



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **HEADLINE WRITING**

DIRECTIONS & RULES

You are a staff member of the Abraham High School's The Standard (Middleland, Ill.). Your editor has assigned you to write the headlines for six stories on the frontpage of the next edition.

Below you will find a photo of the layout of the newspaper to give you a visual of where each will go. When you scroll down further you will find the story for each photo, as well as the parameters for each headline. Write your headlines in a word processing program, like Microsoft Word. At the top of your document, type "School Code: ####" with your individualized code numbers.

Each headline has a character limit. Each letter and space equal one character.

Students will be judged on headline rules, creativity, and accuracy.

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Work must be complete: 1:00 PM

Submitted headlines will be run through plagiarism software. If any submitted stories are flagged for plagiarism, the competitor and advisor will be alerted and given a chance to review and refute the flagged work prior to a decision on disqualification by a games committee.

NEWSPAPER LAYOUT

HEADLINE 1 HEADLINE 1

<p>New VP changes</p> <p>When Eoger O'Bannon started out as an assistant vice principal (AVP) at Abraham High School 11 years ago, the campus appearance and atmosphere were drastically different from how they are today. In the year before he was hired, the school size grew dramatically and both the principal and vice principal left, leaving people concerned about the direction of the school.</p> <p>O'Bannon recalls that "the school looked kind of like a penal institution," and many students had the attitude to match. There was an "old falling down chain link fence out front [...] and rooms straight out of the 1950s." The layout of the school is different today, but back then "when you drove by the school, what you saw was a dumpster, a bunch of milk crates, feed cans, and this dilapidated building [...] it was oddly designed." Since then, AHS has undergone various landscaping and building projects, including the addition of the PAC, and as a result, the atmosphere of the school has changed.</p> <p>Back when he was just hired, O'Bannon admits there were "behavioral on campus that were not really productive for supporting an academic learning environment. These "behavior" included hundreds of students in the hallway after the bell signaling the end of lunch. What was odd, O'Bannon realized, is that "no one thought it was a big deal" there was a "tolerance for what [he] felt was like really inappropriate student behavior."</p>	<p>As editor-in-chief of the AHS magazine, Pennetti has extensive experience making digital layouts. This background in designing layouts, along with the increasing number of activated Geofilters, inspired Pennetti to make a downtown Palo Alto filter. However, Pennetti ultimately decided to tackle an AHS Geofilter as a smaller project.</p> <p>She teamed up with the AHS adviser, Betsey Snow, to design the filter. On their website, Snapchat outlines the process for Geofilter submissions, and allows anyone with mastery of Adobe design applications to participate. Size guidelines for filters are very stringent, so Pennetti chose to keep the design small. During the design process, Pennetti had to choose colors and font that would be visible against light or dark photos. Ultimately, the font is gold but has a black border to increase the contrast against lighter backgrounds.</p>	<p>Geofilter</p> <p>Early this year, Snapchat began accepting "Geofilters" submitted by the general public. Geofilters are location-specific borders that can be applied to Snapchat photos or videos when that user is within the geographic boundary. This April, Snapchat activated an AHS Geofilter that senses Sara Pennetti created.</p>	<p>Special Ed Prom</p> <p>Last Thursday, the Frisbie Falls club hosted their first prom for Ms. Walton's Independent Learning System (ILS) students.</p> <p>Frisbie Falls President Samantha Stevens explained, "Often students with various disabilities feel uncomfortable taking part in activities that the rest of the student body participates in. For this reason, it is uncommon for most ILS students to take part in the Abraham High School prom, an event that I feel each student should have the opportunity to experience."</p> <p>The "Candy Land" themed prom was held in the PAC during fourth period. Each table set up around the room was decorated with different themes from the board game Candy Land, including "Gumdrop Mountains" and "Peppermint Forest." Lunch and snacks were served while AHS student DJ Shari Means provided music. Students also enjoyed taking pictures in a photo booth with a variety of props for the students to document their experience.</p> <p>Prior to the event, Ms. Walton, students officially asked Frisbie Falls club members to attend the prom with them. Stevens added that "the ILS girls lit up the PAC upon arrival, wearing beautiful dresses donated by the Princess Project and with gorgeous hair and makeup done for them."</p> <p>The event was special to all those involved and will most likely be repeated in the years to come.</p>
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HEADLINE 2 HEADLINE 2 HEADLINE 2

Softball

AHS softball finished its season this past Friday night on senior night with a 7-0 win over Mt. Snowden. The team had their biggest crowd yet decked with posters for the seven graduating seniors.

