

Simply Better

May 5, 2007 • Vol. 14 • University of Kansas



Simply Better: KSPA 2007 state contest winners

From a total of 1,020 entries at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association State Contest May 5, 2007, the entries displayed here are **simply the best.**

First place winners' entries are published in this 14th issue of *Simply Better* except for those in Broadcasting and Editing. At the 36th annual KSPA State Contest, 128 Kansas high schools participated in the journalism contests.

Students qualified for this contest by placing at one of six regional contests in February. Students participated in 18 categories and judges' comments for each of these categories are included.

BROADCASTING WINNERS:

1A/2A: Derrek Zietz & Sarah Grockett, Chase County High School; 3A/4A: Joanna Hamel & Emma Lehner, Chapman High School; 5A/6A: Patrick Shields, Mill Valley High School.

EDITING WINNERS:

1A/2A: Becky Neeley, Burlingame High School; 3A/4A: Emily McIntosh, Pratt High School; 5A/6A: Wendy Snyder, Manhattan High School.

COVER PHOTO:

Students and journalism teachers from 128 Kansas schools listen to John Hudnall, Kansas Scholastic Press Association executive director, during the opening of the 2007 state contest.

School Index

Andover Central ... 9, 26, 31	Jefferson West ... 11
Baldwin ... 17, 21	Kapaun Mt. Carmel ... 31
Bishop Carroll Catholic ... 6, 18, 22, 31	Kinsley ... 5, 12, 18, 23, 31
Blue Valley ... 3	Lawrence ... 10, 24, 31
Blue Valley Northwest ... 27, 31	Lucas-Luray ... 8
Burlingame ... 2, 8, 31	Manhattan ... 2, 3, 31
Canton-Galva ... 16, 24	McPherson ... 30
Chapman ... 2, 25	Mill Valley ... 2, 13, 14, 19, 25, 31
Chase County ... 2, 26, 31	Olathe South ... 31
Columbus Unified ... 7, 23, 31	Onaga ... 7, 12
Doniphan West ... 5	Phillipsburg ... 4
Derby ... 10, 31	Pratt ... 2
DeSoto ... 11	SM East ... 9, 31
Ellinwood ... 31	SM North ... 23, 31
Eudora ... 15, 31	Silver Lake ... 31
Hiawatha ... 28	Southeast of Saline ... 6, 31
Holton ... 4	St. Thomas Aquinas ...
Humboldt ... 17, 29, 31	TMP Marian ... 19
Independent ... 30	Troy ... 30
	Valley Falls ... 20



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Simply Better

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Sarah Weaver • 5A/6A •
Blue Valley High School

New addition to Quiz Bowl team
brings surprising double match win

Culinary art class
impresses others
with their dishes



Teacher faces charges over missing funds

Nora Simon • 5A/6A •
Manhattan High School

Student Council sponsor Jane Haller is suspected of embezzling more than \$75,000 from Student Council funds over a period of three years and has been suspended from her duties after the Midway School Board held an executive session on Monday.

The missing funds were discovered during an audit completed this winter, Sunflower High School business manager Evelyn Waugh said. No one suspected funds were being embezzled, including Student Council members.

“When I realized there were funds missing, I was absolutely shocked,” Waugh said. “This sort of thing just doesn’t happen at SHS.”

Midway School Board President Mike Hockaday announced Haller would still receive pay until her hearing. Since the situation is a “personnel matter,” Hockaday said the board “has no comment at this time.”

Although Haller holds a high reputation as an American History teacher and Student Council sponsor, Midway School District Superintendent Harley Harvester said the district will

press criminal charges against Haller and work to revoke her Kansas Education Association teaching credentials. Harvester is thankful the problem can be easily solved and didn’t damage the district.

“These kinds of things are always difficult,” Harvester said. “Fortunately, no one was hurt by this teacher’s bad performance.”

Haller had been a teacher and Student Council sponsor for 12 years, having won Midway School’s Teacher of the Year in both 1999 and 2004. Her strengths in teaching and leadership will be missed, SHS Principal Harold Elkey said.

“This is a tragic affair,” Elkey said. “Mrs. Haller was one of our finest teachers. Her indiscretion with the Student Council money is most unfortunate. SHS is losing both an exceptional history teacher and a wonderful Student Council sponsor.

The position of Student Council sponsor will be filled by English teacher Peter Garver, but Student Council President Paul Romano said Haller’s loss to the Student Council is great.

“This is amazing,” Romano said. “However, we will all miss Mrs. Haller immensely. She was most definitely an excellent leader for Student Council.”

JUDGES’ comments

5A/6A heads:

Head #1 pulled the exact info out of the story to make it interesting and smart. The “new addition” was key, but I’m not sure if the win was surprising. One source said that, but that makes it sound like they’ve never won before, and they “surprisingly” did.

Head #3 was fine. It should have said parents, but was still clean and to the point.

I loved head #2! The bathroom graphic was creative, and the word choice of “time bomb” was accurate with the story. The clock graphic was a clever touch too! However, the second head could have used more direct info about the confusion, the waste of time, etc., not just “take away” from education.

5A/6A news:

Good lead.

You got all the big news-- executive session could have been mentioned later--slows it down a bit. Overall, well organized and complete.

JUDGES' comments

3A/4A news:

Remember to include that she was suspended on suspicion of embezzlement. Be careful of inaccuracies in quotes. The lead was good but should have included more details. Be careful with quotes and with editorializing.

3A/4A heads:

Head #1 was great. It captured the two main points of focus-- the success and the new team member.

Head #3 was also creative. It was direct and used word choice that captured the meaning. "Culinary students" would have been helpful.

Student Council sponsor suspended

Liz Jarski • 3A/4A •
Holton High School

Jane Haller, American History teacher and Student Council sponsor, was suspended without pay at the Midway School Board meeting Monday night.

Haller is suspected of embezzling more than \$75,000 of school funds from the Student Council account. The missing money was discovered by school business manager Evelyn Waugh during a routine audit this winter.

According to Superintendent Harvey Harvester, the district will be pressing criminal charges against Haller. The Kansas Education Association will also be contacted about revoking her teaching credentials.

"When I realized there were funds missing, I was absolutely shocked.

This sort of thing just doesn't happen at SHS," Waugh said.

Also shocked were the Student Council members. They were unaware that Haller had been stealing their funds for the last three years.

"This is a tragic affair. Mrs. Haller was one of our finest teachers. Her indiscretion with the Student Council money is most unfortunate. SHS is losing both an exceptional history teacher and a wonderful Student Council sponsor," Dr. Harold Elkey, principal, said.

Haller has been employed by the district for the past 12 years. During this time she has been named the Midway School's Teacher of the Year twice, in 1999 and 2004.

Peter Garver, English instructor, will serve as Student Council sponsor for the remainder of the year.

Matt Smith • 3A/4A •
Phillipsburg High School

Quiz Bowl team dominates trivia; freshman member provides talent

Students cook up learned recipes to please parents

Explosive Impression

School bomb threat, a practical joke, gives school bad reputation and wastes educational time



Alesha Miller • 1A/2A •
Doniphan West High School

Quiz Bowl team gains double win,
aided by unique freshman Keeener

Culinary luncheon
showcases food,
surprises parents

TEACHER SUSPENDED FROM DUTIES More than \$75,000 taken from student council funds

William Fulls • 1A/2A •
Kinsley High School

Jane Haller, American History instructor and Student Council sponsor, was suspended from her teaching duties Monday night after being accused of embezzling student funds.

“These kinds of things are always difficult,” Dr. Harvey Harvester, superintendent, said. “Fortunately, no one was hurt by this teacher’s bad performance.”

Haller was accused of stealing over \$75,000 from the Student Council account over the last three years. Evelyn Waugh, school business manager, discovered that the funds were missing during a mandatory audit this winter. The Student Council members had no idea of what Haller was doing.

“When I realized there were funds missing, I was

absolutely shocked,” Waugh said.

The school district plans to press criminal charges against Haller. The district will also be contacting the Kansas Education Association to have Haller’s teaching credentials revoked.

