

# SIMPLY *Better*

November 2, 2009 • Vol 16 • Kansas Scholastic Press Association



The Kansas Scholastic Press Association held its 38th annual State Contest on May 2, 2009, and 119 schools entered the contest with a total of 1,206 entries. Of those entries, students receiving first places have earned the honor of having their work published in this 16th issue of



Students qualified for the KSPA State Contest by placing at regional contests held throughout the state. The contest offered 18 categories in journalism and judges' comments are published with each entry.

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**Judge's**  
*Comments*

News Writing

What you have is very well-done, but it could use more.

You had some more stuff to use, including the choir director who disagreed with the cancellation.

Watch for long paragraphs.

Infographics

Header font becomes hard to read.

Great concept, percentages might not be correct but visually pleasing.

More than 25 years of tradition is coming to an end with the cancellation of Sunflower High School's annual senior concert. Administration officials are claiming that student behavior from last year's performance was the main cause of the cancellation, when a significant amount of audience members left before the hour long concert was finished.



Robin Helget • 1A/2A • Onaga High School

“The faculty has been most disappointed at the behavior our students exhibited by walking out of the concert prior to the final song completion,” said SHS Principal, David Sanborn.

Traditionally, the senior concert, which consists of band, orchestra and choirs, is held the day before the graduation ceremony. This caused concerns with the administration because of the amount of time it takes to tear down and set up between the concert and graduations. On top of that, some faculty were worried that because of lack of time commitment by the students and faculty performing and the late start of concert planning in March, the concert would not be of quality.

“People just don’t realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert. We should have started the planning in September and not March,” said orchestra instructor, Mr. William Katz.

While there are hopes in starting the tradition of a senior concert again next year, this year’s will be missed.

“This concert was the most fun of the whole concert season, and now it won’t be happening,” said Tyler Morganstern. “I’m sad to see another music tradition potentially go down the drain.”

Laura Mushrush • 1A/2A • Chase County High School

Jerri Lyn Billings • 3A/4A • Silver Lake High School

A celebrated musical tradition of more than 25 years at SHS reaches its final note. The SHS administration announced this week plans to cancel the annual senior concert composed of band, orchestra, and choirs. The one-hour concert was originally scheduled for Friday, May 15 in the SHS Auditorium as a preceding program to the graduations exercises on Saturday. While the administration offered up several reasons for the decision, time and concerns with student behavior were the main claims to the cancellations. Concerns were brought to attention that the planning for the concert did not occur far enough in advance. Principal David Sanborn agreed timing was an issue, but said students walking out early was disappointing.

“Time became the key issue along with student behavior. Watching more than half of the audience file out during the final song was truly an embarrassment for all of us,” Sanborn said. “The faculty has been most disappointed at the behavior our students exhibited by walking out of the concert prior to the final song completion.”

With a long-time tradition coming to an end, those involved in the concert were displeased with the decision.

“I’m so annoyed. This concert was the most fun of the whole concert season, and now it won’t be happening. I’m so sad to see another music tradition potentially go down the drain,” said Tyler Morgansstern.

“I think this is a bunch of crap.



Kylie Maddox • 3A/4A • Cimarron High School

News Writing

Nice work.

Definitely have the tools to become a good writer.

Infographics

Font choice could be more thought out.

Stay away from stroke weight.

Hierarchy is well defined.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

News Writing

Excellent flow and organization.

The lead needs a little work, but it's exactly the right idea.

Infographics

Very clear and visually appealing.

Watch image quality, seems a bit pixelated.

As another school year comes to an end, so does an important Sunflower tradition: the senior concert.

SHS administrators announced this week that the senior concert, scheduled to precede the graduation ceremony on May 15, is cancelled.

According to Principal David Sanborn, the cancellation is in part due to inappropriate student behavior.

“The faculty has been most disappointed at the behavior our students exhibited by walking out of the concert prior to the final song completion,” Principal Sanborn said.

The senior concert, which showcases the band, orchestra and choir groups, has been a part of the graduation festivities for more than 25 years.

However, this year’s concert planning began much later than projected. Faculty members from the three musical groups met in March to begin preparations.

“People just don’t realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert,” Orchestra Instructor William Katz said. “We should have started planning in September and not in March.”

Although rehearsal began a mere three months before the scheduled concert, the students were eager to perform.

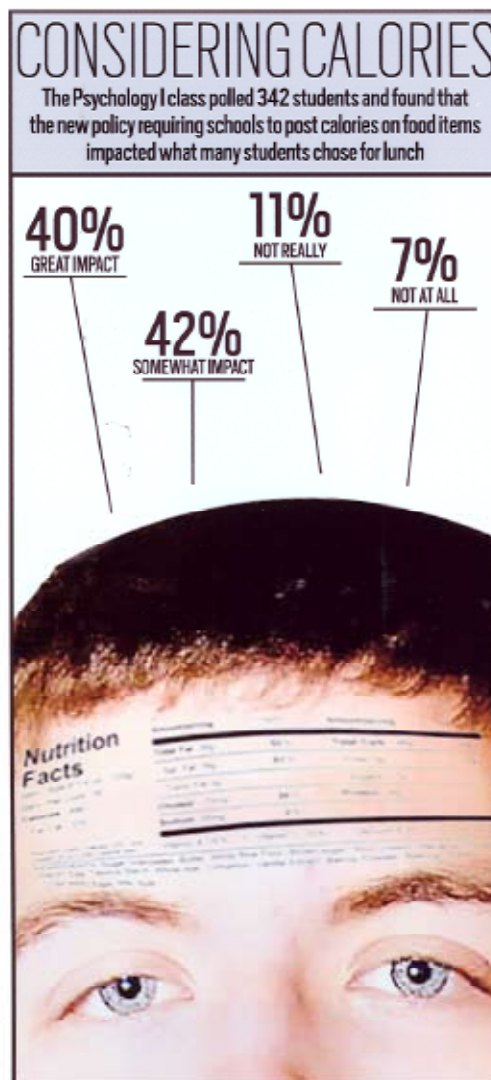
“This concert was the most fun of the whole concert season, and now it won’t be happening,” band member Tyler Morganstern said. “I’m sad to see another music tradition potentially go down the drain.”

Looking into plans for next year’s graduation, the senior concert may be able to find a spot on the schedule.

“Perhaps after a one-year furlough, we can try it again next year,” vocal music director, Carolyn Jones, said.

