

Academic success at BAHS

Four National Merit Finalists on campus

By Callie Spencer
Pulse Staff Writer

Being a National Merit Finalist is a high honor that goes to an elite 15,000 students each year, 30 percent of the original 50,000 high scorers. Broken Arrow High School is privileged to have four seniors as finalists. Those seniors are Chris Oven, Kyle Barker, Michaela Stabler, and Rebecca Atherton. They had to go through a long process to get to where they are.

“To become a semi-finalist, I had to score really high on the PSAT,” senior Kyle Barker said. “Then to become a finalist, I had to submit my application packet which included my transcript, a recommendation letter, the principal’s approval and an essay. I also had to take the SAT and get a score that confirmed that my PSAT score was legitimate.”

The PSAT was a crucial part of becoming a finalist for all four Broken Arrow students. Oklahoma’s minimum required score was a 208 out of 240, and all four students scored at or above that, their scores ranging from 208-221. Their scores qualified them to be semi-finalists and their SAT scores played a role in landing them where they are now as finalists.

For Broken Arrow’s four



SCHOLARS (Left to right) Seniors Kyle Barker, Rebecca Atherton, Chris Oven, and Michaela Stabler were recently named National Merit Finalists. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

National Merit Finalists, earning that title and the benefits that come along with it was a lot of hard work paid off.

“I am excited about the scholarship opportunities this recognition will yield,” senior Rebecca Atherton said. “The scholarships mean my parents will probably not have to pay for much of my college and medical school. I am also very glad my efforts have paid off.”

Scholarships are definitely an up-side to being a finalist, as they can supplement their college tuition and fees.

“I have access to many impressive scholarships,” senior Chris Oven said. “I plan on attending the University of Oklahoma and double-majoring in Sports Management and Creative Media Production.”

The future looks bright

for these four Broken Arrow students who, thanks to their title as National Merit Finalists, can follow their dreams without paying a high cost.

“I’ve been working towards this since elementary school when I learned what National Merit was,” senior Michaela Stabler said. “I’m ecstatic, and a little relieved to know it all paid off.”

STAFF NEWS

Teacher makes a difference

By Hailey Cochrane
Pulse Staff Writer

Jeanie Moore is a sophomore English teacher who is also very involved in her church. She is a dedicated leader at First United Methodist Church where she has volunteered for over 15 years and leads United Club in the mornings. United Club is a student-led bible study that is held on Tuesday mornings in Moore’s classroom. Students feel that Moore is always available to them.

“Mrs. Moore has impacted my life in so many ways,” senior Victoria Gensicke said. “As a teacher she has encouraged me to do my best in all of my classes and is always there to help. As a person she has challenged me to be a blessing to everyone, even when it’s not easy.”

Moore has worked for Broken Arrow for five years and has taught for eleven years total. She says she tries her best to improve Broken Arrow every day by doing anything for her students and making sure they feel valued.

Senior Jessica Prigmore has known Moore for about 7 years and feels she has impacted her life in many ways.

“At church she always volunteers for events and makes sure that everyone feels welcomed and not left out,” Prigmore said. “She always helps people with their problems no matter what and always makes time for them.”

Moore says that connecting with students and working to make a difference in their lives is one of her favorite parts of teaching.

“I love when students come back and tell me stories about things that happened in my classroom,” Moore said. “I really enjoy seeing students out in the community and having them come to me to tell me hello and talk about how their lives have changed since I had them in the classroom.”



Broken Arrow show choirs bring back grand championship

By Maddie Riggin
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School show choirs traveled to Nevada, Missouri this past weekend. After rehearsing every day since August, they were finally ready to compete at the Nevada Show Choir Classic. Thirty-one choirs from around the midwest were there to show off their singing and dancing skills.

“I wasn’t too nervous,” junior Jacob Bosch said. “We’ve improved so much since last year, and I knew we could accomplish anything we set our minds to.”

After the preliminary rounds both Tiger Mystique and Tiger Rhythm placed first in their division and joined four other choirs in finals.

“It was so thrilling,” junior Chyna Mayer said. “Everything we had been working towards was finally within reach.”

Tiger Mystique performed first in finals, which allowed Tiger Rhythm students to show their support and cheer them on. Up last was Tiger Rhythm. It had been a long day, but they

had to push to the finish and make every second on the stage count.

Then it was time for awards. Judges tallied up the points and brought the trophies out to the stage.

“After we performed for finals, it didn’t even matter if we won,” junior Erica Baker said. “We had never felt more like a family than in that moment.”

