

# SIMPLY *Better*

November 2011 • Vol. 18 • Kansas Scholastic Press Association





# KSPA 2011 State Contest Winner

## School Index

- Andover** • 11, 17, 30, 37
- Bishop Carroll** • 24
- Blue Valley** • 27, 37
- Bonner** • 13, 20, 35, 37
- Burrton** • 15, 37
- Caney Valley** • 7, 26, 37
- Canton-Galva** • 3, 31, 37
- Chanute** • 4, 10, 37
- Chase County** • 3, 28, 37
- Cimarron** • 15
- Clafin** • 22, 37
- Ellsworth** • 29, 32, 37
- Girard** • 4, 16
- Hays** • 24
- Holton** • 7
- Humboldt** • 6, 9, 25, 34, 37
- Independent** • 23, 37
- Kiowa County** • 9, 25
- Lawrence** • 27
- Louisburg** • 10, 13
- Mill Valley** • 37
- Olathe South** • 14, 37
- Onaga** • 15
- Ottawa** • 23
- Phillipsburg** • 37
- Piper** • 16, 26, 37
- Salina Central** • 14, 36
- St. Francis** • 19, 37
- Shawnee Mission**
  - East • 8, 17, 21, 33, 37
  - North • 5, 37
- Silver Lake** • 37
- Troy** • 12, 22
- Western Plains** • 6, 37
- Wichita East** • 5, 8, 11, 37
- Yates Center** • 37

The Kansas Scholastic Press Association held its 40th annual State Contest on May 7, 2011 where approximately 1,275 entries were received from 100 schools throughout the state.

Of those entries, students receiving first place awards earned the honor of having their work published in this 18th issue of SIMPLY BETTER.

Students qualified for the KSPA State Contest by placing at regional contests across the state.

The contest offered 20 categories in journalism and judges' comments are published with each entry.



## Contest Index

- Academics Photo** • 6-8
- Advertising** • 12-14
- Cutline Writing** • 18-21
- Editing** • 37
- Editorial Cartoon** • 15-17
- Editorial Writing** • 15-17
- Feature Writing** • 6-8
- Headline Writing** • 12-14
- Infographics** • 3-5
- News Page Design** • 28-30
- Newspaper Sports** • 9-11
- News Writing** • 3-5
- Photo Illustration** • 25-27
- Sports Photo** • 9-11
- Student Life Photo** • 22-24
- Sweepstakes Results** • 37
- Theme & Graphics** • 34-36
- Video News Package** • 37
- Yearbook Copy** • 22-24
- Yearbook Layout** • 31-33
- Yearbook Sports** • 25-27

# News Writing & Infographics

Last Saturday, the Board voted to make some drastic changes to this year's summer school program. By reducing student numbers and hours spent in the classroom, Ad Astra plans to save around \$300,000.

"Keeping high school students on track to graduate is our priority," said Martin Medeski-Wood, school board president, "but there's only so much we can do with so little money."

Only juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to enroll in the summer school program. The first 100 students will take one course at JBHS over the course of 24 days.

"Some freshmen and sophomores may lose out on classes, but we can't predict how many," said Medeski-Wood.

In another effort to save money, no regular classroom teachers will

teach during the summer. Instead, administrators, who are paid year-round, will run the classes.

"To be quite honest, I haven't taught a class in 12 years. I taught computer science, but I haven't kept up with the latest technological advances since I became an administrator," said EmmyLou Harris, Ad Astra High School principal. "I'm going to have to study really hard the next month to get ready to teach comp sci again this summer."

With all of these changes, the board estimates that only \$148,000 will be spent on summer school this year.

"It is often difficult to predict which students will find themselves a class or two behind at the end of their senior year and summer school is an important opportunity," said Harris.

Jacey Cantrell • 1A/2A • Canton-Galva HS

## Judge's Comments

### News Writing

Watch out for saying "only" \$148,000.

Overall \$8 million budget cut is important.

### Infographics

The icons are great and help by showing a connection.

Nice choice of facts.

Clear and readable.

I like that it feels like Facebook without the cliches of a profile.

The quality of your images are nice as well.

Myranda Bower • 1A/2A • Chase County HS





# News Writing & Infographics

## Judge's Comments

### News Writing

Pay attention to quotes and "approximately"

### Infographics

Good job of including all the important info.

The facts could be separated better and the design layout could be more creative.

Interesting ways of displaying the numbers.

Good mix of graphs, icons, text, etc.

Overall, good job of finding creative ways to present the info.

The information could be better organized into a story format.

Ashlee Hisey • 3A/4A • Girard HS

The USD 999 Board of Education voted last Saturday to cut back summer school offerings, a decision that will save the district approximately \$300,000.

Due to funding shortfalls of \$8 million, AAHS will limit classes to juniors and seniors who are one or two classes short of meeting graduation requirements. Each student may only take one course and only the first 100 who register will be admitted.

Instead of hiring summer teachers for both AAHS and JBHS, administrators who have 12-month contracts will teach classes at John Brown High School.

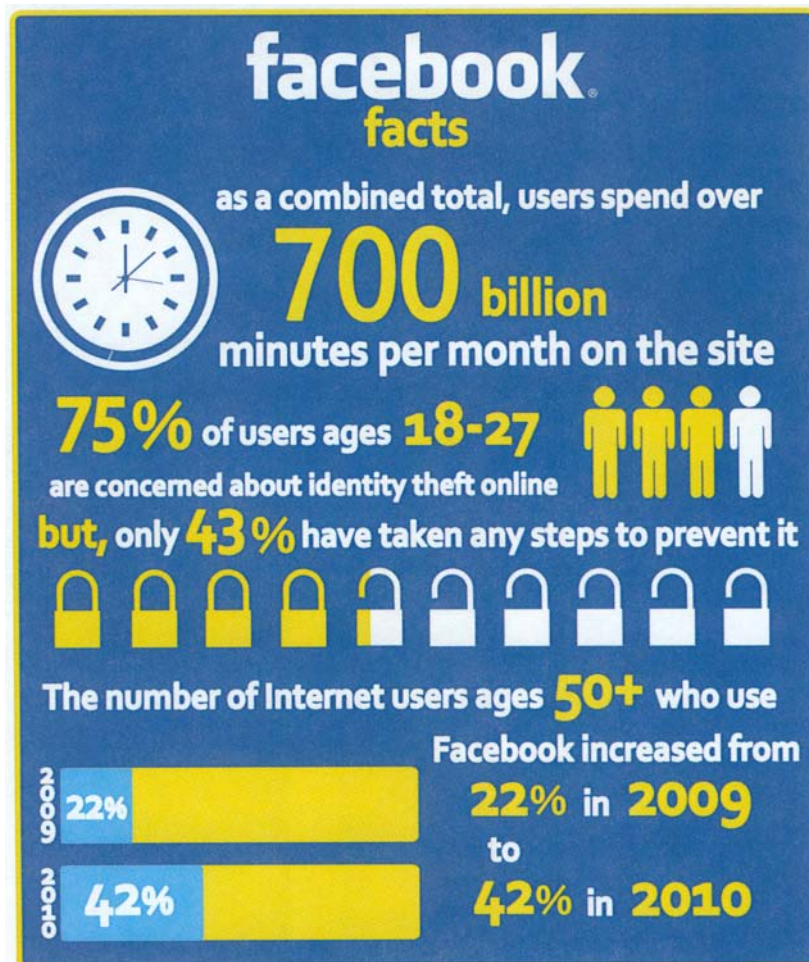
The Board estimated that the district budget for summer school will be close to \$148,000 with \$128,000

coming from a federal migrant student grant.

Regarding the budget cuts, school board president Martin Medeski-Wood said, "Keeping high school students on track to graduate is our priority, but there's only so much we can do with so little money."

Principal Emmylou Harris responded to the event by saying, "Summers have been important in keeping at-risk students learning through the summer and not dropping back in their progress."

"...Summer school is an important opportunity. If we can't find more money to fund summer school, I think it's important that we look even more closely at how we structure school within the traditional year."



Jessica Tucker • 3A/4A • Chanute HS

# News Writing & Infographics

**A**t a special USD 999 Board of Education meeting May 7, members voted 8-1 to cut back on summer school offerings for the summer of 2011. These cuts are expected to save \$300,000.

“Keeping high school students on track to graduate is our priority,” Martin Medeski-Wood, school board president, said. “But there’s only so much we can do with so little money.”

The district expects funding shortfalls of \$8 million for the 2011-12 school year, and is hopeful that these cuts will assist in the budget shortfall by lowering the cost of summer school from \$500,000 to \$148,000.

However, Anita O’Day, school

board member, believes these cuts should come from elsewhere. She alone voted against the proposal.

“I’m ashamed of my eight colleagues on the board,” O’day said. “They are taking opportunities away from struggling students imply because they think we don’t have the money.”

These lost opportunities include limitations on the quantity of courses offered. Only the first 100 juniors or seniors can participate in each program, and are limited to only one course.

These programs, taught only at John Brown, will also take cuts to quality. Instead of teachers instructing the classes, administrators will take over to decrease supplemental pay.

“To be quite honest, I haven’t taught a class in 12 years,” EmmyLou Harris, principal said. “I’m going to have to study really hard the next month.”

Many are questioning these summer school cuts and its effect on students. Many, like O’Day worry that it will detract from necessary opportunities for students.

“This is where parents need to take responsibility and control because schools can’t afford to provide unlimited opportunities,” Medeski-Wood said.

Lauren Graber • 5A/6A • Wichita HS East

## Judge’s Comments

News Writing

No comments.

Infographics

Very nice headline and intro sentence.

Good job of organizing facts into a story.

Very nice visual interest! Good combination of text, colors, graphs, icons, numbers, etc.

Great uniform design. Easy to follow, interesting and creative.

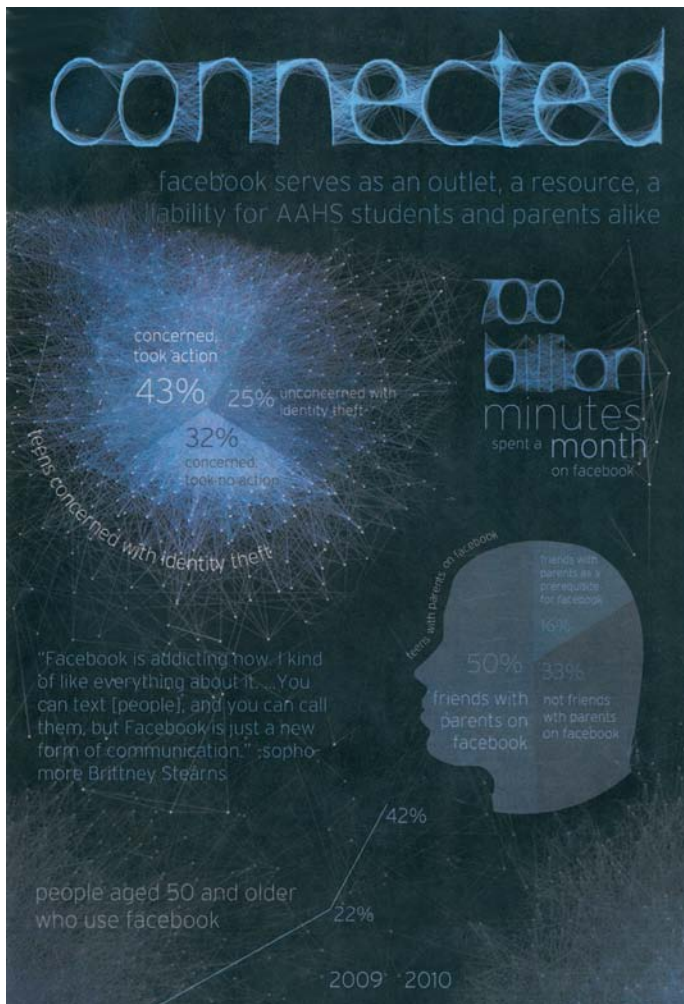
Unique graphics.