Stephen Nichols • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission East High School

Allison Kohn • 5A/6A • Blue Valley High School



# SIMPLY *Better* Feature Writing • Feature Photography

Maggie Mangas • 1A/2A • Onaga High School

Imagine being thrown 20 feet into the air and having only two 120-pound girls' interlocked arms to keep you from falling to the gym floor. Or maybe doing a complete 180-degree turn in mid-air after you've been tossed so-many-off feet into the air, with, once again, only the safety of two pair of arms to catch you. In this day and age, that's exactly what cheerleading requires.

No longer is cheerleading an activity where participants wear skirts, shout encouraging words and shake pom-poms to get the crowd pumped up about the big game going on behind them. It's considered by many a sport which requires those who participate to have a complex knowledge and skill of the stunts and routines that they perform. For some, however, the requirements may be becoming too much to handle.

"You didn't see a basket toss 15 to 20 years ago. Now every team from tiny northern Montana to the bayous of Louisiana is doing a basket toss," said cheer and dance director for the National Federation of State High School Associations, Susan Loomis.

Over the past 25 years, cheerleading has been the cause of two-thirds of sports-related deaths or serious injuries. Last year's rate for injuries in cheerleading was not far behind that of football—a

full-contact sport, in which the goal is to tackle the opponent. Since 1985, Sunflower High School has fallen victim to two such related injuries, including one where a girl fell from a three-person high pyramid and cracked her skull.

"I have been the sponsor here for more than 25 years," said SHS cheer and dance team sponsor, Jan McElwain. "Cheerleading has changed a great deal. I have seen two accidents that were quite freakish. We now require an adult to be present at every practice and performance."

The sport of cheerleading has greatly changed over the past 25 years. It has gone from mild-mannered chanting to stunts that compare to a Jackie Chan movie. Though the rules and regulations have also changed along with the sport, there may not truly ever be a way to protect everyone from the risks that go along with cheerleading.



**Junior Baylie Morris takes a risk** by sitting on the fence line to capture the perfect picture at the home tournament. Morris has been in photography for two years.

Kassidy Young • 1A/2A • Humboldt High School

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Feature Writing

Excellent lead--  
very visual.

Look for  
chances to  
break your  
paragraphs so  
they don't get  
too long.

Nice job creating  
visual images.

Watch your run-  
on sentences  
and style for  
quote attribution.

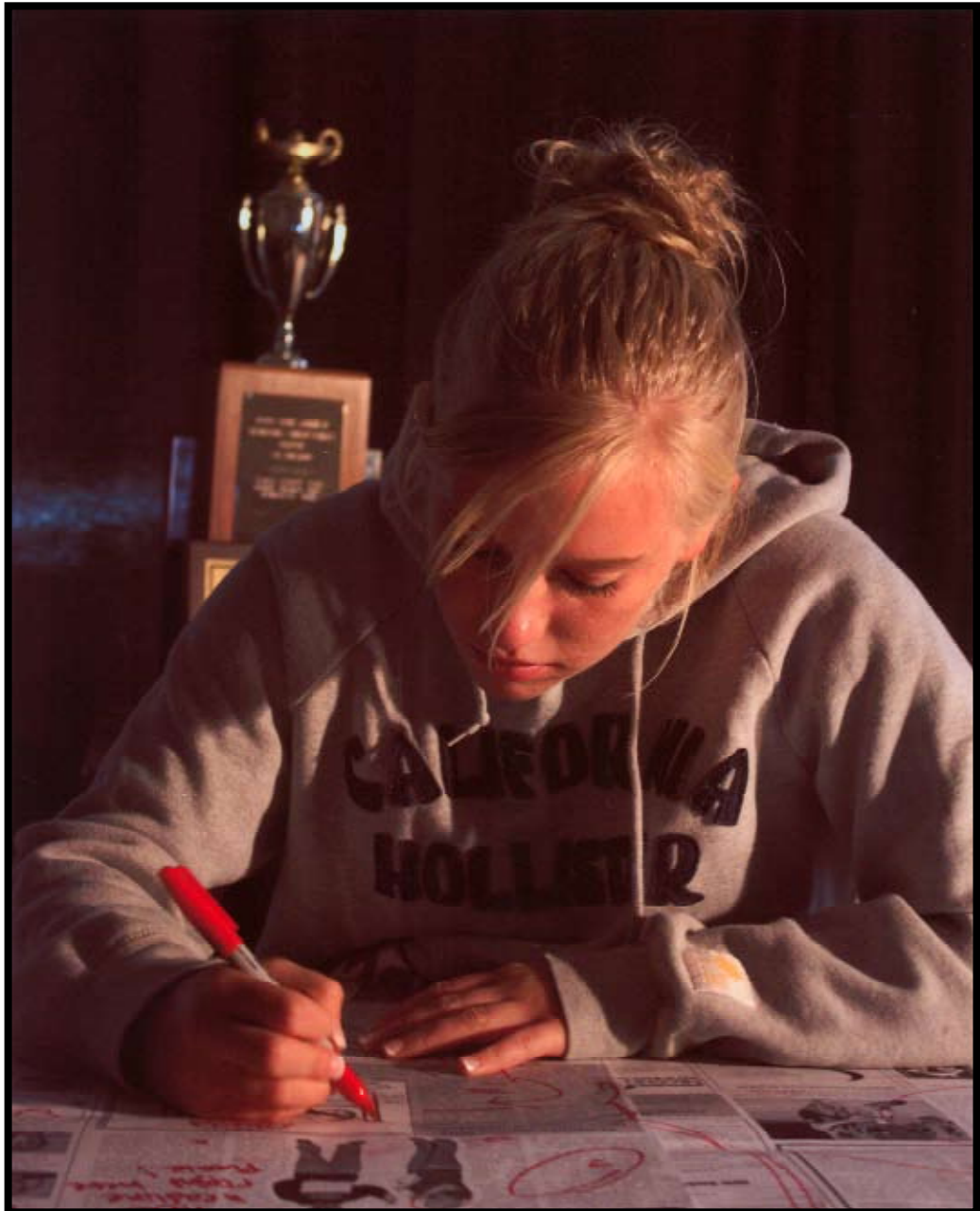
Feature  
Photography

Very nice lighting  
on the photo of  
the girl editing.

Nice clear  
photos.

Could have more  
unique angles.

