

Football season comes to an end

Tigers end season with a 11-2 record, state runner-up

by Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

With a great record and many accomplishments, the Broken Arrow football season has come to a close. Friday night lights are now just regular Friday nights and the student body can now reminisce on the achievements that the football team has made this season, such as attaining the opportunity to go to state.

Although the outcome of the game was not the way they had expected, coach Skip Hyde is still proud of the players.

"It was a great season," Hyde said. "The guys did a great job and so did the coaching staff. The young men should be proud of the effort they put forth all season. It's a pleasure to be associated with a group of men as fine as these."

Broken Arrow's student section, the Jungle, has played a big role in encouraging student involvement and excitement at the football games this season. Especially at the state game against Jenks, the football team had the student section's full support behind them.

"There was so much spirit at the game," senior Sonja



THE LAST HUDDLE Coach David Alexander addresses the team after their 35-14 loss to Jenks in the state championship game at the University of Tulsa on Dec. 4. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

Truong said. "I really liked the props they gave us to cheer them on like the vuvuzelas, the pom-poms, and the shakers. There were a lot more people at the game than usual, so that was pretty exciting."

Although the end of the season may have seemed like a disappointment, the student body could not be any more

proud of their Tigers.

"The determination this season was great," senior Kalil Toles said. "They did a good job and prevailed through all the odds. Even though they didn't come out on top, they're still champions to us."

Senior football player Devon Johnson saw the change in the student body participation,

school spirit and positivity.

"It was a long season," Johnson said. "It didn't end the way we wanted it to, but it definitely changed the culture around it."

The football team ended their season as the state runner-up and with a 11-2 record.

For a complete gallery of photos from the game, visit www.bahspulse.com.

STUDENT LIFE

Senioritis: Annual plague hits upperclassmen

by Austin Wyatt
Pulse Staff Writer

Nearing the end of first semester and with graduation only five months away, seniors of BAHS feel they have more on their plates than ever. From college applications to getting ready for prom, there is substantially more for seniors to concern themselves with.

"Being a senior drives me to participate in everything I can because I know high school is coming to a close," senior Tyler Rivera said.

Taking the ACT, ordering caps and gowns and filling out college applications weighs down on seniors when it is combined with taking senior pictures, participating in pep assemblies and attending every school event.

"Staying motivated is probably the most challenging thing," senior Courtney Rasmussen said. "As a senior, you're so close to being done that you just want to enjoy the year."

With graduation and the rest of their lives just around the corner, some seniors have so much on their minds that they find it difficult to keep their grades up and stay focused on schoolwork.

"Making college decisions and potentially mapping out the rest of our lives within the next few years is incredibly stressful," senior Tanner Cates said.

Regardless of whether or not they are going to college, seniors still have adulthood and their future plans drawing closer and closer everyday. This school year is the last one before seniors embark on the rest of their lives, and the stress that comes along with it shows that they aren't taking this lightly.

"Senior year is stressful, but it's up to you to make it the best it can be," senior Maddison Sype said.

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Science students participate in experiment

Research field trip calculates deer population

by Ally Coldwell
Pulse Staff Writer

On Nov. 19, almost all of Donna Gradel's environmental science students, accompanied by Gradel and another science teacher, Tamara Yeldell, took a trip up to Sequoyah State Park in Wagoner to help a local scientist conduct an ongoing, annual experiment. The goal of the experiment is to count deer in the woods around the park and estimate the deer population in that area, in order to ultimately make important decisions about what actions to take to keep the deer population at a good number.

"Based on the population data, the park will decide if they need to thin the herd size or look closer at herd demographics and health if the size has decreased," Gradel said. "[Hopefully the students will learn] how to estimate populations of animals in the wild and apply the information to research on managing wildlife herds."

When the students arrived in Wagoner they met up with several NSU students to help with the experiment run by local scientist Dr. Eric Terdal, a professor at NSU who teaches population ecology. Terdal has been running this

experiment since 2000.

"I was interested to learn how important it is to know how many deer the area has each year," senior Megan Pierson said. "I also liked learning about the animals in the nature center."

After the deer count the students got to visit the Nature Center at the park, learn about the different animals at the park, and even got to hold a snake if they wanted to.

"My favorite part was going to the Nature Center afterwards," junior Noah Osborne said. "We got to see all the animals that they saved and learn how they got there."

Gradel's students were assigned to cover from one side of a section of the woods to the other and walk through the woods to scare the deer out so they could be counted by Terdal's population ecology students. The students lined up on one side of the forest and walked to the other side.

"I was one of the walkers to go through the woods and make noise," junior Catie Wilson said. "I enjoyed the trip very much."

Gradel is hoping to take her classes on the same trip next year to help with the experiment again.

Building bots with Robotics

by Jordan DuBuc
Pulse Staff Writer

Robotics is a club for people with interests in manufacturing and programming. Members learn mechanical skills, programming and team building skills that they take with them far beyond Broken Arrow High School. Currently, the club has about 15 members.

