It’s been quite a year already

The 26th governor of Oklahoma, Brad Henry was overwhelmed by the response he was receiving.

Standing on the stage in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Center on the Bartlesville High School campus, he basked in another round of applause from the audience.

Henry was speaking to BHS faculty and staff members, a very special guest of the Bartlesville Public School District who had a message about the power of education.

“Teachers really are the life-blood of our community – of our state,” he said from the podium.

“What professional makes a bigger difference than a teacher? I can’t think of one.”

Henry’s visit was one of several notable moments those in and around the district have enjoyed since the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year. It started out with a bang at the rousing Back-To-School

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Leming finds limelight

Upon being announced as the Bartlesville Public School District’s 2008 Classified Person of the Year on Tuesday night, Debbie Leming was somewhat in shock. She smiled, accepted congratulations from her fellow finalists and calmly made her way to the podium for her acceptance speech.

But after returning home that evening, Leming began to reflect on her reaction. The 18th Annual Classified Person of the Year Reception, which was held at the Bartlesville Community Center, featured a casino theme, complete with faux dice, chips and money.

“Since they had the casino theme, if I would have been in my right mind, I would have yelled, ‘I’m a winner!’” laughs Leming.

“I also thought about all of the people who I should have thanked.”

Where’s my issue of The Bruin?

With Spring Break set to begin on Monday, the next issue of The Bruin won’t be released until Friday, March 28. Enjoy your time off.
Karen “Casey” Williams has been named the Teacher of the Month for February by Arvest Bank and Oakley Pontiac-Buick-Jeep.

Williams is in her second year as a kindergarten teacher at the Will Rogers Early Childhood Center. In recognition of her achievement, she was presented with a plaque at Will Rogers as well as a check for $200 by Stephen Colaw, the Arvest Bank senior vice president and trust officer.

Williams works in a co-teaching environment at Will Rogers along with a special needs instructor, Trish Johnson. The pair strives to meet the individual needs of each and every student in their classroom.

“The young child learns from peers as well as educators in the school building,” says Williams. “Peer modeling, play intervention, parent assistance and teacher instruction are all a part of the student’s experience.”

Williams serves as a certified Parenting with Love and Logic facilitator outside of the regular classroom environment. Within that capacity, she is able to support the relationship between children and their parents, whom she believes are life’s earliest instructors. Williams plans to attend a conference this summer during which she will become a Teaching with Love and Logic facilitator.

Lauri Pollock has been named the Teacher of the Month for March by Arvest Bank and Oakley Pontiac-Buick-Jeep.

Pollock is in her 26th year as a physical education teacher at Hoover Elementary School. In recognition of her achievement, she was presented with a plaque at Hoover as well as a check for $200 by Stephen Colaw, the Arvest Bank senior vice president and trust officer.

A multitude of students pour into Pollock’s P.E. classes during a given academic year. This year, she sees approximately 440 students in all. But as she has always done, Pollock makes sure to learn each student’s name as well as something about them. And in her classes, she strives to meet the individual needs of each and every youngster.

“The enthusiasm with which I deliver my lessons, skills and activities determines the positive motivation and effort the students put forth,” says Pollock. “It is important that students are taught to be tolerant of each other’s different skill levels and that they can also teach and help each other in areas in which they are gifted.”

Pollock is an active member of the educational community and works hard to keep her instructional skills sharp. The list of workshops she has attended, committees she has been a part of, and events she has organized is a long one. She has been the district depart-
Students who successfully work their way through the Lowe Family Young Scholars program will be given the opportunity to get a first-hand look at politics in Oklahoma City.

During a regular quarterly program meeting March 8 on the Oklahoma Wesleyan University campus, state representative Earl Sears addressed the Lowe students.

“As your state representative, I’m allowed to have four pages every year,” said Sears, the former principal of Central Middle School. “I will make sure any one of you who is interested – during your junior or senior year of high school – will have a page slot awaiting you as long as you are successful in the program.”

The Lowe Family Young Scholars program was founded in February of 2006 by Barry W. Lowe, a member of the Bartlesville Board of Education, and his wife, Karen. The mentoring-based program, which continues through high school, involves three main partners – Oklahoma State University, Big Brothers Big Sisters and OWU.

Once students complete the program, they receive a scholarship toward enrollment at either OWU or Oklahoma State University, the two partnering schools. Both OWU and OSU have been challenged to match the Lowes’ donations, which will be $1 mil-
Leming is in her fourth year working as an administrative assistant in the district warehouse. Operating out of an office near the Bus Barn, she works on the budget and handles the payroll for the custodial and maintenance staffs.

