

BLUE AND GOLD AWARDS

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

2025 BLUE AND GOLD SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

McCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL

AUSTIN, TEXAS

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

FIRST PLACE WRITING

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

QUILL & SCROLL
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SECOND PLACE WRITING

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

HOUSTON, TEXAS

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THIRD PLACE WRITING

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

SHAWNEE MISSION EAST HIGH SCHOOL

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS

QUILL & SCROLL
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THIRD PLACE WRITING

2024 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

ATHENS, GEORGIA

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FIRST PLACE VISUAL

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

LADUE HORTON WATKINS HIGH SCHOOL

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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SECOND PLACE VISUAL

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

McCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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It's an Honor

THIRD PLACE VISUAL

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL

MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA

QUILL & SCROLL
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FIRST PLACE MULTIMEDIA

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

McCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL

AUSTIN, TEXAS

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

SECOND PLACE MULTIMEDIA

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

PROSPER HIGH SCHOOL

PROSPER, TEXAS

QUILL & SCROLL
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THIRD PLACE MULTIMEDIA

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL

CHESTERFIELD, NEW JERSEY

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

THIRD PLACE MULTIMEDIA

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

WICHITA SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL

WICHITA, KANSAS

THIRD PLACE MULTIMEDIA

2025 BLUE AND GOLD AWARD

CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY

QUILL & SCROLL

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Writing

WVM 2025

School censors story about LA Muslim teens and war

First-ever censorship of Boiling Point hits story on teens' view of Israel-Hamas war



Writing

News

FIRST PLACE

Boiling Point Staff, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“This story demonstrates so much bravery, and it shows the importance of journalism at every level. The staff did an excellent job explaining the controversy and reporting both sides. It took tenacity to do a news story on this event. The staff could have easily just written an editorial, saying how upset they were about the censorship. Instead, they chose to REPORT on the situation, and they did so in such a mature manner. Excellent reporting by the staff on this one.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Shooting at Chiefs' celebration

Students go from celebrating a Super Bowl victory to running for safety

Hannah Rakolta, Copy Editor • February 14, 2024



Contetti falls in front of the stage at the Chiefs celebration at Union Station minutes before shots were fired, killing at least one person and injuring numerous others.

Writing

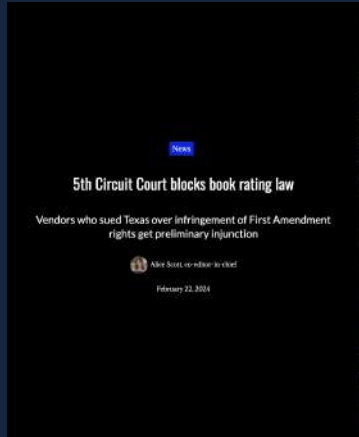
News

SECOND PLACE

**Hannah Rakolta, Blue Valley Northwest High School,
Overland Park, Kansas**

"Hannah did an excellent job of getting an account of the chaos and giving details — and she did it with students. PLUS, she reported on the day of the event. So timely. This dedication shows an incredible work ethic to inform the public. She brought the story directly to the readers and gave readers firsthand accounts from a student perspective. The quotes show the fear and emotion from the horrific event, which means Hannah did her job interviewing. She asked the hard questions."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

News

THIRD PLACE

Alice Scott, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Alice did a great job explaining the proposed legislation and the actions that have taken place so far. Finding the local angle for your school was the icing on the cake. The reporting had depth and relevance, and gives the reader a clear understanding of what is happening and the impact of the block. A story about a lawsuit could have easily been boring, confusing or convoluted, but it’s not. It’s relevant and impactful. And as far as writing — this is one of the best written pieces. The slow flows from transition to quote to transition. It is seamless.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

News

HONORABLE MENTION

Audrey Lyons, Fairlie Mercer, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Ayaan Shah, Carina McCallum, Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

Delmis Vaquerano, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

Emma Stanton, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Fairlie Mercer, Audrey Lyons, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Hayden Pinto, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Isabella Westrich, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

Jeffery Zhang, Wayland High School, Wayland, Massachusetts

Kristie Min, Lennon Riedie, Westlake High School, Austin, Texas

Writing

News

HONORABLE MENTION

Lily Shi, Chelsea Xie, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Mzee Pavlic, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

Nate Williams, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Sofia Saucedo, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Wyatt Meyer, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

Black students deserve more

Representing over 20% of Bellaire's student body, Black students are in need of more resources

Maddux Horn, Reporter • Mar 3, 2024



Graphic by Maddux Horn
Graphic entailing the disproportionality of African-American students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) college readiness classes in the 2021-2022 school year.

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

FIRST PLACE

Maddux Horn, Bellaire High School, Houston, Texas

“This is a strong first-person story that blends personal experience with analysis on why that experience of being a Black high school student in search of Advanced Placement classes for things such as Black history exists. Truth drips from this well-written piece because of its strong lead, clear point, and important context.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

No Longer Silenced: Victims of sexual harassment and assault are hesitant to report to the school for fear of not being believed, victim blaming and a limited access to resources

By Libby Marsh
Posted December 2, 2024

get help:
1-800-656-4673
NATIONAL SEXUAL
ABUSE HOTLINE
Libby Marsh | The Harbinger
Online

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

SECOND PLACE

Libby Marsh, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

“Harrowing experiences from high school students are revealed in this story. Ordinarily, you like to see solutions in a story like this. Potential solutions are offered but, sadly, we know they often are ineffective. The story's final quote sums up, perfectly, its context.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

DEI-Social Justice

THIRD PLACE

Jasper Winterton, Webster Groves High School, Webster Groves, Missouri

“This story had good reporting and easy-to-follow writing. Advice that I can offer is to stay with the story. Writing about the Center for Public Integrity Journalism in the second paragraph caused a minor pause in caring about the students’ stories. Good work.”

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

HONORABLE MENTION

Glennis Woosley, Nixa High School, Nixa, Missouri

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Sophia Hsu, Inez Stephenson, The American School in London, London, England



Writing

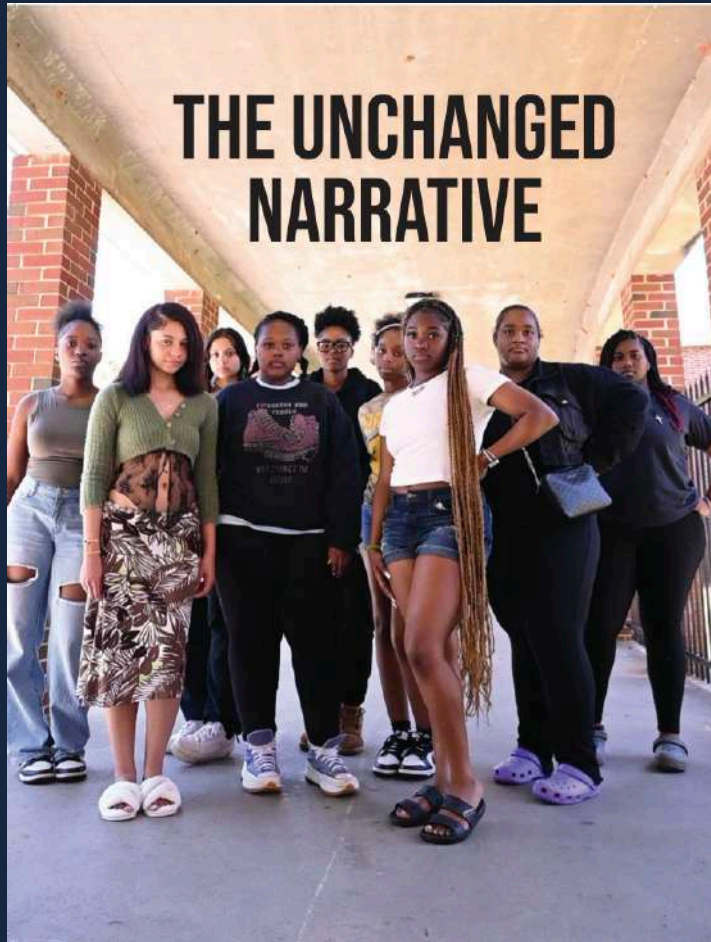
Feature

FIRST PLACE

Jasper Winterton, Webster Groves High School, Webster Groves, Missouri

“Winterton does a great job navigating a sensitive subject and getting first-hand accounts of what has gone on. You can tell there was a great deal of work put into this story and investigating what happened. Winterton clearly spoke with many sources to shape this piece. This is a great example of writing that could make a difference in the community.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

Feature

SECOND PLACE

Jane Ripps, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

“Ripps does an excellent job explaining how Laken Riley’s assault and death had a massive impact on the Athens community. With it being a sensitive subject, the author uses great judgement, from getting sources to open up and getting many perspectives. Ripps’ writing is powerful and the story flows well.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

"I carpooled with a Menendez Brother"

AMINA KHALIL-ZEGAR and GENEVIEVE EDERLE • December 10, 2024



Matt Stein (left) blows out candles at his fifth birthday at McDonald's alongside his sister and Erik Menendez (right).
Photo courtesy of Matt Stein.

Writing

Feature

THIRD PLACE

**Amina Khalil-Zegar, Genevieve Ederle, St. John's School,
Houston, Texas**

"This is a perfect example of how to localize a story that made national headlines. Khalil-Zegar and Ederle found a unique angle and made the coverage their own. The story has a great lede, flows well and has a powerful quote to end the piece.

Overall, great work."

Writing

Feature

HONORABLE MENTION

Addie Aadland, Sri Trikona, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Alyssa Gagnon, Inaya Zaman, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Arieh Elad, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

Bella Shipek, Marissa Soll, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Ben Brown, The Bishop's School, La Jolla, California

Danielle Croom, Julia Curotto, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Emlyn McKinney, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

Gianna Weaver, Foran High School, Milford, Connecticut

Jake Radcliffe, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Feature

HONORABLE MENTION

Mariam Darb, Audrey Lyons, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

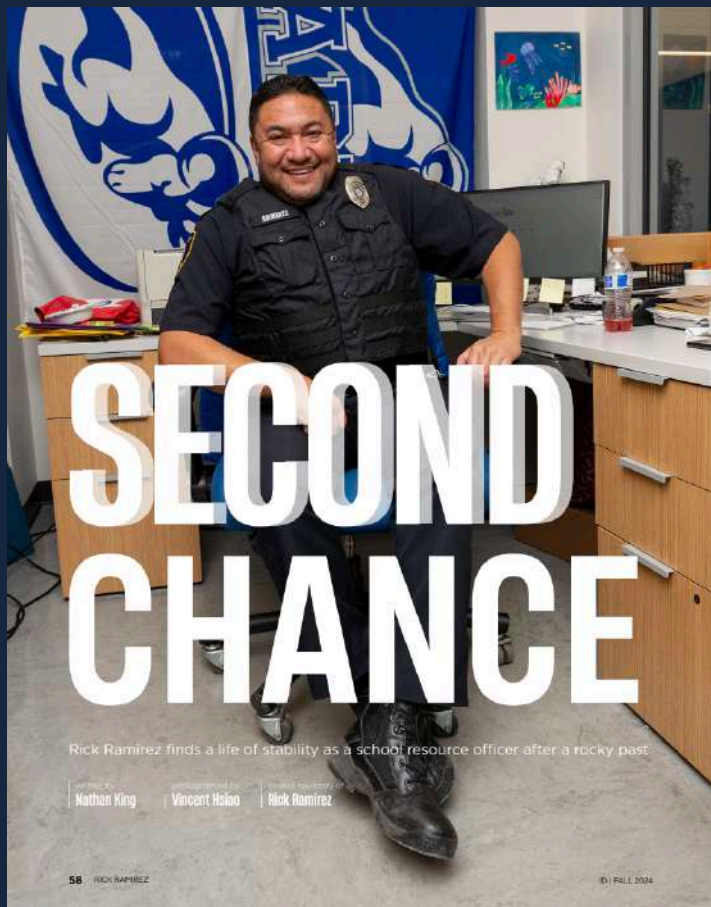
Michael Yi, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

Molly Kirschenbaum, Brewster Academy, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

Sonia Kharbanda, St. Paul Academy and Summit School, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sydney Barnett, Reagan Wald, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Vanessa Chen, Nishta Subramanian, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania



Writing

Profile

FIRST PLACE

Nathan King, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“King’s writing is incredibly detailed and does a great job of chronicling the life of the school’s resource officer. Everyone has a story, and this is a perfect example of spotlighting someone’s motivation for their line of work. King’s reporting includes powerful quotes as well.”



Writing

Profile

SECOND PLACE

Adrianna Bean, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“Bean navigates through her profile with excellent writing and great detail. The lede is great, immediately hooking the reader. It’s obvious that Bean put plenty of work into this piece and profiled a unique subject.”

Treble on the Field: Junior Brock Rider balances being a lineman with also being a musician and applies the dedication and work ethic he's learned through each skill to better himself

By Emmerson Winfrey
Posted October 1, 2024

Writing

Profile

THIRD PLACE

**Emmerson Winfrey, Shawnee Mission East High School,
Prairie Village, Kansas**

“With a compelling lede, strong quotes and great storytelling, Winfrey leads readers down an enjoyable path. It’s the classic ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’ and Winfrey does an excellent job profiling someone with an unexpected talent.”

Writing

Profile

HONORABLE MENTION

Arti Jain, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

Chloe Lewcock, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Connie Erdozain, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Hayden Pinto, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Hima Thota, Kairui Sun, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Ingrid Smith, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Sasha Libenzon, Wayland High School, Wayland, Massachusetts

Sloan Austin, Sybil Curran, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas

Tiffany Zhu, The Harker School, San Jose, California

It's time to
grow up.

Writing

Staff Editorial

FIRST PLACE

Editorial Board, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

"The headline grabs the reader, and so does the lead which says the event was 'completely unacceptable.' As a reader I wanted to know more. Specific examples about the issue strengthens the stand taken."

Unsigned: The press is part of the people, not the enemy

The Spoke • 55 Views

December 16, 2024

Editorial

Opinion

Print Opinion



Ethan Butler / The Spoke

Writing

Staff Editorial

SECOND PLACE

Staff, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

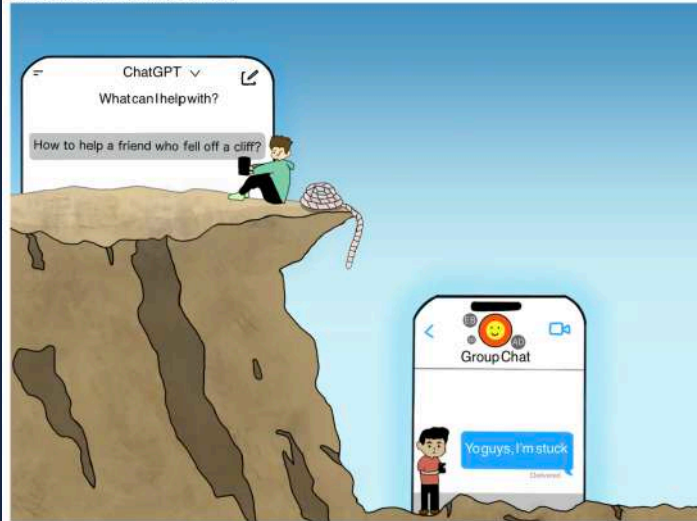
“This editorial clearly and eloquently lays out the importance of the press in today’s day and age. It effectively lays out the challenges facing journalism at a large scale, and localizes them to Conestoga High.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

How has our dependency on technology changed?