Haller was considered by many an honorary educator, holding her teaching and sponsoring positions for the past 12 years. In both 1999 and 2004, Haller was named Midway School’s Teacher of the Year.

“We will all miss Mrs. Haller immensely,” Student Council President Paul Romaro said. “She was most definitely an excellent leader for Student Council.”

For the time being, Peter Graves will serve as the sponsor for the Student Council. No comment was available from Haller or the Midway School Board.

JUDGES’ *comments*

1A/2A heads:

Really fine job fitting in all the pertinent info.

Maybe change “unique” to “talented.”

Don’t really need the comma in #1.

Good overall, very sound. Not sure about the kids in the cutout.

Ridiculous is a bit editorialized. Don’t use “bomb threat” in both head and subhead.

Good job recognizing the news in each article.

1A/2A news:

This is a well-organized story that makes good use of quotes. However, the most important part of news writing is presenting accurate information in an unbiased manner. You need to fact check your story and read it over more closely.

Feature Photography

JUDGES' *comments*

Close-up:

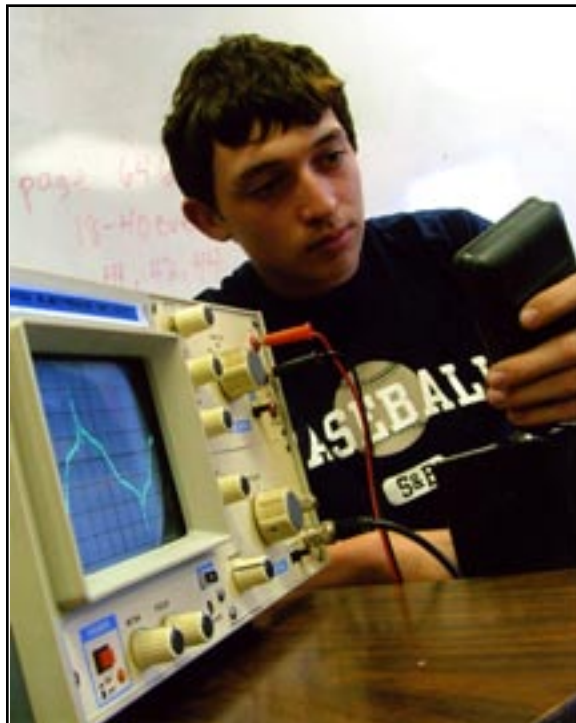
The play photo needs more of a moment.

Distance:

Very interesting angle.



Nathan McMillan
• 5A/6A • Bishop Carroll Catholic
High School



6 • *Simply Better*



JUDGES' *comments*

Watch out for cropping out hands.

Sadie Myers
• 3A/4A •
Southeast of Saline
High School

Feature Photography

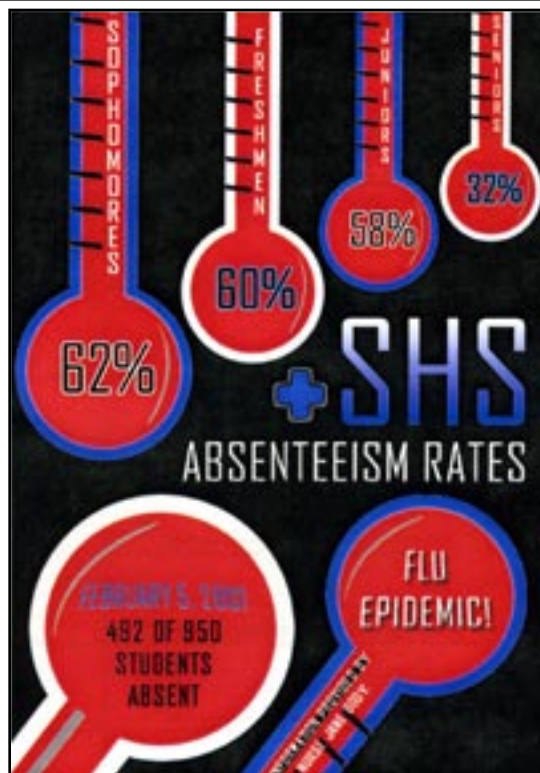


Frankie Suther
• 1A/2A •
Onaga High School

JUDGES'
comments
Good job getting close up!

Infographics

Amanda Kojsonk
• 3A/4A •
Columbus Unified
High School



JUDGES'
comments

Excellent work!
Everything is well done. Great use of color. Great presentation and organization. Every key fact was mentioned and nice job not overloading the infographic with text and detail.

JUDGES' comments

1A/2A feature writing:

Nicely paced, well-written.
Watch redundancy. Good
natural voice.

1A/2A infographics:

Clever and well-organized.
Nice font selection and
use of color. Avoid using
the quote--save it for the
story. You must attribute
your information to a
source!

Sunflower High graduate publishes children's book

Becky Neeley • 1A/2A •
Burlingame High School

Sunflower High School's very own 1994 graduate Terry Hampton has made his mark on the world at the age of 30. The former Midway Elementary School teacher has recently published his first book, "A Christmas Kill," a story about appreciating one's own family during the holiday season.

"Working with children's books just gives you a wonderful opportunity to create expressive stories that can really impact a young person's life," said Hampton. However, "This is a book that isn't directed at any one age group. It's a loving story that anyone can read and appreciate."

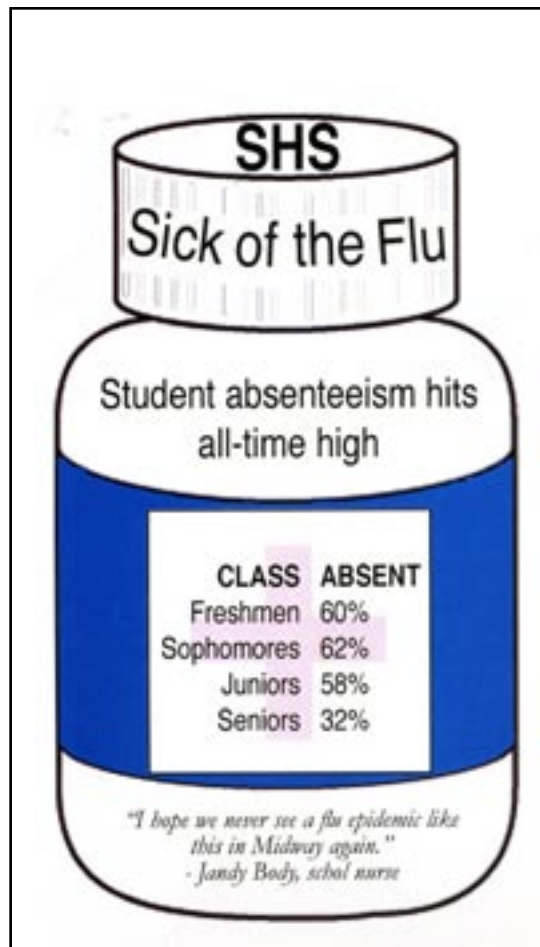
Pamela Payne, Hampton's English teacher at SHS, had him in her forensics and drama classes.

"I am so proud of Terry. He was always one of these students with a twinkle in his eye. He just loved learning," Payne said. "I always knew he would be an author. He just had that sort of drive."

The Midway native attended the University of Kansas receiving a degree in English. He graduated in 1998. While at KU, Hampton worked all four years for the University Daily Kansan as an illustrator. Then it was back to his home town of Midway for four years as an elementary school teacher.

Hampton is currently a free lance writer and lives in Middlebury, though his parents still reside in Midway. He searched for a publisher for over a year before finding Americus Publishing Co, which will release the book this summer, just in time for the holiday season.

"I have a couple more children's book ideas, but right now I plan to focus on 'A Christmas Kiss' until I get it published and sold," said Hampton. "I just owe so much to all the teachers I had at SHS who encouraged me and forced me to work hard."



Nathan Ellis
• 1A/2A •
Lucas-Luray High School

Alumnus publishes his first children's book

Erica Keefer • 3A/4A •
Andover Central High School

What is blue and white and read all over? A Sunflower alumnus who just published his first book.