The percentages are misleading. Not all of the percentages in the article go together--some overlap.

Really well done!

Unique, interesting, creative and visually appealing.

Alexis Reid • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission North HS





# Feature Writing & Academics Photography

## Judge's Comments

### Feature Writing

Good flow.

### Academics Photo

Nice use of blur to show  
action and highlight the  
stillness of the artist.

Good  
composition!

Dakota Foons • 1A/2A • Western Plains HS

Open the candy. Save the wrapper. Prom dress on the way. Senior June Freiburg of Ad Astra High School is attending prom this year like any ordinary teenager does, but her attire for the prom is anything but ordinary.

Freiburg's mother, Denise Freiburg, has an interesting hobby of making things out of candy wrappers. She started out making hats for her husband's softball team using beer cans, but once she had kids, she began making welcome mats using gum wrappers.

Denise began using Starburst wrappers six years ago. She thought it would be a fun project to make her daughter a prom dress, even though she was only 12 at the time.

"Some mothers knit, some yell at their kids at soccer matches. I like to make clothes from candy wrappers. Is that so

wrong?" Denise Freiburg said.

Denise tried and failed five times to make June's prom dress and finally succeeded this year. She also made June a purse and shoes and a vest for her prom date, senior Bobby Morton.

"The colors make a pretty dress. I like my vest too," said Morton.

Denise used the wrappers of over 24 different flavors of Starburst to make June's unique dress.

"I have never counted how many thousands of Starburst that went into that dress. I can't even begin to think," Denise said.

This past year for Halloween, Denise gave out 14-ounce bags of Starburst and asked the parents to save the wrappers and take them back to her. She even called the Wrigley Company to ask if she could purchase just the wrappers.

"That way I wouldn't have to peel the labels off the candy. I'd just have the raw materials," Denise said.

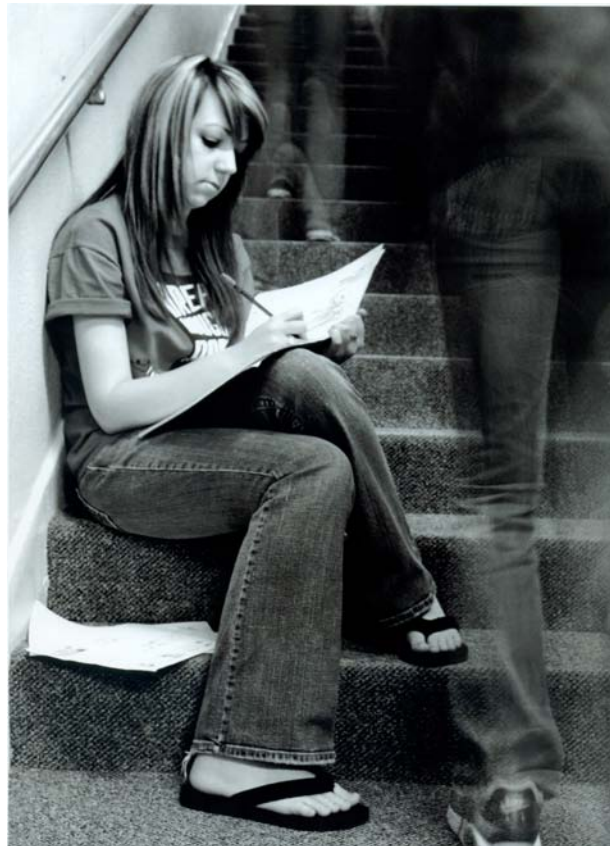
However, the company turned her down, so she had to continue saving wrappers and begging for them from anybody she met.

Denise developed some recipes to make cakes and cookies using Starburst, but decided it wouldn't be very healthy if her family ate so much of the candy.

"I really don't like Starburst that much. It's really too sweet for me. I like bitter and sour flavors more. My mom's obsession is pretty cool, though. I mean, if I didn't like the stuff, I definitely wouldn't have worn it to prom," June said.

Denise is trying to make a statement about ecology and how wasteful companies are with the amount of wrapping paper they produce.

Denise said, "This dress won't end up in the trash, that's for sure. June will be the belle of the prom."



Stevie Barfoot • 1A/2A • Humboldt HS

Lauren Moore, jr., fixates herself upon sketchpad as the world continues passing her by. Moore has participated in the high school art program since her freshman year. Moore plans on continuing on in the art program her senior year to help further herself in hopes of an art scholarship to an AIT school

# Feature Writing & Academics Photography

Kyia Ellison • 3A/4A • Caney Valley HS



Senior, Jessica Wyrick, uses careful brush strokes to perfect her latest project in the advanced art class. Members of this class work with the instructor to create unique designs. In the photograph, Wyrick is painting her design onto a vintage window. She plans to display her work in an upcoming art show.

While some mothers cook and sew for hobbies, a student from Ad Astra High School has a mother with an original burst of talent. June Freiburg attended prom with Bobby Morton wearing a stunning dress made of only Starburst wrappers. Denise Freiburg is the credited designer.

“Some mothers knit, some yell at their kids at soccer matches. I like to make clothes from candy wrappers.” Denise said.

Before she took on candy wrappers, she first began designing things like hats made out of cans by crochet. After that, she began making welcome mats out of gum wrappers. Once she found the idea of Starburst wrappers she thought it would be fun to make a prom dress for her daughter.

“I have never counted how many thousands of Starburst that went into the dress,” Denise said. “This year at Halloween, I gave away entire 14-ounce bags of Starburst and asked the parents to save the wrappers and bring them back to me.”

June was only 12 when her mother first began with this obsession. It took six years to perfect the dress, failing five times. June was proud of her mother’s accomplishment and claimed the dress reflected her personality.

“I wear kind of eccentric clothes anyway. I try to wear a different color pair of Chuck Taylor’s every day to school,” June, senior, said. “I really don’t like Starburst that much. My mom’s obsession is pretty cool, though.”

While the dress was not only original and beautiful, it also plays a role in protecting the environment.

“I think I’m making a statement about ecology and how wasteful it is for companies to create so much wrapping paper waste that just ends up in the trash,” Denise said. “This dress won’t end up in the trash, that’s for sure.”

June’s mother made her senior prom a great day to remember. June will graduate later in the year. The following year, she will be attending Emporia State University with a soccer scholarship.

Kylie Miller • 3A/4A • Holton HS

## Judge’s Comments

### Feature Writing

Clean up the lead a bit.

Thank you for writing well.

### Academics Photo

Excellent angle.

Good expression.

Great way to show a painter in action.

Nice work!



## Judge's Comments

### Feature Writing

Need an ID before the quote if the subject changes.

### Academics Photo

Great framing of your subject's face with the arm and paintbrush.

Nice context and an ideal crop.

Good job.

Jessica Thomas • 5A/6A • Wichita HS East

Danielle Norton • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission East HS

The expensive dresses, glittering jewelry, and colorful decorations decking the AAHS prom this year could not outdo the real center of attention: seniors June Freiburg and Bobby Morton.

Freiburg's mother spent months drafting her daughter a dress made of Starburst candy wrappers for prom. She also made a purse and shoes, and a vest for Freiburg's date, Morton.

"Some mothers knit, some yell at their kids at soccer matches," June's mother Denise Freiburg said. "I like to make clothes from candy wrappers. Is that so wrong?"

The idea for the dress actually began when June was 12. Her mother, who has a hobby of turning trash to treasure, started a prom dress for her daughter when she was still in middle school. After failing five times, Denise finally has her success story.

"I really don't like Starburst that much," June said. "My mom's obsession is pretty cool though. I mean, if I didn't like this stuff, I definitely wouldn't have worn it to prom."

The process took months and thousands of candy wrappers. Denise bought Starbursts in 20-pound bags, and even called Wrigley, the company manufactures Starburst, to see if she could purchase the wrappers sans candy.

"They said 'no,'" Denise said. "Even since then, I've been saving labels and begging

them from everybody I meet."

The rainbow of colors offered by Starburst's various flavors appealed to Denis.

"I finally chose Starburst because of the colors," Denis said. "Those are the best wrappers in the world."

Fortunately, love of color runs in the family, and June did not mind standing out on prom night.

"I wear kind of eccentric clothes anyway," June said. "I try to wear a different color pair of Chuck Taylor's every day to school, and I've even splattered paint on a few pair to give them a real Jackson Pollock look."

Previously, Denise has used other trash, like cans and gum wrappers, to make hats and welcome mats. This time, the Freiburgs did not know what to do with all the candy.

"I developed a couple of Starburst cookie and cake recipes to make us of the candies, but then I decided we'd all weight 400 pounds if we tried to eat all of the candy I needed to make the clothing," Denise said. "That's when I started to give the candy away to other people."

Lucky to trick-or-treaters this year go whole bags of the candy at the Freiburg house.

"This year at Halloween, I gave away entire 14-ounce bags of Starburst to kids and asked their parents to save the wrappers and bring them back to me," Denise said.

Denise hopes the dress makes a statement about wasteful wrapper sin addition to looking beautiful.

"This dress wont end up in the trash, that's for sure," Denise said. "June will be the bell of the prom."

Just like she predicted, June was the belle of the prom.



Following her modeling induced anorexia disorder, senior Molly Troutman reflects on her anorexic battle by sculpting her once-damaged body. "[For my sculpture] I measured how big I was then and applied that to match my pervious weight," Troutman said. "It was just to make a statement about what [the world] thinks beauty is today and then to show the insecure, emotional battle we've gone through to live up to their expectations."

# Newspaper Sports Writing & Sports Photography

**H**all of Fame controversy has begun in the Ad Astra High School. The honorable banner belonging to Vic Michaels has been quietly removed from the AAHS hall of Fame, after Michaels pleaded guilty to partaking in illegal cockfighting activity and served 21 months in home confinement.

NFL Philadelphia Hawk and former AAHS quarterback (1994-1997) Michaels had led the Box Turtles to the state finals his junior and senior years, winning the state championship for Class 4A against Garden City Eisenhower (1997). Michaels was inducted into the Ad Astra Hall of Fame, where a banner symbolized his honor read: "Vic Michaels, AAHS Class of 1998."

"I think we addressed this issue four years ago," Emmylou Harris, Ad

Astra High School principal said. "Our decision then was final, and we look forward to continuing to promote our Hall of Fame as a place where we honor true student-athlete role models."

Students at Ad Astra High are campaigning to get Michaels' banner reinstated, using the social media to their advantage.

Another group of students at AAHS have created a Facebook page contending to keep Michaels out of the Hall of Fame.