Good points/  
centers of  
interest.



**Senior Bailey Myers stays** late after school to correct the final edits to the Cub Tracks newspaper. Myers has been involved in newspaper for three years. Myers also is the editor in chief of the newspaper.

# SIMPLY *Better* Feature Writing • Feature Photography

Kristin Wagner • 3A/4A • Phillipsburg High School



**Interviewing** one of the second-grade students for a news story, a journalism reporter carefully takes notes about the differences in second grade over the last 10 years.

## Feature Writing

Good lead.

## Feature Photography

Great picture of guy actually reporting with kids.

Very unique approach with camcorder.

Nice, clear pictures.

Good points/centers of interest.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

There are no timeouts, no quarters and no scores, but cheerleading is emerging as a reputable sport in some American high schools. However, all that spirit and sparkle comes with a dark side—injuries.

“I have been sponsor here for more than 25 years. Cheerleading has changed a great deal. I have seen two accidents that were quite freakish,” Mrs. Jan McElwain, Sunflower High cheer and dance team sponsor, said.

Those two “freakish accidents” at SHS resulted in a fractured skull in 1985 and a broken leg in 2007.

“We now require an adult sponsor to be present at every practice and performance,” McElwain said.

Beyond Sunflower High, cheerleading has accounted for two-thirds of all sports-related injuries or fatalities to high school girls in the past 25 years. Part of the reason for the high injury rate is the increasingly complex and dangerous stunts cheerleaders perform.

“You didn’t see a basket toss 15 to 20 years ago. Now every team from tiny northern Montana to the bayous of Louisiana does a basket toss,” Susan Loomis, a cheer and dance director for the National Federation of State High School Associations, said.

With every team performing stunts, the Federation and SHS are taking steps to help prevent injuries.

“We have initiated stiff regulations for our spirit squads. They are expected to take their practices as seriously as any other athletic teams,” McElwain said.

Even with stricter regulations, SHS varsity cheer captain Carolyn Hall said the team is able to excel.

“We work hard and practice five times a week to perfect our stunts. We have a national ranking and it’s only because of the effort we put forth as a squad,” Hall said.

Rankings aside, McElwain said it all comes down to one thing.

“Safety is our greatest consideration. We want our squads to be in the best shape possible and to avoid injury at all costs.”

Kristin Wagner • 3A/4A • Phillipsburg High School



**Journalism students record** their broadcasting production for state contest entry.

# SIMPLY *Better* Feature Writing • Feature Photography

Sarah Scraftford • 5A/6A • Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

**P**om poms: \$15. Matching hair accessories: \$32. Cheer uniforms \$57. The lives lost doing dangerous cheerleading stunts: priceless.

While most people would be able to correctly guess football when asked what sport accounts for the largest number of sports-related deaths or serious injuries, very few would probably answer cheerleading for the close, second-place finisher over the past 25 years. With two serious cheerleading injuries since 1985, including a fractured skull and a broken leg, Sunflower High School shares in some of the responsibility for such a high rank.

“Cheerleading has changed a great deal. I have seen two accidents that were quite freakish,” said Jan McElwain, cheer and dance team sponsor for over 25 years.

The change from the traditional chant leaders to the high-flying stuntwomen is responsible for the huge jump in injuries and deaths in the sport. Stunts like the basket and helicopter tosses often send the girls high into the air, leaving their risky landing up to their teammates standing 20 feet below.

“You didn’t see a basket toss 15 to 20

years ago. Now every team from tiny northern Montana to the bayous of Louisiana does a basket toss,” said Susan Loomis, cheer and dance director for the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Because of safety concerns dealing with the jumps, school coaches, including McElwain, are beginning to take the activity more seriously, treating cheerleading as an actual sport rather than a social activity.

“We have initiated stiff regulations for our spirit squads. They are expected to take their practices as seriously as any other athletic team,” McElwain said.

Even despite the many risks involved in the sport, though, there are still many girls who are willing to put their lives in the interlocked arms of their teammates, including varsity cheerleading captain Carolyn Hall, who takes great pride in the discipline required of her squad.

“We work hard and practice five times a week to perfect our stunts. We have a national ranking and it’s only because of the effort put forth as a squad.”

## Seniors Lauren Crawford and Nick Patykiewicz

do the senior lip sync at the prom assembly on April 23. The lip sync included many different acts that poked fun at other members of the senior class.



Hannah Williams • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Feature Writing

Love the lead!

Good focus on the local, but don't be afraid to put it in a larger context and include some of the national stats so we can see where SHS ranks.

Feature Photography

Angles could be a bit more unique—everyone sees from this point of view.

Photos are great as a package—action & reaction.

Way to capture emotion in the crowd.



**Seniors Evan Thomas and Nick Patykiewicz chant "seniors, seniors" in order to win the spirit stick at the prom assembly on April 23. The prom assembly is the last major gathering for the senior class.**

Hannah Williams • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

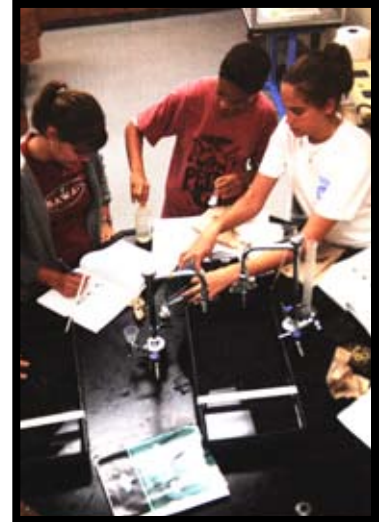
1. Lecture



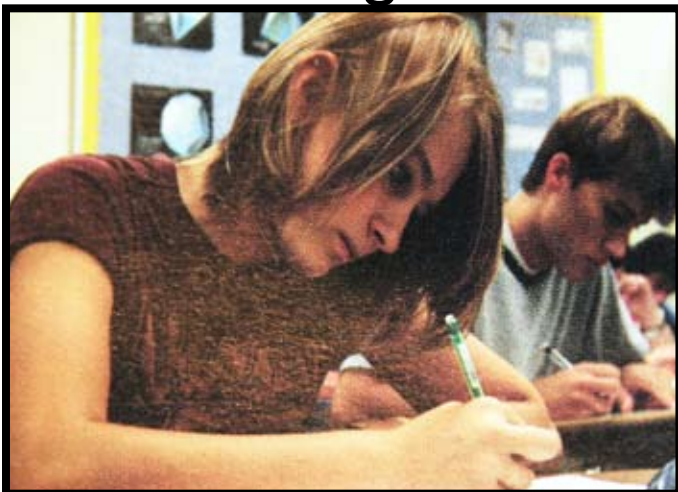
2. Testing



3. Preparation



4. Note Taking



5. Analysis



## Judge's *Comments*

### Cutline Writing

Good—complete and thorough cutlines.

