

Rookie Robotics score high

Robotics team places in top 10 at competition

By Alexia Scott
Pulse Staff Writer

On March 24-27 a new club at Broken Arrow High School made its first way to the top 10 in their first ever competition.

The Robotics Club started this year when the school asked a new Algebra II teacher, Mr. Dakota Beller, to sponsor the club.

“They came to me and asked me to sponsor it and I had a lot of interest in it,” Beller said. “I was in pre-engineering in college, and I took a course in something similar.”

In Robotics Club, students practice programming, do a lot of building and learn to drive the robots together. For the past couple of months this new club has been learning the ups and downs of engineering as they built their first ever robot as a group. Starting from scratch they had to do everything from wiring, pneumatics and programming, as well as creating appealing cosmetics for the robot.

“We all have a passion for this, and I think that’s really cool,” sophomore Robotics Club member Jace Belknap said. “I mainly worked on the pneumatics and electronics and tried to learn a little bit about programming along the way.”

Sixty one robotic teams



ROOKIE ROBOTICS The BAHS Robotics Team poses with their award after placing in the top 10 at a national competition last weekend. (Photo submitted)

from around the country came together on March 24-27 to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The Broken Arrow Robotics Club competed against other teams including Memorial, Union, Jenks and many out-of-state teams.

“The competition was great. We got to meet a lot of other great teams,” Belknap said. “I personally got to be the driver of the robot, which was

incredibly fun.”

Being one of the five rookie teams at the competition did not hinder their performance.

“I was the PR and spokesperson for the team, so I got to work with and talk to the other teams,” sophomore Elvin Hardwick said. “As a rookie team, we were one of the few to make it to finals. It was great.”

The team took home two awards: Top Rookie and Judge’s Award. They also placed in the top 10 as a rookie

team, which is huge.

“I hope these students can gain some knowledge of the programming side and learn from the engineers they work with, as well as coming out of their shell and becoming more involved,” Beller said.

Students interested in robotics, programming and electronics can contact Mr. Beller at dbeller@baschools.org or visit his classroom B102.

Brody Branson: Drum Major

By Shaelyn Disotell
Pulse Staff Writer

Brody Branson is not just your every day high school senior, he was the lead drum major for the Pride of Broken Arrow, who recently won the title of Grand National Champions.

He also plays clarinet in the Wind Ensemble at the high school, which was one of only four bands chosen out of all high school bands in the country to attend the Midwest clinic in Chicago this past December.

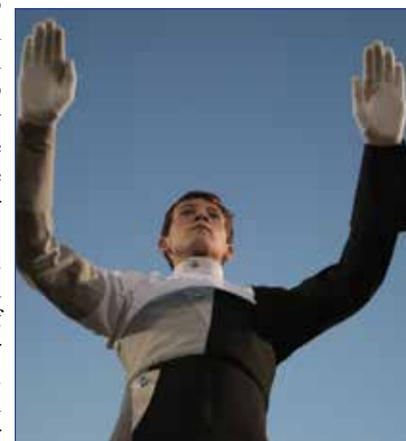
Branson has done many things in his high school music career, although being the lead drum major is most likely his biggest achievement so far.

For his freshmen and sophomore years he marched and played clarinet among the other Pride members. Going on to his junior year he auditioned and was accepted for the drum major position.

“Brody is always smiling and ready to help,” Mrs. Lisa Good, Fine Arts Finance Manager and helper and supporter of everything band, said. “He’s demonstrated these qualities and I think he tries to instill them in others. This is a mark of a good leader.”

Being chosen is a huge accomplishment that not many members get to experience. An individual can learn leadership skills that they would otherwise not learn while being a regular band member.

“The personal skills I’ve found through the role of being drum major are: self discipline, communication skills and other



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Student has unique talent

Olivia Holcomb dances with silks

By Cheyenne Pauls
Pulse Staff Writer

Junior Olivia Holcomb participates in an unusual activity: aerial silks. Aerial silks is an aerobic dance with long silk fabrics. Holcomb has been doing aerial silks since Mar. 2015. She came across them because a few of her friends were going and she was looking for something different to do other than get into a sport or a different extra-curricular class.

"Silks make me feel good, and it boosts your self-esteem when you learn a new trick," Holcomb said. "It's also a great exercise."

Holcomb shares her experience with her friends juniors Jillian Good and Isabel English. English has only gone to the silks class once and Good has been about three times.

"Silks were something I had never tried before so it was very exciting to try something new," English said. "It was pretty difficult and requires a lot of strength, but I would definitely go again because it was a lot of fun."