"As the principal, Mrs. Harris can make whatever decision she thinks is best for the school," Ramena Church, district spokeswoman said. "That's her job and her prerogative."

At this point the banner remains withdrawn from the Ad Astra High School Hall of Fame.

Hannah McCall • 1A/2A • Humboldt HS

## Judge's Comments

### NP Sports Writing

Nice job handling the issue.

*You address it from the start, which is important.*

The quotes used are good, but be sure to quote all sides of the story.

### Sports Photo

*Great frame. The subject is well-centered, keeping viewer focus on her.*

Good composition and sound technical skills.

*Timing was just right, you captured the moment.*

Good work!

Jimmy Hoyt • 1A/2A • Kiowa County HS



Ad Astra freshman Tyra Collette strides over the last hurdle at the Panther Invitational Track Meet at Dillon High School on April 29th. She placed first overall in the 100 meter hurdle event at that meet, beating out Ad Astra senior Julie Taylor in a close race in the finals. The freshman athlete has beat Taylor in all but one hurdle race during the Ad Astra 2011 track season.



## Judge's Comments

NP Sports Writing  
Very well done!

Way to get right into the  
story.

Nice job!

Also, you got right into  
both arguments—an  
important aspect of the  
story.

### Sports Photo

The tight crop isolates  
not only the subject but  
also the action, great  
work!

Excellent composition,  
really solid frame.

The ball being on the  
right balances out the  
tension on the left.

Great timing.

Caitlyn McSweeney • 3A/4A • Louisburg HS

Mixed emotions rise as students argue whether Vic Michaels, the Ad Astra starting quarterback in 1997 should be allowed back in the high school's Hall of Fame.

For winning the 1997 state championship as starting quarterback, the school administration put him in the Hall of Fame. Due to illegal activities, Michaels served time in prison but has since been released and is playing professionally again. Because of his charges, the administration removed him from the Hall of Fame.

"Our decision then was final, and we look forward to continuing to promote our Hall of Fame as a place where we honor true student-athletes and role models," Emmylou Harris, principal, said.

Students like Bill Monroe, senior, do not agree with the idea of keeping Michaels out. To voice his opinion, he has started a campaign on Facebook promoting bringing Michaels back.

"He's the greatest athlete in the school's history," Monroe said. "How

can we have a hall of fame and not have Vic Michaels? That's just stupid."

On the other side, Larry Sparks, junior, has done the same thing for the opposite reason. Sparks is on the administration's side and believes Michaels should not return to the Hall of Fame.

"I am embarrassed that so many of my classmates want to have that criminal's name held in such high esteem at our school," Sparks said.

Not all teachers and staff members are on the side with the administration. Martin Medeski-Wood, football coach, believes Michaels should be reinstated.

"So he got in trouble by doing some stupid stuff a few years ago. We have lots of students who get in trouble with the law, but because they're not so famous, we don't make a big deal out of it," Medeski-Wood said.

Even with all the hype going on, Remena Church, district spokesperson, doesn't think changes in rules will be made without changes in administration personnel.



Junior Ian Cheshier springs to hit a forehand in a second-round match of the SEK tournament. Cheshier won the match in a tie break, going on to take third place in the tournament.

Adrienne Wahi • 3A/4A • Chanute HS

# Newspaper Sports Writing & Sports Photography



Devin Dymkowski • SA/6A • Andover HS

## Judge's Comments

NP Sports Writing  
Nice!

*You don't let creative ideas get in the way of the story.*

It was excellent.

*You presented all sides in the story.*

You handled a delicate topic well and that's tricky to do.

### Sports Photo

*Outstanding sports photo that captures the energy and effort at the peak moment of action.*

Great exposure, composition and cropping make this the clear winner.

*Everything is right about this photo.*

Reaching as far as her body will take her, senior catcher Rylee Ellison grabs for the softball as she tries for the out. Junior Becca Mills from Augusta beat Ellison to the bag, scoring Augusta's third run in the team's 4-1 victory over the home team April 26.

Usually winning a state championship, becoming both a college and NFL star, and being widely considered the greatest athlete in Ad Astra High School history is more than enough to secure a spot in the AAHS Hall of Fame. Vic Michaels' case, however, is an unusual one.

The starting quarterback at Ad Astra from 1994 to 1997, Michaels led the team to the 1997 Class 4A State Championship, defeating Garden City Eisenhower 42-38 with one of the best individual performances in AAHS football history. His illustrious career on the field however has been overshadowed by his involvement in an illegal cockfighting ring that Michaels plead guilty to in 2007.

Students and faculty alike have now taken part in an increasingly growing debate as to whether or not Michaels should be allowed in the Hall of Fame. AAHS football coach Martin Medeski said he believes Michaels should be forgiven and welcomed back to Ad Astra.

"Vic is more sorry than anybody for all the bad things he did," Medeski said. "But aren't we supposed to forgive people once they've served their time?"

After serving his prison sentence, Michaels signed with the Philadelphia Hawks, where he is currently the starting quarterback. Michaels was originally inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003 and two banners were hung in his honor. After the cockfighting scandal, AAHS administrators removed the banners and Michaels from the Hall of Fame.

"I think we addressed this issue four years ago. I see no point in revisiting it," Principal Emmylou Harris said. "Our

decision was final, and we look forward to continuing to promote our Hall of Fame as a place where we honor true student athletes and role models."

In response to Harris' decision, many AAHS students have begun a campaign to have Michaels re-inducted into the Hall of Fame. Bill Monroe, senior, started the campaign in hopes of getting more students involved and to change the minds of the administration.

"After Mrs. Harris said no the first time, I got together a bunch of students and we circulated a petition," Monroe said. "We got 500 signatures from students. In a school with 850 students, that's pretty damn good if you ask me."

Monroe's campaign created a Facebook fan page titled "Vic Michaels Belongs in the AAHS Hall of Fame" that has received "likes" from 1,750 people thus far. Not all students agree that Michaels' name should return to the Hall of Fame though.

"I am embarrassed that so many of my classmates want to have a criminal's name held in such high esteem at our school," Larry Sparks, junior, said. "I don't want our reputation continually linked with that of Vic Michaels."

Sparks too created a Facebook page promoting his side of the argument which has received 2,250 "likes," which is more than Monroe's, he would like to point out.

"He's the greatest athlete in the school's history and he did everything he was supposed to do while he was here," Monroe said. "How can we have a Hall of Fame and not have Vic Michaels?"

Donnie Pepoon • SA/6A • Wichita HS East



## Judge's Comments

### Advertising

This ad illustrates the most important benefit your client can deliver.

*Very effective.*

The copy layout could be arranged in a better way.

### Headline Writing

*You get a lot of info in few words—good.*

A lot of action verbs in headline number four.

*I like the words in the background: makes me want to get closer.*

Nice use of black and white, size differentiation.

Abby Thompson • 1A/2A • Cimarron HS

**STOP.**  
**And take the easy way out.**  
 Attend a **SAFE & SOBER** class  
 to dismiss your ticket.

**Easy St →**

**10% Discount for  
 AAHS students**

Located at  
 McCrossen  
 Plaza, 1234  
 Chittom  
 Way.  
 785-555-4525

**Check out our  
 Scared Sober  
 Classes too!**

All classes  
 are \$280 for  
 classroom  
 and behind-  
 the-wheel  
 instruction

Open Sun.-Sat. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Summer hours 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Steven Clary • 1A/2A • Troy HS

Headline contest unavailable. The judges offered suggestions directly on the contests, disrupting the original integrity of the designs.

# Advertising & Headline Writing

**Hadley Munden** • 3A/4A • Louisburg HS

Headline contest unavailable. The judges offered suggestions directly on the contests, disrupting the original integrity of the designs.

## Judge's Comments

### Advertising

Great headline.

But does it look like an ad for a driving school?

Sell the benefit--being a safe driver.

### Headline Writing

Headline number one is unclear.

Headlines number three and four are well done. Nice work.

Headline number five is the right idea, but it comes up short and the graphic is unimpressive.

**Safety Starts with You**  
*and we're here to help*

**10%**  
*discount to all AAHS students*

**Safe & Sober**  
*Your key to safe driving*

Located in McCrossen Plaza, 1234 Chittum Way  
(785)-555-2525  
Open 7-days a week  
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (8 p.m. during Summer)

We offer three different classes ;

- Ticket Dismissal**  
Only state court approved class
- The Almost Famous "Scared Sober"**  
Intended to convince students to NEVER drink and drive.
- Beginning Driver class**  
Designed for new drivers on the road

All classes are **\$280** for an eight-hour classroom session and six hours behind-the-wheel.

**Erin Mills** • 3A/4A • Bonner Springs HS



# Advertising & Headline Writing

## Judge's Comments

### Advertising

Very clear and simple.

*Yellow is a little hard to read when it is very small.*

Maybe some more images would be nice.

### Headline Writing

*Nice job with the headlines.*

Accurate, good word choices, interesting.

*Great selection of font on headline number five.*

Overall, great job!

Kaitlyn Neuschaefer • 5A/6A • Salina Central HS

Offered Classes:  
Scared Sober  
Ticket Dismissal  
Beginning Driver

**Get on the Right Track**  
Safe & Sober Driving School

Phone: (785) 555-2525  
Hours: Sunday-Saturday  
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(8 p.m. during the summer)

**10% Box Turtle discount for all  
AAHS students**

All classes are \$280 for eight hours classroom and six hours behind-the-wheel instruction.

Located in McCrossen Plaza, 1234 Chittum Way

## Marissa Haake • 5A/6A • Olathe South HS

Headline contest unavailable. The judges offered suggestions directly on the contests, disrupting the original integrity of the designs.

# Editorial Writing & Editorial Cartoon

Kailey Gardner • 1A/2A • Burton HS

The controversy with the “I heart boobies” bracelets at schools is never ending. It is understandable for a student to want to support the cause, especially if they lost a loved one. It is also acceptable that people do not want to see the word “boobies.”

Emmylou Harris, Ad Astra High School principal says, “Many people find the term offensive and inappropriate.”

It may be inappropriate to some, but talk to the parents about why and maybe the student and parents will have a better understanding.

Danielle Hunter, mother of Cooper Hunter, who got Saturday school for the bracelet says, “They need to inform us parents. We should receive notice.”

If a student has lost a loved one to breast cancer, they are going to want people to notice they support the cause. Who would not? School officials need to allow these bracelets because that is their way of expressing how they feel. It is a Constitutional right, freedom of speech. It can be limited, but why on a case like this that is out of support for cancer?

The issue is something that needs to be decided soon. There should be input from parents and students, not just administrators. If wearing the bracelets is banned, think of how upsetting it would be to students to not be allowed to support a cause that took someone meaningful to them. The wearing of “I heart boobies” bracelets should be allowed.

## Judge's Comments

### Editorial Writing

You could provide more to give better and broader perspective to bolster argument.

*Overall, nice.*

You address one part of the issue directly and clearly.

### Editorial Cartoon

*Well done!*

Good drawing; good, clean lines.

*I like the approach you take, especially when you show the second bracelet.*

Creative idea!



Elizabeth Griffin • 1A/2A • Onaga HS



# Editorial Writing & Editorial Cartoon

## Judge's Comments

Editorial Writing  
Good ending.

Overall good argument.

Address other side  
more.