“Our office stays busy,” says Leming. “People are in and out all the time. The phones are always ringing. But, I really enjoy it.”

There was plenty to enjoy at the 18th Annual Classified Person of the Year Reception. The event featured snack foods and drinks as well as multiple prize drawings. Service pins were awarded to those classified employees who had reached milestone career spans, including five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years. David Kitchens was honored for his four decades of service – 38 years of which have been at Hoover Elementary School – while Madison Middle School’s Sandie Fields was noted for her 30 years of work.

Finalists from six different categories vied for the 2008 Classified Person of the Year title including Glenda McGill (Madison, School Assistant); Rick Keen (Will Rogers Early Childhood Center, Custodial/Maintenance); Cathie Schmidt (Bus Barn, Transportation); Sammye Samson (Wayside Elementary School, Media/Health Services), Carolyn Vincent (Jane Phillips Elementary School, Child Nutrition) and Leming.

As part of her reward for winning, Leming was presented with a check for $1,600 from an anonymous donor through the Bartlesville Community Foundation.

“I think that’s wonderful,” says Leming of the monetary award which accompanies the honor. “Someone is obviously thinking about us.”

Linda Jo Jones, the attendance secretary at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, served as the master of ceremonies at the reception.

Mary Ponder, the Bartlesville Public School District’s payroll coordinator, was the winner of the Patoot Award at the 18th Annual Classified Person of the Year Reception held Tuesday evening in the Bartlesville Community Center.

As the chairman of the organizing effort behind the annual event, she coordinated it along with members of the Reception Committee Teresa Gaines, Karen Short, Jennifer Kindley and Linda Paxson.

After a year’s absence, a tradition returned to the Classified Person of the Year Reception, the presenting of the Patoot Award. This year’s winner was Mary Ponder, the district’s payroll coordinator.

“At the end of the reception last year, I had several people ask me why we didn’t have the Patoot Award,” says Jones.

“Actually, it’s a nice compliment in its own way. It’s kind of a roast to say some silly things about people we really like.”

As always is the case, the 18th Annual Classified Employee of the Year Reception was put on strictly through donations. No school district money was spent on the event. Eighty-five door prizes and five grade prizes were handed out, all of them courtesy of donations from area businesses.

“The local businesses are very supportive of us,” says Jones. “We really appreciate them.”

After Tuesday’s event reached its conclusion, Leming began locating people throughout the reception hall to thank them for their support. She thanked Jones – as well as the other four members of the Reception Committee – among many others.

“I’m very grateful to get to work with all of the maintenance guys,” says Leming. “They’re a great bunch of guys to work with.”

She was still taking in the fact that she was the 2008 Classified Person of the Year.

“I guess I really didn’t expect to win,” she says. “I was up against some really good people.”

Leming is obviously a standout herself. She’s a winner.
Rally which took place on Aug. 14. Since then, the hits have kept on coming. The newest crown jewel on the BHS campus, the new Library/Media Center debuted before the public with an open house event in January. Some two months earlier, Bartlesville Mid-High School science instructor Erica Derryberry was named the 2007 Wal-Mart & Sam’s Club Teacher of the Year for Oklahoma. Henry was welcomed to town in October while Woodrow Wilson Elementary School’s Sandra Kent was named a finalist for the 2008 National Distinguished Principal Award for Oklahoma in February.

“We’ve enjoyed a good school year,” says Dr. Gary W. Quinn, the BPSD superintendent. “In fact, it’s been a very good year.”

The Bartlesville Public School District stresses excellence in education, and it has been evident in recent test scores at both the state and national levels. When BHS received its 2007 ACT score in November, the mark was the school’s best on the college entrance exam in four years. The tally of 22.5 easily topped the Sooner State average of 20.5. In January, the Oklahoma State Department of Education recognized two elementary schools from within the district – Hoover and Jane Phillips – with prestigious Academic Achievement Awards based on their respective cumulative scores among all of their students in the Academic Performance Index testing series. At the elementary school level, API scores are compiled from reading and math tallies from grades three through five as well as the school’s overall attendance rate. The API was initially implemented by the OSDE in 2002 and is considered a telling statistic in regards to the overall academic performance of a given school. A 1,500 is considered perfect.

Hoover scored a stellar 1,478, a mark good enough to finish second among Group 4 schools (enrollment between 346 and 505 students) in the state. Jane Phillips racked up a 1,382 and showed the third best rate of improvement among Group 3 schools (enrollment between 236 and 345 students). Jane Phillips scored a 1,382 in 2007, an improvement rate of more than 81 percent from the previous year.