"Right now we are building a BinBot," the robotics club sponsor, Mr. Dakota Beller said. "It's just a simple robot to help the students work on things like programming, steering and assembling an actual robot."

The BinBot took a total of about four hours to build, and the team is now focusing on the steering and maneuvering of the robot.

"My favorite part of Robotics club is learning about all of the different things necessary to build a robot," sophomore Christian Heath said.

Each year there is a competition that the club competes in. The competition includes a challenge that each team's robot must be able to complete.

"I'm excited for the competition," sophomore Elvin Hardwick said.

The challenge won't take place until next semester, and once it's issued, the group will have six weeks to build the robot for it.

BAHS Drama presents two fall plays

by Jordan Brandt
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School's Drama department put together two plays called "Bury the Dead" and "The Importance of Being Earnest." Both plays were performed in the high school's black box theater, a first for the department.

"It was a different experience being in the black box for a play compared to the PAC," senior Mary Amsler said. "It was a much more personal experience."

The preparation for the plays was around two months and students had to work rigorously to prepare themselves for the shows in such a short time frame. Students juggled after school rehearsals and class work during the preparation for the plays.

"When I chose to produce two plays this fall, I knew it would be difficult," Drama teacher Jo Jo Nichols said. "Everything would be doubled-- two groups of costumes for each show, two sets, two programs, two rehearsals a

day etc. But what I realized when it was over was how doubly pleasing and rewarding it had been for all of us."

Two performances of "Bury the Dead" were presented, each of them completely sold out. The play was a dark satire based around war. It was written between two world wars, with the writer aiming to express his anti-war view.

The other play was a high comedy called "The Importance of Being Earnest," written by Oscar Wilde. The play is based around a character named Earnest who had quite the journey in chasing after a girl he loved. There were many bumps in the road on Earnest's journey but everything all tied together at the end with one major plot twist.

There were multiple students who were in the production of both plays. The cast had to dedicate a lot of after school time to rehearsals.

"It was hard because we had to split our time between two different shows which left us with half as much time as we're used to," senior Tanner Cates said.



DRAMA DUO (Top) Juniors Chris Delano and Erica Baker perform in "Earnest." (Photo by Sonja Truong) (Bottom) Juniors JonPaul Aday and Joel Hines act in "Bury the Dead." (Photo by Elisabeth Beemer)

Broken Arrow fills empty bowls with love

by Callie Spencer
Pulse Staff Writer

Empty Bowls, an annual fundraiser for Broken Arrow Neighbors and BA Food for Kids, was recently held in the BAHS Cafeteria. Black paper cutouts of people holding bowls were pasted on the walls, hundreds of hand-sculpted empty bowls were on display and different colored streamers provided ambiance.

The clay bowls made and decorated by students in art and aerobics were in the spotlight. The \$10 admission cost paid for a meal of bread, salad and soup and for one handcrafted bowl. The turnout was impressive and the profits were high.

"I believe we had over 500 people there," art teacher Jennifer Brown said. "We made over twice as much money this year as last year."

Volunteers for the event ranged from students of all grades to teachers. The criteria for being involved: simply wanting to help.

"Many of the art students really got on board when they heard what the money was going towards," Brown said. "They really went out of their way to participate."

The lineup for the night included dance students dancing to original pieces by creative writing students. While the attendees filled their empty bowls, the writers stood at a podium and read poetry to the rhythm of the dancers.

"I had just finished a poem I was really proud of and my creative writing teacher, Ms. Laine, encouraged me to share it with the world," senior Arin McGuire said.

The dancers choreographed short dances based on the poems read by students.

"Summer Parnell wrote a poem called 'The Noise of the Empty' that inspired us all," junior Maddie Cowan said. "I read the poem and came up with an overall feeling, and I pulled my movement from that."

Between the money raised, the bowls filled, and the hearts made happy with the rhythm of the dancers and the voices of the writers, the night was a success.

"Empty Bowls was successful because money was raised to support BA Neighbors, but it was also successful because three departments worked together in collaboration for a very important cause," dance teacher Katie McCall said. "The fine arts, performing arts and literary arts shined."



COLLABORATIVE EFFORT (Left) Dance classes perform a movement piece inspired by the event. (Top) Bowls were created for the event by art and aerobics students. (Bottom) Creative Writing student Summer Parnell performs her poem written for the event. (Photos by Callie Spencer)



Women's Basketball: Going for the THREEpeat

by Aaron Sawyer
Pulse Staff Writer

March 14, 6:39 P.M. The girls had just won their second consecutive state championship against Muskogee in overtime, all celebrating together in unity.

The Lady Tigers are seeking out that opportunity once more as they look to dominate for another season.