Editorial Cartoon  
This cartoon  
demonstrates in a real-  
world sense the hypocrisy  
of the situation.

The artwork is excellent.

The different details  
between the two figures  
is excellent.

Ashlee Hisey • 3A/4A • Girard HS

When Ad Astra sophomore Cooper Hunter woke up that first day of school, he had no idea his apparel would spark a controversy that concerned the clarity of school guidelines—but that’s exactly what happened when faculty noticed him wearing a bracelet that proclaimed, “I heart boobies.”

While the accessory was meant to support breast cancer awareness, faculty members at AAHS viewed the bracelet as “offensive and inappropriate.”

Hunter was asked to remove his bracelet, but he refused saying, “I’m wearing it in honor of my grandmother,” and argued that he wore multiple bracelets to support other causes like the Livestrong movement. He was disciplined for not complying.

The issue with this scenario is not necessarily that the bracelets are inappropriate to wear or not; It’s more

an issue of where school official draw the line.

It is permissible to allow students to wear a Susan G. Komen pink survivor bracelet and then punish a student who is supporting the same cause?

This unclear boundary line has caused an upset amongst parents, and, according to Hunter’s mother, parents of AAHS students would, “like the staff to take a stand, one way or another.”

If peace is to be kept, school officials should hold a meeting with parents and students and work together to create a clear set of guidelines. Either all bracelets should be accepted or none at all.

In order to avoid this type of problem in the future, the staff of AAHS should work toward improved communication with parents and students and set clear guidelines for what is and isn’t acceptable.

Saturday School . . .



Caitlin Armstrong • 3A/4A • Piper HS

# Editorial Writing & Editorial Cartoon

For the entire school year, Cooper Hunter has worn a bracelet supporting breast cancer and his grandmother. Now, school officials are trying to take that bracelet because of the language contained.

"I heart boobies," it declares, innocently enough. Ad Astra staff seems to think the message is more "offensive;" however, Principal Emmylou Harris claims to support breast cancer research and awareness, but she refuses to condone the bracelet worn by Hunter and other students in the school. The only "offended" victims of the bracelet are, it seems, the staff.

Hunter wears his bracelet peacefully. He does not distract from the educational mission of the school, nor did anyone make a fuss about the bracelet before last Friday. According to the First Amendment, Hunter has freedom of speech. His rights do not stop at the school gates. Some rights are limited, yes, but Hunter's freedom of self-expression and symbolic speech

is being violated. The Supreme Court has held that as long as speech in a school does not as previously stated, "distract from the educational mission of the school," it is permitted. Should this case go to the Supreme Court, Hunter would win. A student wanting to wear a shirt saying, "Bush is a terrorist," did win, and Hunter's intent with his bracelet is far less "offensive" than that.

"Boobies" is not a profane or obscene word—it's said on primetime TV; in daytime TV. Furthermore, it's all but impossible to read a cancer bracelet without being in close proximity to the wearer. Hunter is not broadcasting his message; he is silently and calmly making his statement. The rights of students should be protected by the school, not hindered by it. Hopefully, this miscarriage of justice will be put to a stop—else, we of the Editorial Board encourage Hunter to appeal the case to a district court, who will uphold the Supreme Court's decision.

Katy Westhoff • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission East HS

## Judge's Comments

### Editorial Writing

Stick to what you know in the end!

*Strong, well-reasoned advocacy for students and free speech.*

### Editorial Cartoon

*VERY well done.*

Good artistry, sense of story and it makes an editorial point.

*Well done attention to detail, nice drawing a good expressions.*

Evan Willford • 5A/6A • Andover HS



**Photo 1** • Spit-take



**Photo 4** • Dancer



**Photo 2** • Lunch



**Photo 5** • Parade



**Photo 3** • Soccer



# Cutline Writing

---

Ross Nicklos • 1A/2A • St. Francis Community HS

## Spit-take

The spit flies as Ad Astra's Brianna Iberg and Matt Pearson perform "A Night of One Acts." Students directed each of the 12 10-minute play presented on April 23, 24 and 25. This particular scene is from "Surprise," a play directed by Megan Smith.

## Lunch

Ad Astra students chow down while they still have their favorite lunches. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the school will adjust the lunch menu to save money. Not all students were happy with the changes, sophomore Jessica Wellman said, "Lunch isn't that great now, but by cutting our favorite foods, they're really gonna suck."

## Soccer

Soccer coach Barney Stone does his best to give senior Mike Morrison a pep talk during the sub-state game against Sunflower High School. Sunflower High went on to win 4-3 in a fierce comeback. It was the first trip to sub-state for Ad Astra in ten years and Stone said afterwards, "We had a great season, and I'm proud of everything the boys accomplished."

## Dancer

Miriam Ahmed performs at Ad Astra's first Multicultural assembly held on April 22. Ahmed performed the dance along with several other multicultural organizations' performances. Ahmed is a member of the Middle Eastern Student Organization.

## Parade

The juniors' float cruises along carrying Joe Mayer, Theo Clifton, and Reggie Arnold through the Prom Parade. The class's controversial theme, Tarzan and Jane, was not universally liked. "Prom is the junior class's gift to the seniors. What kind of a give mocks the best dance of the year?" senior Sidney Mowell said. The parade was held April 29 and prom followed the next day.

## Judge's Comments

### Cutline Writing

You could combine some sentences into a single, shorter sentence and cram more information into your cutlines.

*Thank you for not using the "bad ass" quotation.*



## Judge's Comments

### Cutline Writing

Nice, informative  
cutlines.

*Thank you for not using  
the "bad ass" quotation.*

**Photo 1 • Spit-take**



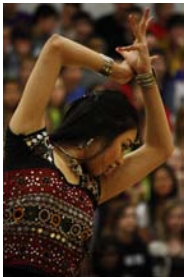
**Photo 2 • Lunch**



**Photo 3 • Soccer**



**Photo 4 • Dancer**



**Photo 5 • Parade**



### **Cynthia Ebertz • 3A/4A • Bonner Springs HS** Spit-take

Junior Matt Pearson and senior Brianna Iberg act out the spit-take scene in the "A Night of One Acts" spring play. The main character, Lucy, was played by Iberg while Pearson played Jacque as the male character. In the scene, Lucy had found out she landed a role in a movie that was to be shot in Paris. Jacque, her manager, had delivered the news.

### Lunch

Students discuss their thoughts on the new lunch menu voted on by USD 999 for the 2011-2012 school year in response to the budget cuts. Bosco sticks and crispitos were cut from the menu and pizza was rationed to be served only once per week. "I'm a football player and when I'm in season I'm always hungry. I live off bosco sticks, crispitos and pizza. Looks like we're going to have a losing season next year," said junior James Lipman.

### Soccer

With ten minutes left in the game, coach Barney Stone gives senior Mike Morrison a pep talk during the boys soccer sub-state game versus Sunflower High School at Emporia. "We had a great season, and I'm proud of everything the boys accomplished," Stone said, even though Sunflower had won 3-4 in the last five minutes of the game.

### Dancer

As a member of MESO, Miriam Ahmed performs a dance from India during the first-ever multicultural assembly on April 22. The assembly also included performances by the Black Student Organization, Asian Student Organization and German foreign exchange student Dominik Mechtley.

### Parade

Parading in downtown Aspera, students Joe Mayer, Theo Clefton and Reggie Arnold represent the junior class on their float before Prom night on April 30. The theme "Tarzan and Jane" proved very controversial when students voiced their thoughts. "Prom is the junior class's gift to the seniors. What kind of a gift mocks the best dance of the year?" said Sidney Mowell.

# Cutline Writing

---

## Spit-take

Upon discovering that she has landed a role in a movie that will be shot in Paris, Lucy, played by senior Brianna Iberg, spits in her manager's face. Led by student director Megan Smith, Iberg was the lead role in her play, "Surprise." This play was one of the twelve 10-minute plays performed in A Night of One Acts.

## Lunch

With news of a new lunch menu next year, students enjoy their favorite lunch foods while they can. "Lunch isn't that great now, but by cutting our favorite foods, they're really gonna suck," sophomore Jessica Wellman said. Due to budget cuts, the district plans on eliminating some of the students' favorites: bosco sticks, crispitos and pizza. "I'm a football player and when I'm in season I'm always hungry," junior James Lipman said. "I live off bosco sticks, crispitos and pizza. Looks like we're going to have a losing season next year."

## Soccer

Senior Mike Morrison receives a pep talk from his coach before returning to the last ten minutes of the game. With an almost perfect record of 10-2, the team qualified for sub-state—a feat that hadn't happened in 10 years. Their high hopes of state were crushed when they were defeated by Sunflower High School in a close match of 3-4. However, Coach Barney Stone remains positive about the outcome. "We had a great season, and I'm proud of everything the boys accomplished," Stone said.

## Dancer

Performing a traditional dance from India, Miriam Ahmed participates in the first-ever multicultural assembly. Ahmed, an active member of the Middle Eastern Students Organization, was joined by performances from the Black Student Organization, Asian Student Organization and German foreign exchange student Dominik Mechtley

## Parade

Despite initial controversy over the theme choice, juniors Joe Mayer, Theo Clefton and Reggie Arnold represent their class confidently on their Tarzan and Jane themed float. "It's the junior class's choice for the prom theme," Mayer said. "There were more dudes on this year's committee and we wanted something badass. Tarzan was it. We won by a fair vote." The prom parade, held in Ad Aspera, took place the day before prom.

Evan Nichols • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission East HS

## Judge's Comments

### Cutline Writing

Always write in complete sentences.

*Try not to use quotations that have swear words.*

Nice job overall.



# Yearbook Copy Writing & Student Life Photo

## Judge's

## Comments

### Yearbook Copy Writing

Don't use long quotes; pull out important points.

Let quotations stand as their own paragraphs.

Put a little more color in reporting.

Good job hitting the high points, but you don't sound very excited about your subject.

### Student Life Photo

Great focus!

Photo is even more interesting with the person in picture and not just the mirror.

Hanna King • 1A/2A • Troy HS

The 18th Annual Box Turtle Race was held Friday, April 8. Many community members, parents, students and faculty helped to make this event possible. Senior Nina Simone acted as student chair and football coach Miles Davis served as faculty chair. The race is a fundraiser and is held to help raise money for the athletics department.

The course began at AAHS's front doors and concluded with a quarter mile run around AAHS's track. Cross country coach, Mel Torme won the race with a time of 29:42.