“Testing” cutline is good.

Work on comma usage & quote attribution.

Very good grammatical variety.

Nice, effective quote use.

### Advertising

Your image brings the target audience right into the ad.

The layout is neat and clean.

Good job getting “10% off” big and prominent.

#### 1. Lecture

Sophomore Mike Holstead soaks in information during a lecture given by new teacher Mrs. Watkins during a Biology I class. “I just love teaching at Sunflower High. The kids are so receptive,” said Watkins.

#### 2. Testing

Future chemistry major Tyra Meyers, junior, checks pH levels during her chemistry class. “I love chemistry class—there’s just nothing like it. I just wish SHS had more advanced Science offerings,” Meyers said.

#### 3. Preparation

Juniors Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers and Jaimie Wallace prepare their area for their midterm experiment. While Meyer’s likes to check the pH balances, Day says, “My favorite part of the experiments is the recording of the results.”

#### 4. Note Taking

Last year’s SHS science award winner senior Leslie MacKenzie takes notes in physics class. “I like the challenge that science classes present,” said MacKenzie. MacKenzie plans to major in Astrophysics next year.

#### 5. Analysis

After a lab experiment in General Science, freshmen Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis and Frankie Thompson compile their findings from the experiment. “Having a lab for General Science makes the class just that more enjoyable,” said Joseph. This is the first year General Science had a lab requirement.

**Flowerland Florist**  
*"A touch of floral class"*  
**10% off**  
*with this coupon*  
**Prom 2009**  
 \*boutonnieres\*corsages\*wands\*hair pieces\*nosegays\*wrist corsages\*  
 1400 Center Street  
 Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Monday through Saturday  
 Closed Sunday  
 444-1000

Sarah Greub • 1A/2A • Troy High School

Allie Richard • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission North High School



### Advertising

Very well done!

Great design, excellent layout.

BRAVO!

### Cutline Writing

Remember to include essential 5 W's and H—don't assume your readers know.

Very good being objective.

Very good identifications.

YES—way to avoid being "cutsey".

Cutlines are too formulaic.

Good length.

Very nice quote usage.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Shelby Pulkrabek • 3A/4A • Cimarron Lake High School

- 1. LISTEN UP:** Sophomore Mike Holstead listens to a lecture by Mrs. Beth Watkins in his Biology I class. Watkins is new to Sunflower High School this year. "I just love teaching at Sunflower High," said Watkins. "The kids are so receptive."
- 2. TEST TUBE TIME:** Junior Tyra Meyers checks the pH levels for her lab in Chemistry. Meyers plans to major in chemistry in college. "I love chemistry class—there's just nothing like it," said Meyers. "I just wish SHS had more advanced science offerings."
- 3. PROJECT PREP:** Juniors Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers and Jaimie Wallace prepare their area for the midterm experiment. Group work is a viable part of all science classes. "My favorite part of the experiment is the recording of results," said Day.
- 4. MAKE SURE YOU WRITE THIS DOWN:** Senior Leslie MacKenzie takes notes for her physics class. MacKenzie won the SHS science award last year and plans to major in astrophysics next year in college. "Science is my favorite class," said MacKenzie. "I like the challenges that science classes present."
- 5. EXAMINE THAT:** Freshmen Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis and Frankie Thompson compile their findings as they work on a lab experiment in their General Science class. This is the first year General Science has had a lab requirement. "Having lab for General Science makes the class just that more enjoyable," said Joseph.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Cutline Writing

Be sure to include first names for teachers, principals, etc.

Thanks for writing neatly!

Advertising

Excellent layout, great copy.

Wrong choice of picture—prom is a happy moment, why are the girls in the picture so sad? Are they not happy with their flower arrangements?

This was a stunning ad except for the choice of picture!

Well done!

**1. Lecture**

While the new teacher, Mrs. Watkins, lectures, sophomore Mike Holstead listens. “Biology is tough. I really don’t care for science classes,” Holstead said.

**2. Testing**

Planning to major in chemistry in college, Tyra Meyers gets some practice checking pH levels. “I love chemistry class—there’s nothing like it. I just wish SHS had more advanced science offerings,” Meyers said.

**3. Preparation**

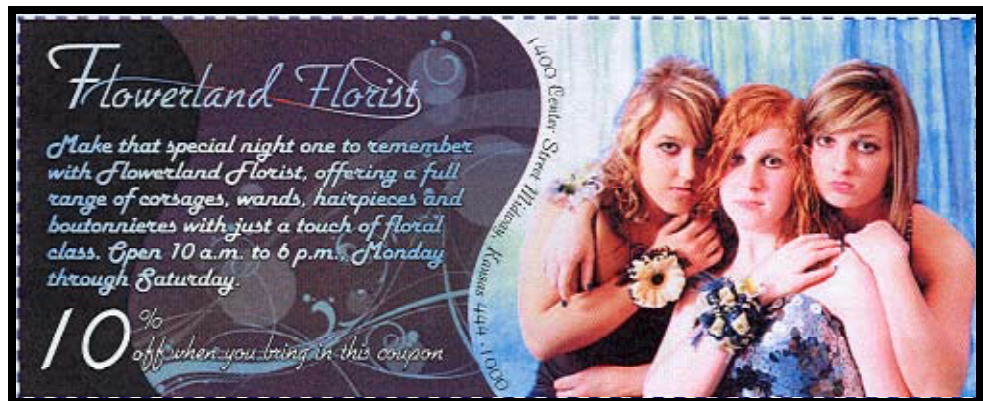
During science, Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers and Jamie Wallace practice group work. The three juniors prepared their area for the midterm experiment. “My favorite part of the experiment is the recording of results,” said Day.

**4. Note Taking**

Senior Leslie MacKenzie copies down notes in Physics. MacKenzie plans to major in Astrophysics next year and won the SHS science award last year. “I like the challenge that science classes present,” MacKenzie said.