"I think the experience that we're bringing from last year is going to help us out a lot," senior Darian Jackson said. "If we get down, we have the leadership to find our way back and never get discouraged. As long as we stick together, we can put ourselves in a position to win."

One word to describe the Tiger's style of play? Fast.

Averaging just over 10 steals per game last year, the Lady Tigers plan on keeping that passion and intensity up this season with guards like Alexis Gaulden and forwards like Jackson.

Only losing two starter's from last years State squad, the 2015-2016 girls basketball team hasn't lost much firepower at all and has no plans of slowing down this year. Seniors Aysia Evans, Jackson and Gaulden accounted for a combined 901 points last year—57 percent of the team's total—while shooting a combined 43 percent from the field.

One player who plans on accepting a larger role is junior Ggard Jaise Smallwood, who totaled 144 points as a sophomore last year, shooting 41 percent from

beyond the arc.

"I'm really excited to step up and get more involved and continue to grow from the state game from last year," Smallwood said.

Point guard Gaulden totaled 103 steals last year and looks to continue to improve her quickness to give her team more opportunities on fastbreak offense.

"We're at our best when we play fast, so if I can get my hands on the ball, it will help lead to quick and easy buckets," Gaulden said.

The Lady Tigers home opener will be on Dec. 15 against Jenks at 5 p.m.

Academic Team advances to pre-playoff match

by Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

At Broken Arrow High school, there are many lesser-known organizations that are filled with talented students. One of these organizations is the academic team.

Recently, the varsity academic team earned the opportunity to advance to a pre-playoff match that consisted of going against other competitive high school teams, which has not been achieved in quite a while.

"It was pretty cool," senior Joey Tingey said. "We all got to get ice cream and candy as a reward."

There are three teams within the academic team: the novice team, the junior varsity and the varsity. Members of the varsity academic team were ecstatic about the opportunity.

Amy Dyer, one of the academic team coaches, enjoys coaching the team and refers to them as the "nerds."

"I love coaching the nerds," Dyer exclaimed. "They're the best."

Being a part of the academic team requires extensive knowledge. Because of this, many students are not interested in joining the group or feel inadequate to be a part of it. They feel that they don't know enough.

"Not many students are interested in trivia and academic knowledge," Dyer said. "I hope more kids will learn to be more well-rounded in their interests."

For practices, they focus specifically on strategy and knowledge and use buzzers and flashcards to help teach the various topics that they will be questioned about. The coaches will sometimes pause practice to further

expand on a certain topic if they feel that the members will need to know.

Collectively, the members broaden their knowledge on the numerous topics that they cover.

"We practice varsity level questions as a group," Tingey said.

With state coming up in January, the academic team is practicing hard to achieve that win. Other students may think that it is stressful to be a part of such a group filled with such bright students, but the academic team is all about fun as well.

"My favorite part about being on the academic team is learning new facts and being on a team with your friends," senior Griffin Hughes said.

The academic team meets every Tuesday after school in Mrs. Dyer's room and have matches every Monday.



BUZZING INTO THE PLAYOFFS Junior Andrew McGuffin concentrates on calculating an answer during a Academic Team meet. (Photo by Lizzy Burke)

Student Artist Spotlight

An accidental schedule change landed Payne in a class that would shape her future

by Cloey Patton
Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Kaytlynn Payne has a dream, and that dream is to help people by using her art skills to become a police sketch artist. While working as a sketch artist, she plans on continuing her personal art on the side.

"I want to go to college for art and eventually become a working artist," Payne said.

Payne started off her art career when she was accidentally placed in Debra Trotter's seventh grade art class at Haskell Middle School. While she hadn't chose art as one of her electives, she ended up loving it.

She is now a student in AP Studio

Art Drawing with Rob Brown and AP Studio Art 2D/3D with Jennifer Deal.

"Kaytlynn is the perfect art student," Deal said. "She listens and learns quickly. Then she takes what she learns, applies it, and she takes it even further than I expected her to."

She also participates in photography and is enrolled in Desktop Digital Graphics with Michelle Lewandowski.

"Kaytlynn is an excellent student," Lewandowski said. "She impresses me because she always comes up with original images for the graphics she designs in my class."

As part of Lewandowski's course work, students designed Christmas

Cards, from which Principal Liz Burns chose a winner. Payne's design was chosen out of over a hundred entries to represent BAHS. This card was presented to the District and the Board of Directors.

Payne's painting titled "The Rite of Spring" was an experiment that she wasn't quite sure about, but went with anyways. It was based off of an actual picture of a flower in her garden, and she painted it using watercolors.

Art is something Payne finds enjoyable because she feels as if it's a chance to put more beauty into the world around us. Her favorite types of pieces to make are realistic art.



INSPIRATION FROM THE BACKYARD Senior Kaytlynn Payne poses with her latest piece titled, "The Rite of Spring," which was inspired by a photograph of flowers from her garden. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

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