Statesman analyzes the extent to which society has become dependent on technology

Statesman Staff | December 16, 2024



Bradley Saltzman

Writing

Staff Editorial

THIRD PLACE

**Ishanvi Mishra, Adlai E. Stevenson High School,
Lincolnshire, Illinois**

“The writer uses comparisons to show how modern technology has been a plus in many ways but he/she also points out that it can also be a downfall. The writer points out that the future lies in how today’s young people use future advances.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Staff Editorial

HONORABLE MENTION

Ada Lillie Worthington, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

Paige Faulkner, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas

'Smile 2' captivates audiences, demands vulnerability through disturbing take on trauma

Ayra Ansari and Rania Raj

November 6, 2024

"Smile 2" turns every friendly face into a threat. Directed by Parker Finn, it's a unique commentary on the depths and turmoils of human expectations and trauma. The film invites the audience back into the twisted world of this psychological horror, delivering a dark experience that is far more unsettling than its predecessor.

This film builds on the bone-chilling foundation of "Smile 1," but immerses the viewers even deeper into the terrifying landscape of paranoia by taking advantage of new visual techniques, such as mesmerizing camerawork and expert facial lighting, ultimately unraveling a new, deeper side to this thriller.



Rania Raj

"Smile 2" is a chilling horror film that challenges the measures viewers take to heal and self-reflect. The film was released in theaters Oct. 18, according to ODEON.

Writing

Review

FIRST PLACE

Ayra Ansari, Rania Raj, The American School in London, London, England

"The depth and substance of this review puts the reader into the movie. Through spellbinding detail, the writing provides a thorough roadmap about the plot and all of the aesthetics that comprise it. It's a gripping review."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

"Kraven the Hunter": An entertaining spin on a classic villain

Nolan McNulty, Web Editor

December 16, 2024



"Kraven the Hunter" is now playing in a theater near you. The film is rated R and runs at two hours and seven minutes. Movie poster from Columbia Pictures.

Writing

Review

SECOND PLACE

Nolan McNulty, Ankeny High School, Ankeny, Iowa

"The keen level of detail allows this review to stand out. The writing walks the reader through all the various relevant parts of the movie. The focus on character development is a major strength as well."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

'Wicked' shines, yet falters in recreating Broadway's brilliance

Sophia Bateman, Editor-in-Chief, Online

November 25, 2024

There's something about a live performance that no amount of cinematic polish can replicate. Perhaps it's the raw, unfiltered energy of actors pouring their hearts out in real-time, or the palpable connection between performers and the audience. Or, maybe, my "Hamilton" phase has led me to romanticize live theater a little too much.

Regardless, watching the movie adaptation of "Wicked" just a week after attending the West End musical reminded me of this truth. As the credits rolled, I couldn't shake the feeling that something about this adaptation wasn't quite spellbinding enough to make me defy gravity myself (see what I did there?).



Sophia Bateman

The highly anticipated and heavily marketed movie adaptation of "Wicked" was released in theaters across the U.K. Nov. 22. The film garnered £14 million on its opening weekend in the U.K. and Ireland, according to the BBC.

Writing

Review

THIRD PLACE

Sophia Bateman, The American School in London, London, England

“This review mixes good writing and a thorough use of detail to both create engagement with the reader and to offer an in-depth look at what works and what doesn’t about the movie.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Writing

Review

HONORABLE MENTION

Amelia Bowman, Brimmer and May School, Newton, Massachusetts

Dino Russo, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Gabe Sachse, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Gia Willis, Parkway South High School, Manchester, Missouri

Hayden Pinto, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Jane Yermakov, Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park, Texas

Ruby Rogers, The American School in London, London, England

Saying the Right Words: My Journey Through Stuttering

Andrew Flint • December 3, 2024

Saying the Right Words: My Journey Through Stuttering

Andrew Flint '26 reflects on growing up with a speech disorder, sharing his story to inspire and educate others.

Enter

Writing

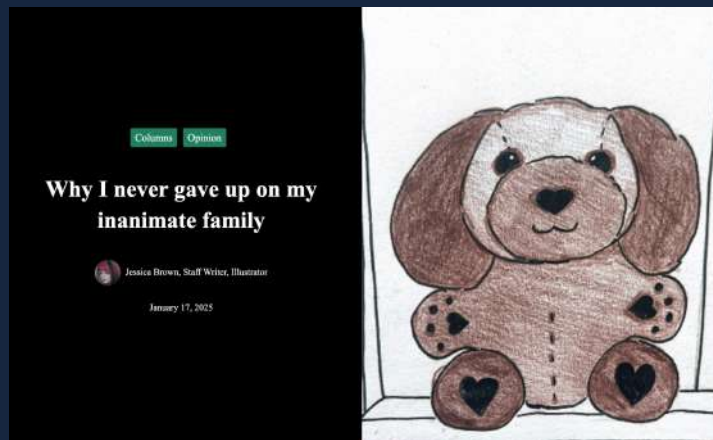
Column — Non Sports

FIRST PLACE

Andrew Flint, Brimmer and May School, Newton, Massachusetts

“The lead grabbed my attention when the writer said ‘stuttering is not what you think it is.’ The writer proceeded to tell the readers what stuttering was, and his examples played on the readers’ emotions. That's what a good column should do.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

Column — Non Sports

SECOND PLACE

Jessica Brown, Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

“The writer’s love for inanimate objects made her feel human. She said her love for them would never die. That gave this reader something to think about.”

This I Believe: Measured in moments

by Katerina Matta, Winged Post Co-Editor-in-Chief
May 4, 2024

Opinion This I Believe

Beads of sweat dot our brows as my grandmother and I labor over a pot of *tabikh*, a classic Egyptian stew made primarily from meat, tomatoes and a vegetable called *bamia*. I insisted on learning to make the dish, one of my favorites, but almost regret that now as my grandma peers calculatingly into the pot before casually throwing in yet another dollop of tomato paste. Frantically, I reach for my pen and paper, where I have been trying and failing to write down her recipe, and desperately ask her how much she added. She only responds, "I never measure. I have been making this since my youth. By now, I just know."

Somehow, my grandmother always "just knows." Her dishes result in perfection without fail, ready to be enjoyed every Saturday night at our weekly family dinners at my grandparents' house. We talk and laugh over steaming plates piled high with piping hot *golubtsii*, cabbage rolls, or freshly



Katerina and her grandfather Farid Matta pose at the Valley of the Kings. The tombs are one of the most famous attractions in Luxor, Egypt. (Katerina Matta)

Writing

Column — Non Sports

THIRD PLACE

Katerina Matta, The Harker School, San Jose, California

"Her grandmother just knows. She doesn't write down her recipes, but she just knows what ingredients are needed. This story shows the love of a granddaughter who tries to write down the amount of all ingredients. I have a feeling other readers have experienced the same thing. Love shines through in this article."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Column — Non Sports

HONORABLE MENTION

Adi Jaiswal, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois

Alexa Franco, Rialto High School, Rialto, California

Asra June, Shawnee Mission South High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Claire Bradford, Bellaire High School, Houston, Texas

Leo Powell, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Mia Morneault, Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park, Texas

Pauli Zavorska, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Reagan Wald, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Serena Li, Bellaire High School, Houston, Texas

Staff, San Marin High School, Novato, California

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

'You get a trophy! You get a trophy!'

Participation trophies ruin a generation of kids who want rewards for showing up.

Marie Wakefield, Staff Writer
February 5, 2025



Participation trophies need to be done away with for future generations.

Marie Wakefield

Writing

Sports Column

FIRST PLACE

Marie Wakefield, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

"A great sports column finds ways to connect with local readers, and this piece makes a strong argument about 'participation trophies' and their deleterious effects on kids. The writer starts with sharing personal experiences and how she was not a great athlete, yet accumulated lots of hardware. Clear and bracing writing."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Clark, Hawkeyes unite generations through basketball

Sydney Ortiz, Staff Writer

April 7, 2024



Sydney Ortiz is an Iowa women's basketball fan, and has been decked out in Iowa gear since she was born. Photos submitted by Sydney Ortiz.

Writing

Sports Column

SECOND PLACE

Sydney Ortiz, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“Sports are almost always about more than games and stats, and this column shares a connection to a far-off university and its teams that is really about connecting with grandparents. The writer shows readers a bit of her make up as a person. It’s about a love of sports, but it’s really about love, period.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



**SPORTS
COLUMN**
Olivia Graeser

NOT MOST LITTLE GIRLS' DREAM

Writing

Sports Column

THIRD PLACE

**Olivia Graeser, Francis Howell North High School, St.
Charles, Missouri**

“This column explores the writer's connection with her dad over Duke basketball on TV. It hints at a lot of other personal stuff... chaos in a complex family, and I truly wanted to learn more. But this is a tightly written exploration of how sports can bind generations.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

AFTER APALACHEE

A loud thud sounds at Apalachee High School sophomore Triveter Whaley's front door.

He looks up from his seat on his couch. Nobody is home—neither his dad, a police officer in Atlanta, nor his mom, a teacher at Barrow County's Haymon-Morris Middle School, are expected back for hours. Nervously, Whaley twists the lock, turns the doorknob and opens the door.

A hazy figure stands in the doorway. In his hand, he grips a steel-gray gun. With a start, Whaley wakes up.

English department co-chair Meghan McNealey's mind lurches back in time, racing past the 50 students in her freshman literature class to her formative years.

She remembers being introduced to gun violence while she was in college when stray bullets struck her dad's house.

She remembers when three teenage boys shot 13 bullets into her mother's house—one inches from her mother's head—in 2001, her first year teaching.

She remembers chasing down the intruder who walked into the Clarke Middle School girls bathroom with a knife and duct tape in 2007.

Arguably, McNealey returns to the present.

Dr. Javier Saler plays an audio recording for his second-period Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture class on Oct. 5. The author Isabel Allende is discussing her novel "La casa de los espíritus" (The House of Spirits), when she is cut off by the disembodied voice from the ceiling.

"Ensure all students are in a classroom and lock the doors. Normal classroom activities may still proceed."

Without looking up from her laptop screen, a girl toward the back of the classroom asks, "If there's a shooting, can we run?"

Nobody laughs.

This is life, post-Apalachee.



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Individual

FIRST PLACE

Wyatt Meyer, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

“Wyatt did an incredible job reporting on a tragedy at a nearby school and how it impacted community members at that school and at Wyatt’s own school. The piece was well-structured and included the stories and expertise of Wyatt’s many sources effectively. The reporting excellently balanced directly-impacted people who provided vivid quotes and the larger context of the impact of the trauma on people’s mental health. This is a difficult topic to write about, and one we hope no students have to write about, and Wyatt did it thoughtfully with maturity.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

front page feature News School

EPSD privacy filters block student searches

Carina McCallum, Managing Editor

January 17, 2025

Content restrictions and blocked websites have been commonplace at EHS in recent years — but in mid-November, the bans have reached a new level: blocked search terms.

Writing

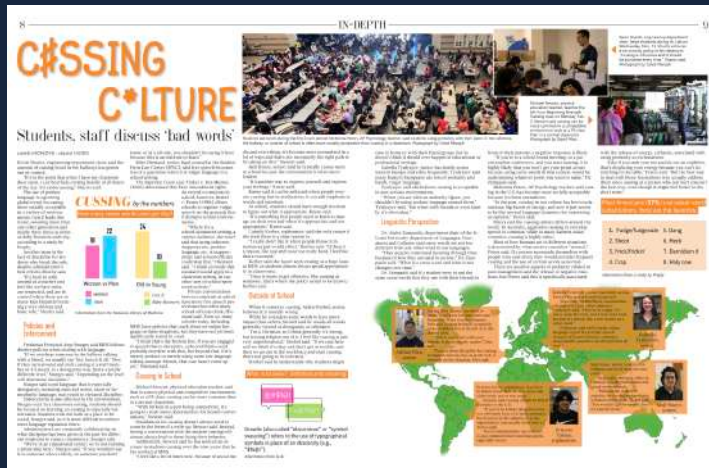
In-Depth Reporting/Individual

THIRD PLACE

Carina McCallum, Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

“It was clear that this is a topic that many students are impacted by and confused by, and Carina did a nice job getting sources who could speak to why the policy change was enacted and how it was impacting students and staff.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team

FIRST PLACE

**Caleb Monzyk, David Moss, Marquette High School,
Chesterfield, Missouri**

“This story tackled a good topic in a smart, mature way with a lot of student and administration voices but also expert context from beyond the school. The world view was particularly worthwhile when explaining cussing in ways that go beyond just saying ‘bad words.’”



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team

SECOND PLACE

Noah Abero, Odom Mom, Eric Pabian, Maddie Rowland, Caiden Claussen, Max Suichta, Kayla Garcia, Taryn McGannon, Joey Bruno, Kara Lindenmuth, Yarden Amir, Emily Wojnicki, Joseph Murphy, Maine West High School, Des Plaines, Illinois

“This package is a strong collaboration that is well conceived, well coordinated, well reported, and well written by all involved. The topic covers what a lot of people seek, in school and beyond campus. Good job in a strong competition.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team

THIRD PLACE

Ben Brown, Summer Hu, The Bishop's School, La Jolla, California

“This story has plenty to like from a journalistic point of view, with strong writing and a sense of changing the norm, in other words, news. The reporters do a good job of holding those in authority accountable. Students revealing how they felt about the change would have pushed this to a higher finish.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

In the Green: Junior Ella Slicker continues her dominant presence on the girls golf team with her recent record-breaking performance for both girls and boys East golf history

By Ada Lillie Worthington
Posted October 28, 2024

Writing

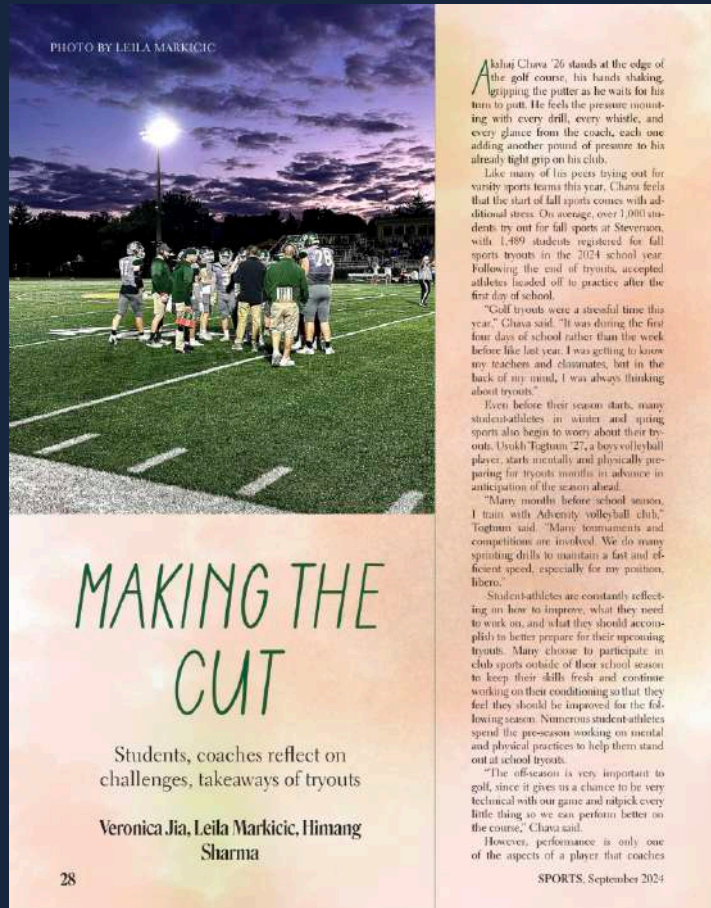
Sports Feature

FIRST PLACE

**Ada Lillie Worthington, Shawnee Mission East High School,
Prairie Village, Kansas**

“Ada’s story featured a lede that propels the reader into the story and weaves between personal anecdotes from the athlete, supporting actors, and stats/records efficiently. I enjoyed the storytelling of the record-setting performance and the work put in to get there. Great work!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

Sports Feature

SECOND PLACE

Veronica Jia, Leila Markicic, Himang Sharma, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois

“The anecdotal lede was a good example of what the overarching story was about, and I enjoyed the quotes from athletes across sports. The inclusion of metrics to back up the stressors of trying out for a varsity sport at the school added a lot to the story as well. Great research and well written!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

It has been 30 years since CCHS basketball legend Percy Eberhart's death, yet coaches and community members in Athens are keeping his legacy alive.

