

Think before you text

New Oklahoma law bans texting while driving

by Austin Wyatt
Pulse Staff Writer

Despite constant television and internet advertisements professing the dangers of texting and driving, there has been no law passed making it illegal to put yourself, your passengers and the drivers around you in that position—until now.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, a law was passed that officially banned all texting and driving in Oklahoma. “You text, you drive, you pay,” promises a fine of \$100 for any violator.

“I believe texting and driving is incredibly dangerous,” senior Avery Ibison said. “While this law may not stop it completely, I believe this is a good step for Oklahoma drivers’ safety.”

Any driver who seems distracted by their mobile device may be pulled over by a law enforcement officer, but there is a lot of gray area. What about texting at stop lights? What about using a phone to change the song on the radio?

Contrary to the slogan and public perception of the law, it covers more than just texting. Use of social media and email while driving a car in motion



A DANGER TO OTHERS A new law went into place this month that will affect all drivers. (Photo by Victoria Corbitt)

are strictly prohibited. Phones can be used, however, for listening to music and GPS purposes.

If drivers appear to be distracted in any way, they still face the possibility of being pulled over. Cell phone use while at a red light is not prohibited. While talking on the phone is not banned, officers have advised using hands-free devices to help avoid distractions.

“While I am guilty of texting and driving from time to time, I think this law will inevitably make the roads safer,” senior

“I believe this is a good step for Oklahoma drivers’ safety.”

-Avery Ibison, senior

Kaylen Price said.

This new movement also brings a sense of justice and closure to families who have been affected by collisions caused by texting and driving.

“My dad, aunt, uncle and seven year old cousin got in an accident caused by someone who was texting and driving, but luckily everyone was okay,” senior Olivia Sanchez said. “I think the ban on texting and driving will decrease the amount of similar wrecks that occur in Oklahoma.”

Despite the inevitable growing pains that are sure to come with the enforcement of this new law, the ban on texting and driving ensures that Oklahoma roads are on the way to becoming safer than ever before.

STUDENT LIFE

Curbside Cafe offers food truck lunches on campus

by Alexia Scott
Pulse Staff Writer

In October, Broken Arrow Public Schools introduced a food truck, Curbside Cafe, on the high school’s campus. The Curbside Cafe provides healthy meal options in a new and trendy way.

The planning that went in to the food truck took a lot of work. With finding out the equipment needed, space, cost, design, number of employees, a creative menu and the way to execute it all, Curbside Cafe was made to perfection.

“The food truck has been in the planning for two years,” said Luanne Goodacre, BAPS Director of Child Nutrition. “We were looking for ways to provide more lunch options for students at Broken Arrow.”

The menu differs every day with options such as street tacos, chicken and waffles, salads and more being offered. All of the meals meet U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

“I was really happy when the food truck opened on campus, and I love all the meals they serve. Hopefully it is here to stay,” said junior Blayze Byrd.

Over the summer, the Curbside Cafe offers a summer feeding program to any child from the ages of one to 18. They will find out exactly where the truck will travel to in the spring time.

“Broken Arrow Public Schools have always offered Summer Feeding programs, but this year instead of the program being at schools, the food truck will drive around to various neighborhoods to meet students where they live to serve them,” Goodacre said.

For more information about the Summer Feeding Program or other Child Nutrition information, contact BAPS child nutrition at 918-259-4565.

Pride brings home third consecutive Grand National title

by Shaelyn Disotell
Pulse Staff Writer

The Pride of Broken Arrow recently won the biggest competition of the season, the Grand National Championship, at the Bands of America National Competition. Their show, “Wild Blue Orchid,” and everything they had done throughout the season—including rehearsals, performances and competitions—led up to the win.

“The Pride of Broken Arrow is not about the awards—it’s about teamwork, character development, work ethic and our students being part of something bigger than themselves,” Director Darrin Davis said. “Once that happens, everything else falls into place. I am honored that these students give so freely of themselves to help make each other better, committing themselves to greatness both on and off of the marching field and concert stage.”

The competition included three performances including prelims, semi-finals and finals. The Pride won visual caption in semi-finals and won visual, general effect and first place in finals. They received a trophy for every caption award they received, as well as one for first place. They also received the eagle, a statue for the Grand National Champion.

Almost 100 bands performed in prelims and only 12 bands advanced to finals. Pride won the competition with a score of 97.5, which is the highest score Broken Arrow has ever achieved.

“It was emotional. It was my senior year and we did the best we ever had,” senior baritone player Garret Ainsworth said. “We all just knew we played and marched our hearts out on that field, and when we found out we won, it was just an overwhelming wave of joy and happiness, bringing everyone to tears.”

Students were overjoyed with their performance and the outcome.

“The best part about Grand Nationals was when we all got off the field and knew that we just gave our best performance that we could have given,” junior colorguard member Beth Penrice said.