Terry Hampton, 30, who graduated from Sunflower in 1994, recently published his first children's book, "A Christmas Kiss." However, Hampton says the book is not limited to children. The theme of the story, the importance of family during the holidays, appeals to readers of all ages.

"It's a loving story that anyone can appreciate," Hampton said.

Hampton's teachers from Sunflower are honored that one of their students has allowed the talents that they nurtured to blossom.

Pamela Payne, who taught Hampton in forensics and drama, says she had no doubt that Terry would be a success.

"I always knew he would be an author," Payne said. "He just had that sort of drive. He was always one of those students with a twinkle in his eye. He just loved learning."

Even in elementary school his work showed promise.

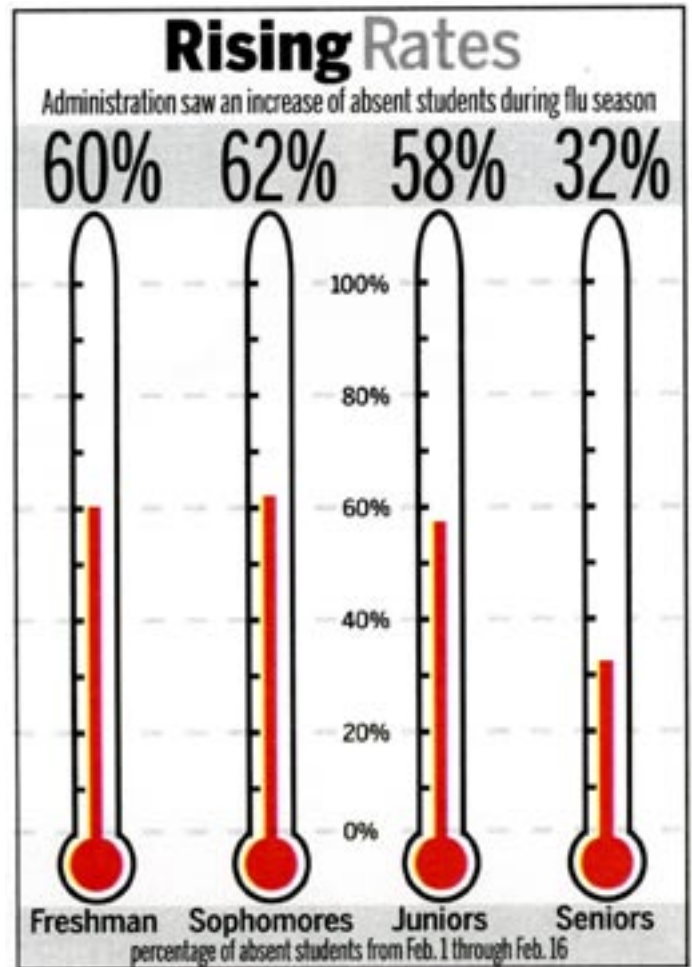
"When I had Terry in third grade," said Barry Alvarez, one of Hampton's elementary teachers, "I knew he had a positive future. He was always scribbling and drawing. It was just constant."

Now as Hampton makes his debut as a published author, he will not forget his past.

"I just owe so much to all the teachers at SHS who encouraged me and forced me to work so hard," Hampton said.

Hampton moved on to become a teacher following his graduation from the University of Kansas in 1998. Hampton now aims his voice to the youth.

"Working with children's books just gives you a



Stephen Nichols
• 5A/6A •

Shawnee Mission East High School

wonderful opportunity to create expressive stories that can really impact a young person's life," Hampton said.

In fact, Hampton has a few more children's book ideas floating in his head, but he plans to pursue them after Americus Publishing Co. produces "A Christmas Kiss," which will be on shelves in time for holiday shopping.

JUDGES'
comments

3A/4A feature:

Very nice soft lead. Nice structure to story. Good concluding paragraph.

5A/6A infographic: Very nicely done. Well organized and all information is clearly and accurately given. Great use of color and font variation. Only suggestion would be to make the bottom information much smaller.

Feature Writing/Editorial Cartoon

JUDGES'
comments

5A/6A editorial cartoon:

Your drawings are amazing. You need to pursue a career in this or something pertaining to art. The story is clear, but it is a little confusing with so many words in the first panel. Great job following the prompt and using irony. Too wordy. Make it more concise.

5A/6A feature writing:

A fine, all-around effort. Tightly written, good pace, good tone. Nicely plotted--good progression of points. Watch sentence length.



Victoria Beasley • 5A/6A • Derby High School

SHS grad realizes his true love

Taylor Renfro • 5A/6A •
Lawrence High School

When Terry Hampton graduated from Sunflower High in 1994, he knew he had a passion for illustrating and art. What he did not know was that he would become the publisher of a children's book called, "A Christmas Kiss."

"I always wanted to be an illustrator or artist of some sort," Hampton said. "It's exciting having my first book published, but way more work than I ever imagined."

English teacher Pamela Payne has known Hampton since he signed up for her forensics and drama course when he was a freshman.

"I am so proud of Terry," Payne said. "He was always one of those students with a twinkle in his eye. He just loved learning."

After graduating from SHS, Hampton went on to earn a degree in English from the University of Kansas in 1993, where he worked as an illustrator for the University Daily Kansan. He then became an elementary school teacher for four years at Woodson Elementary.

Hampton soon realized his true love was writing and illustrating, so he turned his eye to his first book, "A Christmas Kiss."

"Working with children's books just gives you a wonderful opportunity to create expressive stories that can really impact a young person's life," Hampton said.

The story is about appreciating one's family during the holiday season. Hampton said that although it is a children's book, it's a loving story that anyone can read and appreciate.

Hampton credits the teachers at SHS for having pushed him to do his best.

"I just owe so much to all the teachers I had at SHS who encouraged me and forced me to work hard," Hampton said.

Currently, Hampton is a freelance writer and lives in Middlebury. His parents continue to live in Midway. Hampton plans to continue writing and illustrating in the future.

"I have a couple more children's book ideas but right now I plan to focus on 'A Christmas Kill' until I get it published and sold," Hampton said.

The book is set to hit the shelves in time for the holiday season.

New library hours helpful

Alainia Moomau • 3A/4A •
Jefferson West High School

There is a new tension between church and school in Midway. The topic of controversy is none other than the school library hours. Since when did libraries start causing controversy?

The student council at Sunflower High has proposed new after-school hours for the school library. Currently, the library is opened from 3-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The new hours will take effect in the fall with approval from Principal Harley Harvester.

The library will be open the regular hours, but also 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition to the work week hours, the library is also planning on opening from 5-8 p.m. on Sundays.

Herein lies the controversy. The new Sunday hours have area churches and parents concerned that the library hours will take away from church activities.

"This will create a division between the school district and our church," said Michael

Brown, the pastor of Community Church.

The idea that education could drive a wedge between churches and the school doesn't make sense. The school isn't trying to break the community away from church activities. The new hours are simply for students to have more access to resources.

Although the local churches and parents may be concerned, they must also consider the benefits of the new hours.

Not only will the library provide access to resources for the students, but it will also create a positive environment for students to interact in. A positive environment will not hinder religious values.

Even though the new library hours may take place at the same time as religious services, it is not an attack on churches. Attendance at the library is strictly voluntary, and the hours still leave time for activities during the morning hours on Sunday.

Parents and religious leaders should look at the new library hours as a step toward a similar goal: the goal of a community to produce educated and well-balanced adults.

Kate Beaver
• 3A/4A •
DeSoto
High School



JUDGES'
comments

3A/4A
editorial
writing:

Lead is a bit weak--
don't "tip-toe."
Be more direct.
But the rest is well
done. Nice job.

3A/4A
editorial
cartoon:

Drawing is good.
Could have used
some shading
on the building
because there are
too many parallel
lines, but I can see
what is going on.

Point is clear and
tells a story. Good
job.

Increased library hours effective

Christine Eslinger
• 1A/2A • Kinsley High School

Sunflower High School’s Student Council has recently proposed an increase in after-school library hours. Dr. James Hartwig, school librarian, gave his approval for the new hours. The new hours have also been approved by SHS Principal Dr. Harley Harvester.