STEVEN FINE/LINKAGE
BY GWYNETH MEDLER
Lead: Dave Baker

Nestled in the front corner of the Clarke Central High School boys varsity basketball locker room is a painting.

In fine brushstrokes, this painting shows a larger-than-life CCHS basketball player rising above awed Cedar Shoals High School defenders to dunk in the University of Georgia's Stegeman Coliseum.

Though this painting hangs proudly next to the whiteboard the team plans around at every home game, few passers-by know what the image of the Gladiators' legend—who died over 30 years ago—truly means.

This painting represents *a legacy.*

This painting represents *a dream, lost.*

This painting represents *Percy Eberhart.*

Above: A 1990 CCHS senior, Gwyneth Medler, Athens community member and mother to Clarke Central High School Class of 1992 alumna and former varsity basketball player Percy Eberhart, points at a painting of her son's famous dunk in the CCHS boys varsity basketball locker room. According to Gwyneth, Percy "not only spent seasons that season interwoven with the history of the CCHS basketball program," "Percy wanted to play against Syracuse (Florida). He said, 'Mom, I want to play against them.' I said, 'That boy's crazy? Are you crazy?'" He said, "No, I just want to play against him, and then I can." Gwyneth said, "Right before he died, he was scheduled to go to Nevada and try out with Charlotte (Charlotte, Texas) [of the NBA], Scottie Pippen, and he never did make it there." Photo by Amy Wilson

Writing

Sports Feature

THIRD PLACE

Wyatt Meyer, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

"I enjoyed how the lede focuses on the painting in the locker room, immediately telling the reader that the focus of this story is profoundly important to the school and program. It works to push the reader into the story, which is reinforced by good reporting and stats inclusion. Good work!"

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Writing

Sports Feature

HONORABLE MENTION

Claire Salera, Lavanya Dixit, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

Danielle Hobbie, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, Minnesota

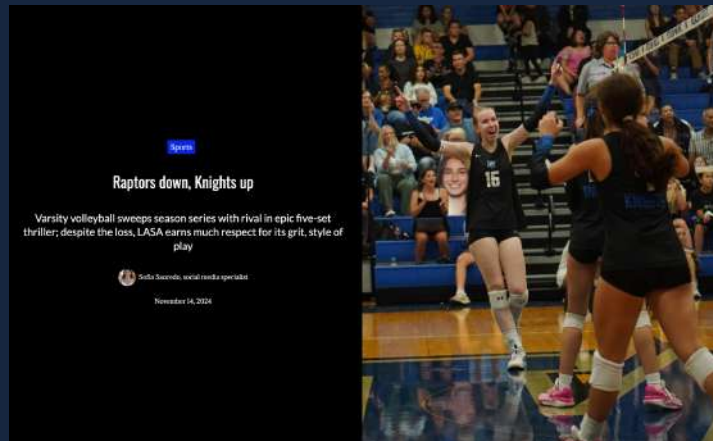
Gabby Roper, Chantilly High School, Chantilly, Virginia

Kacey Miller, Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park, Texas

Kairui Sun, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Katherine Farmer, Eisenhower High School, Shelby Township, Michigan

Nathan Kim, Kate Johnson, St. John's School, Houston, Texas



Writing

Sports Game/Event

FIRST PLACE

Sofia Saucedo, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“This piece features an excellent narrative lead that sets the scene. The writing then skillfully leads the reader through the contours of the game.”



Patriots Win the NSC for First Time in Eight Years

Writing

Sports Game/Event

SECOND PLACE

Ansh Aggarwal, Oliver Arora, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois

“The use of colorful language and specific details makes this submission stand out. The piece feels lively and engaging because of the writing style and the level of detail used.”

Boys varsity volleyball sweeps Mountain View in 3-0 shutout

by Katerina Matta
March 8, 2024

Showcase Sports Spring Sports

The varsity boys volleyball team bested Mountain View in a 25-17, 25-17, 25-20 sweep at home on Wednesday.

Harker pulled ahead to a 6-2 lead at the start of the first set, capitalizing on a series of unforced errors by the Spartans. An aggressive Mountain View serving run tightened the score to 11-10, but a quick kill by middle Kairui Sun (10) broke the Spartans' momentum to keep Harker up 12-10. The Eagles continued to create offensive opportunities out of the



Co-captain and outside hitter Zachary Blue (12) receives a serve. Strong passing allowed the Eagles to run a more diverse offense and create more scoring opportunities on Wednesday. (Katerina Matta)

Writing

Sports Game/Event

THIRD PLACE

Katerina Matta, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“This story is a an excellent game recap. It logically leads the reader through the key moments while using engaging language and writing to do so.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Sports Game/Event

HONORABLE MENTION

Farris Duwayri, Sam Silcock, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Hannah Rakolta, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas



Writing

Political

FIRST PLACE

Sierra Pape, Henry Moyo, Connie Erdozain, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

“Sierra, Henry, and Connie effectively dove into one subset of political and election issues in a well-structured piece that was informative and catered to their readers. They did a good job explaining potential policy changes and how they would impact students and administrators.”



Writing

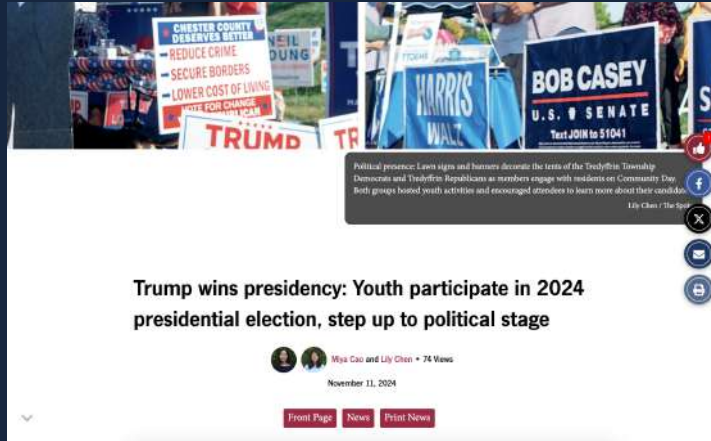
Political

SECOND PLACE

Anthony Pho, Ryan Sharp, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana

“Anthony and Ryan took a local approach to election coverage, looking at a shift in local voting in the 2024 presidential elections through data and reflections by students and teachers. By taking this approach, they provided an angle that readers may not get elsewhere. The piece is also well structured.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Writing

Political

THIRD PLACE

Miya Cao, Lily Chen, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

“Miya and Lily did a great job of covering the election with a focus on their school and local community by talking to sources who were engaging in the election in a number of ways.”

Writing

Political

HONORABLE MENTION

Elias Kang, Gina Park, Landon Schuster, Isabelle Berger, Athira Kasthuri, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Priya Thoppil, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Reagan Wald, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Shawn Feng, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana



Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

FIRST PLACE

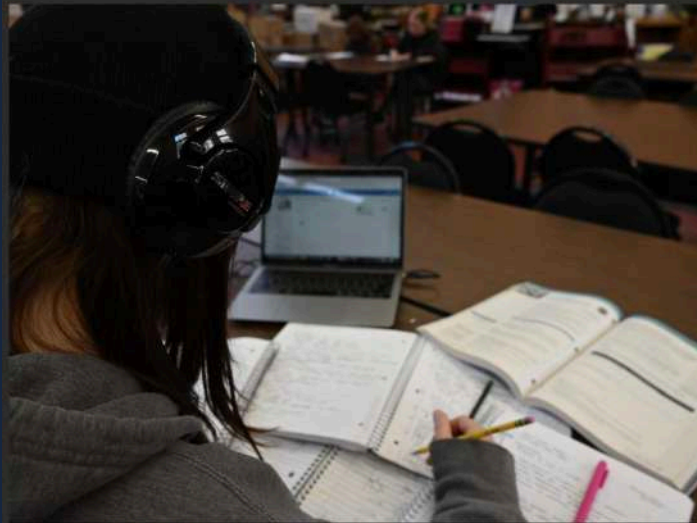
Elizabeth Hu, Annie Jones, Lucy Walker, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

“Movement journalism at its best, this insightful piece not only explores neurodiversity but does so without judgement and gets facts right, something professional media often miss. It centers those with neurodiverse perspectives, and these students should be proud of their accurate, well-researched work.”

Headphones in, grades up: The musical secret to academic success

Many students have been finding music is helping them get their work done, and studies are proving this true.

By [Madison Thacker](#), Editor-in-Chief • MAY 30, 2024



THE MIRROR | MICHAEL ARREDONDO

Roughly 55% of students choose to listen to music while studying. 26% of those choose to listen to classical music or instrumental tracks.

Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

SECOND PLACE

Madison Thacker, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

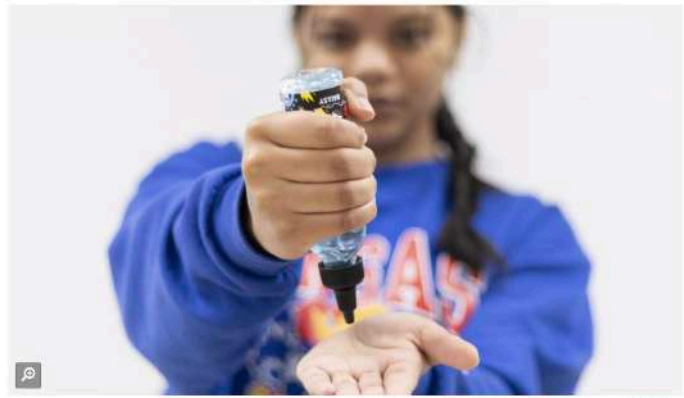
“This is a fantastic look at what's happening under the headphones. The explainer piece looks at the science of what happens in the brain, and how music might help some students study and learn.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

From precaution to paranoia

People with illness anxiety disorder may fear and misinterpret medical conditions.

Blen Belachew and Danielle Croom • May 24, 2024



Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

THIRD PLACE

Blen Belachew, Danielle Croom, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“With diverse sources and excellent quotes, this piece explores some difficult science and medicine territory with skillful writing.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

HONORABLE MENTION

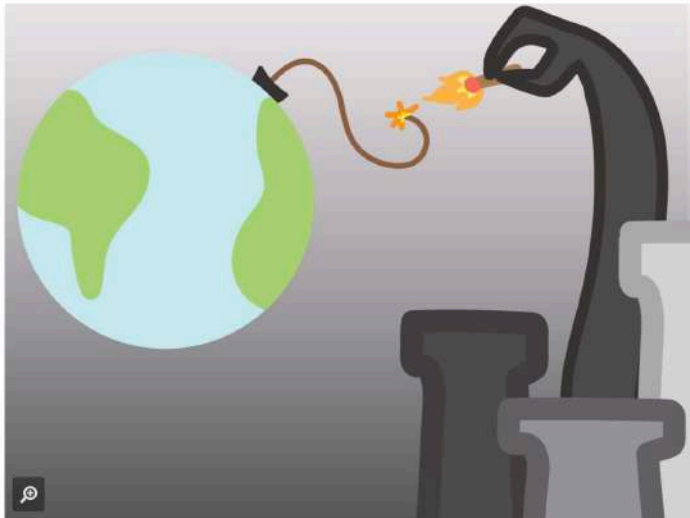
Clark Kerkstra, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

Eshna Das, Lee Monistere, Dalia Sandberg, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

We're running out of time

How climate change is already upon us

Catherine Xue, Reporter • Feb 5, 2025



Graphic by Catherine Xue

Fossil fuels are the largest contributor to climate change, making up over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Writing

Climate and Environment

FIRST PLACE

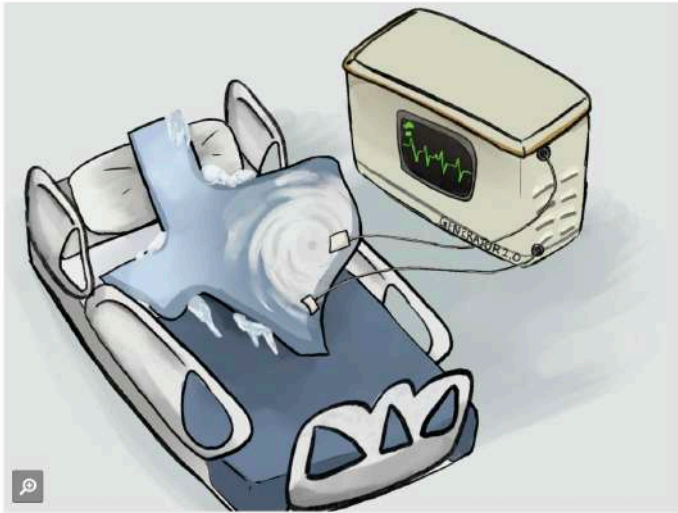
Catherine Xue, Bellaire High School, Houston, Texas

“Extremely emotional yet rational personal column piece that hits all the marks, from insurance to the human cost to the role of policy. Persuasive use of the personal perspective, mixing youth voice with traditional third person column writing. This is a voice to be reckoned with.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Adapt or move: Why so many Houston homeowners are purchasing generators

BELLA DODIG and AILA JIANG • October 24, 2024



As the severity of natural disasters increases, St. John's community members reflect on the necessity of generators.
Design by Emily Yen and Emily Matthews-Ederington

