

EDUCATION

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McCord School Completes Ornament Collection

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Christmas has come and gone yet another year; memo-

ries however, will continue to live on through traditions and collections. McCord School is building

memories through a collecting the Parents and Teachers of McCord have been working on since 1981.

The PTM started collecting the White House Historical Association Ornaments in 1981 when the ornament program was born.

According to the website at whitehousehistory.org, the White House ornaments have continued to be produced every year now for the last

32 years.

"The first few ornaments were donated by members of the community," said Boyd Braden, McCord School Principal. "Jennie Miller donated one of the ornaments in 1986 and Ardith Hall donated one in 1987. This year we have the full collection. We put them

out in December for all to see and enjoy."

Every ornament includes the history explaining what or who the ornament honors. Whitehouse.org informs readers about the 2012 ornament and the history of William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the U.S.



WHITE HOUSE Historical Association ornaments are displayed at McCord School by Maera Wear, McCord School Parents and Teachers of McCord president. (News Photo by Kay Bojorquez)

Student Named to All-State Honor Band

A Tonkawa High School senior, Kelsey Fruits, 17, has been accepted into the Oklahoma Small School All-State Honor Band for 2013. Auditions were held Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, at Tecumseh. This is Kelsey's second year to qualify for All-State.

Approximately 107 students auditioned for a chair in the clarinet section and only 18 were selected. There were two parts to the audition process: Round One was a pass/fail round and required Kelsey to play 16 measures from two different All-State music selections. Kelsey passed this portion of the audition and moved on to the Finals. The Finals required Kelsey to play the Concert A Flat scale, the Chromatic scale, and a different 16 measures of the two

music selections. Sight-reading, which consists of playing a new music selection after 30 seconds of review, was another component of the Final round. At the conclusion of the auditions, Kelsey was honored to receive Fifth Chair - 1st Part Clarinet.

Kelsey will attend the All-State Clinic at Oklahoma City University from Feb. 14 - 16. The All-State Concert will take place on Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. at OCU.

Kelsey is the daughter of David and Melissa Fruits; sister of Zachary Fruits, all of Tonkawa, and sister to Brett Fruits of Los Portales, N.M. She is the granddaughter of Troy and Joyce Minnick of Okemah; Roy and Ona Mae Path of Tonkawa; and, the late Bobby Fruits of Tonkawa.



A TONKAWA High School senior, Kelsey Fruits, 17, has been accepted into the Oklahoma Small School All-State Honor Band for 2013.

Scholarship for Juniors and Seniors

Through the use of video and social media, junior and senior high school students have a unique opportunity to showcase their creativity and compete for close to \$60,000 in scholarship dollars and grants.

The Go Go Geo Scholarship Video Challenge will officially be launched to schools on Jan. 7; however, information is now available at <http://www.GoGoGeoChallenge.com/>.

Eligible students will be challenged to use their creativity in the production of a one to three minute video. Seven message themes have been created for the contest, with each having a geothermal significance.

Information on the contest website will offer participants a general understanding of each theme, along with references to expand their knowledge base on each subject. Participants must have a minimum of three of the geothermal-related themes covered in their video entry.

On the submission deadline date, video entries will all be posted online simultaneously for all to see and vote for their favorites. While videography will play a small percentage in the overall judging, creativity, message delivery and accuracy are of greater importance. Online voting and inter-

views will also be of part of the final competition.

The Challenge will consist of a Regional Competition, which will divide contestants into five regions, based on zip code. The top winner from each region will advance to the Final Competition to compete for even more scholarship dollars. At the regional level, scholarship amounts in each region include: first place - \$3,000; second place - \$2,000 and third place - \$1,000. In addition, the respective school of each of the first place winners will be awarded a \$2,500 educational grant.

As for the final level of competition, the five winners will meet with judges in Oklahoma City for the final scoring and winner announcement.

At this level, scholarship amounts include: first place - \$7,000; second place - \$3,500 and third place - \$2,000. Again, the school of the first place winner will be awarded a \$2,500 educational grant.

With these scholarship dollars being offered, the top winners have the potential to win a valuable option for the future.

For example, if a winner were to capture first place at both the regional and final levels, a \$10,000 scholarship would be granted to that student(s), which would cer-

tainly boost the beginning of a college education.

Any high school junior or senior residing in Oklahoma is eligible to participate. For team entries, scholarship funds will be distributed equally, if their entry is designated as the winner. Teams are limited to three members.

"The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are excited to be partnering on this exciting project for high school juniors and seniors," commented Mark Faulkenberry, WFEC's manager, marketing and communication. "This contest could not come at a better time, due to potential pressures of rising utility costs in the near future. The advancement of geothermal technology is quickly making this option very viable for many homeowners, who may be interested in making a change before rates do increase," he added.

