



Miss McAlester, Whitney Nelms, Presents Program



Whitney Nelms
 Photo by George Lampton

Whitney Nelms thanked a lot of people in her presentation last week as the Miss McAlester of 2009. She also said she leaves Saturday for the annual state competition for the new Miss Oklahoma, which will be held in Tulsa.

For winning the Miss McAlester title, Miss Nelms received a \$1,600 cash scholarship, a crown, a banner, a trophy, and a

Miss Oklahoma wardrobe allowance from Beta Iota.

She is an 18-year-old student at McAlester High School, and is the daughter of Ted and Brenda Malone and Chuck and Sherri Nelms.

She owns and operates a dance studio and her talent is Jazz Dancing. Her sponsor is Quisenberry Stone & Masonry.

Loise Washington, a board member of Beta Iota, reviewed the former Miss McAlesters with a "Rotary connection."

She said a woman who lived at Van Buren House, Billie Gladish, said she was Miss McAlester about 1930, before

It was sponsored by Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

Mrs. Nancy McGowan also is a former winner of the Miss Oklahoma Title.

'County' Health Director Gives Report on Building, Flu

Health Director Mike Echelle gave us a report May 19, on the new (four-county) Health Department building and on the swine flu in this area.

Echelle told how each part of the city, county, and state used their funds which were available, starting with the city's donation of land to the county.

Echelle said he wrote a letter in April of 2005, "looking for land." Acting City Manager Bill Rayburn advised Echelle to go to the city council. The council in the last week of July, donated the land. In December, state bond funds of \$4 1/2 million were approved by the OESA.

Bids were awarded in April of 2006, with 425 days to

complete the project.

It turned out that the general contractor defaulted. But there was a good bond company, and the building was completed in June. During all this time, Echelle was making sure the project "got the most for its buck," he explained.

But it was the "partnership" of the city, county, and state that made it work.

This fall, "we will work with our medical community," and the people who got 2,682 flu shots, averaging six minutes each, Echelle said.

There are no cases of swine flu in Pittsburg County, or
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Shared Blessings Is Raising Funds for 'School Children's Nutrition'



Scott Walker
 Photo by George Lampton

Shared Blessings has been raising money for a "Nutrition Club" for school children, for nine weeks, and has raised about \$1,500 for two schools, Scott Walker said at the May 5 Rotary meeting. "Children are twice as likely to live in households where someone experiences hunger and food insecurity than adults," Walker said. "Child poverty is more widespread in the

United States than in any other industrialized country, he said in a statement from prepared studies.

At the same time, "the U.S. government spends less than any industrialized country to pull its children out of poverty," he said.

Walker said that Edmond Doyle and Emerson are the two schools in the program.

"But we hope to offer this programs to all the schools in McAlester. Then we hope to include schools in rural areas," he stated.

Walker said that students in each school identify their disadvantaged students needing assistance.

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Rotary Scholarship Winners



Front row, from the left, Brooke LeCrone, Lindsey Dugan, Hanna Kirkhart, Madeline Saunier, and Devin Basinger. Boys in the second row, from the left, are John Harrison, Eli Bland, and Brady May. Missing from the picture are Kyle Million, who was in a golf tournament, and Brandon DeNike

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Through the ministry of “Shared Blessings,” volunteers gather to put together a backpack of food that children can easily access without the help of adults, Walker explained

The food packs are transported to area schools.

School administrators and teachers invite qualifying students to a “Nutrition Club at the end of school on Fridays, to distribute sacks of food. “The children are encouraged to share the food with other siblings in the home,” Walker said.

He stated that members of the Nutrition Club “attend school more often, are more confident in their ability to learn, demonstrate a noticeable improvement in behavior, are much more alert and have an increased ability to stay on-task,” he said.

Attendance, Visitors, Handshakers

There were only 33 attending last week to hear Miss McAlester. (However, the average age of those missing the meeting was 71.) Guests were Miss McAlester’s mother, Brenda Malone and Betty Balkman, representing The Beta Iota Chapter of Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, which sponsors the Miss McAlester Contest.

On May 12, there were 44 present. Rachel Walters and James Teel were the student guests from McAlester High School. The winners of Rotary Scholarships, shown

in the picture today, also were present.

On May 5 there were 41 present. Boyd Bass was a guest.

HANDSHAKERS-Last week, Jim Thompson gave the lucky dollar to Dick Dudley. On May 12, Noble Miller shook a buck

Night Meeting June 30

The June 30 installation of officers will be at night, at the Meeting Place.

There will be no noon meeting, so if you go to the regular meeting place at the regular time, don’t be surprised to see a sign that the meeting is that evening, and it may have something degrading, about your intelligence.

Bruce Hall is the installing officer, and the time is 6 p.m. Yep, it’s dinner. Bring your spouse. Didn’t you get your notice?



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Atoka or Coal Counties. There is one case in Pontotoc County, Echelle stated. But there have been no deaths in any of his four counties.

After 17 years, the land and building will be owned by Pittsburg County, he said.

“The speaker said that in the past three years, the percentage of children under the age of 18 “living in poverty,” increased by 50 percent.

“One in every five children in Oklahoma lives in poverty,” he said. “Among households with children,” he added, “63 percent are food-insecure, and 42 percent are hungry.”

Walker said studies show that “school performance is profoundly affected by hunger.

“Hungry children find it more difficult to concentrate, are frequently sick, often times hyperactive, aggressive, irritable and withdrawn.”

“Join us in fighting poor nutrition and hunger,” the minister said, by joining us to provide nutrition, with backpacks to every at risk child in Oklahoma.”

out of John Freeman. And on May 5, Banker Paul Million gave the buck to Banker Roi Nelson, and it never did get into circulation.

AND IF YOU THINK PART OF THAT MAY HAVE BEEN GOOFED UP, LOOK AT THE BIG, BAD POT.

George Lampton drew a card one week and Fred Turner drew a king of diamonds last week. And neither one got any cash. But if you think there’s any money left, Lots of Luck.

2009 Rotary Flags Committee

Memorial Day	May 25
Flag Day	June 14
Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	Sept. 7
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
(See Sign-Up Sheet-Jim Thompson)	