In the end, Tiger Mystique won Best Costumes and they won fifth runner up. Tiger Rhythm won Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Ballad, Best Male Soloist (Caleb Ricketts) and Grand Champion.

“To know that all of our hard work had paid off was amazing,” junior Kiara Williams said.

Although this weekend was a success, their season consists of three more competitions, and will eventually come to a close in Nashville, Tennessee at the Fame Show Choir Nationals at the end of March. The choirs will keep improving their sets and push themselves to perform at their best.



UNDER THE LIGHTS (Clockwise from left) Junior Ellena Griffiths dances during Tiger Rhythm’s opening number. Senior Faith Chaves and fellow Tiger Rhythm members ignite the stage in the grand finale. Tiger Mystique members give a high energy performance. (Photos by Mindy Kincade)

Gold team takes home gold at second annual gym night

By Zack Rodgers
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School held their second annual Gym Night recently. The night was filled with relay races and a dance battle between the two teams, Black and Gold, that they rehearsed since early January. The relay teams consisted of five students competing in games including corn-hole, a sheet race, a dodge ball game and a dress up race to earn extra points for their team.

Junior Jada Holliday participated in the relays for the Gold team.

“The relays were so fun,” Holliday said. “I had a lot of fun playing games with my friends, laughing and making memories.”

In between relays, the two teams performed their eleven-minute dances. Each dance team had around sixty students who danced to a Disney-themed playlist, created by former student Sierra Berryhill. The event was open to the public as hundreds of parents, students and administrators attended.

Senior Aleena Ramirez was a part of the crowd and was there to support her friends and classmates.

“My favorite part of Gym Night was seeing everyone together, laughing and having a good time,” Ramirez said.

The dances were judged by a variety of



administrators. The panel of judges tallied their scores according to the relay scores and dance quality. The night ended in a victory for the Gold team as they slid by the Black team with a score of 65-64.

Senior Cameron Barton played a main part on the Gold team as Kevin Jonas.

“I loved learning the dance with all of my friends and meeting new people that I would have never talked to,” Barton said. “I also loved the costumes and the performance; it was a lot of fun to dress up and act like an idiot and have fun.”

The excitement and preparation of Gym Night will continue to take place annually, as it is a highlight of every school year.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY (Clockwise from top left) Junior Anna Perry and senior Lakin Cromar perform as Elsa and Anna from Disney’s “Frozen.” Senior Ranim Shawareb plays Hannah Montana in Gold team’s dance. The Black team performs their Disney-themed dance. (Photos by Allison Black and Victoria Corbitt)

Lady Tiger's soccer looks to start new season off strong

By Aaron Sawyer
Pulse Staff Writer

As the Lady Tigers attack the 2016 season with full force, there will be a few components to look out for that will ensure their success this year.

The first of those components is senior center midfielder Reagan Whitlow, who has been on varsity for all four years and is an unquestioned leader of the team. The team's success depends on her ability to create opportunities for others and control the flow of the game. Whitlow can be seen playing forward, center back and anywhere in between.

"I think being on varsity for all 4 years helps me know what the standard is every year," Whitlow said. "Knowing what the standard is allows me to bring kids up to that

level and help them excel."

The next is that of unity. Unity seems simple enough, but can not go overlooked and is just as vital to the team as the actual skill set that the Lady Tigers possess. Most of the ladies have been playing together for 3 to 4 years on the same JV teams as they have moved up in the ranks, but they have also been playing club soccer together and against each other since as early as elementary school.

"The fact that some of our girls have been playing club soccer together for almost a decade helps a lot," assistant coach and long-time club coach Britt Nigh said. "I've been coaching around them for years now, and it's almost like every one of them knows what the other is thinking."

The final, and most critical component is the passion and drive to win. Which, according to senior midfielder Aundria Gill, is a quality that



JUST FOR KICKS (Left) The varsity girls soccer team gathers to pray before their game against Ft. Smith. (Right) Senior Aundria Gill dribbles past a Ft. Smith player during a pre-season scrimmage last week. (Photos by Kaylie Hill)



the Lady Tigers most certainly possess.

"Our passion comes from playing for the same goal, a state championship, rather than playing for ourselves," Gill said. "We have to stay disciplined mentally and physically, and our drive to do so is what will make us

successful."

The Lady Tigers soccer team can be seen in action after spring break, March 29 against Bartlesville, as well as April 5 on Senior Night against Bixby. Both games will be played at BAHS Memorial Stadium at 6 p.m.