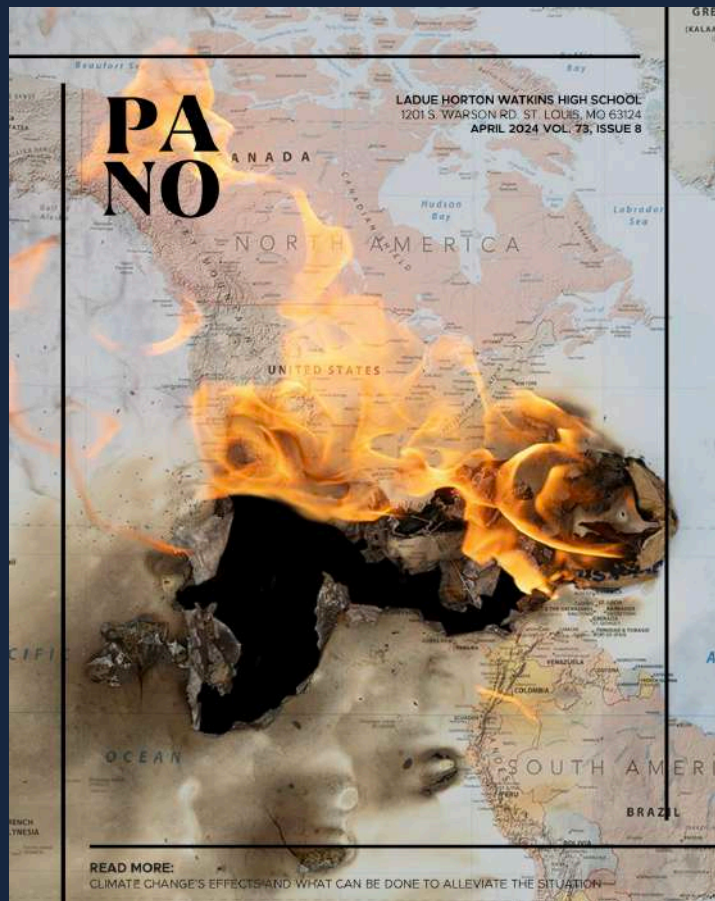
Writing

Climate and Environment

SECOND PLACE

Bella Dodig, Aila Jiang, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

“Looking at climate migration through the lens of one single consumer product: the generator. It’s brilliant! The piece explores economic disparities as well as the policy component, while giving the climate crisis and needed dose of personal impact.”



Writing

Climate and Environment

THIRD PLACE

**Arti Jain, Will Kodner, Vincent Hsiao, Alzhraa Mahmoud,
Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri**

“This story grapples heroically with the various complexities of the climate crisis. It includes quotes from experts as well as the voice of youth. Well done!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Climate and Environment

HONORABLE MENTION

Ashley Mo, Jonathan Szeto, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Brennan Fritts, Zelda Lerner, Henry Moye, Julia Barton, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

Lindsay Maresh, Reagan Wald, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

**The
School
of The
New York
Times**

Scholarship winner

News Writer of the Year

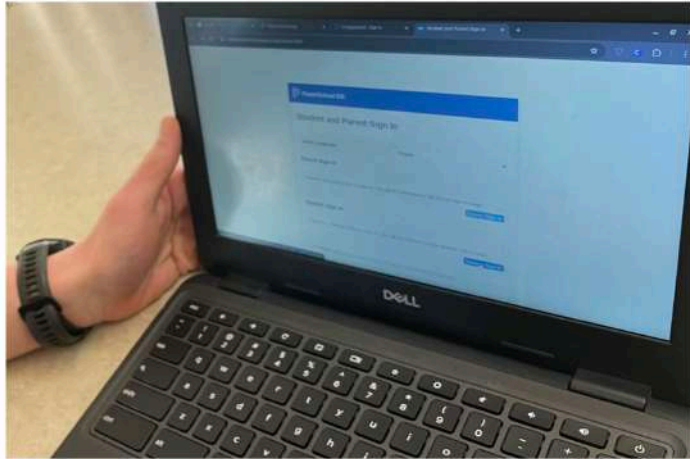
Glennis Woosley, Nixa High School, Nixa, Missouri

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

WSSD reacts to PowerSchool data breach

The breach of the education software giant could have exposed student data from many districts nationwide, including Wallingford-Swarthmore School District.

Clark Kerkstra '27, Haven Happenings Editor • Jan 24, 2025



Writing

News Writer of the Year

FIRST PLACE

Clark Kerkstra, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

“Clark gets straight to the point with lively language, terrific quotes and an obvious nose for news. His words leap off the page, making all of his submissions standouts among his very talented peers.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Race in The Ozarks

A look at the history of African Americans' influence in the Springfield area

Glennis Woosley, Editor-In-Chief
January 29, 2025



Glennis Woosley

"The plaque was installed by the Justice Project from Alabama that is documenting all of the lynchings across the country," Executive Director of the History Museum on The Square, Sean FitzGibbons said.

Writing

News Writer of the Year

SECOND PLACE

Glennis Woosley, Nixa High School, Nixa, Missouri

"Glennis uses vivid, but straightforward language to communicate her stories. Her lead quotes are also carefully chosen and add color to her narratives."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Valley View, Barton Creek Elementaries to blend, Spanish Immersion Program to discontinue in 2025-26 school year

More changes to come to Eanes in 2025-26 school year
to combat the budget crisis

Kristie Min, Feature Editor • January 16, 2025



Silas Flatten

Established in 1981, Valley View Elementary School will be closed in the 2025-26 school year, with students moving to Barton Creek Elementary School. Closing the elementary school is projected to save around \$2 million. The motion to blend the two campuses passed Tuesday 7-0 at the board meeting.

Writing

News Writer of the Year

THIRD PLACE

Kristie Min, Westlake High School, Austin, Texas

“Kristie’s list lead was dynamic, informative and brought me into a story that I may not have otherwise read — a high school band competition. Bravo.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

News Writer of the Year

HONORABLE MENTION

Fallon Head, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas



Writing

Beginning Writer

FIRST PLACE

Nathan King, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

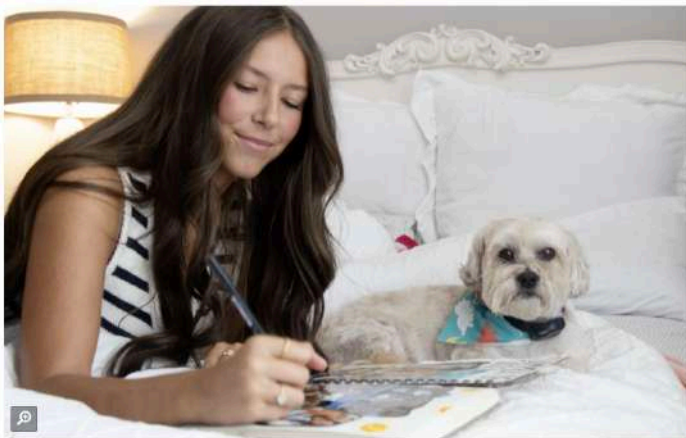
“Narrative writing that flows like a river made this student stand out above others. His writing is well-sourced, fresh and tightly written. It will be fun to watch this writer's progress!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

The moment is now

Discovering joy in everyday moments through romanticizing life.

Danielle Croom and Ruby Halverson • August 17, 2024



Allison Leese

Working on her scrapbook, senior Charley Newby personalizes it by drawing designs. "I started scrapbooking as a fun way to display memories," Newby said. "I'm glad I did it so I have something to look back on."

Writing

Beginning Writer

SECOND PLACE

**Ruby Halverson, Blue Valley Northwest High School,
Overland Park, Kansas**

"With stories packed with good quotes and deft writing, this student knows how to get to the heart of a story and takes the readers along for the ride."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Hands to Hearts: Senior Ainsley Pyle has managed the Christmas program at non-profit organization Hands to Hearts since her freshman year

By Grace Pei
Posted December 19, 2024

THE WISH LIST

Items that children ask for from Hands to Hearts



Grace Pei | The Harbinger Online

basic necessities they often can't afford.

Senior Ainsley Pyle scanned through the aisles of T.J. Maxx, reading off the long list of Christmas wishes, hand-picking gifts and crossing them off as she went.

But in between the slime kits, Pokemon cards and unicorns, are requests for pillows, winter coats, paper towels and blankets —

Writing

Beginning Writer

THIRD PLACE

Grace Pei, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

“Grace knows how to get to the nuance of a story, and does so while making the writing seem effortless. Well done!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Writing

Beginning Writer

HONORABLE MENTION

Joseph Murphy, Maine West High School, Des Plaines, Illinois

Leo Powell, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Visual

WVM 2025



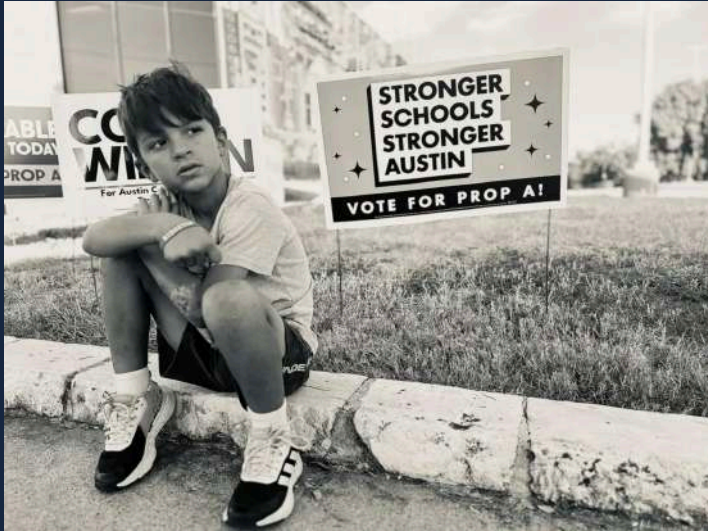
Visual

Breaking News Photography

FIRST PLACE

Lily Chen, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

“First, the very best thing about this photo is the photographer, Lily, was there. In the rain. The image is stronger because she took it from a low angle, which created a more neutral background for the faces. The fast shutter speed stopped the action of the rain, adding atmosphere to the photo. Good use of depth of field to isolate the drummer.”



Visual

Breaking News Photography

SECOND PLACE

Sofia Celio, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The black and white helps make this a more striking image. This image is shot from down low and is a textbook example of using rule of thirds to bring attention to the subject. Nice storytelling.”



Visual

Breaking News Photography

THIRD PLACE

Matthew Ramirez, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

“This is a professional-quality photo at a crowded rally — good job getting in position to get a great shot. Kudos for using shallow depth of field to isolate the subject.”

Visual

Breaking News Photography

HONORABLE MENTION

Chang Haochan, Beijing No. 66 Middle School, Beijing, Beijing

Kaya Steele, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Laine Edwards, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Lila Vancrum, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

Madison Shelton, Chuckey-Doak High School, Afton, Tennessee

Sydney Ortiz, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas



Visual

Feature Photography

FIRST PLACE

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“While it takes a big dose of luck to have the backdrop of a gorgeous sunset, the photographer used correct exposure and considerate composition to create a winning image. The silhouetted people give the photo life, help tell a story and provide dramatic contrast to the colors of the sky.”



Visual

Feature Photography

SECOND PLACE

Oliver Barrera, Lindbergh High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“With so many faces in a photo, it is sometimes difficult to achieve a clear center of visual interest, but this photo does just that. The viewer’s eye goes right to the well-focused face of the scooter-rider. The leading line of the rope, the diagonal shaping in the photo and the interaction of others in the crowd make this an excellent student life memory.”



Visual

Feature Photography

THIRD PLACE

Jalyn Bautista, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“Using the light reflected from the monitor as well as a low angle, the photographer took us into the intensity of the moment for these students. The tightness of the shot adds to its effectiveness as a storytelling image.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Sports Action Photography

FIRST PLACE

Brianna Dunham, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“This photo showcases a strong off-center subject with vibrant color and crisp focus. The ball is framed by the curving of the athlete’s body, and the visible and invisible leading lines also direct the viewer’s eyes to and from the ball and the pitcher. Excellent use of the shallow depth-of-field technique, and the kicking up of the dust adds another layer of motion to this exemplary photo.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Sports Action Photography

SECOND PLACE

**Mallory Barker, Francis Howell North High School, St.
Charles, Missouri**

“This photo illustrates a strong fill-the-frame composition with great expressions, crisp focus and vivid colors. The athletes’ arms serve to frame the players and lead the eye in a circular pattern around the photo. The minimal background is effectively captured with shallow depth-of-field, helping the viewer to focus on the intensity of the players.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Sports Action Photography

THIRD PLACE

**Anastasia Flower, Shawnee Mission East High School,
Prairie Village, Kansas**

“The crisp focus of the splashing water and the leading lines of the lane dividers make this an excellent fill-the-frame composition. This is an impressive capture of the swimmer’s face in focus. The shallow depth-of-field with the opponent swimmer closely trailing the subject makes for a much more intense swimming shot than it would be with the subject alone in the frame.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Visual

Sports Action Photography

HONORABLE MENTION

Ezra Victor, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jacob Dinh, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

Jake Strelitz, Westlake High School, Austin, Texas

Kiley Benskin-Wallace, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

Presely Maurer, Lindbergh High School, St. Louis, Missouri

Sasha Libenzon, Wayland High School, Wayland, Massachusetts

Sasha Libenzon, Wayland High School, Wayland, Massachusetts

Taylor Griffin, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri



Visual

Sports Reaction Photography

FIRST PLACE

Julia Copas, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Julia showed me an image I had never seen. I either this player did it frequently so she waited for it or she was simply on top of the action. Great job catching peak action reaction.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Sports Reaction Photography

SECOND PLACE

Julia Barton, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

“Juli Barton captured a wealth of reaction images that tell a solid story.”



Visual

Sports Reaction Photography

THIRD PLACE

Joshua Gunter, Rocklin High School, Rocklin, California

“Joshua did an excellent job of seeing what was happening and making an insightful image from the edges.”

Visual

Sports Reaction Photography

HONORABLE MENTION

Alexis Bailey, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Emma McAtee, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas



Visual

Photo Illustration

FIRST PLACE

Katerina Matta, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“Great perspective and color pull. Illustration clearly shows content as well as interests the reader. Great work!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Photo Illustration

SECOND PLACE

Mia Caliva, Citrus Valley High School, Redlands, California

“Great melding of photo art to illustrate the topic. Nice inviting color palette.”



