

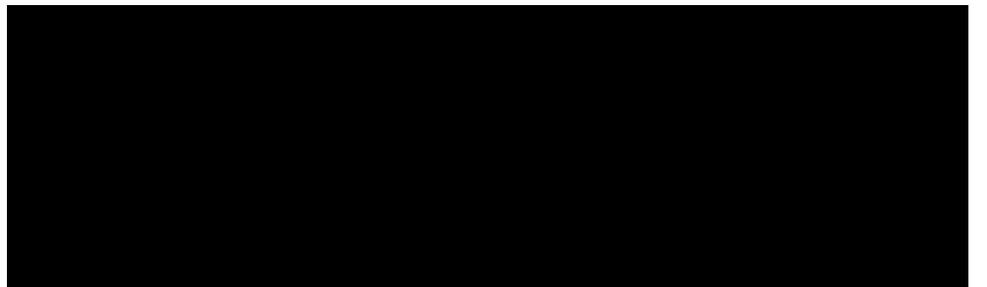
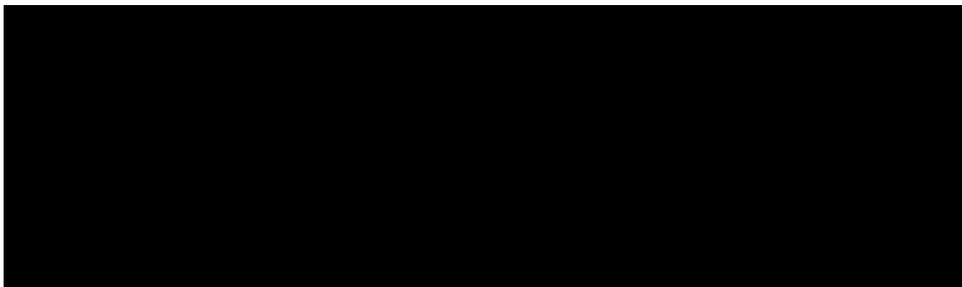
THE ARROW

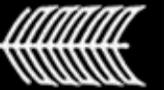
VOLUME 1

ISSUE 8



Show Choir travels to contest





Show choir takes on Troy Buchanan

by Brittney Chism

On Feb. 14, the Broken Arrow High School show choirs traveled six hours to Troy Buchanan High School and opened up their competition season with a bang. This is the second year that Broken Arrow has attended the competition, and the first year for the all women show choir, Tiger Mystique.

Both show choirs debuted their competition set that they have been working on for over five months. Tiger Mystique's show consists of popular girl power tunes ranging from Beyonce's "Who Run the World" to Alicia Key's "Girl Is on Fire."

"Our show is about how we as women are expected to act, dress, look, and exist," senior Aly Wynn said. "And as young women we aren't okay with that. We aren't okay with inequality and disrespect and our show says that."

While Tiger Rhythm's show, The

Book of Love, follows couples as they fall in love after meeting at a high school dance until their wedding day.

"I loved performing about love on Valentine's Day," senior Erin Tabberer said. "Being in love is such a wonderful thing and getting to show that emotion to an audience was fantastic. I love bringing joy to people through something I love doing."

Both choirs put in countless hours every single week in hopes of making it to the final round.

"It took blood, sweat and tears but we did it," senior Wendy Dunlap said. "Everyone complains that it was hard work but the thing is it's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard everyone would do it, and that's what makes it great."

Tiger Rhythm placed fourth in their division while Tiger Mystique placed second and Junior Summer Fern of Tiger Mystique won Best Female Soloist of the night.



PHOTOS BY MINDY KINCADE PHOTOGRAPHY

Junior Summer Fern performs her award-winning solo, originally performed by Christina Aguilera. This performance placed first in the soloist category.

What's your favorite thing about competition season?



"My favorite moments are on the bus. It's a lot of fun playing games like heads up and getting to know my fellow choir members."

Jorell Smallwood, 12



"Performing with the people I love has to be the best part of competition season."

Holly Harper, 12

"Competition season is stressful, but spending time with my friends makes it all worth it."

Wyatt Cobb, 12



"I love being with people who are like my family and the thrill of performing on stage."

Faith Chavez, 11

Hands on communication

by Allison Glidden

younger deaf students.

Broken Arrow offers several foreign language electives, including American Sign Language. The only ASL teacher here at the high school is Suzanne Thompson. Ms. Thompson taught the deaf sign language before ASL was considered a foreign language at school.