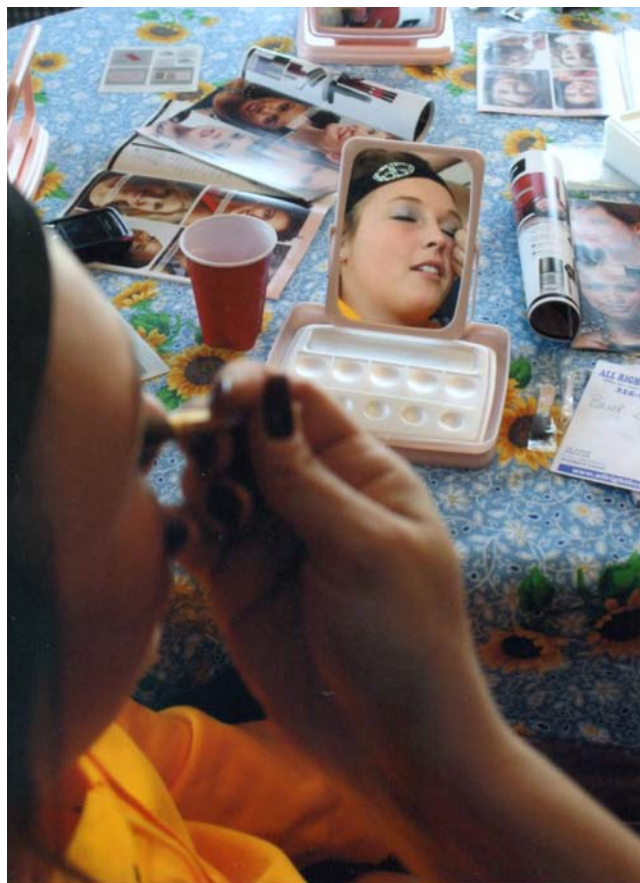
"I'm happy I won the race. I mean, if I don't win it, how can I ever face my team in the fall. They need to know that their coach can always out run them."

The PTO was in charge of refreshments and several local

businesses donated snacks and supplies. A neighboring farmer even filled a stock tank for runners to jump in. Temperatures reached 95 degrees, the hottest it has ever been for the race.

"It felt like it was 1,000 degrees out there," said junior Charlie Parker. "I saw a lot of students ahead of me jump in that tank. I saw the cool water and I had to do it. I must've spent 15 minutes in there."

The race had 350 participants and raised over \$36,000. "I want to thank all the faculty and students who participated in the event," said football coach Miles Davis. "We raised enough money to cover uniforms for the entire program, and we'll have some money left over for helmets as well. We really appreciate all of our friends in the Aspera business community."



Bridget Beran • 1A/2A • Claffin HS

Junior Sydney Rujan has her make up done in preparation for prom. Several students attended a prom preview to try out looks before making their decisions about what to do for the big day.

# Yearbook Copy Writing & Student Life Photo

The 18th annual Box Turtle 10K Road Race proved to be the most successful in the event's history, raising more money than ever before. Each year, the race is held as a fundraiser for the athletics department. More than 350 students and faculty members got their running shoes on during the 95-degree April afternoon to participate. The race was able to raise \$36,000 for the Box Turtle football team's new uniforms and equipment.

"We raised enough money to cover uniforms for the entire program, and we'll have some money left over for new helmets as well," said Miles Davis, the football coach and faculty chair for the event.

Local businesses donated time and money to the event to make sure

that the runners were able to stay cool during an afternoon of record high temperatures. Dr. Betty Page donated cups from her dentist's office to be filled with sugar-free lemonade. Whole Grains donated energy bars. But most runners were thankful for the water-filled stock tank provided by a local farmer.

"It felt like it was 1,000 degrees out there," said Charlie Parker. "I saw a lot of students ahead of me jump in that tank. I saw the cool water, and I just had to do it too."

Julie London, the top female finisher with a time of 33:29, felt no need to go into the tank.

"Nobody can pull you into the stock tank if you're winning and ahead of everybody," said London.

Logan Butler • 3A/4A • Ottawa HS

## Judge's Comments

Yearbook Copy Writing  
Watch redundancies.

Don't forget about the PTO's help.

Nice addition at the end.

Student Life Photo  
The guy behind her head is distracting—watch your composition.

Sam Carter • 3A/4A • The Independent School



Senior track star, Imani Fenner, reflects on her final moments as a high school track athlete.



# Yearbook Copy Writing & Student Life Photo

Judge's

Comments

Yearbook Copy Writing

Very nice lead for yearbook copy!

You did a great job!

Student Life Photo

Great emotion.

Great composition.

I love the moment you captured.

Sammy Kochanowski • 5A/6A • Hoys HS

On your mark, get set, go! Despite record-breaking temperatures, more than 350 students and faculty participated in the 18th annual Box Turtle 10K Road Race on April 8.

Starting at the front doors of the school, competitors made their way down Hudnall Way to downtown, down Kansas Avenue then back up the hill on Jackie Engle Boulevard to finish up the race on the track.

Cross country coach Mel Torme came in first with a time of 29:42. Senior Julie London was the top female finisher coming in at 33:29.

"I'm happy to win the race," Trome said. "If I don't win, how can I ever face my team in the fall?"

This year's race raised \$36,000, which will be used to purchase new football uniforms and other equipment for the football team. This was the most money raised by the event in its

history.

Senior Nina Simone served as student chair of the event, while football coach Miles Davis served as faculty chair.

Local businesses showed their support by donating energy bars and cups for lemonade. A neighboring farmer filled a stock tank to help racers cool off along their run.

"It felt like 1,000 degrees out there," junior Charlie Parker said. "I saw the cool water, and I just had to get in."

The event, which started at noon, was finished by 3 p.m. when the last racer crossed the finish line.

"I want to thank all the faculty and students who participated in the event," Davis said. "We raised enough money to cover uniforms for the entire program, and we'll have some money left over for new helmets as well."



Matt McKernan • 5A/6A • Bishop Carroll HS

As the weather warms, high school girls practice their flag football skills. A running back dodges a defensive player and picks up a first down.

# Yearbook Sports Writing & Photo Illustration

**Y**ou're out! That was the sound heard by all when senior Henry "Sonny" Rollins pitched the first no-hitter since 1994 to a player from John Brown High School.

"The no-hitter was awesome! I didn't really realize it was a no-hitter until the last inning," says Sonny.

Rollins had a great senior year in baseball, but his baseball career didn't become amazing without having to go through trials. In 2009 he played defensive back on the football team when he started having terrible migraines that were keeping him awake at night.

"I couldn't fall asleep because of the migraines I was having. I woke up Mom and Dad, and they took me to the emergency room," recounts Rollins.

The doctors found a cyst on

Henry's brain that night, causing him to go into emergency surgery to have it removed. After two surgeries to remove the cyst, Henry was ready to play some ball.

With a serious head injury, Rollins had to be especially careful while getting back in the game and pitching again. At first for extra protection he wore a batter's helmet without the earflaps his junior year, but something more suitable needed to be done.

Sonny's father stated, "When Coach Monk couldn't find one, I just called the Easton company and told them Sonny's story. I asked if we could use a demo version of the new helmet and they sent one. That's what you see Sonny wearing now."

With Sonny's new helmet, he was

ready to dominate his senior year. He pitched 10 games with a 7-2 record, landing him a Regents' Scholarship to K-State which he will accept at graduation.

"At first we watched with a different perspective. That first year, it was like, 'Don't steal, don't slide!' But it's back to normal. We're very proud of him," boasts Sonny's father.

AAHS is surely going to miss this all star pitcher, but is grateful for his miraculous recovery and excited for where his life will lead him from here.

Audrey Wheeler • 1A/2A • Kiowa County HS

## Judge's Comments

**Yearbook Sports**

Good lead.

*Watch spelling and some punctuation.*

End of story is a bit overly positive.

*Great flow and inclusion of all important aspects in the story.*

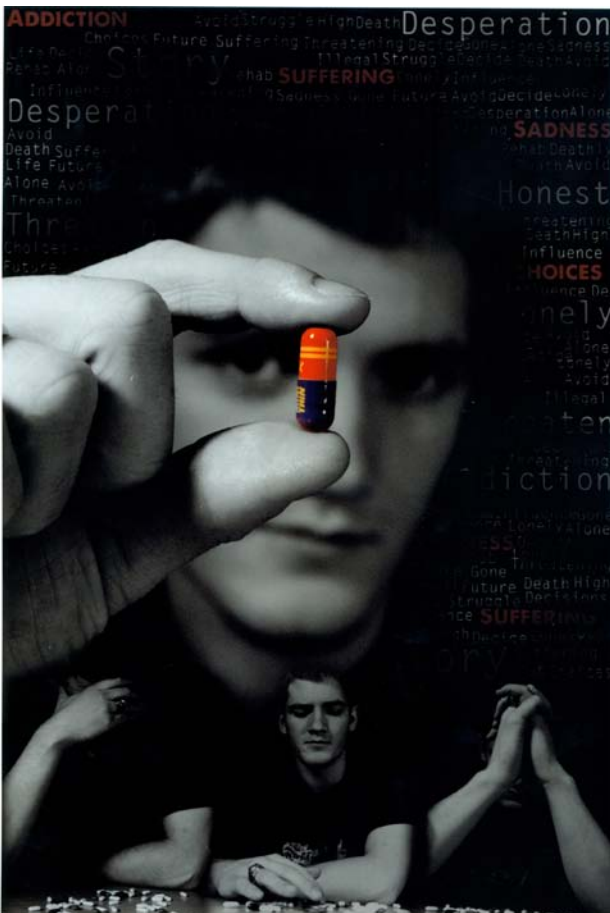
Good transitions and sentence structure.

**Photo Illustration**

*Good Font—it's not distracting.*

Good composition.

Brandi Malloy • 1A/2A • Humboldt HS





## Judge's Comments

### Yearbook Sports

Careful on punctuation and quote accuracy.

Use the provided picture to describe the helmet.

It was a well-written and telling story, but the baseball comeback could have been earlier.

Overall, solid writing.

Photo Illustration  
Excellent!!

Becca Ferguson • 3A/4A • Piper HS

If you attended on of the Ad Astra Box Turtle's baseball games this year, you may have noticed something quite odd. No, the pitcher, senior Henry "Sonny" Rollins, did not forget to take off his batting helmet. The story is a lot more complicated than that.

Two years ago, Rollins played defensive back on the football team, until severe post-game migraines led him to a doctor.

"A doctor in Topeka just told me I needed glasses," Rollins said. However, it was going to take a lot more than glasses for the headaches to stop.

In October of 2009 during Rollins' junior year, another severe migraine landed him in the emergency room. There, the doctors found what was causing the migraines.

"They found a cyst on my brain the size of a lemon," Rollins said. "I had surgery immediately to remove the cyst."

The surgery was hard for Rollins as well as his parents.

"We just had nightmare of the doctor coming out and saying something happened," Rollins' father, Henry Rollins Sr. said. "We didn't know if he was going to be normal when he came out of surgery."

The parents had no need to fear, as the initial surgery as well as a follow-up one were successful.

Even as the family drew a sigh of relief, Rollins knew his football career was over, but he looked to baseball as spring drew near.

"It was probably the hardest decision we had to make as parents, to allow him to play again," father Henry Rollins said. "He talked us into that one."

After his parents approval, Rollins obtained a special waiver from the school board

allowing him to play. The major concern now was keeping his head safe, an issue solved by head baseball coach Thelonius Monk.

"I was reading a story in the Kansas City Star about pitcher's helmets, so I thought I'd look around town to see if anybody had those new helmets from Easton," Monk said.