Visual

Photo Illustration

THIRD PLACE

Sarah Slattery, Kaneland High School, Maple Park, Illinois

“Great use of color and action in this illustration. Clearly highlights the central figure to help show the story.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Photo Slideshow

FIRST PLACE

Mary-Hunter McCaslin, Paige Danish, Noah Iverson, Alexis Bailey, Kaya Steele, Jane Pitcher, Emily Pastva, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

“The teamwork of multiple photographers really shows on this masterful collection of multiple angles from a single game. We get to see not just well-captured action images, but photos of the reactions of fans and players, coaches at work, trophy presentations, cheerleaders, the band and more. Fantastic job of organizing photographers to be paying attention to every aspect of the pivotal event. Everything combined tells a broad and exciting story. Great job to all.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Photo Slideshow

SECOND PLACE

Sarah Slattery, Kaneland High School, Maple Park, Illinois

“The photo of the dunk is one of the most dramatic sports action photos I've seen. The spectators celebrating the background and the intensity of the player pictured is striking. Combined with other strong action images of the game, reactions of players, fans (the image of the phones at the trophy presentation is a pleasingly creative angle) and coaches, we get treated to a wide ranging presentation of a victorious team at a championship game. Well executed photography in a ‘must-win’ environment.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Photo Slideshow

THIRD PLACE

Farris Duwayri, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

“There are strong photos with warm light that converge to tell an exciting story. Action images show moments of tense anticipation and the competitiveness on the faces of the athletes. Be careful to only include images that are sharp in a slideshow — the sliding baserunner image, while an interesting moment, could be cut. However, the celebration image shows incredible emotion and lifts the presentation higher.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Visual

Photo Slideshow

HONORABLE MENTION

Danielle Hobbie, Olivia Pederson, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Zachary Ford, Rocco Huerta, Tricia Darcy, Jacob Dinh, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

FIRST PLACE

Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“This photo combines a great concept, lighting, composition and execution. The storytelling is quite effective, with the subject in the foreground with his bicycle up against the window.”



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

SECOND PLACE

Katie Czelusta, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

“Strong composition, lighting, and cooperative subject combine to produce an eye-catching environmental portrait.”



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

THIRD PLACE

**Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St.
Louis, Missouri**

“Terrific use of multiple lights create this dramatic and moody image.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

HONORABLE MENTION

Mackenzie Moore, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Penelope Walker, Foundation Academy, Winter Garden, Florida

Wang Peichong, Lake Forest Academy, Beijing, Beijing

Zhang Yutian, Shanghai United International School Gubei Campus, Shanghai, Shanghai



Visual

Beginning Photographer

FIRST PLACE

Paige Danish, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

“Nice variety of work captures diverse skills. Football team’s reaction to winning their homecoming game captures the emotion and shock in crisp details. Bird’s eye view of girls basketball shows a creative perspective, along with good cropping to emphasize the faces. Coaches’ reactions to a ref’s call represents that special sideline moment in a well-composed, well-cropped image.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Beginning Photographer

SECOND PLACE

Kaya Steele, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

“Smart cropping brings out all three centers of interest. Low angle for the drumline, view from the endzone and great reaction after winning the state lacrosse title emphasizes storytelling faces and action.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Beginning Photographer

THIRD PLACE

Wren Vanderford, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Focusing on faces, whether on stage, on the field, or at concert practice, brings life to these photos. Strong framing adds visual impact to the violinist. Detailed captions complete the stories.”



Visual

Editorial Cartoon

FIRST PLACE

Brianne Tolentino, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“This exemplary editorial cartoon has effective and simple design with professional quality artwork. The message is a powerful statement on the ironic actions of some school districts, and the message is loud and clear without the presence of any other text — the cartoon can stand on its own. The expressions on the students’ faces is authentic to how real high school students would react to this situation.”



Visual

Editorial Cartoon

SECOND PLACE

Sophie Leung-Lieu, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“This editorial cartoon carries a strong message about the validity of many school policies. The artwork is professional quality, with vibrant colors that make the messages on the police tape stand out. It is effective composition to have the student breaking through these policies and walking off the frame. Anyone viewing this cartoon can detect the meaning without editorial text being present — it can stand on its own.”



Visual

Editorial Cartoon

THIRD PLACE

Ava Nightingale, Eisenhower High School, Shelby Township, Michigan

“This editorial cartoon has overall high quality artwork and an powerful statement about mixed messages from school districts and how students must navigate often frustrating situations. It surely is relatable to the majority of the student body, and the cartoon can stand alone even without an accompanying editorial.”

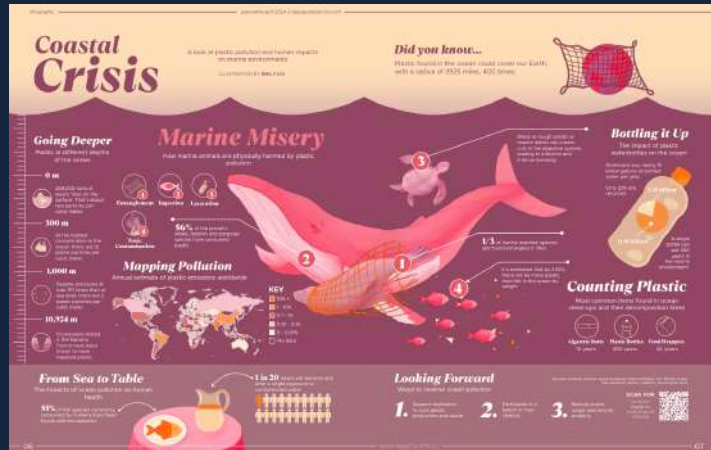
Visual

Editorial Cartoon

HONORABLE MENTION

Francesca Lorusso, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

Shelby Townsend, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas



Visual

Informational Graphic

FIRST PLACE

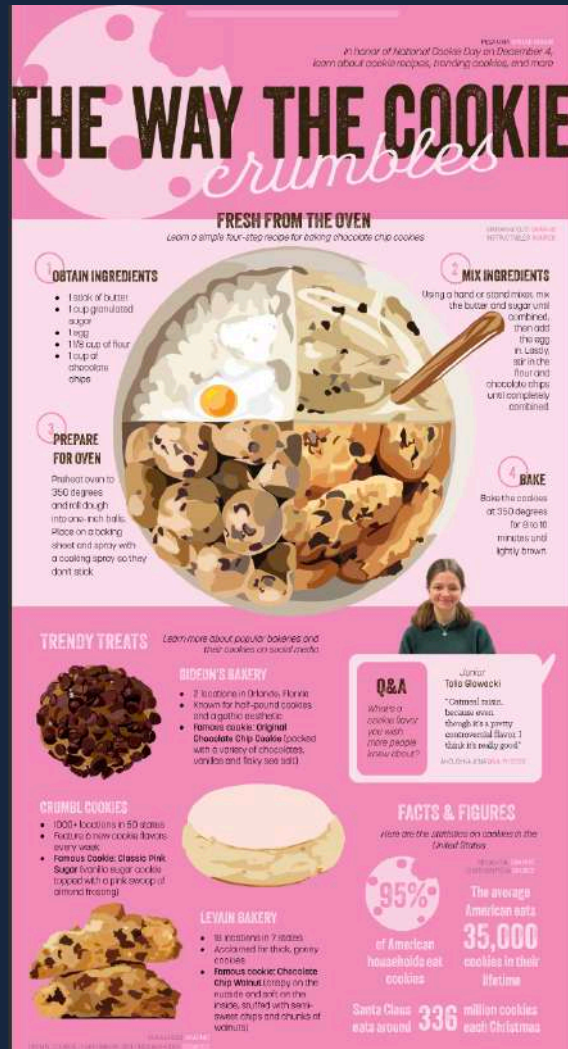
Emily Liu, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“This infographic showcases highly professional design on an important topic. The main graphic helps create sympathy for the marine life and hopefully encourage action/thought. The double meaning of ‘Going Deeper’ (into the water as well as the topic) is clever. The infographic has a pleasing color palette with several reader entry points and suggestions to get involved.”

**Ananya Addepalle, Laxumi Chandrakumar, Katelyn Chen,
Keira Kress, Abigail Lee, Ella Lu, Megan Xia, Carmel High
School, Carmel, Indiana**

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor





Visual

Informational Graphic

THIRD PLACE

**Marianne Guo, Ella Guo, Anoushka Jena, Keira Kress,
Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana**

“This infographic showcases professional design in a pleasing vertical format. The energizing color palette draws readers in. Effective inclusion of a student photo and quote localizes the graphic to the school. The information about the local bakery including the prices is also a nice touch. Clever headline and fun alliteration in additional headlines. Creative dominant graphic of the bowl with the four steps to the baking process. Nice combination of real cookie photos and digital artwork.”

Visual

Informational Graphic

HONORABLE MENTION

Sophia Brockmeier, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

Zhang Yuchen, WLSA Shanghai Academy, Shanghai, Shanghai



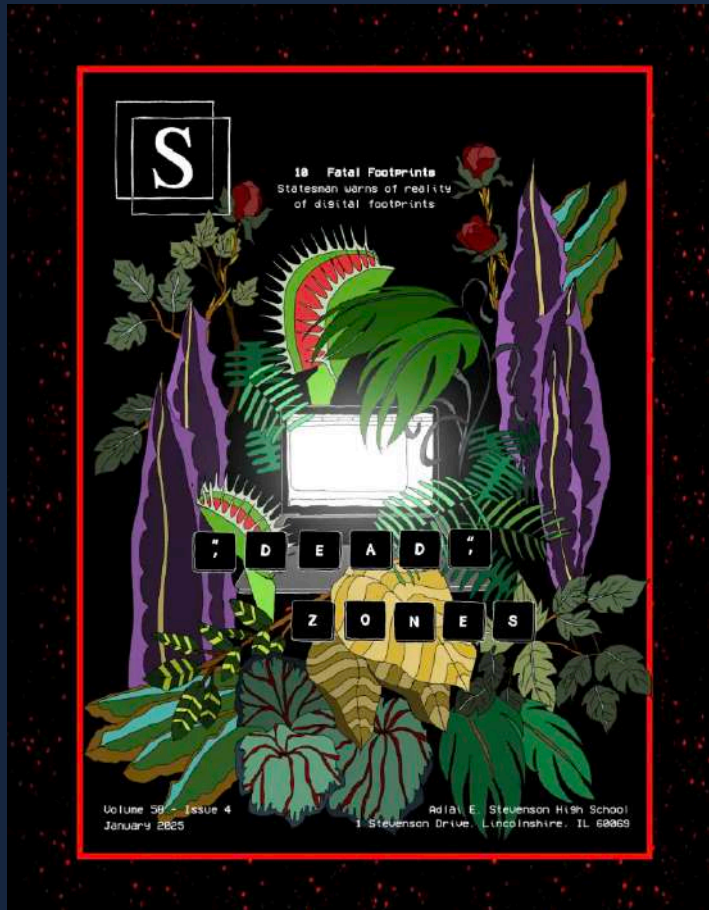
Visual

News Magazine Front Page Design

FIRST PLACE

Bri Raak, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri

“It takes the viewer just a minute to recognize what they are looking at. Once the realization kicks in that this is an aerial view of a winter scene, one is left in awe of the creativity required to visualize this illustration. The ice skaters whose blades have ‘written’ the typography are a splendid, whimsical touch. Viewers will enjoy spotting other well-placed details. What an elegantly executed idea for an entertaining cover. Congratulations!”



Visual

News Magazine Front Page Design

SECOND PLACE

Fiona Jin, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois

“Dark colors, deadly plants and an ominously glowing computer screen give the reader an initial sense of foreboding of what might be inside. The cyberpunk style, with vintage computer age font treatment and clever use of keyboard graphics, gives this cover an appropriately dystopian feel, fueling curiosity for what stories await. Great job of emotionally harnessing a throwback theme.”



Visual

News Magazine Front Page Design

THIRD PLACE

Kelly Zhang, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“The illustration excels for its attention to localized election issues by referencing Missouri-specific propositions/amendments. The arch in the background is a nice touch by giving us a setting. A slightly muted, but consistent, red-white-blue pattern shows the artist understands color theory and the warmly-colored sky serves to bring the reader's eyes down into the city scene. We can certainly appreciate how this is focused on the publication's target market.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

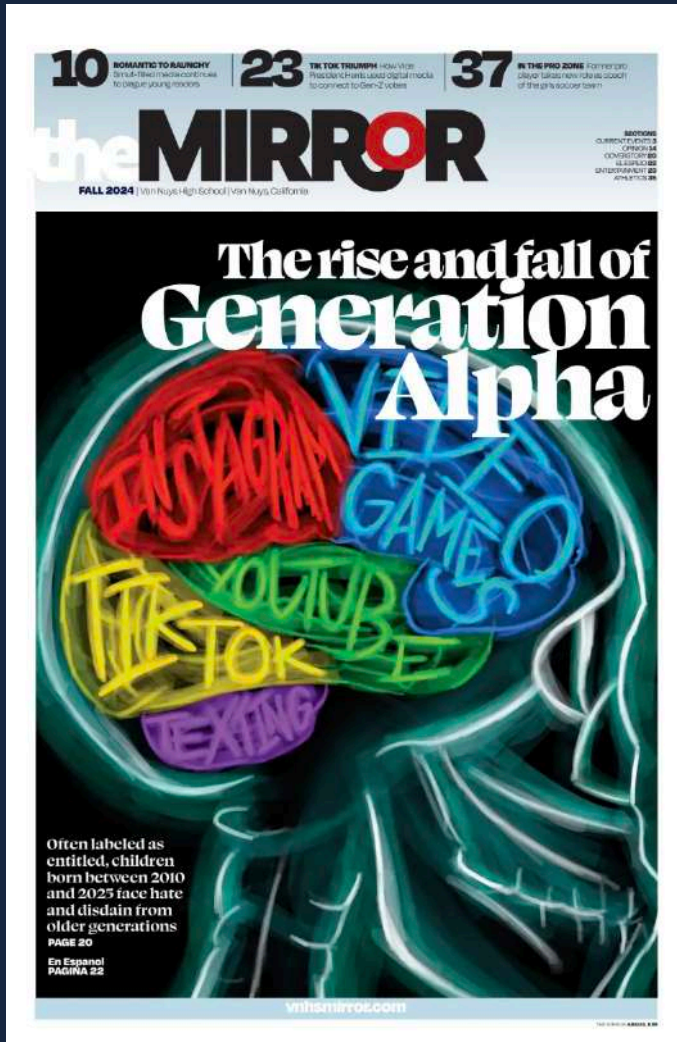
Visual

News Magazine Front Page Design

HONORABLE MENTION

Mira Patel, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

Yu Ge, Shanghai Pinghe School, Shanghai, Shanghai



Visual

Newspaper Front Page Design

FIRST PLACE

Abigail Kim, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“Eye-catching illustration, big and bold! Love the colors and the ‘neon’ x-ray feel. Really effective design.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

“Even though this is more of a traditional looking front page, the bold arrangement of the multiple photos are executed in such a way that makes it have a contemporary feel. Nice clean layout. Large cut-out photo in the middle of the circle adds depth to the page.”

WINGED FOOT

THE UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE HARKER SCHOOL

THE HARKER SCHOOL
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VOL. 24 NO. 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

Put your hands up for Harker Day

by Thomas Smith &
Alicia Puga

Harker Day welcomed students, staff, parents and alumni to festivities across campus on Saturday.

Clubs hosted booths with games and activities for attendees in the Nichols Forum. Many organizations featured games for lower and middle school students.

