

**XXXXXXXXX HIGH SCHOOL journalists win at State Contests**

*State champions crowned in both individual and team categories*

LAWRENCE, May 6, 2017 -- The Kansas Scholastic Press Association is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 State Contest, which rewarded the best student journalism from around the state. To earn the chance to compete in the State Contest, students qualified through Regional Contests in February.

In the State Contest, students from 85 different schools competed in 21 different categories in 3 different classifications. KSPA will award more than 350 awards for entries into the contest.

From **XXXXXXXXXXXXX High School**, the following students won awards:

● **STUDENT NAME, CONTEST, PLACE**

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The University of Kansas hosted the day of the competition at the Memorial Union. Nine different categories, such as editorial writing and sports writing, took place on the day of the contest. Students used notes provided in prompts to inspire their writing and cartooning entries.

Earlier in the week, students submitted hundreds of other entries – in 12 different categories – to an online contest that featured design, photography and online categories.

“This year has been extraordinary for Kansas high school journalism with students breaking news in their communities,” said Eric Thomas, KSPA executive director. “The state contest showcases the skills that they use in their journalistic work everyday. The entries show critical thinking, writing skills, technology skills and audience awareness.”

Based on the combined scores of the students from each school, KSPA names a Sweepstakes Champion for each school enrollment size. This year, the following schools earned Sweepstakes Championships:

· 1A: Burrton High School

· 2A: Chase County Jr.-Sr. High School

· 3A: Humboldt High School

· 4A: Bonner Springs High School

· 5A: Salina Central High School

· 6A: (tie) Shawnee Mission East High School & Wichita High School West

KSPA enlists the help of journalism teachers, professional journalists, university faculty members and other journalism experts to judge the entries.

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**About KSPA:** The Kansas Scholastic Press Association is a non-profit assocation of more than 100 high school and middle school journalism programs. Its mission is to promote excellence in high school journalism publications and education. Please log on to learn more at [www.kspaonline.org](http://www.kspaonline.org).

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