"I thought teaching ASL would be a wonderful way to bring awareness of the deaf community and culture to the high school," Thompson said.

Broken Arrow used to have a deaf community of its own. The schools had classes and teachers just for the deaf students. With fewer deaf students, the courses are now taught as electives. Thompson teaches about the Deaf community with Deaf History days. Thompson's students feel that she makes learning another language fun and easy.

"I love Ms. Thompson. Her class is one of my favorites," senior Cayla Tindell said. "She is probably my favorite teacher."

If asked, Thompson would say she loves each of her classes, for different reasons. Even though she loves teaching both hearing and deaf students, she misses teaching the

"I think it's cool that Ms. Thompson is the only teacher that does sign language here," junior Matthew Darrow said.

Ms. Thompson enjoys being the only ASL teacher at the high school. She has a lot of students that really want to learn ASL.

Students interested in joining Ms. Thompson's classes should request ASL on their enrollment forms for next school year.



PHOTO BY ALLISON GLIDDEN
Suzanne Thompson conducts a conversation in ASL with junior Mariah Huffman.

Future Farmers of America

by Alex Sams

Future Farmers of America, also known as FFA, is a club at Broken Arrow. Nationwide, FFA helps teach students about leadership, agriculture, animals and responsibility.

"I like FFA because I get to weld and hang out with my friends," sophomore Agustin Zambrano said.

In FFA, many people enjoy participating in the care and showing of certain animals. Students can show animals such as pigs, goats, cows, and varying types of farm animals. Winning an award for the animal you have prepared, trained and raised is a great honor.

"Being in FFA is awesome because I made a lot of great friends and I get to sell food a lot," sophomore Kelsey Oliveira said.

The club meets every second Monday of the month, and they treat each other like family and all work together as a team. They support each other at showings, meetings and help each other with projects.

"Our students have achieved many things from being in FFA," FFA teacher Mr. Arte said. "Two of our student won a state FFA degree, and

one student passed the state horticulture exam. We also won the Foundation Trust award for the chapter."

The motto for FFA is "Living to Serve". It signifies the vital role that the service plays in the organization and in the community. The students are always involved helping local communities, developing their potential for leadership, and acquiring career success through agricultural education.



PHOTO BY JOSH BRIXEY

An FFA student learns to weld by fixing a broken chair during class.

Go big or go home

by Jessica Laughlin

At any high school, sports play a big part in the school year. From football to soccer, rugby to softball, the Broken Arrow Tigers give it their all. This year's girls basketball team is on a roll.

"We've had a few let downs game wise, but overall we have had a great season and we're looking forward to the playoffs," Coach Mike Hughes said.

Coach Hughes has been coaching girls basketball for five years, and is enjoying every second of it. A good coach is always key in a good season.

"Our wins are really more of a team effort, rather than any individual. We play a better game when we focus on our size and strength," Hughes said.

Sophomore Ren Long is new to the high school this year, but she's not new to the game. Long doesn't

know what the future holds for her, but basketball is definitely a part of it.

"My most memorable game of the season has to be Muskogee," Long said. "We were so far behind, but we pulled together as a team and ended up winning. The team is so close; these girls are like my sisters."

As of now the Lady Tigers are 14-4, but the season isn't over yet. These girls are hopeful for a future in basketball, and Coach Hughes will prepare them for it.



PHOTO BY KELLY JOHNSON

Junior Darian Jackson takes a shot during the game against Union.

DECA wins at competition

by Cheyenne Pauls

On Feb. 10 and 11 over 30 students competed in the state DECA competition at the Marriott Hotel in Tulsa. DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) is a business management club to help students learn about accounting, marketing, and management. Debra Coffey, the business teacher, sponsors DECA.

"DECA competitions are always tough," Coffey said. "The students put in a lot of work."

Approximately 48 schools in the state of Oklahoma have DECA chapters. Seventy-five percent of those chapters send competitors to the state competitions. The BAHS DECA group has 93 members this year; all students in DECA must be enrolled into a business management or marketing class.

"I love DECA because it's not only challenging, but also I've learned a lot about manag-

ing businesses," senior Meagan Shrader said.

The first day of the competition was the actual competing part. The students had ten minutes to analyze the situation and then would have ten minutes to go over it with the judge. The judge then scored the students based on their knowledge. The second day of the competitions revolved around giving out awards. Each category received a first, second, and third place award in the state.

Seniors Cooper Darnell and Austin Gilmore won first in the buying and merchandising category.

"We knew we did well, but when we got first we just went crazy," Darnell said.