Other than the encore performance they gave after they returned, Indianapolis was the Pride’s last performance of their show.

“I’m sad that the show is over and I won’t be marching again, but I’m also happy that we did the best we possibly could and it all paid off in the end,” senior clarinet player Jessie Wolters said.

Pride had been working since early June and all the way through November on the show, and ended the season with a bang.



GRANDEST BAND IN THE LAND (Top) At the end of their performance, Pride poses for the judges. (Bottom left) Senior Cody Evans performs with Pride’s baritone section. (Bottom right) Junior Beth Penrice performs her part of “Wild Blue Orchid” with guard. (Photos submitted)

Broken Arrow student section does something new

by Zack Rodgers
Pulse Staff Writer

At a recent football game, “The Jungle,” Broken Arrow’s student section, accomplished something that has never been done. Students unrolled a paper banner across the entire student section. Measuring 120 feet wide and 30 feet tall, the banner read, “We Are The Jungle. Loud. Proud. Tigers.”

With all of the work put into the project, the leadership classes at BAHS designed the banner to represent the school. Senior

Collin McSorley helped design the banner and plan the activity.

“All of the leadership classes participated in designing and making the banner, and over four days of work, it came to be a success,” McSorley said.

With the planning of the banner and student section activities, student council sponsors Jason Jedamski and Spencer VanDolah have worked countless hours and produced a number of activities for students to participate in.

Junior Catie Wilson is an active student council officer and helped lead the

production of the banner.

“The work on the banner definitely paid off,” Wilson said. “Everyone enjoyed it and it created a super fun environment for the Jungle.”

The construction of the banner took a week and had a complex design.

“It had seven sections and each of the seven sections had four to five giant pieces of paper connected together,” VanDolah said. “We had to measure out the length and width of every letter to make sure that they were all proportional and all the same size. After drawing it all, everybody

had to roll up the sign in sections and tape the whole thing together.”



WE ARE THE JUNGLE A sign was created that spanned the entire length of the student section. (Photo by Greg Spencer)

Second annual Lip Dub video brings school together

Thousands of students participated in filming and singing for the second annual video

by Jordan Brandt
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow's high school campus is packed with events attended by students filled with school spirit. Students recently came together to make this year's lip dub.

"A lip dub video is a video where students lip sync together," Video Production Manager Greg Spencer said. "We shot the first one last year, and we wanted to make this year's even bigger and better."

This year's video is packed with clubs and sports teams from all around campus, lip-syncing a mash-up of popular songs, closing with the student body singing the "High School Musical" song "We're All In This Together."

"We threw out the idea to do High School Musical during a COLABASH meeting and we went from there," senior Samantha Wert said.

Sports teams were filmed in places that they would usually play, including the swim team, who shot their portion at the Salvation Army pool. The football team was filmed in the indoor practice facility. Some teams showed off their awards such as trophies and state rings during filming.

Senior Madison Riggin opened up this year's lip dub singing Rachel Platten's "Fight Song." Riggin is also included in the drama's take of Kanye West's "All of the Lights."

"I was a little bit nervous," Riggin said. "I didn't want to mess up, but we were able to film as many takes as we needed until it looked perfect."

Teachers Spencer Vandolah, Greg Spencer and Nolan Couch, along with members of COLABASH, began planning this year's lip dub in September. Each COLABASH student was assigned a group to work with and took part in helping them plan and organize their time on screen. There are 16 total songs in the lip dub such as Walk the Moon's "Shut Up And Dance," Miley Cyrus's "We Can't Stop" and 21 Pilots' "Stressed Out."

"I wanted to create something different this year that wasn't the typical lip dub," Spencer said. "I wanted to incorporate as many students as possible. Our main goal was to create something visually interesting that represents how engaged and spirited the student body has become. I really think we accomplished that. I'm excited for people to see it."

To watch the lip dub, visit www.bahspulse.com.



ALL IN THIS TOGETHER (Top) Students cheer from the stands during the filming of the lip dub. (Photo by Noah Basinger) (Bottom) Seniors Allie Carlile, Avery Ibison, Morgan Jones, and junior Zach Rodgers perform the dance. (Photo by Ashley Spencer)

Boys' Basketball looks to dominate this season

by Aaron Sawyer
Pulse Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again—the time of hearing the squeak of freshly laced basketball shoes as they slide across the hardwood, of hearing hundreds of crazy students cheer on their favorite players. It's time for Tiger basketball.

With seven of the 15 players being seniors and graduating last year, this gives the team a chance to reinvent themselves.

Legendary basketball coach Dean Smith once said, "Basketball is a beautiful game when the five players on the court play with one heartbeat."

Senior shooting guard Jacob Knutson said this is precisely how BA basketball is going to play this year.

"It's definitely more of a family this year," Knutson says. "We are a lot closer this year than in previous

years. We learned how to play as a team and share the ball so we can get everyone included."

