

## A Look Behind The Curtain At The Miss

### McAlester Scholarship Pageant



Michelle Bruffett, Miss McAlester,

Michelle Bruffett, Miss McAlester, told us last week that her goal for the past six years was to be Miss McAlester. "But I had no idea what I was getting myself into," added the pretty MHS student.

Ms. Bruffett told how she got her mother and dad to agree to let her enter the scholarship pageant. They had some "ifs" and she said she made agreements with them. She had worked at Mercy Clinic, and she included that in her preparation for the pageant. She said she was nervous at first, but was getting "more and more comfortable" as the pageant date neared.

But after the Channel 8 women announcers asked her what

she did during the summer. One of them said, she "should have been watching Channel 8. And Michelle misunderstood her.

She thought one of the pageant announcers said she "should have been watching her weight."

Ms. Bruffett said she had been working out and had a "healthy diet." But it was "pretty nerve-wracking" to think that one of the channel 8 announcers had commented on her weight.

She had rehearsed her dance "hundreds and hundreds of times," but this time she got her toe "stuck in a crack." "It ended up being all right," however, she said.

As the judges totaled up the points, she was "excited and nervous." But it helped when photographer Mark Emmons selected her "Most Photogenic." However, she bought "a lot of pictures," she remembered.

Then her name was "called out" as Miss McAlester. That was "phenomenal," she thought.  
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## Former MHS Grad Tells Plan for County Community Health Center

Brad Stanton, a CPA from Broken Arrow told us Feb. 21, about plans for a "County Community Health Center" in Pittsburg County.

The center would not be a "free clinic," Stanton said. But it cannot turn down any patient because of inability to pay.

Stanton said he is a 1969 graduate of McAlester High School. He is the consultant to Caring Hands Healthcare Centers and has a background in founding and operation of Community Health Centers. The center would be "to try to fill up the gap" for people with no assistance, who cannot afford health insurance, Stanton reported.

The U.S. Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1996 will provide \$650,000 per year, and enhanced cost-based Medi-



Brad Stanton, CPA

care and Medicaid reimbursement plus other funding should add up, to make a budget of \$1,625,000 a year or more.

A 200-page grant application was written for the center. The federally-qualified health center would be operated by an

IRS (c)(3) "Not for Profit Oklahoma Corporation." It has an 11-member board and Shelia M.D. Means is president of the governing board. She is a "Certified Nurse Midwife and has worked in a Community Health Center..."

The center will provide primary care, dental care, mental health care, substance abuse care and pharmacy services. It provides jobs for the community as well as care to the uninsured and under-insured persons in the community.

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Shelia M.D. Means

# Club Members Meet Cast Of 'Beauty And The Beast'



Club members got an early preview of the McAlester High School play, "Beauty and the Beast," when Dr. Cynthia Perkins brought the cast to our meeting on Feb. 14.

Ms. Perkins brought the youngest member of the cast, second grader Austin Peloquin, and the "29-year-old," Cody Harmor.

The young actors and actresses gave a few lines from their parts in the production. The story is about a handsome prince, played by Ricky Brown, who is turned into a beast because of his pride. The "beast," who lives in an enchanted castle,

must learn to love again, to turn back into a prince.

That is where "Belle" comes in, played by Rachel Boyd.

The beast imprisons Belle's father, Maurice, and she attempts to save her father, then to turn the "beast" back into a prince.

Band Director David Steidley leads the orchestra in the numerous songs in the musical. Gary Boyd played the piano for the rehearsals and was a sound technician during the play.

The production was drawing a good crowd, over the past weekend.



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Doctors who participate can take advantage of the Student Loan Forgiveness Program. It can also take advantage of the cheapest price for drugs. State "incubator funds" can be used, and state funds should be available by the end of April, Stanton said.

Pittsburg and surrounding counties qualify for the services, because of the need of 42 percent of area residents who fall "in the below 200 percent Federal Poverty Level."

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She found what the announcers had really said, and said she "did not have a bad memory of the Pageant."

She thanked the judges, and then wore her crown to dinner. Winners usually had French fries and Ranch dressing, she confided.

The Pageant is a time you "never forget," she said.

"I hope to represent you well" at the Miss Oklahoma Pageant, June 3-10, she said in conclusion. "I appreciate the support you have given me".

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## Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

There were 58 attending last week's meeting. Ryan Martin was a guest of Yvette Martin. Gloria Fletcher was a guest of John Tucker.

Two weeks ago there were 56 present. Dave Cravens was a guest of Yvette Martin and Drew Santine was a guest of Clem Santine. On Feb. 14, there were 50 members plus two guests, one honorary member and most of the cast of the high school performance. I don't know what that adds up to. HANDSHAKERS-Last week, Sandy Brock was the winner of the coin again. (She should have a collection by now.) And Mike Lowber was the handshaker. The previous week Don Harris handed it to Bob Saunier. The previous week, Don got the commemorative coin from Jim Bland.