“This is one of the most impressive proposals I’ve seen come from Student Council in all my years here,” Harvester said.

Currently, the library is open from 3-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning next fall, the hours will change to 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 5-8 p.m. on Sundays. This will be the first time library hours include weekends.

“We will staff the weekend hours with student help,” Hartwig said. “I’m excited about the possibilities this will open for our students.”

The proposal has many positive points: longer hours for students to study, a place to study on weekends, and a computer lab available for students to use on Sundays. There is some religious opposition.

“This will create a division between the school district and our church,” Rev. Michael Brown said.

Brown is the pastor of the Community Church.

Some parents argue that Sunday evening hours will interfere with church activities. Even some students are opposed to the proposal. Student group Youth for Christ plans to hold a protest against the approved proposal in front of the high school next Sunday.

Conflict is apparent, but it can be solved. Students involved in evening church activities are not forced to use the library on Sundays, but they may be tempted. Weekend hours can be moved from Sunday to Saturday.

Not all students have an adequate place to study after school or on weekends. By providing a place for students to study, it may motivate them to actually do it. Also, many families cannot afford computers. There is a computer lab adjacent to the library for student use. In today’s world, it is almost essential to do research on a computer.

The increase in library hours will cost the school an extra \$1,500 annually for library staff salaries.

“I would say that \$1,500 is a small price to pay for this type of learning opportunity,” Mr. Don Caspian, school board president, said.

An increase in library hours is a simple but effective educational opportunity for all students to participate in. Now students do not have the excuse that they do not have adequate study tools or a study place.

JUDGES’ comments

1A/2A editorial writing:

Overall, nicely done. A stronger ending addressing/reinforcing your main point would help.

Also, will switch have any effect? If not, why did Student Council not select Saturday in the first place? Worth asking. Nevertheless, nicely done.

1A/2A editorial cartoon:

Great panel layout, character facial expressions. Excellent “storytelling.” Doesn’t make the big picture of the story clear, however. Great cartoon, but narrow focus draws away from the overall issue.



Aaron Trippel
• 1A/2A • Onaga High School

Custodial to-do list lengthens

Meghan Baskett

• 5A/6A • Mill Valley High School

On a hectic Sunday afternoon, a student sits down to begin studying for his upcoming honors government exam. Between his little sister's blaring radio, his father's football game and the lawnmower buzzing outside, the student struggles to focus.

If the new proposal from Sunflower High School's student council is enacted, this student would be able to find a peaceful study zone in his high school library.

The student council is working to change the school library hours from 3-5 p.m. on weekdays to 4-8 p.m. Students would also be able to use the library on Sunday evenings.

While the proposed weekend hours could cause scheduling conflicts with some churchgoers, the new schedule would benefit many students who lack a quiet studying oasis.

Students who have religious obligations on Sundays have plenty of other opportunities during the school week to utilize the school library.

The student council should be revered for

its proposal. In today's society it is rare for a student group to focus on ways to improve a school's academic situation. As school board President Don Caspian said, "The fact that this recommendation came from a student group is most impressive. I would say that \$1,500 is a small price to pay for this type of learning opportunity."

Students, parents and community religious leaders need to focus on the positives of the proposal. The community should recognize the Student Council's efforts to help students improve their grades rather than protest the new hours because of a small group of students' religious conflicts.

The new library hours could bring lasting benefits for students if the community allows it to. With the city library closed on weekends, there is currently no common place for students to study. If the proposal is enacted, both grades and students' motivation to study could rise.

The benefits of the Student Council's proposals greatly outweigh the negatives. If the community can focus on what is best for the students, this proposal can bring great change.

JUDGES'
comments

5A/6A
editorial
writing:

A strong effort that targets/argues the central issue well. Nice job.

Sports Photography

Ellen Gatewood

• 5A/6A •
Mill Valley
High School



5A/6A
sports
photography:

The photo has a great moment, good expression on face. Clean and simple composition.

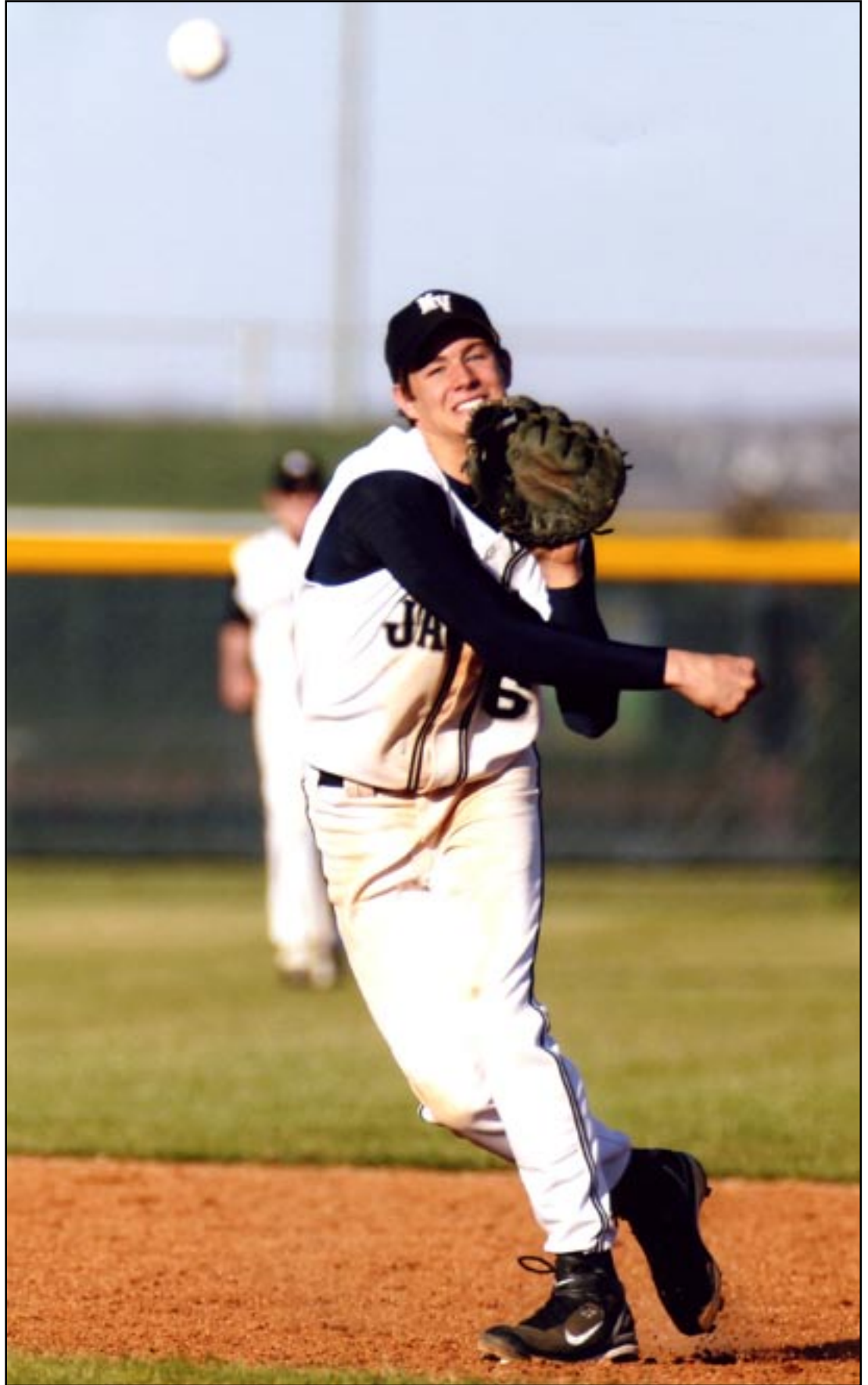
Sports Photography

JUDGES'
comments

**5A/6A
sports
photography:**

Photo has a great moment.
Good expression shown on face.
Clean and simple composition.
Great job!

Ellen Gatewood
• 5A/6A • Mill Valley
High School



Sports Photography



JUDGES'
comments

3A/4A
sports
photography:

Both photos have a great moment, have unique angles. Nicely composed.