"We received both the kids and high schoolers to have fun," DHS member Amy Chen (10) said. "Making items was a good choice since a lot of people did it. Someone even made a big ball with origami, and all the calligraphy being done was pretty cool too."

"I just love that aspect of being able to write a love letter to the school and have everybody be a part of it."

DANNY DUHH
(JUNIOR SENIOR)
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Performing was groups across all three campuses gave a "Harkercovers" themed show at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Paul Thayer Forum; groups included the upper school's Downbeat, Festival Chorus, Harker Dance Company and Kinesics. Lower middle school's High Voltage, Concert Choir and Showspop; the lower school's Backyard Choir and Chorus Fusion; and students in Transcendent Kingdoms.

"We have almost no rehearsal in the show so it is really in the year," lower school technical director Emily Duhan

said. "Everyone's scrambling to get a date. We always think, 'Oh my gosh, we're now going to make it, and then it always turns out to be great. I was really proud of the kids this year. They really had to little time, and there was so much to do.'"

The show encompassed an ongoing theme of "being present" as the catalyst to bringing them scripted shows by piecing together different songs for each group.

The best part about the show was that you have 7K all the way through high school in the show together," Duhan said. "The whole point of the show is that Harker is pretty awesome. I know that aspect of being able to write a love letter to the school and have everybody be a part of it."

Attendees also had the opportunity to get a coronavirus shield and to know gigantic bubbles in the Quad. Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club members laid out student pin plants and succulents, and Women in STEM officers talked about the club's mission and upcoming events.

See NEWS Page 2 for more details.

Inside the ISSUE

news 2 activities 9
features 3 staff 11
advice/lifestyle 7 sports 17

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5 features

1. **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**
2. **CLUBS**
3. **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**
4. **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**
5. **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

sports debate

14 staff

AT THE TOP
CHARTER PAGE
BROWSE WATER
COMMITTEES
REPORTS MANAGEMENT

CHARGE FORWARD

(CENTER) Running track athletes. (RIGHT) Running track athletes. (BOTTOM) Running track athletes.

sports debate

CHARGE FORWARD

(CENTER) Running track athletes. (RIGHT) Running track athletes. (BOTTOM) Running track athletes.

sports debate

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sports debate

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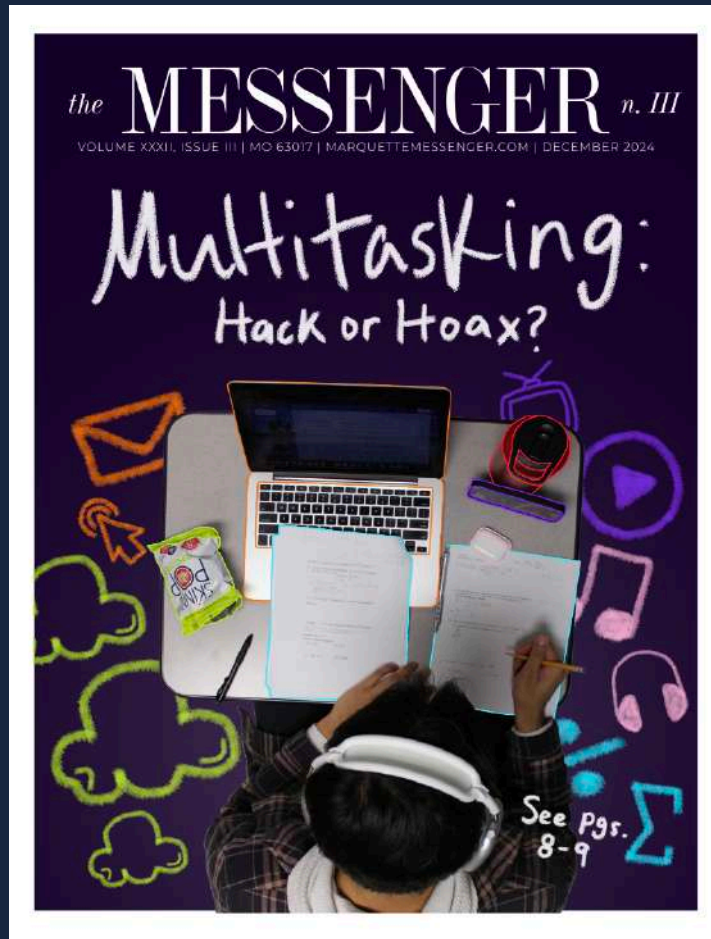
CHARGE FORWARD

(CENTER) Running track athletes. (RIGHT) Running track athletes. (BOTTOM) Running track athletes.

sports debate

PHOTOGRAPH BY [Name]

ILLUSTRATION BY [Name]



Visual

Newspaper Front Page Design

THIRD PLACE

Anvi Talyan, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

“Well done photo illustration. Thoughtful use of an overhead shot to show the chaos of student distractions. Fun use of color and cohesiveness between the ‘doodles’ and the headline font.”



Visual

Features Page Design, Single Page

FIRST PLACE

Bella Broce, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

"Bella has done an outstanding job in creating a clean and visually appealing design. The cut-out football player serves as an engaging CVI that effectively leads into the overall layout. The text wrapping around the player enhances the cohesiveness of the design and guides the viewer effectively throughout the piece."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Features Page Design, Single Page

SECOND PLACE

Teaghan Hardy, Kaneland High School, Maple Park, Illinois

“Teaghan’s design is clean and simplistic, yet the page comes together to tell a story beyond the article in a wonderful way.

There's an excellent use of white space that helps the reader flow through the page. It's very visually appealing and eye catching.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Features Page(s) Design, Two-Page Spread

FIRST PLACE

Nina Ye, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“The opening spread of a four-page article features a smart use of the chessboard paired with a terrific ‘studio-style’ environmental portrait and sophisticated typography to grab even the most reluctant reader. And, though not officially part of the competition, the following spread doesn't let us down visually. Just terrific work.”

[illegible]

of a few minutes or so, and a part of it is spent on the way back to the car. "I don't know if it's a good idea to offer the [Wings] such a small amount of time," says the director. "I think it's better to have a longer, more in-depth discussion with the Director of the [Wings] program, and then we can decide on the best way to proceed." The director of the program, who is also the director of the [Wings] program, says that the program is a very important part of the [Wings] program, and that it is a very important part of the [Wings] program. "I think it's a very important part of the [Wings] program, and that it is a very important part of the [Wings] program," says the director. "I think it's a very important part of the [Wings] program, and that it is a very important part of the [Wings] program."

[illegible]

ing treatment as clearly not worse than a control.

Clinical health care has moved beyond a traditional focus on the individual to a holistic approach that includes the social, cultural, and environmental factors that influence health and well-being.

“This opinion spread leads with a large, clear infographic which is balanced by a dramatic illustration that pulls readers into the long but convincing text. The text is right on the edge of being too gray, but this spread accepts the twin challenges of lengthy text and difficult visuals.”



Visual

Features Page(s) Design, Two-Page Spread

THIRD PLACE

Jessi Hahn, Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

“This is perhaps the best example in the contest field of form following function, with a punk design strategy to match the punk content. The design is more chaotic than readers would expect, but all the energy on the spread seems ‘just right.’”

Visual

Features Page(s) Design, Two-Page Spread

HONORABLE MENTION

Amanda Brantley, Serina Yan, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

Hayden Pinto, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Katerina Matta, Young Min, Jessica Wang, The Harker School, San Jose, California

Naomi Vandyne, Michaela Manfull, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri



Visual

Sports Page(s) Design

FIRST PLACE

Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“Great photojournalism — not only are the photographs superior, but the story they and the in-depth cutlines are telling is clear and captivating to the audience. Colors used for headline and info box maintain cohesiveness across the pages. Extra bonus: stats info box and inclusion of the QR code to entice readers to go grab more info.”



Visual

Sports Page(s) Design

SECOND PLACE

Josephine Zangrilli, Evelyn Koncalovic, Munster High School, Munster, Indiana

“Clever headline! Angled elements on the page break up sections of copy nicely add interest. Fun profile photos and the Q&A really make the reader want to get to know the athletes. Nice, clean layout.”



Visual

Sports Page(s) Design

THIRD PLACE

Kai McPhail, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas

“Nice layout. Pages offer a story, definitions of terms, timeline, pull quote, text wraps and a photo cut out. All of these elements make for interesting pages.”

America's continuing mess



Editorial
Hayden Pinto
Co-Editor in Chief

I love you.
They become the last words a mother hears as she sends her child to school on a random Tuesday. She preps his breakfast and reminds him of the schoolwork he has left on top of the couch.

She watches as he pulls out of the driveway and disappears down the street. She continues as if this is any normal day and begins to get ready for work, and heads out while dressed in a business pant-suit with her glasses resting above her forehead. She takes off in her Mercedes and arrives at the brick office building where she spends her 9-to-5 work day, every day.

As she takes her mug from under the workroom coffee machine, her phone vibrates once, but she does not feel it, as the low rumble of the coffee machine masks the vitality screaming at her from her device. As she blows the steam rising from the coffee, her phone vibrates seven more times, each a text from her son, the one she just sent off for school. She opens the notifications, reminding herself of his forgetfulness, thinking he is just asking her to drop off his lunch like last week's ordeal.

This time, however, is different. Her heart begins pounding as the mug escapes her hand and shatters on impact with the carpeted floor below. She studies each text message as if she is preparing for a last minute pop quiz.

Her lips mutely read the words "Mom we're in lockdown... I'm scared... I hear shots... I love you."

She rushes down the staircase, running to the ground three floors below where she once stood motionless, passing the elevators and clomping in heels. She rushes out the door and back into her Mercedes, the one she began her 9-to-5 in on this once-mundane day. She speeds past every stop sign and red light and notices that every car on the highway has pulled to the side, as if they understood the feelings of a mother who received the most chilling texts of her life.

But this is not the case.
The Mercedes was only 30 feet ahead of a line of ambulances rushing as fast as they

could with their sirens wailing and their lights strobing. As a flock of geese follows their leader, the Mercedes led the trucks down the road to the intersection where police had blocked the entire road.

It is sheer chaos.

After realizing that her Mercedes was not of the same importance as the ambulances, she stopped her vehicle right where she was and sprinted as if her life depended on it, because to her it did.

As she jumps past the barricades, she is met with the chill of screaming children and relieved parents.

She waits anxiously as more students trickle out of the building until what seems like a decade of inactivity and dead silence, except the atmosphere is full of screams and siren.

But her son never leaves the building. The building has become a house of terror, and a final resting place for countless students, including her son.

While hypothetical, this scenario is all too familiar to countless parents across the United States. The story of the families of 13 at Columbine High School, 32 at Virginia Tech University, 26 at Sandy Hook Elementary School, 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, 10 at Santa Fe High School, the heartbreaking 21 at Robb Elementary School, and more recently, the 4 at Apalachee High School. These are only a few of the hundreds of students who have been murdered on a school campus since 1999.

The common denominator across many of these shootings is that the shooter is a younger individual who is labeled as shy, quiet, and overall an outcast.

What is even more shocking is the prior investigation and reported concerns of the individuals who are now school shooters.

The most recent at the time of writing being Colt Gray, a 14-year-old student who took the lives of two students and two faculty members at Apalachee High School in Georgia. It was revealed that he had been under prior investigation for threatening to commit a school shooting over a discord server, but the Federal Bureau of Investigation did not have enough probable cause to continue with prosecution. What happened next, being the murder of four, shows the lack of policy our country has. How could threatening to murder students and teachers who are teaching and learning not be a probable cause?

The simple solution is to keep suspicious students under a closer radar. Had investigators been able to take more action when discovering Gray's threats, four individuals could still be with us today. The world may never have had to endure

seeing the heartbreaking images of young students praying in a circle after being in the center of a mass shooting.

We need change and we need it fast.

Graphic // Maddi Mortellaro
Designs // Isabella Shipek



Visual

Editorial Page(s) Design

FIRST PLACE

Bella Shipek, Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

"Simple, clean design showcases the importance of a dominant visual to communicate key points and grab reader interest. The text message graphic and use of color draw the reader in and balance the design, without interrupting readability. Everything works!"

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Editorial Page(s) Design

SECOND PLACE

Violet Newton, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“Supporting their stance about a new finals policy, this two-page opinion spread makes smart use of space and elements. From a dominant illustration that grabs attention, to a left vertical four-student opinion poll, to four graphs illustrating a district-wide survey results, this staff visually backs up their points. Smart use of story subheads break up the long text adding to the design effectiveness.”

Cost of consumption

Growing popularity of reusable water bottles defeats intended purpose

Lillian Gray
staff reporter

The reusable water bottle, a staple for an environmentally friendly lifestyle, has, in recent years, become environmentally unfriendly. Water bottles made like buying Hydroflasks and most recently Stanley's have taken over the internet and consumers' wallets. As social media quickly promotes these products, consumers rush to stores to get their hands on the latest bottle design already causing one, which makes the eco-conscious goal paradox.

According to CBS News, Stanley, the company behind the latest water bottle trend, made an estimated \$750 million last year, compared to \$75 million before 2020. The trendy Stanley cup isn't the only reusable water bottle that has had their moment of internet fame. Hydroflasks, which saw a large increase in sales in the late 2010s, were a head trend that lasted a little over a year. After this cup started to go out of style, buyers moved onto other cups like S'wellers.

The quick change from bottle to bottle due to internet popularity locally defeats the purpose of water bottles in the first place. The use of reusable water bottles is to decrease the use of plastic water bottles and reduce waste. But with our culture of moving so from things so quickly and having the new popular item, it seems to be doing more harm than good.

In the past year, as Stanley's began to grow in popularity, I have known multiple people who have bought more than one Stanley. I don't understand this since I have had the same water bottle for over a year and, it still works just like it did when I got it. Stanley's also say that their cups "last a lifetime," which has been proven to be true due to events like a woman's Stanley cup being caught in a car fire and surviving, barely damaged, a story she posted on TikTok.

This begs the question, if the cup is so durable and should last for such a long time, why are consumers collecting and buying multiple cups?

For starters, although the company boasts the cups' durability, it promotes its new cups in a way that makes consumers want to buy more. Stanley has posted videos talking about the different cups and their specific uses, making consumers think that they need to have more than one for different scenarios. One might be bigger and be better for hydration, the other might keep the water colder, and so on. The company also releases cups like the limited edition Starbucks Stanley that

has been discontinued due to its high demand and crowds that were too eager to get the cup. Now the cups are selling for over \$500 on resale sites.

As the Stanley company continues to build hype around the bottle and market it as a collectible and not a way to combat harmful plastic water bottles, people will continue to buy more than they need.

Many influencers have made videos showing off their Stanley cup collection that consists sometimes of 10 or more cups. Even though some people are buying

reusable water bottles due to these trends, which should be a positive effect of the hype, instead, overbuying the water bottles and getting more than what people actually need is having a negative impact on the environment.

Although I believe that water bottles are a good way to combat plastic waste, they have become too much of a trend to the point that the

bottles are not effective towards their original environmental purpose. I think that everyone should have a reusable water bottle, but should try to keep it for a long time and not just get rid of it as soon as the newest trend emerges.