Energized by a 20-10 win against South Point on Tuesday, the team started off strong in the first inning senior Edna Grande hit the ball into right field to bring in sophomore Sarah

HEADLINE 3 HEADLINE 3

HEADLINE 4 HEADLINE 4

HEADLINE 5 HEADLINE 5

Flies

Members of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) recently taped up informational flies around the school campus. These flies contain words and definitions of terms regarding different sexualities and genders. Examples include genderfluid, which means someone "who changes the gender they identify as throughout the gender spectrum. Their gender identity at any given time can be a binary or nonbinary gender," and demisexual, which is defined as "a person who only experiences sexual attraction once a strong bond has been formed."

GSA recognizes students have never heard some of these words before. The club aims to inform students and raise awareness. By educating people about these terms, they will learn to respect all people's select-

HEADLINE 6 HEADLINE 6

Spare the Air

On Monday, April 27th, the Abraham Air Quality Management District published that the Spare the Air summer season will officially start from now through the end of October.

The summer Spare the Air Season, a time of year when pollution is at its highest, not only aims to better the environment, but also individual health, the pollution caused by cars and other motorized vehicles may cause chest pain and congestion, throat irritation, excessive asthma, inflamed lungs, and even bronchitis and emphysema according to the Hunter Falls Almanac.

Driving has produced an unnatural ozone layer over the past decade that is especially prominent in the Middletown Area. The purpose of Spare the Air season is to diminish pollution in the air by encouraging citizens to find alternative commute options.

Spare the Air suggests three pe-



HEADLINE STORIES & PARAMETERS

Headline #1: 21-29 Characters

Story #1 Worlde: Josh Wardle, a software engineer from Brooklyn, New York, created Wordle as a game to play with his partner, who “loves word games.” He formulated an online puzzle that gives players six tries to guess a five-letter word that changes daily.

After each guess, the tile colors of each letter change from gray to yellow to green to indicate how close a user’s guess is to the final word. After receiving glowing reviews from family and friends, Wordle was released to the public in October 2021. What once was a game shared between a Brooklyn couple has now transformed into a worldwide phenomenon with millions of people playing daily.

Abraham High School students have become hooked on Wordle, and many place it as a consistent checkbox on their daily to-do lists. Students with a variety of interests have been able to unite under the shared joy of the newest Wordle release when the clock strikes midnight.

For Joe Napolitano ’23, Wordle has become an obsession. “Wordle was recommended to me by one of my friends,” he said. “As soon as I played my very first game, I was hooked. I told literally everyone that I know that they should start playing immediately after.”

With finals in full swing, Napolitano identifies Wordle as his favorite stress-reliever. The time he reserves for Wordle is the most relaxing of his day. “It’s just a great way to decompress and blow 15 minutes,” he said. “It’s something I know I can look forward to each day to relax and think in a non-stressful way.”

Katie Jain ’25, another Wordle fan, noted that the game is not only a means of relaxation. For her, it’s a way to keep up with friends.

Jain discovered the game on TikTok, but she only started playing when a friend challenged her to. “It’s always a fun distraction from my work, and I love getting to share my responses with my friends,” she said. “But only if I get (the word) in three.”

Mina Sarmas ’24 also shares her score with her friends. Just like Jain, she and her friends are competitive, aiming to beat one another with the least amount of tries. In order to maximize her chances of solving the Wordle, Sarmas has developed some game-changing strategies.



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Headline #2: 32-40 Characters

Story #2 Cafeteria: When the renovated and expanded cafeteria at Abraham High School is ready for students next school year, you can expect a lot of changes. But they are all good.

It certainly will not be the same cafeteria that the students and parents were used to, or even recent graduates.

Bigger, better, modern.

Over 1,100 students a year have used this cafeteria in recent years. Currently the area is closed off to the public as the major renovation and expansion happens alongside the regular operations of the school each day.

Gone are the tiny cafeteria seats! If you ever visited the cafeteria for a function, you understand this. They were better suited for elementary children than high schoolers or adults.

There will be a coffee bar! There will be multiple televisions throughout hooked up to news or educational programs.