Connor
Hartpence
• 3A/4A •
Eudora
High School

Sports Photography

JUDGES' *comments*

1A/2A sports photography:

Both have a great moment.

I was impressed by your
three-layered photo. Nicely
done.

The background is a little
too much in focus.

Ashley Vogts

• 1A/2A •
Canton-Galva
High School



Game to be televised nationally

Michaela Myer • 1A/2A •
Humboldt High School

For the first time in ESPN history, a high school baseball game will be nationally televised. Sunflower High School has been asked to take part in ESPN's first ever "High School Game Day."

"This is a great occasion for the Midway School system," said Dr. Tom Rankin, superintendent. "We hope to put our best foot forward for this national television audience."

Sunflower High School will face Middleton High School at home for this history-making game. Middleton High has been undefeated over the past three seasons and is currently ranked third by USA Today.

"Middleton High will provide a definite challenge, but I think the Sailors are up to that challenge," said Paul Barker, Sunflower coach.

The Sailors are 16-3 overall with a 5-1 record in Range League play heading into

Friday's game. Even though they will face Middleton High's 17-0 record, Sunflower High is well supported by their community.

"I am so pleased for our team and our students that they have been chosen to be one of the first participants on "High School Game Day," said Mayor Dorothy Conklin. "I can't imagine any better exposure for our community."

Friday's game will take place at Sunflower Field in Midway, Kan. This stadium is more than 75 years old and seats 2,750 fans. Much hard work has been done to prepare the stadium for Sunflower High School's first televised game.

"I can't say how much we appreciate all the hard work and effort put in by the Midway folks," said Larry Moore, ESPN spokesman. "We have been well received and accepted."

An opening segment featuring information on high school baseball along with coverage of Middle America baseball will begin at 7 p.m. followed by the game at 8 p.m.

ESPN to telecast SHS baseball game

Chris Elniff • 3A/4A •
Baldwin High School

This Friday at 8 p.m. the Sailors' baseball team will take on perennial powerhouse Middleton in ESPN's first ever nationally televised "High School Game Day." The honor of being part of this historic telecast has the Sunflower High administration excited.

"This will go down as one of the athletic highlights for Sunflower High," Principal Larry Owens said. "We welcome ESPN and its crew to Midway."

ESPN is expanding high school coverage, and the game is an example of the effort.

"We wanted to showcase the Midwest and their love for baseball, and these two schools demonstrate that love," ESPN spokesman Larry Moore said.

The Sailors will have a tough challenge on their national stage. Middleton comes into the game ranked No. 3 nationally by USA

Today and has an undefeated record over the past three years, with a 17-0 overall, 6-0 Range League mark. Sunflower is 16-3 overall, 5-1 Range League record.

"Middleton High will provide a definite challenge, but I think the Sailors are up to that challenge," head coach Paul Barker said. "I just hope the kids don't get blinded by the camera lights. This is an awesome opportunity for them to appear on national television."

The broadcast, which is the first televised game in Sunflower High history, will open at 7 p.m. with a segment featuring information on high school baseball along with coverage of Middle America baseball.

Regardless of the outcome of the game, Midway will enjoy a positive representation on the national stage.

"I can't say how much we appreciate all the hard work and effort put in by the Midway folks," Moore said. "We have been well received and accepted."

JUDGES'
comments

1A/2A
newspaper
sports writing:

Smooth, complete and cleanly written.

Sunflower High School should be mentioned in first sentence.

Good use of sources and follows rules of style and grammar.

3A/4A
newspaper
sports writing:

Great lead. Best of the day by far.

Good order of facts.

Best one of the day!

Great job! Info was clearly presented.

Newspaper Sports Writing

JUDGES'
comments

5A/6A
newspaper
sports writing:

Overall, a very good story.
Just the right details.

ESPN to feature baseball game

Christian Beck • 5A/6A •
Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

ESPN plans to make Friday's Middleton-Sunflower High baseball game the first nationally televised high school baseball game in the network's history.

ESPN plans to feature the game as part of its first-ever "High School Game Day."

"This is a great occasion for the Midway School System," said Superintendent Tom Rankin. "We hope to put our best foot forward for a national television audience."

Middleton goes into Friday's game carrying a No. 3 ranking from USA Today. The team hasn't lost a game in the past three seasons. This year, Middleton boasts a 6-0 record in Range League play, and 17-0 record overall.

Sunflower High, meanwhile, holds a 16-3 record, with a 5-1 record in conference play. SHS Coach Paul Barker is thrilled that his kids have the change to be a part of the first televised game in school history.

"Middleton High will provide a definite challenge, but I think the Sailors are up to that challenge," Barker said. "I just hope our kids aren't blinded by the lights. This is an awesome opportunity for them to appear on national television."

The game is set to start at 8 p.m., but coverage will begin at 7. The hour-long segment prior to the game will feature a variety of information on high school baseball, as well as coverage of Middle America baseball. ESPN spokesman Larry Moore said Midway is a perfect environment to expose high school baseball.

"We wanted to showcase the Midwest and their love for baseball," Moore said. "These two schools demonstrate that love."

The game will be played at Sunflower Field in Midway, home of the old Midway Marauders semi-professional team, which disbanded in 1972. Though the stadium is old (75 years), it has adequate seating for a game of this magnitude (2,750 seats).

Yearbook Sports Writing

JUDGES'
comments

1A/2A
yearbook sports
writing:

A couple of mistakes, but you hit the main grammatical styles. It would have been better had you used a "100-year" quote, or had another graph about it.

18 • *Simply Better*

Teams recognized at celebration

Samantha Strate • 1A/2A •
Kinsley High School

On Feb. 24, SHS celebrated 100 years of basketball. More than 275 basketball players and seven former coaches returned and were recognized at the celebration.

"This was such an exciting event for the players, former players and all our fans," Coach Robert Swank said.

The celebration was held at halftime of a basketball game and was sponsored by the Student Council.

"This was most definitely a shining moment for the SHS fans," Superintendent Dr. Harvey Harvester said. "It was a most impressive event."

During the ceremony the three state championship teams were also recognized. A special 100-year banner was raised to the rafters at halftime.

"We are especially indebted to the SHS Student Council for all they did to make this such a successful celebration," Principal Dr. Harold Elkey said.

Coaches, players, fans celebrate 100 years of SHS basketball

Kendra Threlkel • 3A/4A •
TMP-Marian High School

It was a moment captured in time on the night of Feb. 24, 2007, at Sunflower High School as students, coaches, players and fans joined together to celebrate the 100th year of basketball at SHS. The excitement, laughter and memories shared created a home-like atmosphere for many former coaches, athletes and alumni.

“It’s amazing that we have the oldest program in the state,” said head coach Robert Swank. “Our rich heritage is envied by all the other schools.”

The 100-year celebration was sponsored by Student Council and held at halftime of the SHS/Central High basketball game. Student Council created a 100-year anniversary banner to be placed among the rafters in honor of all who had passed through and supported the basketball program. In turn, each class also had a special banner, which they processed

around the court during the ceremony.

“We are especially indebted to the SHS Student Council for all they did to make this such a successful celebration,” said Principal Harold Elkey.

The SHS administration was proud to announce that seven former basketball coaches had returned for the ceremony and more than 275 basketball players. All were recognized during halftime as well as the three SHS state championship teams.

As alumni and coaches recalled their memories, fans cheered, people cried and students proudly represented their blue and white. It was obvious in that night at the gymnasium students realized that SHS was not just a high school, but a family.

The 100-year basketball celebration was a huge success.

“This was most definitely a shining moment for the SHS fans. It was a most impressive event,” said Superintendent Harvey Harvester.

Teams celebrate 100 years

Ashley Jones • 5A/6A •
Mill Valley High School

A parade of former Sunflower High School basketball players filed around the court, class by class, during halftime on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The procession was part of the 100th anniversary celebration of SHS basketball.

“It’s amazing that we have the oldest program in the state,” Coach Robert Swank said.

Seven former coaches, over 275 former players and three state championship teams received recognition at the event.

“This was such an exciting event for the players, former players and all of our fans,” Swank said.