The point of water bottles is to reduce waste, but it seems that the growth of these trends lead people to buy them in excess, which creates more waste.

“Although the company knows of its cups' durability, Stanley promotes its new cups in a way that makes consumers want to buy more.”

Stanley revenue

Stanley's revenue has grown from \$75 million in 2020 to almost \$750 million in 2023. Data from CNBC Intelligence by Lillian Gray



Stanley's reusable water bottles defeat the purpose of being a reusable water bottle in the first place. CNBC Intelligence by Lillian Gray

opinion 25

Visual

Editorial Page(s) Design

THIRD PLACE

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The power of the visual grabs reader interest to something most students know well. Effective use of color and an infographic support the writer’s opinion. Clean typography completes the package.”



Visual

Beginning Designer/Artist

FIRST PLACE

Meg Myckatyn, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“Sophisticated use of the grid and solid illustrations made for an outstanding portfolio. Designers don’t always get outstanding photos to work with and there are constant challenges in terms of effective use of available space. This designer keeps the chaos to a minimum while delivering plenty of information.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Multimedia

WVM 2025



Multimedia

Video News Package

FIRST PLACE

Alexis Barker, Payton Simons, Lillian Saykham, Wichita Southeast High School, Wichita, Kansas

“Good follow up story on important topic. Showed solid reporter work. Strong, well-written anchor setup. Clear construction that included short, meaningful sound bites. (Unclear what ‘529’ meant) Good pace, did not drag, kept my interest. Congrats on undertaking a newsworthy story and telling it well.”



Multimedia

Video News Package

SECOND PLACE

**Bradston Swick, Madi Koepp, Cali Swick, Dylan Mize,
Colton Boston, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas**

“Strong start, though a wide shot would have set the scene in the museum; otherwise the walking shot was effective and well delivered. Sound and video of the event with sound fading up made for a gripping start. Good chief soundbite. B-roll included natural sound that have it texture. Captured the solemn feel to the story with a strong ending (taps). Nice job.”



Multimedia

Video News Package

THIRD PLACE

Christina Krasnova, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“Great opening with natural sound of pets and "who doesn't love puppies" / good writing into the soundbites, set them up nicely interview subjects made good points, clearly spoken / well edited / story just stopped, needed the same strong writing at the end.”

Multimedia

Video News Package

HONORABLE MENTION

Max Kihneman, Fred T. Foard, Newton, North Carolina



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

FIRST PLACE

**Colton Boston, Bradston Swick, Prosper High School,
Prosper, Texas**

“Strong start with coach soundbite / First words of the story short dramatic to set it up / story picked up the emotion of this tragic story / reporter approached it the right way / coach soundbite well-edited with different camera angles / good slow pans on still pictures / strong ending. Well written and told.”



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

SECOND PLACE

Celina Calix, Ben Haberberger, Andrew Truong, Lindbergh High School, St. Louis, MO

“Good first bite, sets up the emotion of the story / good background on the athlete / some natural sound during the hockey games would have added / bites well edited/ strong ending / very touching story!”



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

THIRD PLACE

Camp Hlavac, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison, Mississippi

“Fun, off-beat feature story / well-shot, narrated well by reporter with video that matched copy / good bites and energetic ending. Enjoyable watch!”

Multimedia

Video Sports Package

HONORABLE MENTION

Luke Conrad, Matt Huseman, Jacob Tracy, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana



Multimedia

Video Features Package

FIRST PLACE

Kristy Duong, Lillian Saykham, Wichita Southeast High School, Wichita, Kansas

“Excellent story, good anchor lead, lots of energy picked up nicely in the energetic videos and natural sound / Good use of visual ‘headers’ for each part of the story / picked up on the emotion, particularly in the shot of the girl crying at the end of the performance. I usually like to see the reporter ‘button up’ a story when the video ends but having the curtain fall was appropriate and did the same job. Beautifully constructed. Good work, enjoyable to watch!”



Multimedia

Video Features Package

SECOND PLACE

Toby Hamel, Raleigh Slack, Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington, Ohio

“Good upbeat opening / music supplemented nicely, though needed to fade down during bites / very good enterprise story, well research constructs and told - congrats to whomever pitched it / good supplementary visuals / good sot of editor next to the fire / narrative stitched the bites together well / interesting - enjoyable watch! Ended nicely. A thought: it would have been nice for the reporter to button up the story by bringing it back full circle to the Baskin Robbins where he started it. Professionally done!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Video Features Package

THIRD PLACE

Griffin Greear, Oakwood High School, Oakwood, Ohio

“Well written and shot / interesting and amusing story well told / Instagram video - a good idea - worked / well-edited!! / Funny and fun! / Would have liked a better button up to the story besides ‘signing off’ - but the storytelling was so strong that it worked. Really enjoyable to watch!”

Multimedia

Video Features Package

HONORABLE MENTION

**Colin Boehler, Koen Wiebel, Luke Rushford, Seth Rushford, Tommy Rhomberg, Owen Wheat,
Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, Iowa**

Jazmine Snyder, Wichita Southeast High School, Wichita, Kansas

Toby Hamel, Raleigh Slack, Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington, Ohio



Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

FIRST PLACE

**Riddima Pandey, Conestoga High School, Berwyn,
Pennsylvania**

“This is an excellent story. It has a clear story arc, explains the issues well, explores multiple perspectives, and relies on basic production values to provide a coherent message. The variety of voices allow the story to come alive.”



Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

SECOND PLACE

**Vanessa Ng, Francis Howell North High School, St.
Charles, Missouri**

“This is a nice story. Its focus on an untold angle raises awareness about an important part of the human experience. The elevation of voices of those in the story provide the human connection needed to make it truly great.”



Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

THIRD PLACE

Christina Krasnova, Ryleigh McDermott, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“This is a great profile story that focuses on the experience of a student who lives with a rare disease. The work humanizes him and his experiences. It plays on the basic human bonds everyone shares.”



Multimedia

Documentary Video

FIRST PLACE

Trip Breslin, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“Beautiful way to tell a heartbreaking story. The integration of animation/hand drawn art with stills over the audio juxtaposes the childhood innocence with heavy adult topic/reality.”



Multimedia

Documentary Video

SECOND PLACE

Cade Johnson, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“Great integration of B-roll with the interview tape. The piece is structured really logically and each visual cue corresponds to the audio and part of the story well. This is the perfect type of profile to do as a video!.”



Multimedia

Documentary Video

THIRD PLACE

**Ella Evans, Emily Vaughan, Alex Lin, Macy Langland,
Bellaire High School, Houston, Texas**

“The script is really clearly written and well delivered — the voice over interacts well with the live interviews. The use of timestamps throughout the video is very effective in telling this story.”



Multimedia

Audio Podcast: Single Episode

FIRST PLACE

**Jordan Hutchinson, Kingwood Park High School,
Kingwood, Texas**

“Nice job converting the popular ‘Humans of ...’ idea to podcast form. It's much more interesting for journalism audiences to hear a Q and A as opposed to reading one. Great work tracking down an athlete in season to get their thoughts on how things are going. The fact that the team was in first place when this recorded adds an extra element of newsworthiness, expanding the potential audience for the podcast.”



Multimedia

Audio Podcast: [Single Episode](#)

SECOND PLACE

Julia Copas, Callen Romell, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Very interesting idea to seek out a famous alumnus! The interviewers clearly did their research before the interview and came prepared with great questions. Excellent work providing all the info that listeners may want to know about in the outro, and awesome original theme music at the beginning!”



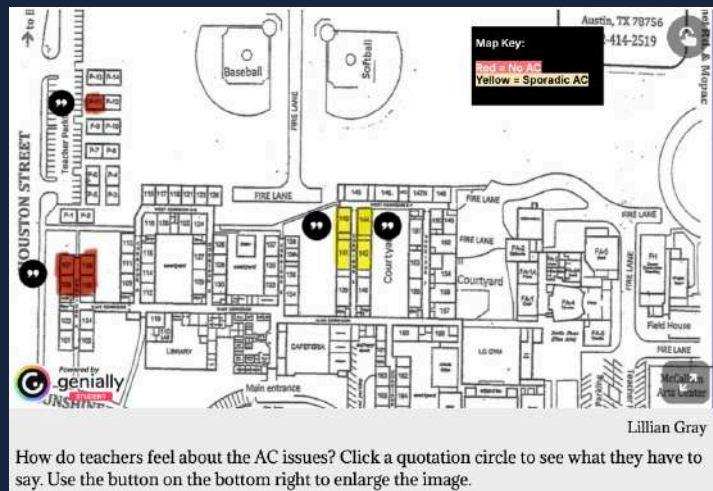
Multimedia

Audio Podcast: Single Episode

THIRD PLACE

Max Kihneman, Fred T. Foard High School, Newton, North Carolina

“This podcast does a nice job of letting listeners learn more about their teachers outside of the classroom. The interviewers seem to be well prepared with their questions, and the piece is edited nicely to break up the interviews among each other. My biggest recommendation would be to make sure and mention the music credit in the outro.”



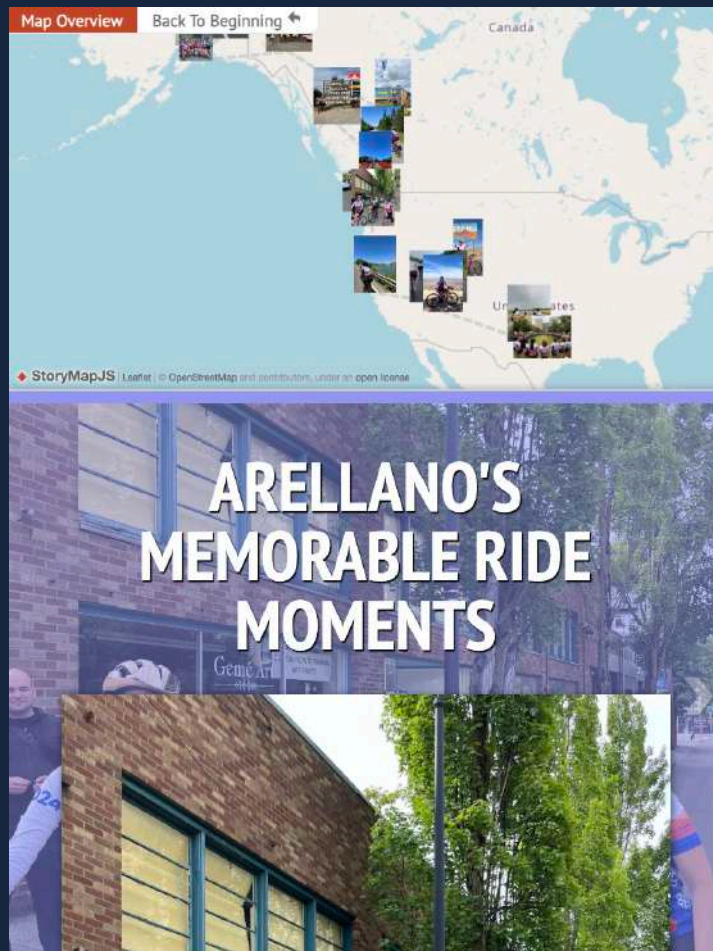
Multimedia

Interactive Informational Graphic

FIRST PLACE

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“McCallum’s interactive was a truly unique way to visualize the discrepancies in AC levels across the school and the impact teachers say it's having on their students’ performance. Lillian Gray's reporting was highlighted in a highly visual and interactive way via the map topping the story. I appreciated the color-coded key to show which rooms were experiencing some AC or none at all. I appreciate Gray’s creative approach to illustrating this important story that otherwise would not be considered a visually engaging topic.”



Multimedia

Interactive Informational Graphic

SECOND PLACE

Chloe Lewcock, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Chloe Lewcock of McCallum High School took an interactive approach at illustrating her source’s 4,000-mile biking journey. I wish the map were a bit bigger in the overall view of the page along with higher in the scroll of the page. A casual user who is not committed to reading this story may have missed the interactive element to this if they click out of it before getting halfway down the page. I also wish there was a way to go full-screen with the map. Overall, the ability to tell the story of this journey visuals is a powerful storytelling tool that makes a lot of sense for this piece.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Interactive Informational Graphic

THIRD PLACE

Rohan Anne, Ashley Du, Aren Framil, Howard Kim, Rajan Saha, Mary Wolters, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

“Visualizing where Conestoga High School seniors will be attending college via an interactive map of the US is a brilliant idea. The map is easy to navigate, highly visual and the star of the show. I would have loved to see/hear from a few of the seniors represented on this map. That would have taken this interactive to the next level and really told a more complete story.”



Multimedia

News Show

FIRST PLACE

**Bruin News Now Staff, St. Joseph Catholic School,
Madison, Mississippi**

“This news show demonstrates the power of public-affairs reporting. The tenacity to cover state government in such a vivid way was notable. The show also focused on school-related topics and issues.”



Multimedia

News Show

SECOND PLACE

**Ava Doyle, Hailey Blurton, Lance Schafer, Cole Brogden,
Katelyn Coffey, Colton Forrest, Maize Career Academy,
Maize, Kansas**

“This news show is a mix of good storytelling and visually engaging aesthetics and presentation. The storytelling focuses on human impact.”



Multimedia

News Show

THIRD PLACE

ENN Staff, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“The storytelling makes this news show stand out. All of the packages are focused on human-interest pieces related to the holiday season. The presentation is engaging and visually effective.”

Recovery tests patience in Kingwood after Hurricane Beryl's destruction

Sydney Ortiz, Sports Editor · July 12, 2024



Sydney Ortiz

The tree rests on the center of the Cavallo home after Hurricane Beryl struck on July 8. The tree fell into the empty upstairs bedroom between the rooms where sophomore Soleil Cavallo and Kingwood Park graduate Luke Cavallo sleeps.

Multimedia

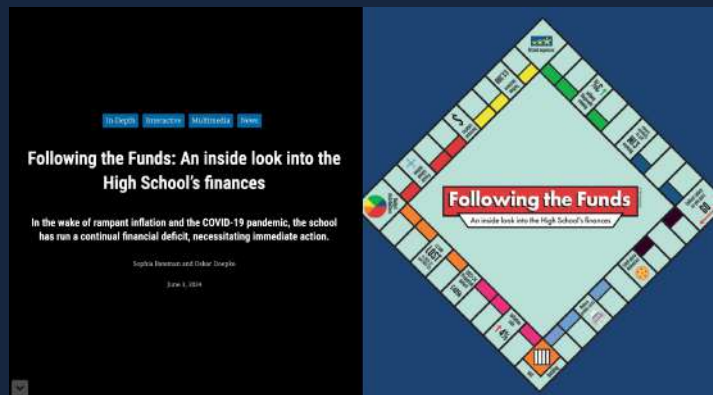
Multimedia Feature/News Package

FIRST PLACE

Sydney Ortiz, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“KP Times’ coverage of Hurricane Beryl recovery in their local community was a complete and engaging example of exceptional multimedia storytelling. There were multiple entry points into the story — from the photos to the embedded social videos to the interactive map, to the news package. The story painted a full picture of the challenges while showing vs telling in as many cases as possible. Hyperlinking to other and past coverage was a nice touch and best practice. Keep up the excellent work!”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Multimedia Feature/News Package

SECOND PLACE

Sophia Bateman, Oskar Doepke, The American School in London, London, England

“This deeply reported multimedia feature looked at what some would consider a dry topic: school funding. But the presentation of this reporting was anything but dry! The interactive charts, graphs and maps helped to illustrate what would be an otherwise difficult topic to visualize. I also appreciated how responsive this presentation was when viewed on a mobile web browser — the experience of this journalism stayed consistent across platforms which is a major key to a successful piece of multimedia journalism.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Opening doors to appreciating Black history

Black History Month activities offer multiple entry points to learning about African American culture, perspective

Shayla Allen, Gaby Esquivel, Lillian Gray, Carlo Hinsdale, Delaney Lavelle, Beatrix Lozach, Josie Mullan, Chloe Seckar-Martinez, Francie Wilhelm, and Chloe Lewcock • March 6, 2024



Dave Winter

Freshman Paityn Jones speaks as part of the panel during the Black History Month assembly during fifth period. Jones said that being a member of the Knights Steppers and having Black teachers have given her spaces where she can be herself.