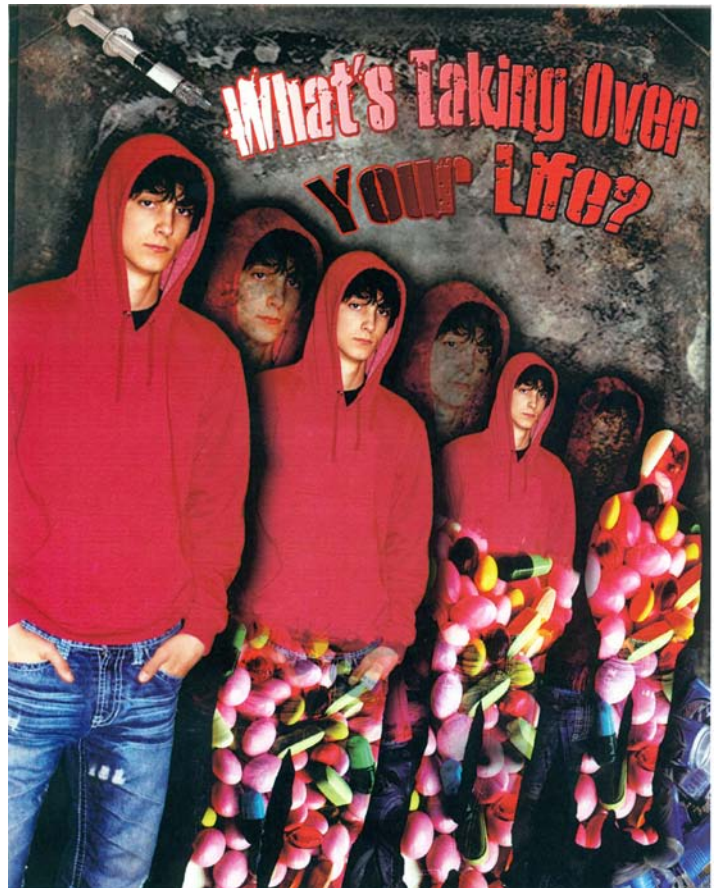
While Monk's search was unsuccessful, a call from Rollins' father was. Upon hearing Rollins' story, Easton sent a demo version of the pitcher's helmet for him to wear.

With his helmet on for protection, Rollins went into his senior baseball season ready to play. The team went 7-2 with Rollins pitching ten games, including a no-hitter against John Brown High School.

"The no-hitter was awesome," Rollins said. "I didn't realize it was a no-hitter until the last inning."

While Rollins looks to Kansas State University next year, his story will not soon be forgotten.

"He's just a great inspiration to all of us," said Coach Monk.



McKenzie Rolls • 3A/4A • Caney Valley HS

# Yearbook Sports Writing & Photo Illustration

As the ninth inning of the game against rival John Brown High School was coming to a close, everyone on the Ad Astra High Baseball field and in the crowds was preparing to celebrate the team's first no-hitter since 1994, except for senior pitcher Henry "Sonny" Rollins, the player responsible for the triumph.

"The no-hitter was awesome," Sonny said. "I was doing a good job hitting my spots, throwing the ball exactly where I wanted it to go. I didn't really realize it was a no-hitter until the last inning."

As well as being a moment of victory for the school, it was a moment of personal victory for Sonny, who in his junior year underwent two surgeries to remove a cyst on his brain that was the size of a lemon. Then, a defensive back for the football team, Sonny had to make a crucial decision—whether he wanted to continue to play football or play baseball instead.

"I love[d] football," Sonny said, "but the headaches were starting to get to me. By the spring, though, the headaches were gone and there was no sign of the cysts, so the school board gave me a special waiver to play baseball again."

Although he had been released to play baseball, Sonny had to play with special precautions, like wearing a specially designed pitchers helmet. Instead of

wearing just a soft hat while he pitched, Sonny had to wear a soft hat with a helmet that wraps around the outside of it.

"I'm still getting used to it because it's lighter than the full helmet," Sonny said. "At first it was a little different, but everything feels normal now."

The rest of the team had to take extra precautions while playing with Sonny as well. "I kept a close eye on Sonny, making sure he was constantly on the edge of the group when the team played catch so he was less likely to get hit with a stray throw," coach Thelonius Monk said.

Through this support of his family, friend, and teammates, Sonny was able to overcome his life-threatening injury and pitch ten games in his senior season and end with a 7-2 record, his no-hitter included.

"At first we watched with a different perspective," Sonny's father, Henry Rollins Sr. said. "That first year it was like, 'Don't steal, don't slide!' but it's back to normal."

As well as succeeding on the field, Sonny also succeeded in the classroom, becoming a recipient of a Regent's Scholarship to K-State.

"We're very proud of him," Rollins Sr. said. "We go to all of his games, and we're going to see him accept that scholarship at graduation."

Casey Hutchins • 5A/6A • Lawrence HS

## Judge's Comments

Yearbook Sports

Really well done.

*You definitely have a nice writing touch.*

The story flowed and had a nice structure.

*I really liked this story, and it was easy to read.*

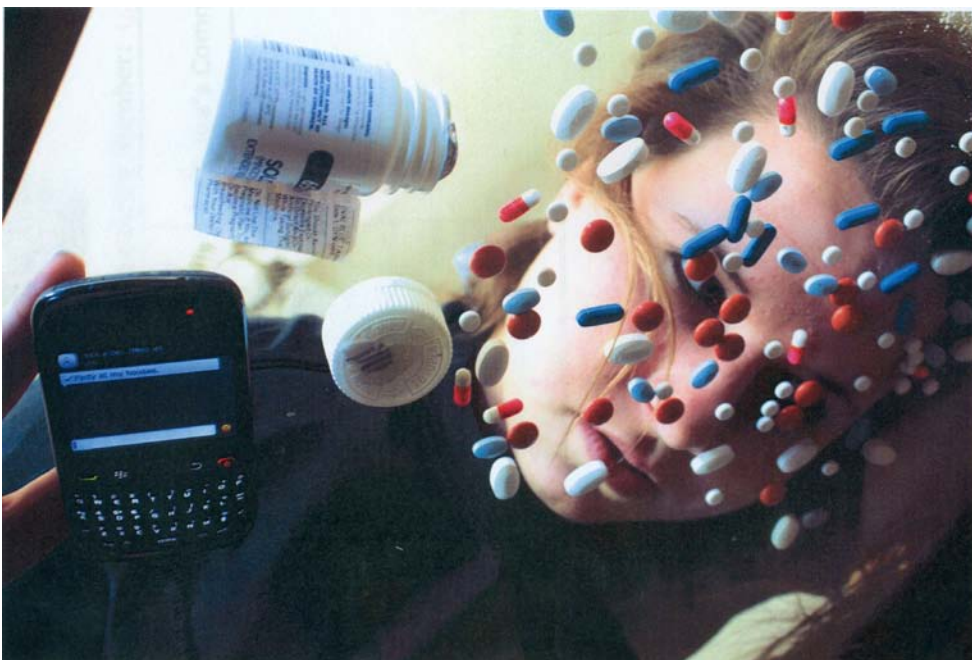
Good job!

Photo Illustration  
Good angle.

Good use of text.

*I like the simplicity—it gets the message across.*

Lauren Reardon • 5A/6A • Blue Valley HS





Judge's

Comments

News Page Design

Parents are in headline but students shown in picture?

Photo of Coach Wichman or his wife?

Great job!

Keep notice of spacing & photos on topic with story.

Sarah Luder • IA/2A • Chase County HS

September 26, 2011

The Star Report

5

What do you think of how the parents act?



Putpat. Im vel ulla fac-cum esenibh eum er iiquamconse min eri

Student Name, Gr.



Putpat. Im vel ulla fac-cum esenibh eum er iiquamconse min eri

Student Name, Gr.



Putpat. Im vel ulla fac-cum esenibh eum er iiquamconse min eri

Student Name, Gr.



Putpat. Im vel ulla fac-cum esenibh eum er iiquamconse min eri

Student Name, Gr.

# Parents bring on a dark cloud

### Even with a winning season, parents still find a way to complain

Copy by Bud Tuglee

Last year following Ad Astra's football game against John Brown, some parents waited patiently outside the locker room, waiting to see AAHS head coach Rowdy Wichman. They wanted to ask him some questions about his substitution patterns, this just minutes after the Box Turtles had lost 21-20 to JBHS.

The parents finally got their wish as Wichman slowly and sheepishly came out of the locker room. Lonnie Johnson, father of backup quarterback David Johnson, asked him a quick and pointed question.

"Why didn't you put my son in the game?" Johnson asked. "It was obvious the offense was going nowhere with the regular quarterback."

Wichman tipped his cap to the crowd and started to back away. "I'm asking you a question," Johnson said. "Are you going to answer it or not?"

The exchange lasted another few minutes with Wichman saying that he'd be happy to talk at another time, in another place, when the heat of the moment had passed. He absorbed some crushing comments, then ducked into his car and drove home.

A week later, I was at another game, in another town, waiting to talk to a coach who had just won a huge game.

I waited, and finally, an assistant coach's spouse came up to me and said, "Coach isn't coming out until they leave." He pointed at a group of 12 to 15 parents and students, who were huddled near the entrance to the locker room.

"I'll go see if the locker room is clear, and let (Coach) know you're here."

I was soon waved into the locker room and the coach said, "I can't deal with those parents right now. I'll stay in here all night if I have to."

Over a two-week period I witnessed the ugly side of high school sports. And to quote former Ad Astra High School football and softball coach and activities director Jim Croneberg:

"The inmates are finally running the asylum, and I am so glad I don't have to deal with it anymore."

The two coaches referred to are among the most respected in the state. They have developed Division I players, shown nothing but class and a love of the kids they work with, and they have been reduced to hiding in their offices to avoid confrontations with parents.

As we wind down this school year, it will be just a few months before football season starts again, and with it, the attendant problems of pressure from parents. At both Ad Astra and John Brown, administrators have put together a panel to address rowdy behavior at football games, both by students and parents, and the alleged bullying of coaches by parents.

While football coach Rowdy Wichman said he would address the issue off the record - he did say, "I just hope the parents don't run the good coaches off" - AAHS athletic director Derrick Holmes was eager to take a stand and talk about the good, the bad and the ugly of high school parents.

"When I get an e-mail or a call from a parent - and they come frequently and on a daily basis - I think as a coach and administrator you have to sort through the emotion when you deal with an issue with a parent," said Holmes, a graduate of AAHS.

"My responsibility - our responsibility - is to get the issue resolved. If there is a

problem, you can't assume that some crazy parent has a problem with a coach and just blow it off.

"That doesn't help anything. If a parent feels there is a concern and they take the time to write or call me, I will deal with it. I want to be accountable, and I want our coaches to be accountable."

"That is very important to our programs, whether they be sports, or other activities at our high school."

While Holmes deals with many parental issues, he is quick to point out that the total number of parents who complain about a coach is miniscule.

"I don't know, maybe 3 to 5 percent of the parents," he said. "We couldn't exist without our parents. We have done something interesting with our booster club, where we include all activities under one umbrella."

"Sports, prom committee, Project Grad, debate - the hospitality room at the district basketball tournament - they were all part of our booster club and our parents did a wonderful job. On a daily basis, our parents show a willingness and time commitment to help their children and the students at this school. Their kids attend this school, and they have every right to be as much a part of it as possible. But, there must be boundaries."

I attended one AAHS football game where a group of vocal fans let it be known that they were not happy with coach Wichman and his players.

And that is where Holmes draws the line. That's where the boundaries come into play. "When stuff happens, you deal

with it, and my pet peeve is anyone who would come to a sporting event and yell at a coach, official or - and this is my biggest peeve - a student-athlete," Holmes said.