Student Council sponsored the event.

“We are especially indebted to the SHS Student Council for all they did to make this such a successful celebration,” Principal Harold Elkey said.

The event included banners for each class along with a 100th anniversary banner hung from the rafters.

“This was most definitely a shining moment for the SHS fans,” Superintendent Harvey Harvester said. “It was a most impressive event.”

JUDGES’
comments

3A/4A

**yearbook
sports writing:**

Careful with the “moment captured . . .” It’s a little cliché sounding, but you hit the main points.

5A/6A

**yearbook
sports writing:**

Make lead tighter with all the relevant information.
Small problems with grammar, AP style.
Too many quotes.
Some things could be tighter, but overall it was fine.

Newspaper Design

JUDGES' comments

1A/2A

An effective and good looking design.

News judgment--should have included story on security.

Morgan Ratliff •
1A/2A •
Valley Falls High School

May 11, 2007

SPORTS
LADY SAILORS
START OFF AN
UNDEFEATED
SOFTBALL SEASON
- page 2

STUDENT RESPONSE
FIND OUT WHAT
EVERYONE ELSE IS
PLANNING FOR
SUMMER BREAK
- page 3-6

SCHOOL NEWS
SEE WHAT
STUDENTS DID TO
HELP WITH THE
NEW OFFICES
- page 7

MISCELLANEOUS
FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THE NEW
MULTIMEDIA CENTER
- page 8

The Standard

May 11, 2007 Sunflower High School Volume 98, Issue 1

Sailors debate team wins state

■ Faith Ramsay Staff Writer

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Continued page 2

New multimedia center completed

■ Kari Stratley Staff Writer

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Sailors staff member recognized

■ Jane Doe Staff Writer

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Sunflower high achieves Standard of Excellence

■ John Doe Staff Writer

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SUNFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL 415 EISENHOWER, MIDWAY, KAN.

THE STANDARD

Debate wins State

By John Doe
Staff Writer

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SCHOOL BOARD
Security:
Students
under watch
Board approves \$1.2
million for cameras

By John Doe
Staff Writer

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Mahoney to represent State

Social studies teacher selected to Teacher of Year competition

By John Doe
Staff Writer

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Mike Mahoney
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JUDGES'
comments

3A/4A

This page is very classy and
works well.

The dominant photo is clear.
There is a good concept of
design shown.

One problem is the headline
for debate should be bigger.

- Wesley Callahan
• 3A/4A •
Baldwin High School

JUDGES' comments

5A/6A newspaper design:

Effective and visually appealing page. News judgment--should have included debate team story.

Allison Pfeifer • 5A/6A • Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

NEW ENGLISH OFFICES
The new English department offices are being built on the north side of the building. They will be ready for next fall.

DEBATE'S FIRST WIN AT STATE
Debate wins the state championship at Hutchinson CCC.

THE SENIOR CLASS PLAY
Cast is going to be announced next week for senior play





the standard

Volume 2, Issue 4
Friday, May 11, 2007
Sunflower High School
Midway, Kansas



Students in their old multimedia center. The new one will be bigger and better with new technological advances. Photo by Anne Cal

Mike Mahoney wins 'Teacher of the Year'

By Susie Kan

The National Teacher of the Year is chosen from among the State Teachers of the Year by a national selection committee representing the major national education organizations.

This year's winner was Physics teacher Mike Mahoney. He has been a teacher at SHS for 27 years. His class is considered to be the most well-liked teacher in the school.

"He is just a really cool guy," said junior Amanda Kuznicka. "He just really knows what students are going to find interesting and what they aren't."

Each April, the National Teacher of the Year is introduced to the American people by the President of the United States.

He will get to have a dinner made of him and he will get to go to Washington DC to sit in placed for the Teacher's Hall of Fame. He will be their hero.

The National Teacher of the Year is released from classroom duties during the year of recognition to travel nationally and internationally as a spokesperson for the teaching profession.

Some of the student's were not very happy when they learned about this.

"I don't see why he has to leave. If he is that good of teacher, then he obviously needs to stay," said freshman Justin Johnson. "The thing is, now that he is going to be traveling, they are now going to have to find some less qualified teacher to fill in his spot."

Students said that it didn't apply to him to reach through because by the time that he takes physics, Johnson will be back teaching.

The traveling will include 20 different states, and will take a year to complete.

All activities of the National Teacher.

The National Teacher of the Year is released from classroom duties.

TEACHER Page 3

Security cameras to be installed this summer

By Craig Reed

The state of the art of the 15th, along with many other exciting things will be heard tonight at the annual school show.

Colo Dave Blah a darkened Parnon Hall Auditorium, Wednesday, Dec. 20, as the first act of The College School's 12th annual talent show got under way.

Family and friends packed the auditorium as students and College School staff sang, danced, acted, read poetry, cheered and told jokes to the delight of the audience.

The High School, on was on the scene for being able to perform despite personal losses.

The aim is to return them to a mainstream educational environment.

They all had a really fun time. Student emcee Paige Edwards and Andrew A.J. Jones introduced each act and entertained the audience with their a

It had a really fun time. Student Dave A.J. Jones.

CAMERA Page 3

New campus building Multimedia Center to open this summer

By Jane Grad

When walking into the classrooms on the many common things that you see people using in trash bins.

High school cafeteria can provide nutritional, balanced and healthful meals, but students have to choose correctly. Now, researchers have found that nutrition information cards can spur students to pick the right foods.

"Nutrition information is already used in most school districts to meet the Healthy School Meals Initiative," says Dr. Mary J. Pfluge, the associate professor of hospitality management. "This same information could be made available at the point of selection with very little additional cost."

"We used the Nutrition Facts Label because students might already be familiar with nutrition information in this format," says Pfluge. "The next step will hopefully having students realize that healthy food can also be good, and not all healthy food tastes like the other food."

Supplying nutrition information seemed to influence food selection as students increasingly opted for more healthful items.

While students did not switch from cheeseburgers and pepperoni pizza to salad, they did choose foods with less fat and fewer calories, the researchers report in a recent issue of the *Journal of Child Nutrition and Management*.

Senior David Ople said, "I am willing to try the new food, and I think that it is a good idea for everyone to eat healthier, because it will help be long run."

"There was a significant switch from pepperoni pizza to plain cheese pizza," says Pfluge. "The sale of cheeseburgers and bacon cheeseburgers decreased by 1%. It's not a big change, but it is a start."

High school cafeteria can provide nutritional, balanced and healthful meals, but students have to choose correctly. Now, researchers have found that nutrition information cards can spur students to pick the right foods.

"Nutrition information is already used in most school districts to meet the Healthy School Meals Initiative," says Dr. Mary J. Pfluge, the associate professor of hospitality management. "This same information could be made available at the point of selection with very little additional cost."

The researchers displayed the nutrition information in the cafeteria, as well as on all of the walls of the building.

They are hoping that by seeing these facts on often that they will become ingrained into the students, so that they will think about it the next time they go through the line.

"We used the Nutrition Facts Label because students might already be familiar with nutrition information in this format," says Pfluge. "The next step will hopefully having students realize that healthy food can also be good, and not all healthy food tastes like the other food."

High school cafeteria can provide nutritional, balanced and healthful meals, but students have to choose correctly.

Now, researchers have found that nutrition information cards can spur students to pick the right foods.

MULTIMEDIA Page 3





Mahoney

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sports.....	2
Entertainment.....	6
Arts.....	9
Television.....	10
Opinion.....	14
News.....	17
Feature Story.....	18
Must List.....	20

New club attracts 44 members

Ashley Clark

• 1A/2A • Kinsley High School

A new Business Club was formed at Sunflower High School in September. The new club signed in 44 members and spent the year writing the constitution.

With more than 50 students at the organizational meeting, elections were held for president, secretary and treasurer positions. Elected president was Joe Mears, senior, with secretary Kathy O'Michael, and treasurer Bobby McGrath.

"It's great to be a part of history," President Joe Mears said. "I thought SHS needed and deserved to have a Business Club."

Along with Mears, O'Michael, and McGrath is Paul Adkinson, accounting

teacher at SHS. He was named club sponsor.