“Our students and staff members work diligently throughout the district,” says Quinn. “It’s always nice whenever they can be recognized for their efforts.”

The Bartlesville Public School District is comprised of 12 schools in all. The list includes BHS, the Bartlesville Mid-High School, Central Middle School, Madison Middle School, seven elementary schools – Hoover, Jane Phillips, Oak Park, Ranch Heights, Richard Kane, Wayside and Woodrow Wilson – as well as the Will Rogers Early Childhood Center. BHS features juniors and seniors while the district’s freshmen and sophomores attend the Mid-High. Central and Madison house sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The elementary schools feature classes from pre-kindergarten through the fifth grade. Will Rogers is exclusively home to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

All told, the district has a total enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. BHS’s graduating class of 2008 – commencement is scheduled for May 23 at Custer Stadium – will be around 400 students.

“We’re a strong, vibrant school district,” says Quinn. “We’re a school district of which this community can be very proud.”

The citizens of Bartlesville have long been supportive of the BPSD. Voters passed a $30.5 million school bond issue in 2001 and passed another in ’07 for $29.95. The school bond issue from ’01 focused mainly on improvements to the BHS campus, resulting in fine new facilities such as the Science Wing, the Fine Arts Center, the BHS Fieldhouse and the Library/Media Center, which features a 32-station computer lab, officially opened on Jan. 13.
Center. Sitting just inside the main BHS building, the new Library/Media Center has fast become one of the jewels of campus. It features a 32-station computer lab, an alumni/archive room and a spacious conference room.

“The new Library/Media Center has far exceeded my expectations,” said BHS librarian Kim Lashbrook shortly before the facility’s debut in January. “It is a beautiful space. It’s warm and inviting.

“It’s more than just a classroom space – it’s a showpiece.”

The new Library/Media Center is located in the space where the school’s old auditorium used to lie. Spanning 5,900 square feet, it has incorporated many of the old design aspects of the auditorium from the stylish lights which hang from the high ceiling, to the laminate tiles which sweep out like the edge of a stage to the former balcony area where the conference room can now be found. A row of seats from the erstwhile auditorium were even preserved and now provide a trendy resting area.

On the same day which saw the Library/Media Center debut, the district raised the curtain on a new connecting link and heating/air-conditioning system on the BHS campus as well. Thanks to the connecting link, all of the facilities on the BHS campus can now be accessed without one having to journey outside. The heating/air-conditioning system keeps every room on campus comfortable in a way which is most energy efficient.

Patrons of the Bartlesville Public School District passed the $29.95 school bond issue on May 8, 2007. Spanning approximately eight years, it allows for renovation work and additions on three elementary schools – Ranch Heights, Wayside and Wilson – as well as the Mid-High School. Areas such as technology, transportation, fine arts, athletics and curriculum materials will be supplemented as well. According to a 2007 report by the Bartlesville Public School District’s Long Range Facilities Planning Committee – a group which includes local architect Scott Ambler – there are currently around 14,000 residential lots within the school zones of the district’s seven elementary schools. But by 2017, that number is expected to swell to more than 16,100. That would boost student enrollment throughout the district, especially at elementary schools such as Ranch Heights, Wayside and Wilson, around which new housing additions have sprung up.

Under the terms of the 2007 school bond issues, new classrooms will be added at Ranch Heights, Wayside and Wilson which will allow for increased maximum occupancies at each of the sites, not to exceed 570 students. Ranch Heights will grow by eight classrooms while Wayside and Wilson will add six apiece.

The Mid-High, which has a student population of approximately 1,000, will add seven new classrooms.

Within the classroom, Bartlesville Public School District teachers are known for their dedication to their craft. This year, five more district instructors became National Board Certified Teachers. The group includes Joyce Nickels (kindergarten teacher at Oak Park), Kelli Bryant (fifth grade, Hoover), Sherry Langham (early childhood exceptional needs, Will Rogers), Sandy Dorsett (freshman English, Mid-High) and Nancy Farmer (third grade, Wayside).

One of the goals of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to help develop professional standards that define what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. The organization administers National Board Certification, which is a voluntary assessment program that certifies educators who meet those fine standards.

National Board Certified Teachers are coveted within any school district. The BPSD is fortunate enough to boast 29 of them. At any given time, several more educators within the district are always working toward their certification.