Seniors learn about AIDS, CPR to prepare for graduation

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

In 2014, Oklahoma senators passed a bill to ensure the safety of high school students against the risks of negligence in the case of cardiac arrest. The bill states that "all students enrolled in the public schools of this state shall receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation awareness of the purpose of an automated external defibrillator."

The bill made it a requirement for graduation for students to take instruction on CPR and AED awareness starting the 2015-2016 school year. Broken Arrow High School is holding an instruction assembly for seniors on CPR/AED as well as AIDS on Tuesday, March 29.

"AIDS and CPR will be a training video. Hands on, each student will have the chance to train with an actual dummy," senior principal Mr. Larry Lewis said. "No [mouth-to-mouth] is required because all the research says that the compressions are what keep people alive until the ambulance arrives."

The Dustin Rhodes and Lindsay Steed CPR Training Act came about after two high school students each suffered fatal cardiac arrests at their respective schools while students and faculty stood by helplessly with no knowledge on how to properly assist the students. Broken Arrow High School nurse Julia Price will be

instructing senior students in the assembly.

"CPR instruction teaches students what to look for, to immediately call for help, to know where AEDs are located, and to, most importantly, know how to initiate CPR," Price said. "I'm hoping that by having high school students exposed to CPR instruction, it will encourage them to follow up to attain their CPR/AED certification or even encourage a career in the medical field. When someone suffers cardiac arrest, time is crucial and knowing how to perform CPR can save someone's life."

The training and informational videos will be shown in the BAHS field house and the hands-on dummy training will be conducted in the indoor sports facilities with 20 coaches assisting students. The CPR training will not provide official CPR certification to seniors, but students who have already earned their CPR certification on their own can submit their certification information to the main office.

"I'm anxious to know that every senior on campus will have the capability to save lives," Lewis said.

While seniors are receiving CPR instruction, all juniors will be taking the ACT for free and sophomores will be participating in a digital media assembly. Once all of the training is done, the senior class may take a class photo at the end of the day if weather is permitting.

Students vote for Super Tuesday

By Percy Totten
Pulse Staff Writer

Super Tuesday took place on March 2 this year in which 13 states across America voted for the presidential nominee to represent their respective parties in the upcoming November election. Oklahoma is one of the states that held their presidential primary on Super Tuesday and with it, brought a record-breaking voter turnout for the state. The outcome of the voting came as a shock to many.

For the Democratic nominee, Oklahoman citizens voted for democratic socialist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), while Republican Oklahomans voted for conservative Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas).

"Sanders picked up many votes from the Independents that were allowed to vote in the Democratic primary," U.S. Government teacher Peggy Aycock said. "Cruz won by the many conservative voters in the Oklahoma Republican group."

The outcome of the primary in Oklahoma was surprising to citizens and political professionals alike. Polls throughout the month of February showed Democratic nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as being preferred by Oklahoma Democrats and was predicted to win the state. Polls also revealed that Oklahoma Republicans were more partial to Republican businessman Donald Trump as their party's presidential nominee.

"I was very surprised Bernie and Cruz won,"



POLITICAL YOUTH Senior Emily Doring poses for a photo before entering her polling place on Super Tuesday. (Photo submitted)

senior Tyler Trimble said. "I expected Trump and Hillary to win considering our state's demographics."

While neither Trump nor Clinton won Oklahoma in their respective parties, they each picked up seven states on Super Tuesday. For Sanders and Cruz, Oklahoma was a valuable win. Out of 77 counties in Oklahoma, Sanders only lost in two.

"I think Sanders won because people like his idea of positive change," senior Sami Wert said.

While many see Trump and Clinton as the more obvious or inevitable nominees for presidential candidacy in their respective parties, the results of Super Tuesday reveal that Oklahomans see this race a little differently.

Free ACT given to juniors

By Spencer Tuia
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School announced a new opportunity for juniors, enabling them to take the ACT on March 29 during school, free of charge. This heightens the juniors' chances of applying and going to college.

The ACT is a standardized test for high school students to take that is required for college admission. In order to take the test, students must register online on the official ACT website to take it at their local high school. Students of all ages can take the test, ranging from sixth grade to high school graduates.

"It is a pilot program that the State Department is offering to our school. It is a great opportunity for all juniors to be able to take the test for free," English teacher Diana Phillips said.

The ACT is not an inexpensive test to take. The regular ACT costs \$39.50 whereas the ACT plus the writing is \$56.50. The juniors,

however, will not have to pay the fee to take the test. Junior Aylin Facundo thinks this is a great advantage for the students.

"This is going to be beneficial for those who can't afford the ACT," Facundo said.