**5. Analysis**

For the first time in General Science, Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis and Frankie Thompson compile their findings from a lab experiment. “The experiments are my favorite part of any science class,” Thompson said.



Jonathan Michaels • 3A/4A • Iola High School

# Please Don't Stop the Music

Grant Miller • 1A/2A • Claflin High School

The seniors at Sunflower High School are asking their administration to please don't stop the music.

The SHS administration has announced this week plans to cancel the annual senior concert. Reasons for doing so included student behavior issues and time concern.

Administrators claim that at last year's senior concert there were a number of students who left early. They are also concerned with the short amount of time there is between the concert and graduation. The senior concert was scheduled for Friday, May 15, one day before graduation. Both the concert and graduation take place in the SHS auditorium.

"Time became the key issue along with student behavior," said SHS Principal David Sanborn. "Watching more than half of the audience file out during the final song was truly an embarrassment for all of us."

Making the decision so close to the performance upset a number of people.

Vocal music director Dr. Carolyn Jones said, "I'm quite upset that this decision came up at last minute. The concerns the administration has now could have been dealt with in September."

Frankly, this issue should have been resolved sooner. At least before the band, orchestra and choir had started practicing.

The best solution would have been to simply reschedule. Why cancel it all together when there could possibly be a much better date?

By cancelling the senior concert, they broke a 25-year tradition. Now these seniors are the only ones not to enjoy their own concert because of bad planning and for what students did last year.

It is one thing to stop the music, but one should never end a tradition.

## Editorial Writing

Nicely done.

You make a simple—yet profound—point: change the date!

Great!!

## Editorial Cartoon

Nice use of a kitchen sink.

Creative and easy to understand.

The opinion of the cartoon is to the point.

The figures are well-developed.

Good job.

Well thought-out.



Laura Stuenkel • 1A/2A • Linn High School

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Editorial  
Cartoon

Nice drawing style.

You make it easy to read and to understand.

Line quality is good (nice and clean).

Good job in illustrating an opinion on the matter.

Editorial Writing

Agreement errors.

Excellent lead!

Excellent refutations!

Well-done in virtually every aspect--thought the "detention" ending distracts--a bit "too cute".

Evan Willford • 3A/4A • Andover High School



If walking out in the final stages of something is reprehensible to the administration, why are they doing the exact same thing?

This week, the administration decided to cancel the senior concert while it was in its final stages of production. Its main concerns were students walking out of the performance last year and poor planning.

“We will be canceling the senior concert this year because of student behavior issues and because of the time concerns,” Principal David Sanborn said.

Another poor planning decision that happened recently was the decision to cancel the twenty-five year tradition weeks before the performance. Hours of tireless work has been poured into this production.

Yes, students and staff started planning too late, but it's the administration's job to step in and end all the drama. Instead, the administration let 2 months of work go to waste before taking action, something they knew they would have to do.

Last year's students presented a horrific display of character when they walked out of the concert during the final song. The students do deserve punishment for their foolish behavior.

But waiting almost a year to deliver the punishment is another strike for the administration. The tardiness of the punishment will make it lose its intended effect and instead create frustration toward the administration.

It is undeniable that it is the student's fault in the loss of their privilege. Their actions were embarrassing, and their time frame was too narrow.

However, it was the administration who handled the situation incorrectly. Their late decisions and the fact that they walked out at the last minute makes them no better than the students they are punishing.

The administration needs to learn from this and become more swift and decisive so problems like this don't occur in the future. Principal Sanborn deserves detention for his tardiness in dealing with the senior concert.

Aaron Schneider • 3A/4A • Andover High School

Jordan Priddle • 5A/6A • Manhattan High School

We, the Standard Staff, regret to inform you that the senior concert, a 25-year tradition at Sunflower High School, has been cancelled. Administration has reasoned that due to time commitment and student behavior, the event was not worth the effort. We at the Standard believe that too much practice has been put forth by our fellow students to see this concert abandoned.

Time commitment, one of the reasons given for the cancellation, is one of the reasons we believe it should stay. Our music teachers began planning this extravagant concert in early March. Ever since then, the musicians have been rehearsing. The time the teachers put into organizing and the students'

preparation should not be wasted.

The other explanation we received was student behavior. The complaint was that SHS students began leaving last year's concert during a song, showing disrespect not only to the musicians, but those who worked diligently to put it together. Fellow Sailors, we have only ourselves to blame for this. As an audience, we must exhibit concert etiquette for those who are performing.

Between studying for finals and preparing for graduation, seniors have a lot on their plate. This is their last year at Sunflower High and their last year to be one of the proud SHS musicians. We should give them one last chance to show us their talent.



Thomas Richmond • 5A/6A • Mill Valley High School

Editorial Writing

Fantastic approach!

Not supposed to write as the board, but it's working for me.

Great lead & close.

Editorial Cartoon

Nice use of symbols.

Opinion is easily noticed.

I like the use of a hand to represent the SHS administration.

Very creative.

You have a unique drawing style.

Great job!

**Judge's**  
*Comments*







Michaela Diercks • 1A/2A • Minneapolis High School

Superintendent Hollis Limprecht gave approval for Sunflower High School to change their athletic conferences. This motion will become effective beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Presently, SHS athletics are members of the Range League which consists of 2A and 3A schools. SHS has been a member for seventeen years and have won 22 state trophies in athletic competition.

“Sunflower has fielded teams superior to the other Range League members. We just have faster and stronger athletes than the other conference members,” said Faculty Representative for the Range Conference, Cal Jonas.

SHS plans to join the Mockingbird conference that will be composed of twelve schools in two divisions based on enrollment.

“It’s time for a conference change. The new Mockingbird conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run,” said Superintendent Hollis Limprecht.

Sunflower High School has an enrollment size of 950. The other schools in this conference range in size from 658-1,100 which is an average of 879 students per school in the league.

The divisions will be determined by enrollment classification.

If the new conference were to begin next fall, the Large School enrollment league would be composed of Davidson High, Central High, Marietta West High, Columbus High, St. Albans High and Cornerdale High. The Small School classification schools would be Sunflower High, West Bank High, St. Charles High, St. Aloysius High, Carlton High and Smithville High.

“It will be fun to face new competition. The Mockingbird league will no doubt become one of the most superior conferences in the state,” said Hal Davis, athletic director.

This approval is to be voted on Monday night by the School Board at its monthly meeting. Cal Robeson, Board president, said he thought the board would give its approval.



