



SCA artists take awards

K5-1st grade



TOXEY -- Young artists from elementary through high school were given awards from their work during the annual South Choctaw Academy Art Show last Thursday. In the K5-1st grade division, winners were: Water Base Art: 1st – Zack Dees, 2nd – Zack Dees, 3rd – Marshall Manning, Honorable Mention – Dylan Kennett; Drawing (non-color): 1st – Marshall Manning, 2nd – Jack Miller, 3rd – Jack Miller; Drawing (color): 1st – Gab Gourgues, 2nd – Dylan Kennett; 3rd – Emily Sikes, Honorable Mention – Zack Dees; 3-D Art: 1st – Marshall Manning; Group Work: 1st place – 1st grade; 2nd place – Kindergarten; Collage: 1st – Skylar Gibson, 2nd – Zack Dees, 3rd – Marshall Manning.

2nd-3rd grades



In the 2nd-3rd grade division, students taking home ribbons were: Drawing (non-color): 1st – Bailey Manning, 2nd – Zach Mosley, 3rd – Morgan Coody, Honorable Mention – Bailey Manning; Drawing (color): 1st – Carney Bradley, 2nd – Bailey Manning, 3rd – Caleigh Smith, Honorable Mention – Delevan Coxwell, Chloe Robinson; 3-D Art: 1st – Zach Mosley, 2nd – Colton Clark, 3rd – Zach Mosley; Group work: 1st place – 2nd grade; Collage: 1st – Haleigh Tyson, 2nd – Bailey Manning, 3rd – Chloe Robinson; Mixed Media: 1st – Zach Mosley; Painting: 1st – Zach Mosley, 2nd – Bailey Manning, 3rd – Colton Clark, Honorable Mention – Morgan Taylor.

4-6 grades



Student placing in grades 4-6 were: Water Base: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd – Anne Claire Cummings, Honorable Mention – Teresa Boykin; Drawing (non-color): 1st – Bree Manning, 2nd – Madison Hearn, 3rd – Sheldon Gourgues, Honorable Mention – Madison Hearn; Drawing (color): 1st – Kayla James, 2nd – Hannah Jackson, 3rd – Kayla James, Honorable Mention – Landrum Roberts; 3-D Art: 1st – Holden Johnson, 2nd – Madison Hearn, 3rd – Madison Covington, Honorable Mention – Anne Claire Cummings and 2 projects by Hannah Jackson; Collage: 1st – Jordan Tew, 2nd – Bradley Clark, 3rd – Jhett Nordan; Mixed Media: 1st – Madison Hearn, 2nd – Jordan Tew; Photography: 1st and 2nd – Bradley Clark, 3rd – Claire Giles.

Winners in grades 7-12 were: Drawing (non-color): 1st – Joshua Manley; 7-9 Drawing (color): 1st – Lauren Wilkins; 10-12 Drawing (non-color): 1st and 2nd – Trey Moore; 10-12 Drawing (color): 1st – Tyler Lolley; Photography: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd: – April Brown.

Choctaw Sun photos by Dee Ann Campbell

7th-12th grades



JROTC addresses BOE about need for building

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – “We’re concerned about the ROTC status at Southern Choctaw High School.”
First Sergeant Houston Cunningham addressed the Choctaw County Board of Education during their work session on Tuesday evening about issues affecting the JROTC unit under his leadership. Among those issues were the construction of a building for the unit, potential sources of funds for such a project, and rumors about the possible closing of the program altogether.

“I was around when the school was built,” Cunningham explained. “I went to briefings about the new buildings. Each time, the instruction was that we would have a building at Southern Choctaw, just like up here (CCHS). The building got changed to an agri-science building. My question is, ‘What happened?’”
“During the process, we gathered information on the ROTC building and on vo-ag,” answered BOE chairman Isaac Johnson. “It was the decision of the board to go without an ‘ag’ building to add one for the ROTC and band. When ‘ag’ was added on the south end, we planned to come back later and add a metal building. Somehow that got lost in the mix. We failed on that point.”

To rectify the problem, Cunningham offered his services and those of JROTC parents who were willing to help.

“We met last Thursday, and the parents and I am willing to take our personal money to build a building,” he told the board. “We have a location where the building can be erected. We want to get approval to erect it. We might be able to raise 100%, but maybe you can provide some. Then we’ll take the money that we raise and buy furniture.”

Cunningham also raised an even more pressing issue in what he termed an ‘undercurrent to do away with the program’.

“These are issues we would like to know about,” he said. “It is important to us.”

“We do have three individuals in the county,” Johnson responded, referring to the JROTC instructors now on staff at both SCHS and CCHS. “At SCHS, we have 2 instructors for 65 students. At CCHS, we have one instructor for 124 students. We have no clue whether it will go away.”

We have to look at 65 vs. 124 students.”

“That’s what we are looking at, too,” added Supt. of Education Sue Moore. “That doesn’t mean you won’t have a program – just not 2 instructors.”

In addition to Cunningham, who has announced his upcoming retirement at the end of this year, the SCHS JROTC is also under the leadership of instructor Sgt. James Drake.

Cunningham told the BOE that the lack of a building of their own has resulted in his unit moving from one classroom to another several times since the opening of the new school. The turmoil of the moves has had an effect on the unit, he explained, resulting in a lower number of cadets signing up for the program.

“There is uncertainty with all these moves,” he explained. “The population of students will go up. We’ve had 100+ students in the program before.”

Johnson wanted to know the reason for the repeated moves.

“We don’t have a building like CCHS has,” SCHS principal Betty McBride responded from the audience. “In our quest to find a place for them, we started in one location, hoping to get a trailer moved in for them to use. Then we moved to a former special education room, then to a room adjacent to a workroom to give them more space. That’s the best I can do for them at this time.”

“It’s been hard on the JROTC to move,” Cunningham agreed. “But each time, it has been an improvement.”

Responding to Johnson’s request for information about the size of any potential new building, Cunningham said that they needed a facility measuring about 60’ x 40’. Cunningham also informed the board that he had discussed the issue with former Superintendent of Education Randy Boggs and even shown him the possible location for the building.

“Work with the principal,” BOE member Ronald Hampton stated, “come up with a plan, a building size, and cost. We can’t promise anything, but we will work with you.”

“The Capital Plan may be something we can look at,” added Johnson.

“This should have been a part of the Capital Plan last year,” Hampton added.

“The Capital Plan can be amended as needed,” Moore replied.

Brunner added to ‘A’ honor roll

TOXEY – South Choctaw Academy has asked the Sun to announce that Corey Brunner was incorrectly listed on the “B” Honor Roll by mistake. He should have been on the “A” Honor Roll for the 3rd 9-weeks grading period.

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