The mentality of teamwork and sharing the ball could be a major determining factor of the success of the team this year.

"It will definitely be scoring by committee this year," says head coach Beau Wallace. "I expect a lot of kids to step up in many ways, and we're just going to take it game by game."

The highest returning scorer is Ben Crider, who totaled 177 points last year, shooting 41 percent from behind the arc last year (35 of 86) and totaling 109 rebounds. Crider is expected to be a major threat to opposing defenses this year due to his ability to score both inside and outside the paint.

Another player to watch is sophomore Caleb Huffman, who was on varsity as a freshman last year—a rare occurrence. As a freshman last year, Huffman

contributed 65 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists to the team. His role is expected to expand significantly this year.

"I really want Huffman to be more aggressive on the ball," Wallace says. "He can really be a key player for us this year."

The final piece of the puzzle in the starting lineup is senior point guard Brandon Chaney. He started all 27 games and totaled 86 points and 48 assists last season.

"Being a leader is a lot of responsibility, but I just have to be more vocal and give a lot more encouragement to my teammates," Chaney said.

With multiple key players and shooters who can score inside and out, the Tigers will definitely be a team to keep your eye out for. The Tiger's first home game is Dec. 15 against Jenks.

Creekwood elementary, BAHS students write children's books

Collaborative children's literature project will lead to friendship and creativity

by **Shaelyn Disotell**
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow High School creative writing students recently partnered with select second graders at Creekwood Elementary to write and illustrate children's books for a community outreach project.

Creative writing teacher Mrs. Amanda McCown and second grade teacher Mrs. Lisa Gutierrez collaborated together to create a project where BAHS students crafted the stories with ideas and illustrations from Gutierrez's students.

The creative writing students call it "The Big Friendly Giant Project," and recently loaded a bus for the short trip over to Creekwood to hear the story ideas and vivid illustrations from their new friends.

"Our high school students are working with the younger kids, and it's been fun to watch how working with the younger kids has helped their accountability and

responsibility," McCown said. "Usually they procrastinate quite a bit, but it helps when there's a little kid banking on them. I think it helps them think outside the box for a new audience that we don't usually have the chance to write for. For some it's like the highlight of their week."

This new project has helped both parties in many different ways. For creative writing classes, the BFG Project fuels imagination into their stories and also gives the class something to look forward to while being active in their own community.

For their new small friends at Creekwood, it allows them to express their creative thoughts and see the progress of the story as the project goes on. On both ends it creates excitement and inspiration for more ideas for writing.

"It's interesting to see all the imagination and see what they can create. It's so amazing to hear what they come up with out of nothing," said senior Same Boyes.

It's been a collaborative effort that encourages hard work and dedication for both. Alongside their older authors, the second grade class has become more engaged in their daily assignments and projects, impressing anyone who reads it.

"My second grade students really look up to the high school students and are really encouraged to engage more even in their everyday writing just by seeing the hard work that they're putting into the project," Gutierrez said.

There's probably a time in every person's life when hanging out with someone older than you was a joyous, mature feeling of acceptance. However, when one gets older the feeling doesn't really remain mutual. Nevertheless Broken Arrow ignores it and treats the students with kindness and respect every time they meet. Now more comfortable with their older peers, the second graders hug the high school friends goodbye after their short hour of work,

creating a connection that moves and inspires.

"It's just really important to kids, and I remember it was one of my favorite things to do in elementary school," said junior Audrey Files.

The class plans to go back to Creekwood more in the coming months.



WORKING TOGETHER Junior Kam King works with a Creekwood student to produce a children's book. (Photo by Stone Freeman)

Student Artist Spotlight

Partain expresses herself with realistic art

by **Percy Totten**
Pulse Staff Writer

Senior Bailey Partain has been an artist since she was young. Partain was inspired to begin creating art by her mother and grandmother and now creates two-dimensional pieces using prisma colors, acrylic paints and water colors.

"Bailey pays close attention to detail and has developed a sense of how to draw super realistically," said Jennifer Brown, AP Studio Art and Art I teacher.

Brown's favorite piece of art by Partain is actually untitled. Brown describes it as "Andy Warhol-esque." The piece features an ice-skate drawn four separate

times, each in a different color scheme.

"I thought it would be cool because it's different," Partain said. "It gives a different perspective on how people look at things."

Partain makes art because she likes being creative and she hasn't found any other hobby that lets her express herself as much as art does.

"She is always eager to try new things," Brown said. "She works consistently on each and every piece and the results each time are phenomenal."

Partain wants to pursue a career in animation or graphic design because of the flexibility of the art and finds inspiration in Disney's animated works.



REALISTIC ARTIST Senior Bailey Partain shows off her latest piece, which teacher Jennifer Brown describes as "Warhol-esque". (Photo by Jordan Brandt)

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