**Senior Callie Umholtz** watches her team at bat the final game of her senior year, the Lady Cubs were down to the Cats 4-1.

Megan Dillow • 1A/2A • Humboldt High School

# Newspaper Sports Writing · Sports Photography

**SIMPLY**  
*Better*

## Judge's *Comments*

### Newspaper Sports Writing

Very nicely  
done.

Good lead--good  
to get "2012-  
2013" into the  
lead.

Grammar, etc:  
well done.

Good  
information.

Short and sweet.

### Sports Photography

Great package  
with same  
player.

Bench photo  
captures a great  
moment with her  
focus and hand  
on ball.

Good solid  
action shot as  
well.

Very good!!



**Senior Callie Umholtz** throws the ball to get the last out at the end of the 10th inning beating the Lady Mustangs 2-1.

Megan Dillow · 1A/2A · Humboldt High School

Lauren Chesner • 3A/4A • Columbus Unified High School



**After making** it to third base, Ashley Rush celebrates by doing a toe touch.

Newspaper  
Sports Writing

Good sourcing.

First sentence  
isn't necessary.  
The rest is good.

Yes, solid  
grammar.

Short but sweet.

You could have  
mentioned the  
gas mileage  
issue.

Sports  
Photography

Great job  
capturing toe  
touch moment.

Good focus and  
composition.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

# Newspaper Sports Writing • Sports Photography

**SIMPLY**  
*Better*

Time for Sunflower High School to say goodbye to the Range League. Sunflower High, a member of the Range League for 17 years, will join the Mockingbird Conference for the 2012-2013 academic year. Superintendent Hollis Limprecht gave approval for Sunflower High to change athletic conferences, so the approval will be voted on Monday night by the school board.

Limprecht said, “It’s time for a conference change. The new Mockingbird Conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run.”

Range League schools are all 2A to 3A while Sunflower High has moved into the 4A enrollment classification. Sunflower High has

dominated the Range League and has won 22 state trophies in athletic competition.

Limprecht said, “Although the Mockingbird is solely an athletic conference, we hope to expand it into drama, music and debate.”

The Mockingbird Conference will be composed of 12 schools in two divisions based on enrollment. The two divisions will be the Large School enrollment league and the Small School enrollment league. Because Sunflower High’s enrollment is 950, it will fall into Small School enrollment league.

Hal Davis, athletic director, said, “this change in conferences is just what we need. We have typically played the schools in our division as non-conference opponents.”

Jessica Stodler • 3A/4A • Silver Lake High School



**A titan player connects** with the ball during a JV softball game.

Lauren Chesner • 3A/4A • Columbus Unified High School

After 17 years of domination in the Range League as well as success on the state level in the form of 22 state titles, the Sailors of Sunflower High are looking for change. Sunflower will be joining the new 12 school Mockingbird Conference during the 2012-2013 academic year.

“This change in conferences is just what we needed,” said Sunflower athletic director Hal Davis. “We have typically played the schools in our division as non-conference opponents.”

The Range League consists of 2A and 3A schools while the Sailors moved into the 4A enrollment classification with their 950 students.

“It will be fun to face new competition. The Mockingbird League will no doubt become one of the most superior conferences in the state,” said Davis.

This new conference will be evenly divided into two divisions based on enrollment. If the league were to begin competition this fall, the large school division would include Davidson, Central, Marietta West, Columbus, St. Albans and Cornerdale Highs. The small school division would be composed of

Sunflower, West Band, St. Charles, St. Alogisius, Carlton and Smithville Highs. Overall, this move will benefit the teams in competition by making it more challenging but will also save the schools money.

“This will work well for all of us and cut down our travel expenses,” said Sunflower principal Carolyn Forseberg.

Forseberg estimated that the Sailors traveled an average distance of 67 miles per contest with the Range League. With the Mockingbird League, they will average a distance of 52 miles per contest.

Superintendent Hollis Limprecht has given his approval for Sunflower to change athletic conferences. In order for the change to occur, this approval is to be voted on Monday night by the School Board at its monthly meeting. All signs seem to point to a successful transfer of power from the Range league to the Mockingbird Conference.

“It’s time for a conference change. The new Mockingbird Conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run,” said Limprecht.

**Junior Tyler Clark aims** for the ball during a tennis match against an Olathe North player on Tuesday, April 7. Clark won his match, 8-7.



**Kari Sparrman • 5A/6A • Mill Valley High School**

# Newspaper Sports Writing · Sports Photography

**SIMPLY**  
*Better*

## Judge's *Comments*

### Newspaper Sports Writing

Very well done.

Good job getting  
important  
information at  
the top.

Good use of  
quotes.

Good transitions.

### Sports Photography

Very strong  
package.

Contrast/toner is  
good, and the  
focus is spot on.

Great  
composition in  
the action shot,  
also conveys  
great emotion.

Well connected  
images.

Very nice work!



**Junior Tyler Clark changes** his score card in between sets during a match against an Olathe North player on Tuesday, April 7.

Kari Sparrman · 5A/6A · Mill Valley High School

Elaina Broughman · 1A/2A · Onaga High School

Are cell phones too much of a distraction for teenage drivers? Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed legislation that restricts the use of cell phones by teenage drivers ages 16 ½ and under.

“It’s dangerous having cell phones going off in an automobile. The driver should only focus on driving—not ringing cell phones,” said Sebelius.

Taking effect on January 1, 2010, the new law banned anyone with learner’s permits, farm permits or restricted licenses from operating cell phones, text messaging devices, audio-video players or laptop computers while driving. Drivers will be allowed to use cell phones to report illegal activities or summon emergency assistance.

The legislation raised the minimum age for getting an unrestricted driver’s license from age 16 to 17. Under this law, a 16-year-old with a restricted license could drive unsupervised from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. provided the young motorist had 50 hours of adult supervised driving. After six months, the curfew on driving was dropped as was the ban on cell phones. The state retained its current policy of allowing 15-year-olds with restricted licenses to drive unsupervised to and from school and work.

This is the first step the state had taken toward restricting cell phone use by drivers. Efforts to enact a ban on drivers using hand-held cell phones in Kansas has been tried several times without success.

Yearbook  
Copy Writing

Generally well written.

Watch use of passive voice.

Excellent story organization.

Yearbook  
Layout

Excellent use of grid photos.