Marla Watts, Holcomb's English teacher, enjoys seeing how happy the hobby makes her student.

"Olivia is my student who swings on slithery, soft silks while doing amazing aerial stunts," Watts said. "I have never been able to say that about a student before. I enjoy seeing her huge smile as she is doing what she obviously loves to do. I think that Olivia's unique hobby fits her perfectly."

Junior Devyn Deluca has been friends with Holcomb for a while and didn't believe her when she told him that she wanted to start silk classes.

"I like the fact Olivia does silks," Deluca said. "It inspires me because she doesn't give up. I have gone to watch her many times, and I believe she inspires everyone else who is watching her do it."

There are several futures in silks: exercise, circuses and private shows, silks teacher, and it is a good skill to have for any reason. Holcomb hopes to become a silks teacher one day after much more practice.

"It isn't necessarily complicated, but putting mind and body together while being ten feet in the air is tough," Holcomb said. "I would love to continue and teach others one day."

There are several places to learn about and take aerial silks classes in Tulsa. The Living Arts on Matthew B. Brady Street, Zen Body Tulsa at 61st and Yale and Triton Fight Center on 61st between Garnet and Olive are a few. Holcomb herself attends her classes at Triton Fight Center.



DEFYING GRAVITY Junior Olivia Holcomb practices her aerial silks. (Photo submitted)

Food drive gets political twist

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

Contributing to a good cause had never been so political as it was during Broken Arrow High School's 2016 Move for Hunger canned food drive.

This year, BAHS held a canned food drive during March 21-25 that involved the upcoming presidential election. Every donation of a nonperishable food item counted as one "vote" for the presidential candidate of their choosing.

"Our hope is that we are able to assist Broken Arrow Neighbors in helping those in need while also giving our students a chance to make their political voice heard," Applied Leadership teacher Mr. Spencer VanDolah said.

Near the end of the week, it seemed that presidential candidate Bernie Sanders was the nominee with the most votes and was expected to be the winner.

In a turn of events, sophomore Kenny Luong created his own sign with his name and picture on it inviting students to place their donations on his name and vote for him instead of the presidential candidates. Luong ended up with the most votes, surpassing Sanders.

"I am a bit surprised I won because I did not know people would actually vote for me," Luong said. "It was a bit of a joke at first but people took it seriously. I am happy to help the community."

Hundreds of food items were donated and collected from the high school food drive and all items will be given to local charity Broken Arrow Neighbors. The donations made during the canned food drive will have a great impact on the people relying Broken Arrow Neighbor's services.

"We are proud to partner with Broken Arrow Neighbors and appreciate the chance to be able to provide so many people with the necessities they need," VanDolah said. "The food drives help students learn to be more charitable and considerate."

For more information on Broken Arrow Neighbors, visit their website at www.baneighbors.org. Monetary donations, food items and hygiene products can be dropped off or mailed to the BA Neighbors office at 315 W. College, Broken Arrow, OK 74012. BA Neighbors is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 918-251-7781 for additional information.



VOTE WITH CANS Students from leadership classes decorated the wall in the Student Union to encourage participation in voting with the food drive. (Photo by Percy Totten)

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leadership skills," Branson said.

Other than leadership abilities Branson has other skills he has learned while being Drum Major, "I think being Drum Major for the Pride has really helped me become more assertive and outgoing. It's also taught me to manage my time better."

Being drum major was not just about being a great leader it was also about being a great role model for the other members and showing

the other members what an outstanding Pride of Broken Arrow member looks like.

"I looked up to Brody as a role model," senior Jessie Wolters said. "He was always respectful, kind and willing to do what others asked of him. He would do whatever he could to help out."

The job takes a lot of self motivation. It takes a lot of free time and dedication from the people who are up to the challenge. Drum Majors usually spend an hour before rehearsal and an

hour after rehearsal at the high school cleaning up and taking water back to the stadium and other activities. This means when there is an eight-hour rehearsal, drum majors are there for anywhere between eight and a half to 10 hours at the school.

"It is a lot of hard work but the reward at the end of the tunnel is so worth it," Branson said.

Brody Branson is determined and willing to take on the challenge of being a role model for

300 students, and he went above and beyond the things asked of him. For this reason and many more, he was chosen to be not only drum major, but a leader.

Boys golf starts season

Team looks to win it all at state

By Ally Coldwell
Pulse Staff Writer

The Broken Arrow boys varsity golf team teed off their season with a first place tournament win at Ponca City Country Club. They also had four of their five players place in the top five individually.