"It was a thrill to work with these kids this year," Paul Adkinson, sponsor, said. "They were so diligent about their work."

Along with new club members and sponsor, a "Business Exchange" with Middleton High School's Business Club met in February.

"It was especially impressive to see these kids get behind a cause and create success from their efforts," Principal Harley Harvester said.

The Business Club has proposed to take management of the school bookstore this summer.

"I'm proud of our success," President Mears said, "and taking over the management of the book store is huge."

JUDGES'
comments

1A/2A
yearbook
copy writing:

Transitions may help the story--appears to be fact, quote, fact, quote...
Good concise work.

3A/4A
advertising:

Logo is a little pixelated.
Very unique ideas.
Be careful with your fonts. The unique design would make me stop and look, but it may be hard for some people to read.
Overall, I'm impressed.

5A/6A
advertising:

Good angles.
Good focus when you look at it (10% discount...).
Like the variety of pictures.



Amanda Kojsonk

• 3A/4A • Columbus Unified



Matt Brough

• 5A/6A • Shawnee Mission North

JUDGES' comments

5A/6A yearbook copy writing:

This is very good.
Story is strong in all criteria
areas.

1A/2A advertising:

Logo is a little odd. Emphasize the
entire name.
I was a little concerned at first that
all the photos are the same boy,
but it's nice to show a portfolio of
work of one person.
You are one of the few that had a
headline!
It's focused, it has a "what's in it
for me?" statement, and I would
stop and read it.
Very well done!

Ben Coffey
• 1A/2A •
Canton-Galva
High School

Students form new club

Kate Mather
•5A/6A• Lawrence High

Most of the memorable floats in the Homecoming parade were created by traditional groups at Sunflower High: the cross country team, the senior class and the pom squad. However, this year, the "Best Float" award went to a brand new organization: Business Club.

"Winning the Homecoming float competition set the tone for the school year," sponsor Paul Adkinson said.

The club, formed in September, drew a lot of attention from the school, as 44 students became club members throughout the year.

"I thought SHS needed and deserved to have a Business Club," senior

president Joe Mears said. "It's great to be a part of history."

While the group spent most of the year creating its constitution, it was able to sponsor an exchange with Middleton High School's Business Club in February. The club's biggest project, however, was its proposal to manage the SHS bookstore.

"It was especially impressive to see these kids get behind a cause," Principal Harley Harvester said. "I wish all our school organizations would demonstrate this type of drive."

The school board approved the proposal in April, enabling Business Club to begin managing the store the following summer.

"Taking over the management of the book store is huge," Mears said. "I'm proud of our success."

After examining the first-year accomplishments of the club, there was little doubt from those involved that upcoming years would be just as successful.

"It was a thrill to work with these kids this year," Adkinson said. "These kids are proven winners."

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Students get down to business with new academic club

Shayna Sheridan •3A/4A•
Chapman High School

Getting down to business is just what SHS students did last September.

“It’s great to be part of history. I thought SHS needed and deserved to have a Business Club,” senior Joe Mears, club president, said.

The new club signed 44 members, took first place in the Homecoming float competition and gained management of the school book store, all in its first year.

“Winning the Homecoming float competition set the tone for the school year,” Paul Adkinson, club sponsor, said. “These kids are proven winners.”

While the club spent most of the year writing the constitution, they hosted a “Business Exchange” with Middleton High School’s Business Club in February.

Other club officers elected were Kathy O’Michael as secretary and Bobby McGrath for club treasurer.

Both students and faculty are proud with the success from the club’s hard work.

“It was especially impressive to see these kids get behind a cause and create success from their efforts. I wish all our school organizations would demonstrate this type of drive,” Dr. Harley Harvester, principal, said.

The new Business Club really took care of business last year with their success.

JUDGES' comments

3A/4A
yearbook
copy writing:

Great lead in that it is to the point.

Great job placing the important information at the beginning.

5A/6A
layout/dps:

Great job overall. It's clean and simple. You have some trapped white space, which could be eliminated by moving your copy block closer to the photo. Scoot that over, right align your headline and you've freed the white space, making for a cleaner design. Still, great job overall!



Ellen Gatewood • 5A/6A • Mill Valley High School

Layout/DPS

JUDGES' comments

3A/4A layout/dps:

Excellent use of space and type.

Could use even bigger dominant photo.

Memories Are Forever

Jason Eslick

The Most Valuable Performer

Student Life

Allison Bond • 3A/4A • Andover Central High School

1A/2A layout/dps:

According to criteria, strong in all areas.

stage & talent

student play draws attention

Derrek Zietz

ICAF United

Musical 2015

Derrek Zietz • 1A/2A • Chase County High School

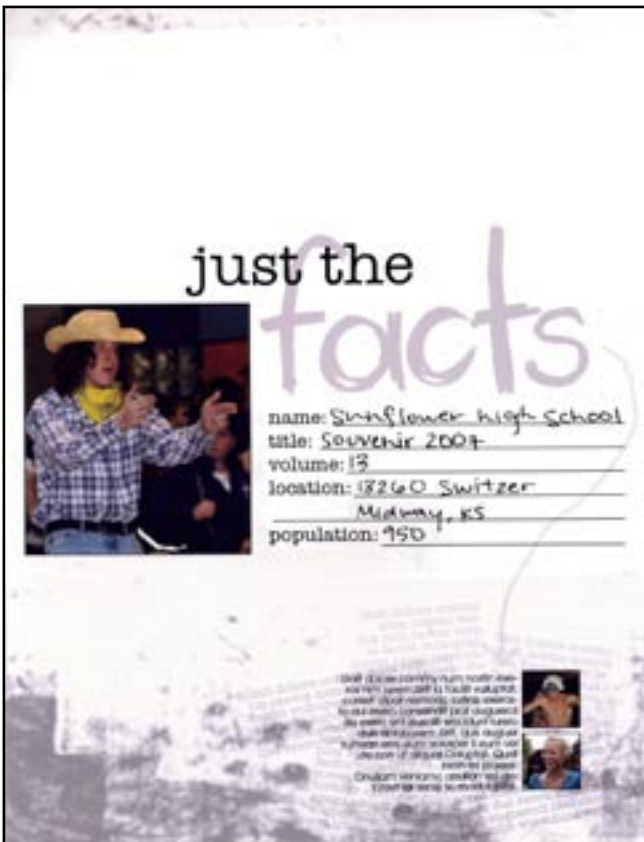
Theme Development



JUDGES' comments

5A/6A theme development:

Well-developed theme without overdoing graphic elements. Design is contemporary and superior to most entries. Concept is original-- others struggled with a way to develop this concept. Thank you for printer notes.