Grouping photos creates dominant element.

Type style works!

Great!



Elizabeth Gienger · 1A/2A · St. Francis Community High School

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

# Yearbook Copy Writing · Yearbook Layout

**SIMPLY**  
*Better*

## Judge's Comments

### Yearbook Copy Writing

I really liked this story.

Good organization.

Good use of quotes.

### Yearbook Layout

Green bar on right not really necessary.

While graphics could be overwhelming, the design is so clean that it works well!

Very nice font size and choices.

Be careful about black text over dark green.

Nice work!

Great flow on page.

Madison Mater · 3A/4A · Eudora High School



Starting next year, “sweet 16’s” may not be as sweet. Stemming from a legislation Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed this year, Kansas teens will not only have to wait until their 17th birthday before getting an unrestricted license, but will also be prohibited from using cell phones with a learner’s, farmer’s or restricted license.

“It’s dangerous having cell phones going off in an automobile. The driver should only focus on driving—not ringing phones,” Sebelius said.

The law, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2010, will prohibit drivers from calling or texting while driving until they are at least 16 ½. The law will not, however, apply to calls about illegal activities or for emergency assistance.

Driver’s education teacher Mr. Michael Davis feels that cell phone usage while driving, except for in emergencies, is a danger for young drivers.

“I don’t think there’s any

question that having a driver distracted by a ringing phone, answering the phone or delivering a message is dangerous for all concerned,” Davis said.

In trying to reduce those distractions, Kansas joins 19 other states with cell phone restrictions. Sebelius plans to use the pioneer states as models.

“Officials will examine data from other states where cell phones are banned,” Sebelius said.

Data from the Kansas Department of Transportation shows that 350 drivers were involved in motor vehicle accidents involving cell phones. Of those, 32 percent were drivers between the ages of 14 and 19.

While there are many statistics about young drivers and cell phones, Sebelius sums up the situation.

“Lots of young drivers lack the skills to be behind the wheel. [A car is] a dangerous instrument.”

Jena Sauber · 3A/4A · Southeast of Saline High School

Alice Schroeder · 5A/6A · Shawnee Mission West High School

**Baby you can drive my car...  
but not 'til you are 17**

Turning 16 was not so sweet anymore for Kansas teenagers. Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed legislation that placed restrictions on the driving age, immobilizing anxious teenagers counting down the days until their 16th birthday.

The legislation raised the minimum age for obtaining an unrestricted driver's license from 16 to 17 and also banned the use of cellular devices for all teens under the age of 16 ½ while driving.

"It's dangerous having cell phones going off in an automobile. The driver should only focus on driving—not ringing phones," Sebelius said.

Angry teenagers could refer to the Kansas Department of Transportation's statistics that showed that 350 drivers were involved in vehicle accidents while using a cellular device, 35 percent of them being between the ages of 14 and 19.

"I don't think there's any question that having a driver distracted by a ringing phone, answering the phone, or delivering a message is dangerous for all concerned," Michael Davis, Driver Education Instructor, said.

Fortunately for the eager teens, the legislation did not hamper their ability to drive with a learner's permit and an adult upon their 14th birthday. It also gave 16-year-olds the freedom to drive with a restricted license anywhere they please, within the confines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., provided that they had 50-hours of adult supervised driving under their belt.

Although the legislation made teenagers across the state groan in unison, the legislation was in their best interest.

"Lots of young drivers lack the skills to be behind the wheel," Sebelius said. "[a car] is a dangerous instrument."



Drue Davis · 5A/6A · Free State High School

Yearbook  
Copy Writing

Note minor edits, but very clever.

Good.

You've had the parents' records out—well done.

Yearbook  
Layout

Nice, but fine-tune lines.

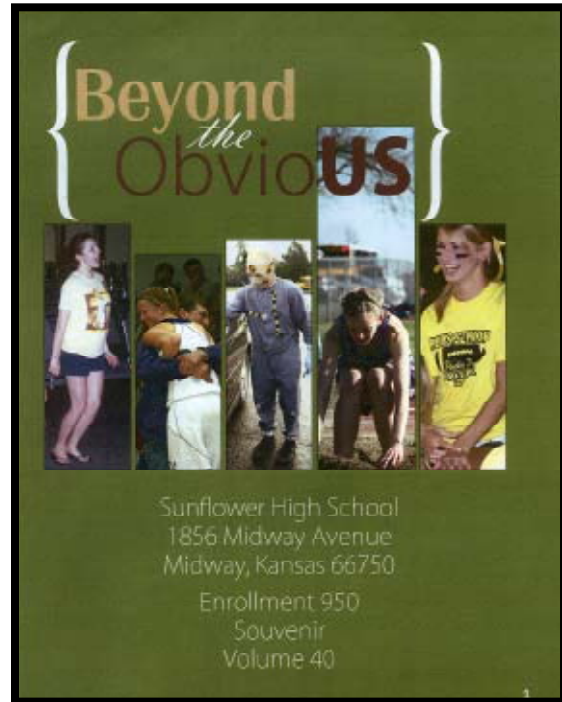
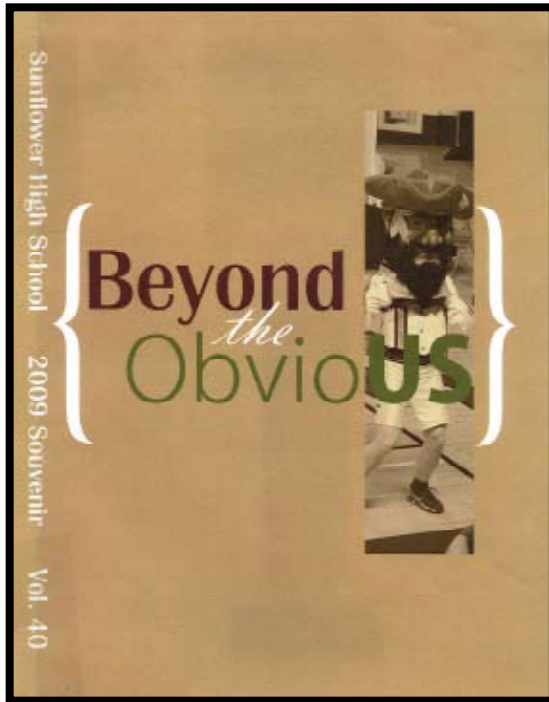
Caption for main photo?