Multimedia

Multimedia Feature/News Package

THIRD PLACE

Shayla Allen, Gaby Esquivel, Lillian Gray, Carlo Hinsdale, Delaney Lavelle, Beatrix Lozach, Josie Mullan, Chloe Seckar-Martinez, Francie Wilhelm, Chloe Lewcock, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“There was no shortage of multimedia elements in The Shield’s coverage of Black History month activities — which makes sense. This is a story can and should be told across mediums. From the poll to the beautiful photos to the video clips and social media embeds — there was something for everyone in this coverage.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Dance is a sport

Many have attempted to undermine dance by labeling it simply as an art form. However, dance is much bigger than this. Dance deserves to receive recognition as a sport.



Julia Skoufalos, Claire Ding, Alexis Rovner, and Michelle Bookbinder

October 7, 2024

Multimedia

Multimedia Sports Package

FIRST PLACE

Julia Skoufalos, Claire Ding, Alexis Rovner, Michelle Bookbinder, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

“This package defines the idea of ‘multimedia.’ Readers are treated to a mix of well-reported stories (in different formats like Q&A), video, illustrations, comparative and informative charts, even a fun quiz. Each contribution is done skillfully and invitingly. This all makes the argument presented less of a lecture and instead an immersive exercise. Well done by all.”

Wings of Victory

Nixa's football team achieved an undefeated season

Blake Eidson, Sports Reporter

December 20, 2024



EagleAir TV broadcast story talking about Nixa's road to the state championship.

EagleAir TV, Blake Eidson

Multimedia

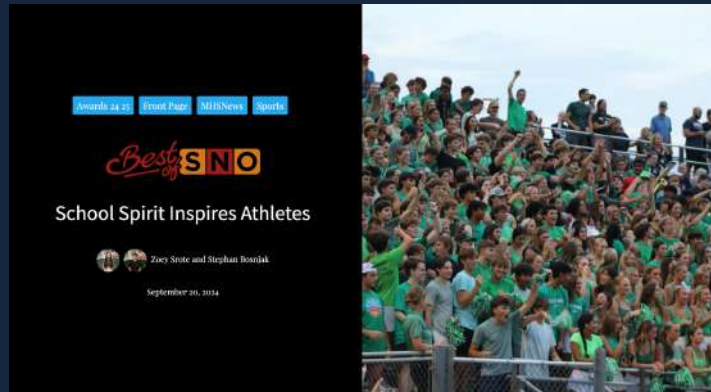
Multimedia Sports Package

SECOND PLACE

Blake Eidson, Nixa High School, Nixa, Missouri

“The football season could have simply been expressed by the solidly-written sports story but we get the added bonuses of a large photo slideshow that includes emotional images from multiple games and a tightly edited video segment with interviews from coaches and players, action footage and welcoming sportscasting. This all comes together for an engaging storytelling experience.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Multimedia Sports Package

THIRD PLACE

**Stephan Bosnjak, Zoey Srote, Marquette High School,
Chesterfield, Missouri**

“Video adds immensely to this package. The interviews and colorful cheers that are captured bring moving emotion to a subject that could be witnessed similarly at many different schools. Yet, we get to learn what makes Marquette unique. A still photo slideshow and a story with a variety of quotes give this a true multimedia display.”

Election 2024 Opinion



The human toll of political lies

Trump said migrant terrorists had turned Aurora, Colo., into a war zone, so I headed there to find out if it was true

Lillian Gray, staff reporter • October 30, 2024

"You look at Aurora in Colorado. They are taking over the towns. They're taking over buildings. They're going in violently... And they're destroying our country. They're dangerous. They're at the highest level of criminality. And we have to get them out. We have to get them out fast."

Multimedia

Multimedia Opinions Package

FIRST PLACE

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

"The writer's first-person reporting may just be a slice of a much bigger issue, but through personally-shot photographs, audio from interviews and engaging text we get to see the story told through the eyes of someone with a unique viewpoint. Even though the opinion is from someone who is not a resident of the city in question, this might be a plus since it gives a well-executed opportunity for a fresh perspective."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Power to the Youth

Youth deserve legitimate chances to impact legislation and national policy to improve our future.

Evan Michaeli and Andrea Tang • May 31, 2024



Multimedia

Multimedia Opinions Package

SECOND PLACE

**Evan Michaeli, Andrea Tang, Brimmer and May School,
Newton, Massachusetts**

“The author’s active involvement in lobbying lifts this up from a mere armchair examination of a complicated, worldwide issue into a more personal story. The slideshow of the bill process is informative for those who also might want to pursue political action. Included photos and video help illustrate and educate readers of current events.”



Multimedia

Multimedia Opinions Package

THIRD PLACE

Elias Kang, Daniel Ovadia, Claire Ding, Gabrielle Levine, Barbara Armstrong, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

“The opening text gives a concise overview of the issue being examined. Further story formats vary, from Q&A to researched facts to slideshows, and all contribute well to the argument offered. The closing graphic showcasing alternatives adds a welcome ‘ray of hope,’ which ends the package positively by not just presenting a problem but offering possible solutions.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Individual

FIRST PLACE

Matthew Ramirez, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

“Matthew’s social media entries showed a wide variety of storytelling tools and topics. It’s clear Matthew is a user of Instagram, and he's able to translate the student journalism into a social media post that feels informative but also native to the platform. What set this entry apart was the thorough reporting, proper crediting and overall professionalism.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Individual

SECOND PLACE

Lev Rubinstein, Rocklin High School, Rocklin, California

“Lev’s social media entries showed a really powerful and unique way of storytelling. Everyone featured felt so authentic and the video series felt really personable. I can see how this would resonate with its targeted audience. I wish there had been more done to put a little more text on the screen to help users know what they're seeing if they’re watching this video with sound off, like so many of us do.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Individual

THIRD PLACE

Lillian Gray, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Lillian’s photography and writing skills were on full display in this entry. The photo compositions were super sharp. I appreciated how she told a complete story with each social post. I wish there had been a little more variety in the types of storytelling Lillian experimented with but overall, the work is very strong.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Team

FIRST PLACE

Owen Gonzalez, Braeden Kettinger, Austin Griffin, Kane Manfull, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“The staff at FHN Media used social media to create and capture a movement with their ‘Cross out the C’ campaign. I appreciate how they rolled out their campaign piece by piece, day by day. They created a build-up that kept their audience engaged and eager for more. The production of the individual posts that make up this campaign were all very well done and highly professional.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Team

SECOND PLACE

Sports Coverage Team, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“McCallum High School's consistent, accurate and properly credited social media coverage of the boys’ basketball team is a prime example of using digital tools to meet audiences where they're at. The prime audience for this coverage is on social media and that's exactly where McCallum delivered it. I appreciated the variety of posts including photos and video. I also appreciate the thorough captions that gave the audience a full view of the games.”



Multimedia

Social Media: Team

THIRD PLACE

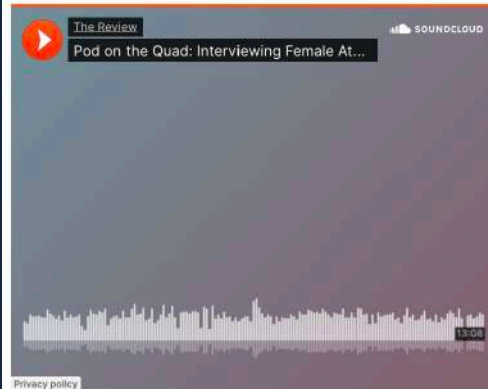
Social Media Team, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri

“Kirkwood High School’s social media campaign for 10 days of charity showed a lot of creativity. I appreciated the proper crediting of both the caption and design work. Really well done!”

Pod on the Quad: Learning the Experiences of Female Athletes

GEORGIA PULLIAM, Staff Writer

November 16, 2024



Multimedia

Beginning Podcaster

FIRST PLACE

Georgia Pulliam, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

“Nice job getting multiple interview subjects to examine a single topic. Excellent work providing music attribution in the outro! Great job continuing the conversation and splitting the episodes into more digestible lengths. In the age of shortened attention spans having podcasts that are shorter increases the likelihood that your audience will be able to consume the episode in a single session or be able to listen to it during their commute.”



Multimedia

Beginning Podcaster

SECOND PLACE

Jagger Heath, Quinn Chiochios, Los Altos High School, Los Altos, California

“Great idea getting the principal in for a sit down. This can be beneficial for her to get her messages out to students, but also gives the student journalists the opportunity to ask tough questions to the person running the school. These questions did cover a decent range of topics and hopefully creates an environment of trust between student media and the administration. Nice use of the podcast platform to give people a more in-depth look at what goes into one of the primary student publications.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Now Playing...

Episode 1

Nolan McNulty and Blake Eichmeier

November 14, 2024



Max Wiser

Now Playing... hosts Nolan McNulty and Blake Eichmeier. Description of "In Whose Name?" provided by Variety.

Multimedia

Beginning Podcaster

THIRD PLACE

**Nolan McNulty, Blake Eichmeier, Ankeny High School,
Ankeny, Iowa**

"Including the transcript is nice for those who may not be able to hear the podcast. Make sure to consider the audience here and try to cast the widest net possible. Currently it seems like the hosts are having a conversation about some entertainment news happening in the hip hop world, but without providing the necessary background for listeners who would not be up to date on that news."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

FIRST PLACE

Elizabeth Nation, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The writing in your post captions is engaging and clean — it makes the viewer want to keep reading. Your treatment of quotes, particularly in the post about the tennis team, is lovely. The set ups provide additional information instead of just repeating the quote.”



Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

SECOND PLACE

Eason Dong, Los Altos High School, Los Altos, California

"Your captions are a very nice length, allowing viewers to get a feel for the topic but not going on too long. Be careful to not let your paragraphs get too long — even reasonable length paragraphs can look long on a mobile-first platform like Instagram. Your quote selection is also good and really complements the reporting nicely."

DECA

FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Aneesh Rajagopal	Roberta Dapi	Kushagra Gosi
Arden Leslie	Madelyn Chavoso	Mario Jacovini
Chloe Ren	Hannah Hoskins	Ty Ramella
Jessie Atlas	Justin Forstadt	Liliana Campana
Paige Haskin	Hernoor Singh	Chloe Wang
Matt Berkery	Sorayawati Gordon	Lauren Cicotta
Dipti Reddy	Cole Pizzo	Aiden Chen
Rylie Morris	Amanda Yu	Lia Kang
Joshua Resnick	David Levin	Melanie Pedersen
Landon Shuster	Matthew Horowitz	Rohan Singh
Erika Tsai	Jeremy Perlow	Logan Freedman
Manya Gupta	Cary Bloom	Johanna Kang
Diya Joseph	Sydney Xiong	Manar Hadi
Tia Varghese	Tejaswini Raghavan	Lesh Perk
Alexis Nowakowski	Claire Li	Henry Castle
Cruz Candray	Madison Greenwald	Nicholas Reynold
Charlie Heidt	Gina Park	Rehan Durrani
Campbell Schwartz	Allison Kang	Matthew Goldstein
Sonia Motiwala	Michael Giardino	
Stella Kim	Casey Shulman	
Jaiden Womack	Krishu Bhagat	
Chloe Lin	Tom Ha	
Jessica Lazarolu		
Jack Dublin		

CONGRATS TO THESE DECA STATES QUALIFIERS FOR PLACING IN THE TOP 3 FOR THEIR COMPETITIVE EVENT

eastsideonline · Follow

eastsideonline Edited · 12w

On January 7th, DECA Regionals took place at the Doubletree Hotel in Cherry Hill, where 325 business students from Cherry Hill East had the opportunity to compete on various business topics — against eachother and other local high school students. DECA, a prestigious business competition, popular among East students, requires enrollment in at least one half-year business class, typically starting with Introduction to Business before moving on to a variety of higher level business classes.

This year, 119 students qualified for the state competition through their successful role plays. Additional students will attend DECA States based on a submission of a 10 or 20 page paper written in their business class.

194 likes
January 9

Add a comment...

Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

THIRD PLACE

Jessie Atlas, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

"The captions are very informative and answer all the primary questions viewers might have. You have a nice variety of style of post as well. One thing to keep in mind when designing these graphics is text size. Some of the graphics are a bit text heavy — all the text is valuable information, but it might be useful to divide it up by multiple slides so it is less overwhelming. "



Multimedia

Beginning Multimedia Journalist

FIRST PLACE

Ryleigh Jochens, Southwest Christian School, Fort Worth, Texas

"Ryleigh has a great on-air presence. She is composed and articulate. Her read rate is perfect and aligns solid pacing."



Multimedia

Beginning Multimedia Journalist

SECOND PLACE

Ian Reyes, Maize Career Academy, Maize, Kansas

"You do a great job telling stories from start to finish. Your camera work is smooth and edited together nicely. Slow down when doing voiceover."



Multimedia

Beginning Multimedia Journalist

THIRD PLACE

Scarlett Young, Southwest Christian School, Fort Worth, Texas

"You have a natural presence on screen and on air. You are personable and energetic with a smooth read rate. Be careful of moving your head and upper body too much."



Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

FIRST PLACE

Angel DiSalvo, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

“Each package has a good variety of shots and styles. Sequencing does a good job of visually telling the story. The story being told matches the visual (say and see).”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

SECOND PLACE

Konrad Fischer, Anderson High School, Cincinnati, Ohio

"Strong, clear footage that shows the action of each sport and works beautifully with hype videos. You have a bright future ahead of you."



Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

THIRD PLACE

Reghan Grassi, Padua Academy, Wilmington, Delaware

"Great sequencing! You have a good variety of shots that weave together to create a visually interesting story."



Multimedia

Middle School Multimedia

FIRST PLACE

Mamie Heitzmann, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison, Mississippi

“Great job with adhering to the rule of thirds when the subject is speaking. Nice B roll pacing as well. I’d like to see the dogs when you mention them too. Seems like two stories — animals and school/friendships. Good job including multiple sources and showing the story!”