



(Left) Trapeze artist Simone Dykes is suspended above the ground in the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus at the Lyons High School parking lot. (Right) A local girl enjoys some entertainment with a toy at the circus. (Photos by Godfrey Miheso)

Local audience enjoys circus

**BY GODFREY MIHESO
LYONS NEWS INTERN**
Lyons dwellers had a glimpse of a rebirth of the lost tradition June 2 at the High school's parking lot. Performers from the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus of Hugo, Okla staged a memorable circus show that saw a variety of fun family activities including horse riding, face painting and circus entertainment. The most eye-catching display was performed by Clay Keys, who commanded and worked swiftly with the big cats. It was evident with the turnout and positive response by the audience to have been an interest in such a community-based entertainment that has common 40 years ago. The crew remained

busy the entire day from setting up the stage to the circus, which features more than half of the crew. By the end of first part of the show, the weather was right for a cold drink and ice cream. The crew passed out plenty of raffle tickets for such snacks. The 27 crew members have been visiting small towns across the nation and said they were pleased with the turnout in their first appearance in Lyons. The circus was family friendly and had the feel of a variety show. Culpepper and Merriweather Circus performer Simone Dykes said the circus plans to visit Lyons again next year and keep the circus tradition alive and well.



Animal trainer Clay Keys is surrounded by big cats during the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus at the Lyons High School parking lot. (Photo by Godfrey Miheso)

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(Left) Emily Robl works on her silly pirate face craft. (Right) Sydni Wilson pins the parrot on the pirate at the Lyons Library. A weekly reading session is held each Thursday.

Summer program underway

The 2010 Summer Reading Program, "Make a Splash, Read," began June 3 with the session theme, Pirates of the See-a-Librarian. Pirates are known for making waves, making trouble, and making great stories. The third through fifth-grade students met at 1 p.m. Books read were "The Erie Canal Pirates," by Eric Kimmel; "Do Pirates Take Baths?" by Kathy Tucker; and "A Pirates Quest," by Laura and Robert Sams. The study of pirates continued as participants practiced talking like a pirate. The new skills were used as pirate messages were written in a self constructed cootie catcher. The session wrapped up with a game of pin the parrot on the pirate. At 2:30 p.m., the kindergarten through second grade students heard "The No-Good Do-Good Pirates," by Jim Kraft; "Do Pirates Take Baths?" by Kathy Tucker; and "How I Became a Pirate," by Melinda Long. Staff members, Kindra Rowley, Anna Hueston, and Emily Cress taught the children some pirate sayings as the participants made silly pirate face crafts. The session ended with a lively game of making waves. A blanket served as an ocean and balls represented ships. Balls were placed on the blanket and children created waves with the blanket. The game ended when all the balls were tossed overboard. The preschool children were present from 4 to 5 p.m. They enjoyed the books "Edward and the Pirates," by David McPhail; "Do Pirates Take Baths?" by Kathy Tucker; "The No-Good Do-Good Pirates," by Jim Kraft; and "How I Became a Pirate," by Melinda Long. No pirate session would be complete without the making of pirate hats for everyone so the children created hats as well as shoulder pets. After coloring pictures of parrots, they attached the pictures to clothes pins which were then attached to their shirts at the shoulder. The session ended with the making waves game. The next session is scheduled Thursday, June 10 for The Wonders of Water. It will be a bubbling good time! Preschool through fifth graders are invited to attend. The summer reading program continues through July 8. Registration may be completed during business hours. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.