“Being on varsity is always fun,” junior Issac Bullen said. “We always have a good time and we all try to push each other to be the best we can be.”

The team started their season off strong and kept the momentum going at the next tournament with another first place team win. The tournament was held at Belmar Golf Club in Norman, and two of Broken Arrow’s varsity players placed in the top three while three players placed in the top 10.

The varsity team’s key player and special weapon is senior Justin Moore, who took the 2015 All-Metro player of the year award for his many accomplishments last year, including an individual title at the Frontier Valley Conference and finishing with six other second place titles.

Moore also helped lead the team to a second place title at the 6A state tournament with a 14th place individual title.

“Winning player of the year was very exciting because it’s the best player in high school, which is very hard to do,” Moore said.

While only five players compete in the

tournaments, the boys varsity golf team consists of six players: Justin Moore, Ty Shelnett, Harrison Gearheart, Will Beaulieu, Jason Ohman, and Isaac Bullen.

“Being on varsity is fun because I like competing against the best players in the state,” Gearheart said. “My favorite part is being able to spend time with all my teammates everyday.”

The team is in a good place score wise, with the state tournament in mind, considering they have already played against all of the best teams in the state and taken first at both tournaments.



SWING AWAY Senior Jason Ohman takes a swing at golf practice. (Photo by Cleoy Patton)

Spring blood drive saves lives

By Jordan DuBuc
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School holds two blood drives each year. The spring blood drive took place on March 30 in the Auxiliary Gym.

The American Red Cross came to school to take the blood. After the nurses asked the participants a few questions, they brought them over to the donation chairs and allowed them to sit for a moment while they prepared to draw their blood. Some people begin to get nervous at this part, but it is best to remember that the nurses are professionally trained to take blood.

“The hardest part is when they prick your finger to check your iron level. The rest is easy,” senior Rebecca Caywood, a regular blood donor, said.

It is important to remember that donating blood could help save a life. It is going to a

good cause, and donated blood could be the line between life and death for someone who needs it in an emergency situation.

“I’m donating to help save lives,” sophomore Preston Priddy said.

Many of the students at the high school gave blood, and they were rewarded with stickers that they could wear around all day. People who made the choice to donate blood, whether it be their first time or not, didn’t have many regrets afterwards.

“This is the first time I’ll be giving blood so I am nervous about possible effects, like dizziness,” senior Christina Cavazos said.

They didn’t send the students back to class immediately after drawing blood, just to make sure that there wouldn’t be any effects from drawing blood. The students who donated got snacks and things to help replenish nutrients that will replace the blood they just donated.



SAVE A LIFE (Left) Junior Kailee Sharp laughs while giving blood. (Right) Senior Brady Summers talks with the technician during his donation. (Photos by Cheyenne Pauls)



Baseball bounces back in BA/Jenks Classic

By Aaron Sawyer
Pulse Staff Writer

As spring arrives and the weather begins warming up, with the days becoming longer and the clouds becoming few, something else is heating up too: Broken Arrow Varsity Baseball.

Starting off the season with five straight wins, including wins against Florida High School and Bixby, the Tigers have been working hard to live up to the high expectations that they are given year -- expectations in which Coaches Shannon Dobson and Andy Summers say are a necessity.

“Our expectations are high year in year out,” Summers said. “We have such a

talented roster, so they’re always competing against one another which constantly improves their game. But as important as the competition is, we always preach to them that as long as we work as a team, the sky is the limit for us.”

One of the key players to watch as they enter the season is junior Colton Croft, who is a consistent hitter and a trustworthy first baseman on the varsity squad.

“I do anything I can to help this team out,” Croft said. “I try and bring a lot of leadership and energy to every game so my teammates can feed off of it. We’re a talented team, so if we stick together as a family then we are very tough to beat.”

After the Tigers started off the season winning seven games in a row, they would hit

a slump losing five of their next six games. A slump which was officially broken in the bottom of the ninth inning against Westmoore in the BA/Jenks Classic after senior Evan Fulps hit a walk off punch hit to seal the victory for the Tigers, eventually winning the classic after beating Jenks 7-3 in the finals.

However, their work is far from finished, and senior Keenan Ahfield knows it.

“Every season is a blast with my teammates,” Ahfield said. “But we won’t feel like it’s complete until we have that state ring on our fingers.”

The Tigers’ next marquee matchup is the “Battle of the Bats” tournament in Owasso on April 22.