Tara Westlund

• 5A/6A •

Blue Valley Northwest High School

Theme Development

JUDGES' comments

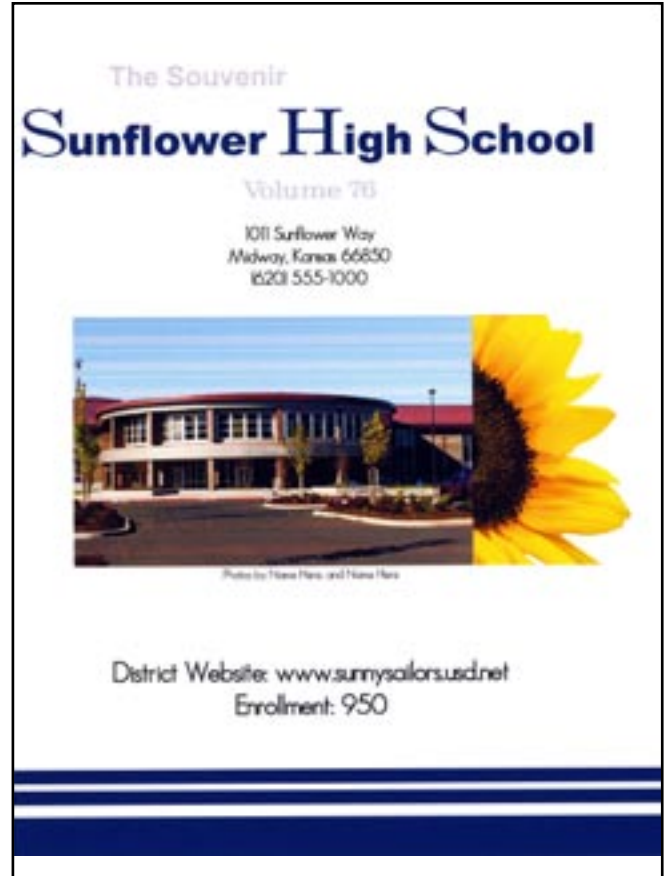
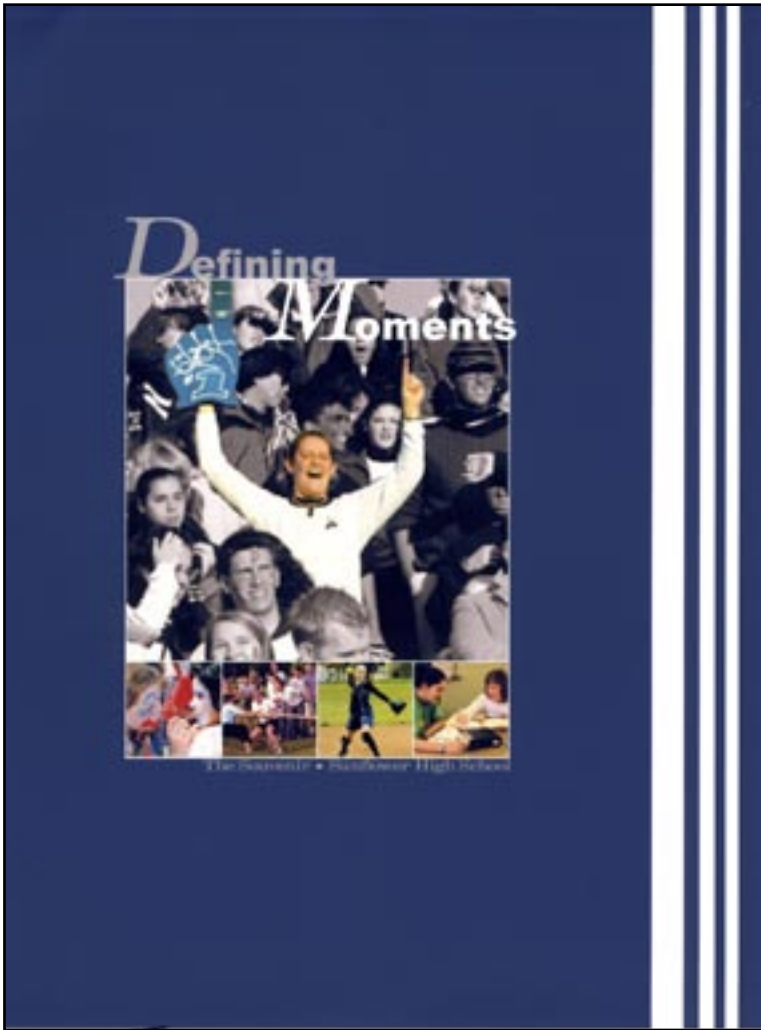
**3A/4A
theme
development:**

Creative touch to use the face
along with "Just the Facts."
Nice variation with
"Just Face It."
Cover is cool.
A=face=nice touch!



Michael Fee
• 3A/4A •
Hiawatha High School

Theme Development



Hilary Bartlett and Kellee Frederick
 • 1A/2A •
 Humboldt High School



JUDGES' comments

1A/2A theme development:

Very nice overall.
 The use of one black and white photo to repeat the dominant element is effective.
 Cover photos are varied and interesting.
 Year of the book needs to be on the cover.

Cutline Writing

JUDGES' *comments*

5A/6A cutline writing:

Congratulations on
a job well done.

1A/2A cutline writing:

Nicely done.

Aislinn Maier • 5A/6A • McPherson High School

1. Fish
Not a bit of apprehension on the mind, Billy Walters decides where to make his first cut. Annual dissections are performed in biology. "It's not a bad assignment—it's just the gross smell," Cara Anthony said.

2. Cars
With the competition in mind, Mike Norris and Keith Anderson prepare their car for the upcoming physics derby. The race was used as the final project for their study of electrical currents. "Our car finished second," Morris said. "We did really well considering neither of us had done anything like this in the past."

3. Heat
Avoiding the possibility of an explosion, chemistry partners Paul DeVictor and Jon Marsh heat salt water over a Bunsen burner. Safety glasses were required during all experiments. "The best part of chemistry is the experiments," Mars said.

4. Heave-Ho
To apply acceleration and velocity concepts to real life, Brad Cloverdyke aids his students while testing their giant slingshot. The class shot items such as a watermelon during their last activity for this unit. "The activities make the learning seem real," Chance Carver said.

5. Magic Potions
Top science student of the year, Hunter Davison tests chemicals for composition. Hunter was said to be the best science student at Sunflower High in years by Mr. Cloverdyke, the science department chairman. "I've always liked science," Davison said. "But chemistry was my favorite."

Whitney Franken • 1A/2A • Troy High School

1. "I like dissecting fish. It's awesome," said sophomore Billy Waters about a biology assignment. Waters was dissecting a trout. When asked about the assignment, biology teacher Mr. Cantrell said, "We do these things each year—the kids either like or hate it."

2. Juniors Mike Morris and Keith Anderson put their knowledge to the test as they team up for a car race in their physics class. These electrical cars are run by power and are then entered into a racing derby. "Our cars finished second. We did really well considering neither of us had done anything like this in the past," said Morris.

3. As chemistry students learn about evaporation, juniors Paul DeVictor and Jon Marsh team up to work on the experiment. Marsh said, "The best part of chemistry is the experiments." Lab partner DeVictor said, "Jon and I were great partners. We didn't even blow up the lab."

4. The physics class, along with teacher Mr. Brad Cloverdyke, test acceleration by creating a giant slingshot. "The activities make the learning seem real," said junior Chance Carver.

5. Senior Hunter Davison tests a variety of chemicals for composition during a class assignment in chemistry. Davison was named top science student for the year. Davison said, "I've always liked science, but chemistry was my favorite class of all."

Drew Meissner • 3A/4A • Independent High School

Also winning a first place in cutline writing was Drew Meissner. His entry, however, was unavailable.

Sweepstakes Winners

1A-2A

School: Chase County High School
Adviser: Linda Drake
Sweepstakes: 1st

School: Humboldt High School
Adviser: Kim Isbell
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Kinsley High School
Adviser: Diana Hoover
Sweepstakes: 3rd

5A

School: Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
Adviser: Kollen Long
Sweepstakes: 1st

School: Mill Valley High School
Adviser: Kathy Hill Habiger
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Kapaun Mt. Carmel
Adviser: Jessica Augustine
Sweepstakes: 3rd

3A

School: Southeast of Saline High School
Adviser: Gary McClure
Sweepstakes: 1st

School: Silver Lake High School
Adviser: Jamie Manhart
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Burlington High School
Adviser: Sandy Loucks
Sweepstakes: 3rd

School: Ellinwood High School
Adviser: Carrie Ann Feist
Sweepstakes: 3rd

6A

School: Shawnee Mission East High School
Adviser: Dow Tate
Sweepstakes: 1st

School: Derby High School
Adviser: Jill Chittum
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Lawrence High School
Adviser: Heather Lawrenz
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Blue Valley Northwest High School
Adviser: Jim McCrossen
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Manhattan High School
Adviser: Jill Cormode
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Shawnee Mission North High School
Adviser: Becky Tate
Sweepstakes: 3rd

School: Olathe South High School
Adviser: Vicki Kohl
Sweepstakes: 3rd

4A

School: Andover Central High School
Advisers: Julie Chapin & Jackie Williams
Sweepstakes: 1st

School: Eudora High School
Adviser: Jeanette Bryant
Sweepstakes: 2nd

School: Columbus Unified High School
Adviser: Donna Alvested
Sweepstakes: 3rd