

Local student one step closer to geography bee finals

Riverside Presbyterian Day School students grades four to six participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee sponsored by Google. In the final round of competition, sixth-grader Eli Stevenson (left) outlasted classmate Russell Beard (right) by correctly answering the following question, "Nikumaroro Island is a part of Kiribati, located in what ocean?" The correct answer is the Pacific Ocean. Stevenson moves closer to the opportunity to win a \$50,000 college scholarship and



Eli Stevenson and Russell Beard

will try to advance to the national finals by completing the state test. The State Bee will be held Friday, April 6 at Jacksonville University, and the National Bee is planned for May 20-23 at National Geographic Society Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Avondale girl takes second in Rotary Oratory competition

For the past four years, the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville has conducted the First Coast Rotary Oratory Competition, awarding a total of \$51,000 in scholarships and prizes, and three of those four winners have been from Nassau County. Gabrielle Gibb, a senior at Fernandina Beach High School, competed against six other First Coast area high school seniors Feb. 15 to win first place and a \$5,500 scholarship in the 2018 Rotary Oratory Competition. Avondale resident Mariama Pouye, a student at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, took second place, winning a \$3,000 scholarship, and Molly Lantinberg of Beauclerc from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts won third place and took home a \$1,500 scholarship.



Oratory Co-Chairs Steve Madden and Mark Mathews, Gabrielle Gibb, and South Jax Rotary President Dr. Dan Robie

This year's speech topic featured arguments about the benefits and disadvantages of technology in the use of advancing local and global goals of Rotary. The Rotary Club invited seniors from the 45 public and private high schools in the five First Coast counties. Students from 32 area high schools participated. With the help of seven area Rotary clubs, regionals were conducted to narrow the field of competitors to seven participants. The students were judged by a panel that included speech and communications professors from Edwards Waters College, Flagler College, Jacksonville University and St. Johns River State College.

Local rowers sign with colleges



The Jacksonville Rowing Club recently celebrated its senior athletes who have committed to row at the collegiate level. Shown here with Coach Bob Schumacher, (left to right) are Ryan Tefilo, a student at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, who will attend the University of Pennsylvania; Kate Begley, also at Episcopal, will row at the University of Tennessee; Carley Boyd, a West Nassau High School student, signed with Clemson University, and Ian Mignone of Fletcher High School will attend Cornell University. Before the end of the school year, the rowers will race in several regattas this spring.

Student artists in the spotlight at annual awards ceremony

On Feb. 3, 610 high school students were honored at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards ceremony at the Florida Theatre, winning 1,285 awards and \$92 million in college scholarships to partnering institutions like Savannah College of Art and Design, Jacksonville University, University of North Florida and New Hampshire Institute of Art. Individual Awards were given for a single piece of artwork for students grades 7-12 while Portfolio Awards were for graduating seniors who submit a collection of eight works.



For the second year in a row, Emma Flaire, a sophomore at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was a winner in the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards, garnering three gold, one silver and two honorable mentions.

The works of Gold Key winners will progress to national adjudication where their work may earn a place at the ceremony at Carnegie Hall where national medals, scholarships and inclusion in a national traveling exhibition will be awarded. From local schools, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts led the pack with 76, The Bolles School had 22 Gold Key winners, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville 14, Stanton College Preparatory High School six, Robert E. Lee High School two, and there was one Gold Key winner each from Bishop Kenny and Wolfson High Schools. Cathedral Arts Project is hosting an exhibition in the Heather Moore Community Gallery featuring the work of 44 Gold Key and 34 Silver Key Portfolio winners selected from 2,868 works submitted by students in Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia counties. The exhibition of Portfolio winners runs through May 1 at Cathedral Arts Project, 207 N. Laura St.



James Morgan, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was a Gold Key Portfolio winner at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards.



MARCH 10 & 11

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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