



THE CHARGER

Charger recognized as All-Kansas publication

staff reports

For the first time in school history, the WHS Charger received All-State distinction from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association for its news publication.

Publications are judged on their body of work throughout the year, including coverage, reporting, visuals, design and leadership. KSPA describes an All-Kansas publication as one that demonstrates a solid understanding of the news publication and its purpose, features well-written copy, attractive design and storytelling photography, and that is obviously produced to serve readers.

The Charger was the only 2A school recognized for its news publication this year. Publications from Manhattan, Blue Valley Northwest, Blue Valley North, Blue Valley, Shawnee Mission East, Mill Valley, Hays, Kapuan Mt. Carmel, Piper and Lawrence Free State were also recognized.

Charger journalists also received awards in several state journalism contests. The competition took place online instead of the usual location in Lawrence.

Wabaunsee took fifth overall as a team. "KSPA added a lot of contests this year, and participation was high because the contest was online," adviser Brendan Praeger said. "We have pretty small newspaper and yearbook staffs, so to place well with only a few entries is pretty exciting."

Karlee Feyh
6th in Advertising Design

Emma Alderman
2nd in Copyediting

Emma Frey
2nd in Sportswriting

Jacob Meseke
4th in Sportswriting

Emma Alderman
2nd in Newswriting

Kendyl Bolinder
3rd in Newswriting

Justice Houston
3rd in Outline Writing

Emma Frey
6th in Editorial Writing

WABAUNSEE ACADEMIC AWARDS & RECOGNITION NIGHT

6:30 p.m. Friday, May 7
in the New Gym

Open house in the WHS Library starting at 6 p.m. Check out projects from our Art, Visual Arts, and Industrial Arts classes. There will be a variety of projects on display that received medals at the Fort Hays Technology Fair.

Drama to perform 'Crazy' spring play

Emma Frey | editor in chief

The drama class will present its spring play, "Crazytown," Saturday, May 8, at 2 p.m.

This play is structured as a local news channel in a wacky small town. It's a lighthearted comedy with four parts. These include an interrogation, a political debate, a sports scene and an infomercial.

"I'm really excited to be performing again, we haven't performed a play in a year and a half. The fun of drama is performing for others, and we weren't sure we'd even get the chance this year," drama teacher Brendan Praeger said. "I think every year in the last week I see the kids scrambling to fix scenes they haven't nailed down yet, and they always manage to pull it together."

Covid restrictions kept the class from having a traditional play last semester, but precautions are more relaxed this time. "We have seating separated so people will sit in every other row, and the audience is required to wear masks in the building. We also chose not to sell concessions this time. Other than that, the play will run as usual," Praeger said.

The move to a matinee time, instead of an evening performance, is also new. "Usually the play happens the same day as state journalism,



Seniors Alex Warner and Stanley Russo rehearse with junior Jackson Havenstein for the spring play, "Crazytown." Russo plays a man being interrogated by the police for embarrassing the town by being too polite.

forensics and a make-up date for baseball and softball. It's less crowded this year," Praeger said.

Senior Justice Houston is excited for her final production, after four years in the WHS Drama program.

"I am one of the news anchor leaders with Reagan. I'm excited to play this role with my best friend because it makes it easier and more fun. It kind of sucked not having a fall production this past year or the spring one last semester but I'm excited to get the opportunity to do one last play before I graduate," Houston said.

"Crazytown" by Jonathan Rand

2 p.m. May 8 in the WHS Auditorium

Tickets \$3 students, \$5 adults

Cast

Justice Houston
Reagan Kelley
Jayna Keller
Stanley Russo
Austin Henderson
Alex Warner
Jackson Havenstein
Melissa Campbell
Emma Frey
Brooklyn Bayless
Ashley Piper
AJ Grutsch
Richard Wagner

Students compete at tech fair



Senior Grace Spellman uses her glue gun on a model for competition at the Fort Hays State Technology Fair. She received a Blue Ribbon, Rosette and Certificate for Best in Class. "It's a model of the house that my family hopes to build some day. I had floor plans that I used to create a 3D model. It featured working lights and a Plexiglas ceiling to see inside. It did better than I thought it would do in competition," Spellman said.

Senior Peter Stuhlsatz installs a railing on his model house's balcony. The model received a blue ribbon and a rosette. "It's a model of a house I drafted in CAD last year. I liked doing the landscaping and flower beds," Stuhlsatz said. His drafted plans were also submitted in the 11th grade category since they were completed last year. See a complete list of winners and more pictures at whscharger.com.



Summer weights to make kids bigger, faster, stronger

Jacob Meseke | sports editor

With school ending, athletes look to summer weights as a time for athletes to stay in shape through the offseason.

"Summer weights can help athletes get more explosive, keeping them in shape, and getting their muscles ready so they are able to compete at a high level," said weights coach Garrett Eck. Eck and Jess Rutledge are continuing to build the program more each year. "Every single year we are growing. The expectation and culture is growing every year. We have the highest number we've ever had this year, so we had to move to two sessions for boys which is awesome," Eck said.

Coach Rutledge said, "The summer strength & conditioning program is a huge part of all athletics at Wabaunsee. The summer is essential to development because more time can be dedicated to athletes improving themselves physically and mentally. Also, not all athletes are afforded as many opportunities during the school year, so this is a time for them to really expand their athletic capabilities."

"If you don't want to fall behind, you need to get in the

weight room. At the end of the day you can be a good athlete, but the stronger, faster, and more explosive you are the better you are going to be and the more it will help you," Eck said.

The structure of weights will be the same as last year. Main lifts will be first and then conditioning and explosive work will follow in the gym.

Coach Eck has specific goals for summer weights, including getting athletes to attend 100 percent of sessions. "Last year we had around 14 and we're trying to get that number between our high school boys, girls, and junior high closer to 25. We have high expectations, but overall we just want kids to get in and get better."

Rutledge emphasized that the program is designed for all athletes. "The stigma of 'it's just football workouts' or 'the only goal is to make people really bulky' is nonsense. We work to build all types of athletes that are stronger, faster, more flexible, explosive and well-conditioned; not bodybuilders. Also, there is no such thing as a 'football only workout.' That's what football practice is designed for, the same as it is for any other sports practice."