

Members Hear From Miss McAlester and

Miss Teen McAlester



Michelle Bruffett, Miss McAlester, Loise Washington, and Kenna Green, Miss Teen McAlester.

McAlester.

After their presentations, Loise asked club members to help the local queens by writing questions, like the procedure in the state competition.

Ms. Bruffett told why she works with Mercy Hospital, which takes patients who do not have health insurance and do not have the ability to pay. She said that health insurance costs some \$375 a month for a single male and \$325 for a single female. For a couple with two children, coverage is approximately \$472 a month and for a larger family, the cost is around \$620.

Miss McAlester said her job is helping with prescriptions.

Ms. Bruffett said she one day wants to be Miss Oklahoma, and

Miss McAlester and Miss Teen McAlester talked to us May 23, as “the count-down” started for the Miss Oklahoma Pageant.

Loise Washington, local pageant director, introduced the contestants, Michelle Bruffett, Miss McAlester, and Kenna Green, Miss Teen

she has a “dream” of working with others, similar to her job at Mercy Clinic.

“I want to make a difference,” she said.

Ms. Green’s platform for service is childhood obesity. Statistics are up 30 percent for obese children, from 10 years ago, she said.

Both of the local royalty answered questions written by the audience. They talked about tattoos, Human Rights, and Immigration. Pageant Photos by George Lampton.

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Michelle Bruffett, Miss McAlester, and Kenna Green, Miss Teen McAlester.

Rotary Scholarships



Photo courtesy of McAlester High School.

Recipients provided the program April 18. They reviewed their activities, in school and outside school, and told their plans for the future. They are, Front row

Amanda Ardese, Emily Stites, Andrea Sellmeyer, Paige Grilliot Back row Megan Henley, Rickey Moham, Bryan Clump, Erick Moham, Rachel Boyd Insert Grant Jordan and Retiring Superintendent Lucy Smith, also a Rotarian, said a total of \$2.2 million in scholarships was given this year at the high school.

Retired Attorney Tells About Court Mediator’s Job



James Ward

James Ward, a McAlester graduate of L’Ouverture School who later went to Princeton University and became a lawyer, talked to us last week about being a volunteer mediator for the court system.

Ward is retired and living in McAlester. He said being a mediator for the courts is under the State Administrator of the Courts. Mediation is done in conjunction with the Small

Claims Court, he explained, but it also includes child support, di-

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Club Collects, Pays Out \$8,962 To County Firefighters' Operating Funds

Funds to help Pittsburg County Volunteer Fire Departments, collected and paid out by the McAlester Rotary Club amounted to \$8,962.03, according to Committee Chairman H. Gene Walker.

There were 18 fire departments and volunteer fire departments which received funds in the Rotary Club drive to help replenish the firefighters' operating funds during the fall and winter drought.

The Walton Foundation put \$5,000 into the drive, and Fenton-Nissan gave \$3,000. The United Way added \$300 and Brian Renegar gave \$200. Bank of Oklahoma, Cinema 69 and United Country-Freeman all gave \$100.

A Gaines Creek miscellaneous contribution added \$81.80. Bob Saunier contributed \$60 and George Lampson, \$50. Jack Ryder made an individual contribution of \$5.

Receiving \$500 were volunteer fire departments at Blue, Bug Tussle, Gaines Creek, Haywood-Arpelar, High Hill, Highway I 9, Sams Point, Shady Grove, Tannehill-Scipio, Canadian, Crowder and Quinton.

Other Fire Departments applying for and receiving money were Savanna, \$500; Krebs, \$500; Kiowa, \$500; Haileyville, \$492.03; and Alderson, \$500; and Ashland VFD, 470.

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The Miss Teen and the Miss Oklahoma Pageants are scheduled for the Oral Roberts University Mabee Center in Tulsa, during the week of June 5 through June 10.

The local pageants are sponsored by Beta Iota, of ESA, Int., of which Loise Washington is a member and past president.

Club Members Busy on Festival, American Flags

Rotarians were busy over the Memorial Day weekend, helping in the food tent at the Italian Festival, and putting out American Flags.

Bob Basolo is chairman of the Italian Festival Committee and Jim Thompson heads the Flag Project Committee.

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voice, property division, Social Security or Medicare, and damages and claims. For nursing home patients, the suit usually involves alleged "failure to provide the necessities of life."

A mediator explains to both parties in a lawsuit, their rights and their responsibilities, Ward stated. It usually involves "discussing and clarifying."

If they are able to reach a "mutually acceptable agreement," both parties, the mediator and the judge sign it, and it becomes law," Ward noted.

If there is a judgment to be paid in full or in increments, it lists the time and place.

However, sometimes the mediations "fall apart," or are not acceptable to both sides. In that case, the case goes back to court, and the mediations are confidential. Mediators cannot be called as wit-

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nesses.

However, sometimes the proposal from one party is "not as disagreeable," if it comes from a mediator.

Although only a small portion of the mediation staff is professional, they are capable people. At times there is inadequate training or supervision of the staff.

Sometimes the grounds for a suit are an intentional act, intimidation, or "retribution," the speaker said. But often, lack of self esteem, lack of respect, loneliness or boredom are involved. In nursing home cases, it can involve lack of care for medical problems, changes in medicine or theft.

Sometimes people are "set in their animosity." But many times, a "memorandum of understanding" can be signed.

These are some of the things mediators have to contend with, he concluded.

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 39 in attendance. There were no guests other than the speaker. On May 23, 63 attended.

Visitors were Taylor Brumley, guest of Don; Grant Jordan, guest of Mark; Carl Harris, guest of Don; and Paul Sells, guest of Becky Sells. On May 23, there were 45 present. Tim and Valarie Bruffett, Karen Stoubaugh, Beth Gera, Jennifer Green and June Miller were

guests of Loise Washington. Our Rotary Exchange Student, Gustavo Borges and his friend Louis Pertera were present.

HANDSHAKERS-Thurman Shuller gave the dollar to Jim Thompson, last week. John Tucker had the dollar the week before, but forgot to shake hands with anyone. And Robert Miller gave the dollar to Becky Sells, sometime.