Mostly very effective spread.

Good flow through photos, dominant element.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Emily Stallbaumer & Katie Kramer · 1A/2A · Nemaha Valley High School



**Judge's**  
*Comments*

Package has dominance.

Spinoffs & colors are great.





When Sunflower High School faces Middleton High School in any sporting event, the stakes always seemed to be just a little bit higher. The two schools are just 18 miles apart, and had been engaged in an ongoing rivalry since 1946. The similarities between the two schools' student make-up seemed to make the rivalry more intense.

"I think we're a lot alike and that's what makes us rivals," said sophomore Carol Collins.

In 1951, the two schools began a tradition that continues today. The victory bell goes to the school with the most victories over the other in football, basketball and baseball. In 1979, the victory bell was expanded to include the womens' sports of volleyball and basketball.

In recent years, however, SHS had begun to have a bit of a monopoly on the victory bell, having held it for the past six years in a row.

The mutual resentment between the two schools finally boiled over after this year's football game, which SHS won 42-7.

Four Middleton students were responsible for spray painting obscene language on the SHS gymnasium walls and burning "MHS rules" in the

Sunflower football field.

School officials were upset to see the rivalry escalate to such a level.

"I don't mind a rivalry, but when the damage reaches \$8,000—that's just too much," said SHS principal Mark Blaine. "We need to make sure our students work to create and to sustain a healthy rivalry."

Sunflower High's dominance over Middleton in recent years could partially be attributed to Middleton's dwindling enrollment, which had fallen to 657. MHS had dropped to 3A classification, while SHS, with an enrollment of 950, remained a 4A school.

"I think we have won seven of the last nine games against Middleton," said basketball coach Tom Harper. "The enrollment difference is starting to take effect."

Whatever the reason, SHS students just didn't see eye to eye with their MHS rivals, whom they considered snobs, and it seems likely that the rivalry would continue for the foreseeable future.

As freshman Mark Mangelson put it, "Middleton is the school we love to hate."

### 1A/2A

Good job!

Great lead.

My only suggestion is to watch how you do quote attribution and verb agreement.

### 3A/4A

A few awkward moments, nothing big.

Great, great, great!

You didn't merely regurgitate information, you explained things.

Good piece.

### 5A/6A

Good lead.

Great, interesting piece.

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

The damage has been done, but the rivalry continues. Even enrollment difference and 18 miles can't stop this rivalry from heating up, and this year was no exception. In front of a standing room only crowd of 2,700 pumped up fans, the Sailors smoked their rivals from Middleton 42-7.

"Middleton is the school we love to hate," said freshman, Mark Mangelsen.

With this win SHS has for the sixth time in a row brought home the victory bell. The victory bell goes to the school that has won the most in football, basketball and baseball.

This year's victories were great for one school, however, for the other school it was just enough to put them over the edge. Following the victory in football the MHS students took matters into their own hands and caused \$8,000 of damage to the SHS building by was of spray paint vandalism.

"I don't mind a rivalry, but when the damage

reaches \$8,000, that's just too much."

The vandals painted obscene language on the walls of the building, and also burned "MHS Rules" onto the SHS football field. Four MHS students have been caught and are responsible for the spray painting. The rivalry will continue as long as the schools meet on the playing fields. How long the schools will keep playing is also going to be a rising issue because of the changing enrollments.

"I think we have won seven of the last nine games against Middleton. The enrollment difference is starting to take effect," said basketball coach Tom Harper.

However, most people would like to see this rivalry stay alive because of the intense competition.

"Whenever SHS and MHS compete, there's bound to be tough competition. Middleton always fields a tough squad," said football coach Mark Maralis.

Spray paint. Matches. Victory bell. All are relatively cheap items, but when put together and paired with a long-term high school rivalry, the results were costly.

Middleton High School and Sunflower High School have butted heads since 1946, but it wasn't until 5 years later that they established the 'victory bell.' The school in possession of the victory bell reigned supreme overall in the sports of football, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Over the past six years SHS has had the victory bell, but football coach Mark Maralis still felt the game would be worth watching this year.

"Whenever SHS and MHS compete, there's bound to be a tough competition. Middleton always fields a tough squad," he said.

The game was the least of their worries. The

standing-room only crowd topped out at 2,700 people and although the game itself was a blowout, SHS crushing Middleton 42-7, the big surprise came when four MHS students were caught spray painting obscene language on the gymnasium walls of Sunflower High. MHS students were also a cause of commotion on the football field after the game when they openly burned their school rules. These two public displays of the rivalry placed a financial burden on the competing schools.

"I don't mind a rivalry, but when the damage reaches \$8,000—that's just too much," principal Mark Blaine said, "we need to make sure our students work to create and sustain a healthy rivalry."

While they may only be 18 miles apart, the rivalry will continue to separate SHS and MHS as long as they are in competition.

**WINNERS IN**  
*Editing*

Alexis Hosack • 1A/2A • Humboldt High School

Katie Gilbert • 3A/4A • Rose Hill High School

Rhiannon Schamhorst • 5A/6A • Maize High School

1A/2A

Great job on catching the small details.

I like the way you gave new ideas and suggestions.

Watch out for too much change.

3A/4A

A few problems, but nice job overall.

5A/6A

Wonderful job!

Caught almost everything!

**Judge's**  
*Comments*

**WINNERS IN**  
*Broadcasting*

Andrea Holzworth, Cara Hunt & Taryn Richard

• 1A/2A •

St. Francis Community High School

Hannah Hansen & Natalie Glotzbach

• 3A/4A •

Silver Lake High School

Brianna Winn, Katie Hollis & Kyndra Zeigler

• 5A/6A •

Mill Valley High School

# Sweepstakes *Winners*

## 1A

- 1st • Troy High School
- 2nd • Haviland High School
- 3rd • Claflin High School

## 2A

- 1st • Humboldt High School
- 2nd • Onaga High School
- 3rd • Chase County High School

## 3A

- 1st • Phillipsburg High School
- 2nd • Silver Lake High School
- 3rd • Southeast of Saline High School

## 4A

- 1st • Andover High School
- 2nd • Piper High School
- 3rd • Chapman High School

## 5A

- 1st • Mill Valley High School
- 2nd • Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
- 3rd • Hays High School

## 6A

- 1st • Shawnee Mission East High School
- 2nd • Shawnee Mission Northwest
- 3rd • Blue Valley High School



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