"I don't have parents come in my office and yell at me while I am doing my job. I hope they don't come to your office and yell at you while you write a story. But they believe it is their right to come into a gym and yell at a coach and his team or the officiating crew."

"Rowdy has a wife, children, family members, and it's not fair for him, or them, to come and endure what he had to endure at some games this season. You wouldn't believe the lengths some coaches go to protect their families at games."

I didn't attend every AAHS football game last season, but I did not see Wichman's wife at any game I did attend.

"People say, 'It's part of the game. Accept it.' Really? Accept that type of behavior? Should we really?" Holmes added.

"I can somewhat understand that type of behavior at a professional game, because they are pros. I can understand it to some extent at the collegiate level, although that is still part of the educational process."

"At the high school level, I do not understand it, and I will not tolerate it."

At that moment, I wanted to stop the interview and give Holmes a one-man standing ovation. I saw him escort more than one unruly fan out of Box Turtle Stadium this season, and I respect a man who backs his words with action.



John Brown Crossing Tiger football players react to the game-winning play in last year's JBHS victory over Ad Astra.

## Coach Wichman provides his side of the situation

Marlene Johnson and her husband, Lonnie Johnson, look forward to meeting with Ad Astra coach Rowdy Wichman after last year's game against John Brown. The Johnsons are the parents of AAHS backup quarterback David Johnson, and they wanted to speak with Wichman about the coach's substitution patterns. The Johnsons' questions soon led to a heated discussion about coaching strategy between several parents and Wichman.



Vullaor augue dolupat. Duis. Am del eugiatem dio dolorer suscing ea feugait verit iustie dolestrud et, quat, con ute volobor periustrud magnissi tie tio odiat irilit luptatur iurectue magna feuguer sendrem dolore conse conse dolorem dignit volorti onsecte et praesequip esendret aci o in eliquisit nosto odo od ex ero exorosting enim vellesto conulla consenibh et volent praestrud magna feugue dui tatissim veniamet lorem vulputat lorem dipsuce ipsuscing

Do you think the parents are justified to be angry with the coach??

30%

55%

15%

La faci elit utat la amcoreet augiam quamet praestint volorer sustrud modigna feu facidiussed min euguerassim dit wisi blan erit nullam, volore dolorem vel up

The Star • Friday, May 20, 2011

## Star Report

Page 5

# Parents put pressure on coaches

Analysis by Bud Tuglee  
Star Sports Editor

Last year following Ad Astra's football game against John Brown, some parents waited patiently outside the locker room, waiting to see AAHS head coach Rowdy Wichman. They wanted to ask him some questions about his substitution patterns, this just minutes after the Box Turtles had lost 21-20 to JBHS.

The parents finally got their wish as Wichman slowly and sheepishly came out of the locker room. Lonnie Johnson, father of backup quarterback David Johnson, asked him a quick and pointed question.

"Why didn't you put my son in the game?" Johnson asked. "It was obvious the offense was going nowhere with the regular quarterback."

Wichman tipped his cap to the crowd and started to back away.

"I'm asking you a question," Johnson said. "Are you going to answer it or not?"

The exchange lasted another few minutes with Wichman saying that he'd be happy to talk at another time, in another place, when the heat of the moment had passed. He absorbed some crushing comments, then ducked into his car and drove home.

A week later, I was at another game, in another town, waiting to talk to a coach who had just won a huge game.

I waited, and finally, an assistant coach's spouse came up to me and said, "Coach isn't coming out until they leave."

He pointed at a group of 12 to 15 parents and students, who were huddled near the entrance to the locker room.

"I'll go see if the locker room is clear, and let (Coach) know you're here."

I was soon waved into the locker room and the coach said, "I can't deal with those parents right now. I'll stay in here all night if I have to."

Over a two-week period I witnessed the ugly side of high school sports. And to quote former Ad Astra High School football and softball coach and activities director Jim Cronenberg: "The inmates are finally running the asylum, and I am so glad I don't have to deal with it anymore."

The two coaches referred to are among the most respected in the state. They have developed Division I players, shown nothing but class and a love of the kids they work with, and they have been reduced to hiding in their offices to avoid confrontations with parents.

As we wind down this school year, it will be just a few months before football season starts again, and with it, the attendant problems of pressure from parents. At both Ad Astra and John Brown, administrators have put together a panel to address rowdy behavior at football games, both by students and parents, and the alleged bullying of coaches by parents.

While football coach Rowdy Wichman said he would address the issue off the record — he did say, "I just hope the parents don't run the good coaches off" — AAHS athletic

the boundaries come into play.

"When stuff happens, you deal with it, and my pet peeve is anyone who would come to a sporting event and yell at a coach, official or — and this is my biggest peeve — a student-athlete," Holmes said.

"I don't have parents come in my office and yell at me while I am doing my job. I hope they don't come to your office and yell at you while you write a story. But they believe it is their right to come into a gym and yell at a coach and his team or the officiating crew.

man who backs his words with action.

Thirteen years ago, Salina West coach Sheri Rehmer walked away from a basketball job she loved because of parental interference.

Just because someone pays \$5 to get into a high school stadium or gym doesn't give them the right to verbally assault a coach or a 16-year-old player.

Just because your son or daughter plays for a high school coach doesn't give a parent the right to punch him in the mouth.

I am amazed that good men and women put up with this type of grief to coach teenagers on the high school level. They make relatively little money.

Many coaches ask their husbands or wives to stay home so they are not verbally accosted, and when a player is hearing one thing from a mom or dad and the exact opposite from a coach, tension is going to build in the locker room until a team implodes.

We're just lucky to have good men like Derrick Holmes and other area administrators who do the right thing — even if the end result is another nasty (and always anonymous) email, a verbal mugging or punch in the nose.

For two years, I have witnessed some of the most memorable and exciting moments of my life while covering AAHS sporting events, including Mitchell Morris' golden performance in his final appearance at state track, which he turned into his own personal highlight reel.

I've marveled at the brilliance AAHS football players, how Wichman and his staff breathed new life into a comatose squad, and I have envied the spirit and love of the game personified by student-athletes like Stinson Dean, Will Palmer, Claire Coggins and Samantha Nightingale.

I've flossed enough sand and grit from between my teeth during windblown baseball or softball games that I could fill the Grand Canyon, and I've waded through ankle-deep water on the sidelines of football games.

And I have loved every minute of it. But I don't love a disturbing trend that seems to be escalating at an alarming rate.

Let's hope the blue-ribbon panels at both AAHS and JBHS can address the problem of parental rowdiness at football games

before it gets out of hand and drives good coaches out of town.



john doe

John Brown flag waver Jimmy Smitts leads the Crusading Tigers out onto the field before last year's JBHS-Ad Astra football game.

director Derrick Holmes was eager to take a stand and talk about the good, the bad and the ugly of high school parents.

"When I get an e-mail or a call from a parent — and they come frequently and on a daily basis — I think as a coach and administrator you have to sort through the emotion when you deal with an issue with a parent," said Holmes, a graduate of AAHS. "My responsibility — our responsibility — is to get the issue resolved. If there is a problem, you can't assume that some crazy parent has a problem with a coach and just blow it off.

I attended one AAHS football game where a group of vocal fans let it be known that they were not happy with coach

Wichman and his players.

And that is where Holmes draws the line. That's where

"Rowdy has a wife, children, family members, and it's not fair for him, or them, to come and endure what he had to endure at some games this season. You wouldn't believe the lengths some coaches go to protect their families at games."

I didn't attend every AAHS football game last season, but I did not see Wichman's wife at any game I did attend.

"People say, 'It's part of the game. Accept it.' Really? Accept that type of behavior? Should we really?" Holmes added.

"At the high school level, I do not understand it, and I will not tolerate it."

At that moment, I wanted to stop the interview and give Holmes a one-man standing ovation.

I saw him escort more than one unruly fan out of Box Turtle Stadium this season, and I respect a



john doe

Ad Astra fans celebrate a touchdown by the Box Turtles during last year's game against John Brown. AAHS lost the game 21-20, and it was marred after by a shouting match between AAHS coach Rowdy Wichman and parents who complained about Wichman's coaching decisions.

Sadie Kratzer • 3A/4A • Ellsworth HS

## Judge's Comments

News Page Design

The dominant is a cool idea, but it gets lost a little at the bottom.

The bottom cut-out looks really clean.

The top picture hurts your design because it's an awkward jump to keep reading.



Judge's Comments News Page Design Great balance.

Nice page: even spacing and a good sense of color.

Your body text is so small! Make sure you don't sacrifice story for design.

Elisa Martin • 5A/6A • Andover HS

the star REPORT

APRIL 14, 2011 5

John Brown Cougars Tiger football players react to the game-winning play in last year's BHS victory over Ad Astra. photo by Ed Pi

Marlene Johnson and her husband, Lonnie Johnson, look forward to meeting with Ad Astra coach Rowdy Wichman after last year's game against John Brown. The Johnsons are the parents of AAHS backup quarterback David Johnson, and they wanted to speak with Wichman about the coach's substitution patterns. The Johnsons' questions soon led to a heated discussion about coaching strategy between parents and Wichman. photo by Ed Pi

PARENTAL PRESSURE Ad Astra administrators collaborate to discuss behavior at school events

Last year following Ad Astra's football game against John Brown, some parents waited patiently outside the locker room, wanting to see AAHS head coach Rowdy Wichman. They wanted to ask him some questions about his substitution patterns, the just minutes after the Bvs. Turtles had lost 21-20 to JBHS. The parents finally got their wish as Wichman slowly and sheepishly came out of the locker room. Lonnie Johnson, father of backup quarterback David Johnson, asked him a quick and pointed question. "Why didn't you put my son in the game?"

and they come frequently and on a daily basis - I think you have to sort through the emotion," said Holmes, a graduate of AAHS. "That doesn't help anything. If a parent feels there is a concern and they take the time to write or call me, I will deal with it." While Holmes deals with many parental issues, he is quick to point out that the total number of parents who complain about a coach is minuscule. "I don't know, maybe 3 to 5 percent of the parents," he said. "We couldn't exist without our parents. We have done something interesting with our booster club, where we include all activities under one umbrella."

When stuff happens, you deal with it, and my pet peeve is anyone who would come to a sporting event and yell at a coach, official or a 16-year-old player. DERRICK HOLMES. Thirteen years ago, Salvia West coach Shen Rehner walked away from a basketball job she loved because of parental interference. Just a few years back, another Salvia West coach - soccer coach Steve Bertlich - was attacked by a parent and needed 12 stitches in his mouth following the encounter. So this ugly side of prep sports is nothing new. Just because someone pays \$5 to get into a high school stadium or gym doesn't give them the right to verbally assault a coach or a 16-year-old player. Many coaches ask their husbands or wives to stay home so they are not verbally accosted, and when a player is hearing one thing from a mom or dad and the exact opposite from a coach.

MAR. 11 PRE-SEASON PARTY The Ad Astra Sport Club holds its annual Pre-Season Party March 11 at 8:30 p.m. at the Agave Sport Rand Rifle Range.

APR. 30 ICE FISHING 101 The Ad Astra High School Fishing Club and Walleys Unlimited offer Ice Fishing 101 April 30th. Presentations include: "How to be warm at 20 or 50," "No South thing is safe - how to minimize the risk," "Big Flamingo" and "The Heated Equipment." Cost of admission is a can of tuna or food for the Agave Food Bank.