The ACT has been considered as a replacement for EOIs, which are state tests that students in Oklahoma public schools are required to take. Junior Ellyce Hill thinks this would be a better system for schools.

"I think that that the ACT would be more fair than doing common core tests because colleges look at your ACT score rather than your state test score," Hill said.

Phillips considers the act of the ACT replacing state tests as a way for the State Department to save money.

"If we gave the ACT instead of the current EOI tests, our state could save a lot of money and be more responsible with instructional time by giving students one test instead of seven," Phillips said.

New club provides support to AP students

By Dominique Potter
Pulse Staff Writer

AP teachers have joined together to create a club just for AP students to encourage them to stay in AP classes.

This club is led by science teacher Donna Gradel, who is joined by French teacher Shelley Mashburn. Gina Lepp, Jana Nash and Diana Phillips, and other AP teachers have also provided input and supported this idea.

Gradel started the club based on the need to encourage academic success of students. In the past, creating an AP Club had been proposed but did not come to fruition. Gradel says the current administration at the high school has been extremely supportive of the process, as well as the district administration.

This year, the club will provide a banquet for AP students, as well as test prep, college information and study sessions. Next year, the group hopes to organize more and provide regular meetings to members.

"We need to recognize academic success

of the students involved in the AP program," Gradel said. "Many students work extremely hard to excel at a high level academically and never receive any recognition."

The AP Banquet will take place on April 7 at Broken Arrow's Central On Main. Tickets are available now, with those enrolled in multiple AP classes having the first chance for tickets. Tickets are free of charge, but attendance is limited due to space.

"AP offers the best preparation for college rigor and is important for students to take in order to prepare for college," Mashburn said.

Students are excited about the opportunity to join an organization like AP Club.

"AP Club is fun because it gets all of the AP students together. It's like having a whole new group of friends who you can relate to based on academics," senior Victoria Corbitt said.

Those interested in joining AP Club should visit with their AP teachers about purchasing this year's AP Club t-shirt. Meeting times have not been announced yet.

Student Artist Spotlight Courtney Rasmussen

By Jordan Brandt
Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Courtney Rasmussen is involved in AP Studio Art and is also furthering her artistic abilities outside of her time on campus.

"I've taken everything from Art I to 3D Art to Digital Graphics," Rasmussen said. "I've tried almost every single medium there is and continue to explore different mediums."

Rasmussen is currently working on a project called "Smoke In My Heart" (seen in photo). It was inspired by the idea of someone taking on the challenge to quit smoking.

"Courtney has a keen sense for design and has really grown as an artist this year," Art teacher Jennifer Brown said. "She takes any basic assignment and creatively turns it into an AP-quality piece. She loves to experiment with techniques and is very prolific."

Outside of school, Rasmussen takes part in a club called Young Professional Photography Club with her close friend Don Nixon. The club is dedicated to helping

individuals improve their skills when it comes to photography. The club often reaches out to other photographers that they come across on social media.

"The club revolves around just being passionate about photography and wanting to further individuals' knowledge and skills," Rasmussen said. "We often shoot under all sorts of conditions and explore many different styles."

Aside from the photography club, Rasmussen also takes senior pictures.

"Courtney expresses her art in so many different ways and is always coming up with something creative and interesting," senior Alejandro Rodriguez said. "I'm excited to see where her abilities take her and to see her grow as an artist."

Rasmussen aims to advance her skills after high school.

"I plan on minoring in some type of photography along with digital graphics," Rasmussen said. "I'm inspired by different places, people and emotions when creating something new and I hope I get to work more with those inspirations as I continue in the future."



SMOKING ART Senior Courtney Rasmussen works on her most current piece "Smoke in My Heart." The piece was inspired by the idea of someone taking on the challenge to quit smoking. (Photo by Kaylie Hill)

STAFF

Adviser: Ashley Spencer, aspencer@baschools.org

Amber Boatman, Jordan Brandt, Hailey Cochrane, Ally Coldwell, Victoria Corbitt, Shaelyn Disotell, Jordan DuBuc, Zach Duncan, Stone Freeman, Cole Gastineau, Ally Martinez, Sidney Parks, Cheyenne Pauls, Cloey Patton, Dominique Potter, Maddie Riggan, Zack Rodgers, Aaron Sawyer, Alexia Scott, Callie Spencer, Percy Totten, Spencer Tuia, Austin Wyatt

The Pulse is a student-produced publication produced by the newspaper class of Broken Arrow High School, which also provides written content for bahspulse.com.