WIND UP Senior Colton Croft pitches during an early-season game against Booker T. Washington. (Photo by Kaylie Hill)

Promposals surprise students

Creative proposals invade campus

By Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

Prom season is nearing and seniors are preparing for the most-anticipated dance of the year. Along with shopping for the right outfit, students are rushing to snatch a date for the prom.

Senior Courtney Rasmussen was recently asked by her best friend senior Britten Ash. She has known him since third grade.

"When Britten asked me I actually screamed," Rasmussen said. "I was so excited, I instantly just hugged him. But of course, I said yes!"

"Promposals," as they are dubbed, are what students look forward to the most during prom season. The creativity levels are high and many students try to find the best way to ask their date and surprise them.

Senior Jordan Brandt was expecting her friend senior Alejandro Rodriguez to ask her but was surprised how he proposed.

"Two of my friends took me on this bridge we all hang out on and their cars came around the corner and it had prom spelled out on the windshields," Brandt said. "I was surprised and I wasn't expecting him to ask me the way he did."

Students are not limited to just asking people from school. They're able to ask students from other schools as well as those who have already graduated. However, there is an age limit to which students can attend. Students who are 20 years old or below (and are in high school) are allowed to attend prom.

Senior Percy Totten is planning on asking his boyfriend who graduated from Owasso. He plans on surprising him when he walks in the door with balloons and a bouquet.

"I'm excited to go to prom because he asked me to his but we didn't get to go so I wanted to ask him to my prom," Totten said. "I hope he'll say yes."

A date is not required to prom. Many students will be going with their friends if they don't have a date. They will not let being dateless ruin their special night.

"I'm planning on going with a group of friends," senior Ally Martinez said. "Sisters before misters."

Prom is April 30 at the Oklahoma Aquarium and the cost is \$50 per ticket. Tickets are available now in the Student Union, where guest forms are also available.

Casey's General Store opens

By Zack Rodgers
Pulse Staff Writer

The venue for high school students' last-minute breakfast and lunch shopping may change soon. Casey's General Store has made an appearance in Broken Arrow, with its the third location in the state of Oklahoma opening at 2400 E. Albany Street. Casey's has begun to think the unthinkable when it comes to convenient store service and variety.

Junior Canaan Ferguson has grown up around the Casey's franchise in Kansas.

"The quality is so much better than any other convenient store," Ferguson said. "The prices are lower and their pizza is so good."

While some students have encountered Casey's before, some are new to the name. With the addition of the new store, some heads have started to turn.

Senior Jessica Prigmore went to Casey's soon after the grand opening.

"I didn't know what to expect when I heard about it," Prigmore said. "The first time I went in the service was good, the pizza was amazing and I got a free cup of ice cream."

Casey's locations have been growing all the way from Iowa, the original location, all around the midwest including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. With the growth of the

corporation, innovations have been made and new ideas have come into play.

Junior Peyton Launis recently downloaded the Casey's app.

"I like it because it took what Quiktrip has and made it better with games and coupons," Launis said.

As Casey's grows, new ideas will flourish and new locations will be established. Casey's General Store has the potential to change the stereotype of a convenient store as they go above and beyond their competitors.



OPEN NOW Casey's General Store's newest location is open now. (Photo by Anna Stoner)

Student Artist Spotlight

Madison Tolbert

By Hailey Cochrane
Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Madison Tolbert has been making artwork for as long as she can remember and is very passionate about her work. She uses the things around her, such as people, objects, animals and nature, as inspiration for her creations.

"My favorite piece of artwork that I've made is a painting of mountains," Tolbert said. "I feel as if it's my best work and I really loved the picture it came from."

She is currently working on a deer-like mask that consist of photographs and clothing that she created and designed herself. The deer will also have antlers made up of real tree branches.

Madison's past teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Deal, has been an inspiration to her and made her realize that art was something that

Madison really wanted to pursue. Deal had her in one of her Art II classes last year.

"Madison is one of those students where she is quiet in class, but when you turn around there is a rainbow of beauty flowing from their fingertips," Deal said.

Mrs. Jennifer Brown has Madison as an art student and is always surprised by her new work.

"Madison has always thought through her artwork before starting, but the depth of thought she has makes her create pieces at a higher level," Brown said. "Due to her thought process, Madison has won awards in two statewide art shows this year."

Madison plans to continue to make her artwork, but will not go to college for it. She has looked into multiple schools for art, but she is going to keep it as a hobby and a stress reliever.



AN INTRICATE PROCESS Senior Madison Tolbert works on her current art project in Jennifer Brown's AP Studio Art class. (Photo by Kaylie Hill)

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