There are also currently incentives, both federal and on a local/regional level, available for energy-efficient geothermal installations. "We hope this video challenge will help bring this energy-efficient option to the attention of many," Faulkenberry commented.

WFEC serves as the regional partner for the state's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Spreading Holiday Cheer



SPREADING HOLIDAY joy, Ponca City Christian Academy students recently held a program to entertain residents at the Renaissance Assisted Living Community of Ponca City. (News photo by Rolf Clements)

Scholarship Available for Students

Scholarship applications are now being accepted for a scholarship named after winner of the Questia Most Valuable Professor Contest.

In April of this year, a national competition was introduced, "Questia's Most Valuable Professor," as part of their ongoing dedication to education. College students from across the country nominated favorite professors they believed deserved the title of Most Valuable Professor.

After public nominations and voting, Berry College's Julia Corine Barnes won the competition. In her honor, The Julia Corine Barnes Scholarship was created in which three students will be awarded \$2,500 to put towards college expenses. The scholarship is open to all students pursuing

a degree in language, linguistics or literature. To apply, students must submit a full application and a personal statement detailing what they are majoring in and what they hope to accomplish with their major. Applications are being accepted now through Jan. 31. Following the submission

period, Julia Corine Barnes will be selecting the three lucky scholarship winners.

High school seniors and college students are encouraged to apply for consideration for one of the three Julia Corine Barnes Scholarships. More information is available at www.questia.com.

Art Contest for High School Students

In light of decreased educational funding, Vans has created a project to help ignite creativity and raise funds and awareness for the importance of art in high schools all over the U.S. Since 2010, Vans has hosted a nationwide event called Custom Culture where high school students design their own VANS.

The project has opened the doors to thousands of students across the U.S. to compete and create masterpieces of art from a pair of traditional Vans shoes.

The winner is awarded \$50,000 toward their high school art program.

Registration is slated to kick-off in Oklahoma Jan. 2 - Feb. 11. High school art programs should register for the 2013 competition at vans.com/customculture. After registration, each school will be tasked with customizing four favorite Vans styles: the Old Skool, 106 Vulcanized, Sk8-Hi and Classic Slip-On.

Students are charged with designing each pair of shoes to fit within one of three themes representing the Vans lifestyle, including action sports, art and music and then also a fourth "local flavor" theme reflecting regional inspiration.



VANS HIGHSCHOOL art contest registration is slated to kick-off in Oklahoma Jan. 2 - Feb. 11. Photo showcases last years winning designs. The winner is awarded \$50,000 toward their high school art program.

NWOSU Graduates 101 Students

ALVA — Northwestern Oklahoma State Universities' fall commencement was recently held at Percefull Fieldhouse in Alva.

Dr. Peggy Wisdom, 1968 alumna, provided the commencement speech.

Wisdom is professor of neurology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

She is currently chief of Neurology/Rehabilitation at the Oklahoma City Veterans' Affairs Medical Center.

Music was provided by the Ranger symphonic band under the direction of Dr. Michael Stone.

A reception honoring the graduates followed the ceremony in the Student Center Ballroom.

There were 95 students that were candidates to receive bachelor's degrees and six will receive master of education degrees.

Of those students to receive bachelor's degrees, 11 will graduate with honors.

Students with cumulative grade point averages between 3.70 and 3.79 are designated cum laude, those with GPAs between 3.80-3.89 are magna cum laude and those above 3.90 are summa cum laude.

Local honor graduates, their degrees and their hometowns are as follows:

Summa cum laude, William Edwardson Jr., Bachelor of

Science Education in elementary education, Newkirk.

Magna cum laude, Matthew Lebeda, Bachelor of Science in chemistry, Medford.

Bachelor of Arts, Deborah Greer, English, Ponca City; Sharon McEuin, sociology, Shidler.

Bachelor of Business Administration, Sharon Utech, Blackwell, business administration; Brendon Gemmill, business administration; Timothy Rathbun, accounting, both of Ponca City; Autumn Chambers, accounting, Pond Creek.

Bachelor of Science, Matthew Hill, psychology and Tonya Hill, psychology, both of Blackwell; Matthew Hunt, health and sports science education, Fairfax; Adam Beck, criminal justice/law enforcement, Marland; Geoffrey Elliott, chemistry, Newkirk; Carla Carney, computer science; and Kyrie Crippen, psychology, both of Ponca City; Krista Smith, health and sports science education, Burbank; Paul Berndsen, mass communication, Winfield, Kan.

Bachelor of Science Education, Casey Stoll, elementary and special education, Billings; Dyshia Evans, ag education, Medford; Charles Hensey, agriculture education, Newkirk; Chelsey Wilks, elementary and early childhood education, Ponca City.

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