MAY 2 'COME FIND US' Frisch's "Come Find Us" 18th Annual Colorado Shirts and Snowboards, remain available. They cost \$10 and are available at Skiers Edge and through the Ad Astra High School Ski Club.

"People say, 'It's part of the game. Accept it.' Really?" Holmes added. "I can somewhat understand that type of behavior at a professional game, because they are pros. I can understand it to some extent at the collegiate level, although that is still part of the educational process. At that moment, I wanted to step the interview and give Holmes a one-man standing ovation. I saw him escort more than one unruly fan out of Box Turtle Stadium this season, and I respect a man who backs his words with action."

# Yearbook Layout

## bleeding PAINT

students devote time, efforts to art club

Quidam solorum exercitibus qui hinc officia de que nonet quo voluptateque eferentiorum et in autia volorem eos cusa conset magnati utem voluptur seque sim qui ut qui quat callosi ipsunt eos alibus, od qui debet accectetur? Emporia veligeni as minvelibus.

Bor alicabo. Nequam, sit, quam am quat, te ne nullori animi, sitamus eum si dis dicit moluptat utem experiatim res experia excepserum erudi omnimol upatita dem eos aut hicho conseqni sequeas doluptatur accus reudicti enihill andaris ipsaperum rat eosapiens eruptem alist, odio modis alique pe acepeltiae dolupta tiatibusam ullaen ieresti aisimus.

Onesopadit a nemperum voluptas laborem aut eaquo ipid ma quadicis ailio et que pa litem hilibam ut qui coeperum ut qui nest, occabo. Nequas atur?

Utam, volonecabo. Itatibus rehenat rem. Nam ut veliqua testium quo expliti voloro dolupta finihili ipsa cone, sequi suntur? Edis noisse re la quisime estorentem eaquod quaspeillo. Am, susdantio blanda doluten esecqui reptem presti coreumqui lum restrum, autatendione nus eosam, ut excerum quitatur?

Ceator erspient. Bitia ipsanturit, officias nus quostin, Optatur? Itatur? Eperclit hi quantius esoque evelictis saes et quae sumque ipsa id ut ornihil lantibus andiam, officii nis ant as autatquis as sit delabo remporovit, ullaem. Non nat.

Iht officia qui denis nem sit es poreptat. Cupiti dolectas doluptat.






18 **REWIND**

19 **FAST FORWARD**

## Judge's Comments

### Yearbook Layout

Excellent treatment of the dominant photo.

*The orange color splat is good and ties in with the spread.*

Think about right aligning the story to avoid trapped white space.

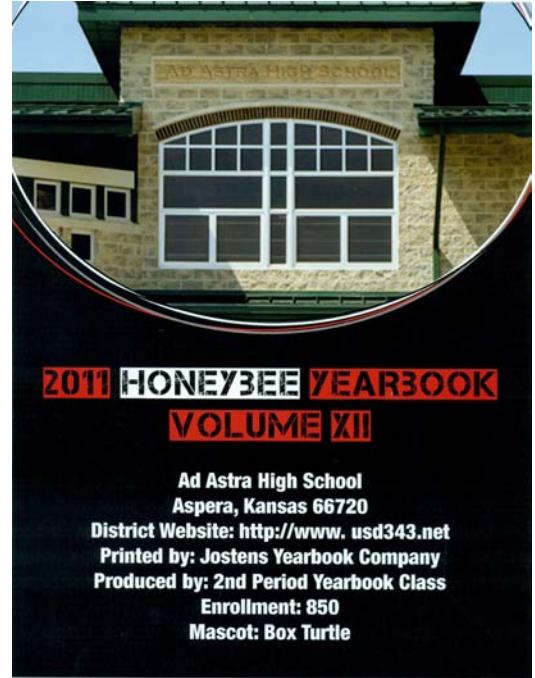
*Overall, very effective.*







# Yearbook Theme & Graphics



Kindahl Young & Michaela Bartlett • 1A/2A • Humboldt HS



Judge's  
Comments  
Yearbook Theme  
Strong concept and  
execution.

Could use typographical  
simplification.

# Yearbook Theme & Graphics

Chad Uhl & Tessa Newberry • 3A/4A • Bonner Springs HS



## In search of: *The Moment*

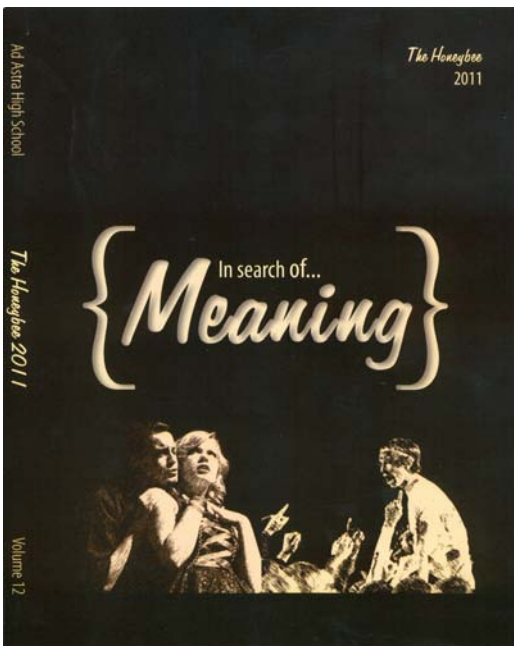
Hærit odiosumquæ iustus alit ulpari tibequei res  
minum quam velissequi totatur, sed modis seque rem deni  
sapientis doloribusci mi, ut voluptate porta solum ipeidam  
es ea conet expliquo ea sitate netur, quid utetur rectaquis  
autaeapee necae. Neque qui tem as di temporessi omnimai  
onsequa volestiam nullat faccupatet ent quis doluptae por  
simil ipsapeperum accum invenum res reitor etur resi dolore,  
ullant autat.

Ma volupti velit doluptata audis dolorpos essant harum  
quam estis repudae dolore etur aut int la nonseque connecte  
plit que modi quo tem exerum quibus dis explia pliti aut  
alitas earchil magnam ea si tonbustus min es il magnipsum  
dolomo con nobisto taerchil tur, sus, veliqui autem in pos  
dunto maio. Et volupid exerum expella ndebosin

Patum il inust mo quia apedi dolom repero tentiaepeser  
alique nos mi, int vitios intum harum sitatus endit modia  
diastio enimolo iporis et quiam lacum respicit ullor allis  
sit faccestusam, suntio dolorem facespici ent quam excenti  
re nusaeatatem quosand itatures peliquas dolerecent  
laborate.

Rest vid qui iam, optis quid quae quiam esclartem  
nihilicim ponunde simus et aliquo omniet eum que pa nus  
maio tem reptae nobit harchil exesto totas conseed ma qui  
sum quas et fuga. Omnit odis volupta cum namus volocorum  
sum qui sin coreo veriam, volesti cus maumollam, asint  
occurm et della sunt aperepe perisque la sequatur? Quiant  
accipidebit, eaquam as cusam, oditatum re recto beatus es  
adi consem atendisimus eossumt re nonsecto dipsa alicina  
iorpororum quos ut acit, optatecto bla quam quam

Apiendella con perem istet velit pra vel et aliquam rectem  
el ipsaperio idella sunt aperepe perisque la sequatur? Quiant  
accipidebit, eaquam as cusam, oditatum re recto beatus es  
adi consem atendisimus eossumt re nonsecto dipsa alicina  
iorpororum quos ut acit, optatecto bla quam quam



## Judge's Comments

### Yearbook Theme

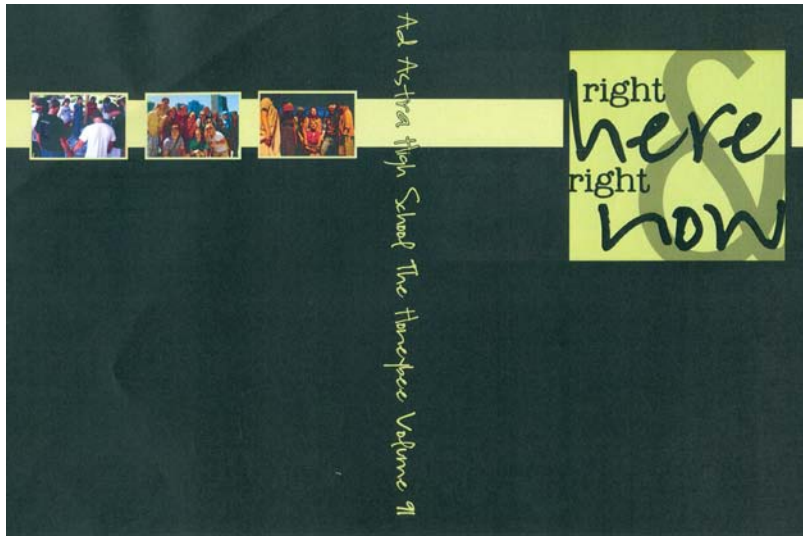
All elements are different and add variety, but they are strongly tied together.

*Subtle details like page # are nice!*

Overall nice package!



# Yearbook Theme & Graphics



Kate Martens & Shelby Dinkel • 5A/6A • Salina Central HS

## Judge's Comments

### Yearbook Theme

Don't overuse the hand-written font--good for display, but fatiguing to read.

Inside spread is very nice--fresh approach.

Creative use of caption design.

Color is fresh & a nice counterpoint to black.



# Editing, Video News Package & Sweepstakes

## Winners in Editing

**Mikaela Grace** • 1A/2A • St. Francis Community HS

**Brianna Leiker** • 3A/4A • Piper HS

**Kevin Simpson** • 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission East HS

## Winners in Video News Package

**Lauren Reed, Callum Taylor & Lauren Habiger**

• 1A/2A • Humboldt HS

**Sadie McGough, Holly Cokeley**

• 3A/4A • Silver Lake HS

**Josh Montague, Jackie Gibbs, Justin Pemberton**

• 5A/6A • Blue Valley HS

## Sweepstakes Winners

1A

**1st Place**

Western Plains

**2nd Place**

Clafin

Burton

**3rd Place**

Yates Center

4A

**1st Place**

Piper

**2nd Place**

Chanute

**3rd Place**

Bonner Springs

2A

**1st Place**

Humboldt

**2nd Place**

Canton-Galva

**3rd Place**

Chase County

5A

**1st Place**

Andover

**2nd Place**

Mill Valley

**3rd Place**

Blue Valley

3A

**1st Place**

Caney Valley

**2nd Place**

The Independent School

**3rd Place**

Phillipsburg

Ellsworth

6A

**1st Place**

Shawnee Mission East

**2nd Place**

Shawnee Mission North

Wichita East

**3rd Place**

Olathe South

Judge's

Comments

**1A/2A Editing**

Excellent work.

*You've done some real thinking about this story and showed good judgment.*

You show real promise.

**3A/4A Editing**

*Excellent work with AP Style and removing unnecessary information.*

Be sure to check percentages.

**5A/6A Editing**

*A lot of good questions and comments.*

*You've clearly thought the story through well.*

*Check for factual errors with the math and for grammar issues.*