Instructors throughout the BPSD were celebrated on the evening of Feb. 26 as the district’s 2008 Teacher of the Year Ceremony was held in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Center on the BHS campus. BHS physics instructor Granger Meador was named the 2008 Teacher of the Year while educators from throughout the district were honored for their achievements during the past year. Several distinguished guests were present at the ceremony including Oklahoma senator John Ford and state representatives Earl Sears and Steve Martin. Meador became the district’s first-ever two-time winner of the coveted TOY award, which has been given out since 1981. Meador won his first TOY award in 1998.

“I can’t think of a more deserving person than Granger,” said BHS principal Chuck McCauley. “He’s outstanding in everything he does.”

On Oct. 10 in the Mid-High auditorium, Derry...
berry was announced as the 2007 Wal-Mart & Sam’s Club Teacher of the Year for Oklahoma during a surprise ceremony. Derryberry’s family and friends – as well as students and her fellow staff members – were on hand, filling up the auditorium. Now in her eighth year as science teacher at the Mid-High, the BHS alum collected many prizes from Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club including a $10,000 grant in her name to the Mid-High.

The 2006 Outstanding Biology Teacher for Oklahoma, Derryberry beat out approximately 70 nominees from throughout the Sooner State to capture her most recent honor.

“It feels great,” said Derryberry, shortly after the Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club announcement. “I feel so lucky to come here and do what I love every day.

“To win an award is icing on the cake.”

The BPSD boasts a budding young scientist in Melissa Carvell, a junior at BHS. In May, she is expected to again compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. During last year’s event, in Albuquerque, N.M., Carvell finished second in her category – Engineering – Materials and Bio-Engineering – with a project which focused on improving the body armor of United States forces. She was awarded an $8,000 scholarship from the Navy as well as a $1,500 cash prize from the Air Force for her project work. She won a $1,500 cash prize for her second-place finish at the ISEF and was featured in the July 23, 2007 issue of Forbes Magazine.

The 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair featured more than 1,500 students competing in several categories. The students hailed from more than 50 countries and territories. Among the judges were five Nobel Laureates, former Nobel Prize winners in science and engineering.

Students throughout the Bartlesville Public School District have the ability to learn about a wide array of subject areas. But during the current academic year, some new classes were offered, those focusing on Chinese language. Taught by Zheng Zhaomei, who was chosen by the College Board to teach abroad in the United States for two years, the classes offer insight into the language as well as the culture and customs of China. Arriving in Bartlesville in August, Zheng lives with a host family and has come to embrace her new surroundings.

“I really enjoy teaching here,” said Zheng. “The students are very nice.

“I am blessed.”

BHS is one of the few schools in Oklahoma to offer Chinese language classes. The school’s foreign language program currently consists of Spanish, French and German as well as Chinese.

Zheng was one of several staff members and students who had their picture taken with Gov. Henry during his visit to the BHS campus in October. Carvell personally received a special Governor’s Commendation from him for her achievement.

The governor’s visit was accompanied by much fanfare as Troop 3 of the Boy Scouts of America presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance, the Bruin Brigade Marching Band played the National Anthem and music teacher Tamara Walker sang “God Bless America.”

With threatening weather in the area, Henry wasn’t able to fly from Oklahoma City to Bartlesville as he had originally planned. Instead, his party drove to the Fine Arts Center.

“I was going to get here one way or another,” Henry said during his speech. “I love Bartlesville. This is a great community.”

In order to be great, a community must have a stellar, thriving school district. This community boasts one in the Bartlesville Public School District.
**Bennett wins Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest**

After delivering a speech on preferential treatment during the 2008 Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest, senior Forrest Bennett was pleased to discover the judges ultimately preferred him.

Bennett finished first in the annual event and was awarded $300. Rounding out the top three finishers in the Bartlesville High School-based competition, which featured 10 students in all, were seniors Rachel Hoelscher (second place, $200) and Evan Palmer (third place, $100). Hoelscher focused her speech on losing childhood passion while that of Palmer spotlighted the adverse effects of stress.

All BHS students were invited to take part in the contest, which was held on the school campus. The students wrote essays on their chosen topics and then delivered an accompanying speech.

“All of the students did a great job,” said BHS principal Chuck McCauley. “I read all of the essays and listened to the speeches.

“All of the students represented our school very well.”

The long-standing Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest is held by the Daybreak Rotary in conjunction with the Noonday Rotary. Students are able to choose a subject of their choice on which to speak, but then have to weave in four basic rotary principles. Those principles are phrased in the form of questions: Is it truthful? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

“The contest was a very good experience in terms of learning about public speaking, writing creatively and thinking outside of the box,” said Hoelscher “I enjoyed it.”