Six people from the high school took first in different categories.

Students who are interested in DECA should enroll in one of the business classes to become a member of DECA.

Burch to become veterinarian assistant

by Meagan Shrader

Caring for animals has always been senior Cheyenne Burch's dream. She has owned 14 animals in her life, including five fish, five dogs, two cats and a guinea pig.

"I like to work with big dogs most of all, because they are so expressive and loving," Burch said.

She believes that having many different animals has taught her that no animal is the same and that they all have different ways of acting; they will not express pain the same way, so it is the veterinarian's job to figure out what is wrong without the voice of the patient.

"I want to take care of animals because they don't have a way of doing it themselves; they're helpless when compared to human patients," Burch said.

Burch has been an intern at VCA Woodland Animal Hospital in order to gain experience for her future veterinarian profession, for which she will go to OSU to get

a doctoral degree in veterinary practices.

"She has always been kind and cooperative," teacher Shelley Mashburn said. "She is willing to work with others but able to work independently. Both of these qualities will serve her well in the future."

At school, Burch is dedicated to her studies. She has made A's and B's in all her classes this year. Her teachers believe she works hard to improve her studies every day, and her friends and classmates look up to and admire her.

"Cheyenne is a very charismatic person and likes to put others before herself," senior Autumn Jones said.

Burch tries to improve the lives of everyone around her and works hard each day to help heal animals. Giving animals a second chance is one of the most important things in her life and Burch is determined to influence those animals' lives as well as the general public's view of sick or injured animals.



PHOTO FROM SUFFERINGWITHJOY.COM

The Broken Arrow Convent of Sorrows, located at 51st and Lynn Lane, will be demolished at a date that is yet to be set.

Convent to be demolished

by Ally Coldwell

The Broken Arrow Convent of Sorrows is scheduled for demolition at a date that is yet to be set. The building, which is owned by St. John Health System, has been unused for years and despite the fact that there is a security guard, the building has been a major target for break-ins and vandalism.

"They should never demolish a sacred church, even if nobody uses it; they could even turn it into a museum or something like that," senior Gabe Sams said.

The building has been a historical landmark for years and many people are upset that it is being torn down.

"The nunnery is a beautiful place," history teacher Deborah Payne said. "I don't understand why the Catholic Church is tearing it down."

If they considered keeping the

nunnery around, many people feel they could find different uses for it.

"I do think they could find another use for it," English teacher Diana Phillips said. "My sisters, mom, and I have always dreamed of buying it and using it for a business venture."

The convent was built over fifty years ago and has been used as a place for nuns to live, a place of meeting for Catholic Charities or Marriage Encounter, and as a temporary place for St. Benedict Church members to attend mass while their church was being built.

"My sisters remember the nuns fondly," Phillips said. "I think they both misbehaved in mass on purpose so the nuns would come get them and give them sweets."

Although many people are upset about the nunnery being demolished, St. John will find a great use for the land it was on.

THE STUDENT SCOPE

Who am I?

by Erica Hanna

Can we really define
Who we are as a person?
Or are we only able to define
Who we are as a society?

Can we truly know
What individuality means?
Or do we simply succumb to our
blandness,
Ignoring our own personalities?

If individuality is simply a concept,
Is its meaning so far lost that we
have forgotten it?
Or do we simply choose to ignore
our own uniqueness,
Leaving it to the side?

Where does individuality lie?
In our souls or in our minds?
Or is it blending in
With whatever atmosphere we are
in?

Individuality is a gift,
Often we neglect it, not appreciate
it.
But look around,
Is being the same as everyone else
really fun?

Thinking of our own ideas,
Voicing our own opinions.
Not as a group or society all at
once,
But as ourselves.

There is a line between two sides
of everything
Individuality
It defines us, leads us, allows us to
be free.
Isn't that what we all truly want?



Freemonster

by James David Nold II

This piece of art, titled "Free Monster," was created by senior and aspiring artist, Madison Moses. Moses created the piece digitally.

"My inspiration for this piece was my friend Madison Leaming," said Moses. "Her spunky attitude and crazy curly hair made me want to create a character that represented happiness."

Moses takes a creative writing

class taught by Mrs. Ashley Spencer.

"Madison is so talented," Spencer said. "I love reading and looking at everything she creates."

One of the many projects Moses is working on this year is the high school's first literary magazine. This magazine is a compilation of poems, short stories and art pieces done by students. The magazine will be available for purchase in May.

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The Arrow is a student-produced publication produced by the newspaper class
of Broken Arrow High School.