

Yearbook Copy Writing

2013 KSPA REGIONAL CONTEST

Assignment

You are to write a 250-word yearbook feature story based on the facts, observations, quotes and photo below. The story will run as part of a spread about a hot-dog eating contest and fundraiser.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pencil or pen. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus, and AP Stylebooks. The use of personal listening devices, recording devices, cell phones or computers is prohibited.

Facts

- The annual Ad Astra Hot Dog East Contest and Fundraiser took place Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, in the Ad Astra Cafeteria. It started at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner. The contest started at 6:30 p.m.
- Every year, the event's sponsor, Box Turtles Community Commitment, choose a worthy cause to support with the event.
- Box Turtles Community Commitment is a club that provides service and outreach to the Aspera community. It has 28 student members and a faculty adviser, Ron Johnson.
- The BTCC this year chose as its charity recipient a young Aspera couple named Bonnie and Steven Tyler, who just got married six months ago, in July 2012. Soon after their wedding, Steven Tyler, who is 27 years old, found out he needed a kidney transplant, which he received from his wife, who is 25.
- The corresponding surgeries and hospital charges cost the Tylers \$250,000. The couple's medical insurance paid for some of the costs, but the Tylers still owe about \$100,000 in outstanding bills, which they can't pay because Steven, a construction worker by training, hasn't been able to work because of his recovery from surgery.
- Sharon Robb, an English teacher at AAHS, is the sister of Bonnie Tyler.

Description

You are a member of Ad Astra High School's yearbook staff. Your editor has assigned you to write a 250-word story using the information provided.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School
Location: Aspera, Kansas
Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)
School Colors: Green & Gold
Yearbook: The Honeybee
Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is a carry-in contest.

Please attach your assigned contest number in the upper right-hand corner on the back of your photo.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.



- The event is segmented into two mini-events.
- The first mini-event is a simple hot dog dinner where everyone who attends pays \$10 for a dinner consisting of hot dogs, chips and side dishes brought by members of the AAHS Parent Teacher Organization. This year's side dishes included, among other items: green bean casserole, couscous, brownies, collard greens, potato salad, hummus, arugula salad, and macaroni and cheese.
- One thousand one hundred five people from the community attended and paid for their dinner, raising \$11,050 for the Tylers.
- The second mini-event is a contest where competitors find sponsors to buy hot dogs for them to eat at a certain amount of money per dog. For example, in the final round, champion Ronnie Ramos ate 25 hot dogs at \$5 per dog, paid for by friends who sponsored him. Thus, Ramos, an AAHS senior, ate \$125 worth of dogs, all the money going to the Tylers.
- The most heated competition was the final match between Ramos and senior Nick Sortal, who finished off 22 dogs, raising \$110. The two boys had 15 minutes to eat as many dogs as they could.
- They both used cups of water to moisten the buns, making them easier to swallow. They dunked the buns, dogs inside, into the plastic cups, then jammed dog and bun into their mouths.
- In all, 23 AAHS students and faculty competed in the contest, and they ate a total of 266 hot dogs, raising \$1,330 for the Tylers.
- In total, the event raised \$12,380, all of it going to the Tylers.
- Last year's event raised about \$7,500 for a local battered women's shelter.
- Bonnie Tyler wore a simple green zip-up sweater and blue jeans. Steven Tyler wore a souvenir 2013 Fiesta Bowl t-shirt and a purple Kansas State University baseball cap with a PowerCat logo on the front.
- Local grocery stores ran out of hot dogs and buns the day before the event because the BTCC purchased 3,000 hot dogs and 3,000 buns.
- It still almost wasn't enough. At 6:15, faculty sponsor Ron Johnson had to make an announcement that all hot dogs from that point on would be saved for the competition.

Quotes

Ronnie Ramos, senior

- "Nick beat me last year, so he kind of called me out again this year."
- "I have no strategy. I'm just going to eat until I get sick."
- In the middle of the competition, with dogs stuck in his mouth, Ramos mumbled to Sortal: "What dog are you on?"

Ron Johnson, BTCC faculty adviser

- "This is amazing. I can hardly believe the number of students, teachers and families in the community that showed up for the dinner."
- "I figured we would have food left over, but we are already running out and it's only 6 p.m."

Nick Sortal, senior

- In response to Ramos' question: "Shixteen." He also had a mouth full of bun and dog.

Bonnie Tyler

- To her husband: "This is overwhelming."
- "The fact that a group of high school kids put this together is great. They chose to put this benefit on for us. It's amazing. I just don't know how many ways we can thank someone. Everyone who came tonight, I can only say thank you."

Steven Tyler

- Asked to address the crowd, he wobbled to his feet, took off his hat and said: "I'm speechless. Thank you all." He then started sobbing. His wife hugged him and sat him back down in his black plastic cafeteria chair.

Photograph

You may also use information from this photograph taken at the event.



Seniors Ronnie Ramos (left) and Nick Sortal compete in the finals of the Ad Astra Hot Dog Eating Contest and Fundraiser. Ramos stuffed 25 hot dogs down his throat to beat Sortal 25-22 and win the title "Top Dog 2013."