**LOWE - Continued from Page 3**

lion over a 10-year period, if matched by each school. Big Brothers Big Sisters handles the process of matching students to mentors and conducting background checks on all mentoring candidates, and provides follow-up support of the mentor-student matches.

The Lowe Family Young Scholars program currently features 16 students. As per the parameters of the program, all of the students either currently attend Jane Phillips Elementary or are alumni of the school.

The Lowe Family Young Scholars program is dedicated to the memory of Barry W. Lowe’s parents, Wilbur D. and Grace Lowe. It offers a way for students who otherwise might not have the financial means to attend a college or university.

“The Lowes have given back to the community in such a remarkable way by sponsoring this scholarship program,” said Sears. “One way I can support the program is by extending the opportunity to those students who would like to be a page.”

The quarterly meeting included several distinguished guests including OWU president Dr. Everett Piper, OWU business professor Wendell Weaver and Sears.

“The opportunity for some of this program’s students to be pages,” said Barry W. Lowe, “is a fantastic one.”
Stellar Sites

The Bartlesville Public School District offers a wide array of useful tools for students as well as parents.

For some extra educational insight, give these websites a look:

PowerSchool
http://www.bps-ok.org
Click on the PowerSchool link toward the top of the home page.
- Parents and legal guardians can check with office personnel at their student’s school to find out how to access PowerSchool.
- Information on students - such as grades and attendance records available via PowerSchool.

Study Island
http://www.studyisland.com
Use the “Member Login.”
- Student login information must be obtained from teachers.
- Used by grades three through eight.

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Bruin Briefs
Camille’s, Rib Crib fundraisers to aid soccer teams

The Bruin boys and girls soccer programs will benefit from fundraising nights at two area restaurants - Camille’s Sidewalk Cafe and the Rib Crib. Proceeds from sales at Camille’s on March 17 will go toward the programs while those at Rib Crib on March 27 and April 22 will benefit Bruin soccer as well.

WILLIAMS - Continued from Page 2
facilitator. The certification will allow her to teach fellow educators how to better manage their classrooms in accordance with the Love and Logic philosophies while deriving a greater joy from teaching.

A member of the Oklahoma Educators Association, Williams serves on the Bartlesville Public School Academic Strategic Planning Committee. She has trained in Literacy First, Everyday Math, Unleashing Literacy in the Classroom, and Mason’s Arch. A former member of the Will Rogers Early Childhood Center development team, she often studies on her own about brain research, literacy in the classroom, and discipline and developmentally appropriate practice.

“My delights are daily,” says Williams of her career in teaching. “My challenges and concerns are many, but I wouldn’t change my job for anything.”

POLLOCK - Continued from Page 2
ment head for elementary physical education since 1999.

Over the years, Pollock has enriched the Rams’ P.E. curriculum with a number of creative exercises and activities such as roller skating, a four-rod climbing track, hand weights, scarf juggling and a multi-cultural dance unit.

“I want the gymnasium to be a place where all students will feel good about themselves, learn how to work with others, and know it is okay to make mistakes,” she says. “Their physical well-being works hand-in-hand with their classroom performance and is a lifetime skill they should maintain.”

MASCOT TREE - Continued from Page 3

High and Sooner, the Col-Hi campus became that of BHS and home to grades 11 and 12 within the Bartlesville Public School District. The Sooner campus gave way to that of the Bartlesville Mid-High School for grades nine and 10.

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Bartlesville Public Schools Activities (Week of March 14-20, 2008)

Friday, March 14
*** Parent-Teacher Conferences: No Classes at Elementary Schools ***
*** Secondary Schools Are in Session ***
Sixth Grade Locker Cleanout (8 a.m.) (Madison Middle School)
Seventh Grade Locker Cleanout (9 a.m.) (Madison Middle School)
Eighth Grade Locker Cleanout (10 a.m.) (Madison Middle School)
Spring Sports Assembly (9:15 a.m.) (Bartlesville High School)
VisionQuest to Agape Mission (10 a.m.) (Madison Middle School)
Baseball: Varsity Hosts Enid (3 p.m.)
Baseball: Freshmen at Enid (4 p.m.)

Saturday, March 15
(No events scheduled)

Sunday, March 16
(No events scheduled)

Monday, March 17
*** Spring Break ***
(No events scheduled)

Tuesday, March 18
*** Spring Break ***
(No events scheduled)

Wednesday, March 19
*** Spring Break ***
(No events scheduled)

Thursday, March 20
*** Spring Break ***
(No events scheduled)