant 16 raised vegetable beds behind the school. Davis said they're planning to turn it into a community food garden once the vegetables mature to harvest in spring. Students will also bag some of the fresh vegetables and ship it off to local food banks.

FFA is an American youth career and technical student organization that promotes and supports agricultural education through classes. At the same time, many in the leadership academy double as FFA members. Oakleaf High's FFA chapter works on a different community service program every month, according to Davis.

"I think community service a lot of times is something we think of as a one and done thing," said Brian Walsh, the high school's new agriculture teacher.

"But the goal of this program and our FFA program and our agriculture program is to really instill that as a lifelong idea...that it's about using the resources we have and the time we have to put smiles on people's faces."



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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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1st ANNUAL

Clay County Mini Summit

It's time for "Clay to Show the Way" in building a healthy, high-achieving generation of youth!

Saturday, November 12 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Lake Asbury Elementary

Please help kick off our 1st Annual Mini Summit while joining fellow educators and students of Clay County to learn how we in "Clay Can Show the Way" to get our students to eat healthy and get active!

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Dress in athletic wear for physical activity break.

Raffle prizes include NFL items and passes to Diamond D Ranch!

Please RSVP to lorin@floridamilk.com with the following information by November 1:

- Names of 1 teacher and 2 students willing to learn and lead the Fuel Up to Play 60 program at their school!
- Provide shirt sizes for attendees (sizes S-XL)





THE NFL MOVEMENT FOR AN ACTIVE GENERATION

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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



Locations in Fleming Island & Jacksonville