“We are really excited about this, not just because of all the new elements, but this cafeteria was way overdo for improvements,” AHS Principal Ewell Fuller said. “We are so appreciative to the Board of Education and Supt. Richard Dennis for this possibility.”

For now, all meals are prepared at Abraham Junior High School cafeteria and delivered to AHS.

“It is a work in progress, but I credit everyone who has just rolled with the challenges, staff and students alike. I think people understand how much better this will be, and we just have to work through the construction,” Fuller said. “The students, the staff, the Child Nutrition Program have all been extremely patient, and just worked through this. We are truly blessed.”



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Headline #3: 22-30 Characters

Story #3 Homecoming: The Abraham High School (AHS) homecoming dance is this Saturday, Sept. 25, with the majority of homecoming festivities taking place next week.

AHS Principal Darin Dreasky said he hopes the students are happy to have these events in person.

“We are happy to be able to offer our students and their guests an opportunity to participate in homecoming activities even if slightly different from years past,” he said. “Our class advisors and student council have been fantastic as always.”

AHS did not have a dance in 2020 due to the pandemic. This year, the football dance will take place at the high school stadium.

Dreasky said they had originally scheduled the dance for Saturday, Oct. 2, however, they discovered a conflict with the stadium.

“It had already been booked for the entire day which eliminated that day to hold the event. The next date that made sense was to look at the Saturday preceding, which was available. So we decided to use the homecoming event as a kick-off for the week,” Dreasky said.

The powderpuff game is Sept. 28.

On Monday, Sept. 13, the Middleland Council approved street closures for the Linden High School homecoming parade for Friday Oct. 1. Organizers requested to close Broad Street, Hyatt, Stan Eaten Drive and S. Bridge Street for the parade procession. Closures begin around 4:15 p.m. and are projected to end around 6:15 p.m. after the parade is done.

The football game will take place on Oct. 1 after the parade at 7 p.m.



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Headline #4: 36-44 Characters

Story #4 Drama Club: The auditorium at Abraham High School will once again be packed with people watching a theatre performance. The school announced the drama club is returning after five years of absence. The club was eliminated in 2017 after declining interest and staffing issues.

“The choir and band director was trying to run all three programs, choir, band, and drama. That is just a lot for any one person,” said Linda Carpenter, AHS Drama Club Advisor.

Carpenter has performed professionally since she was three years old, and is heavily involved with the Dickinson County Community Theatre. She has been working with AHS Principal Will Traber to make the club a reality.

“He has been looking for a way to involve kids that aren’t really into sports and helping them feel more connected to the school. That just really impressed me, to see his love and passion for the kids of every interest,” Carpenter said.

This school year, AHS has already introduced E-sports, and now the return of the drama club. More than 30 students have already shown interest.

“I am so excited. I am happy they are bringing it back. Even though we are almost done with the school year, I still get to do it for that sliver of time I have left here. I am so excited to talk to people who are interested in the same thing I am interested in,” said Abby Lindlbauer, AHS Senior.

While a large production is unrealistic at this point in the school year, Carpenter is excited to get the program on its feet.

“This school year I am hoping to have a night of one-act shows. We can do scenes that are 20 to 30 minutes each. The kids would be responsible for choosing their own script, partnering up, and finding their own niche,” Carpenter said.

Carpenter will get to meet the students during the first club meeting on April 7 after school.



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Headline #5: 20-28 Characters

Story #5 Girls Basketball: Going into the Class B girls' basketball final Saturday, Abraham High School's closest game was a 17-point win early in the season. The Loggers had not been tested. If they were in a close game, how would they respond?

AHS can now consider the question asked and answered. The Loggers held off a late York rally to emerge with a 56-49 victory at the Portland Expo, earning the first regional championship in team history.

"Going into games like this, you're not going to win by 20. That's just not how a team gets here. When it gets close, that's normal. You've just got to keep your composure," said AHS 6-foot-1 freshman, Bailey Breen, who had 19 points, 20 rebounds and six assists.

Second-seeded AHS (19-0) will face Hermon (19-2) in the Class B state championship game Friday at Cross Insurance Center in Giantsville. No. 5 York, which upset top-seeded Wells to advance to the regional final, ends the season at 12-6.

"We've worked so hard for this as a team for as long as I can remember," said AHS's Audrey Mackie, who scored 19 points and won the award as the tournament's most outstanding player. "That's probably the biggest challenge we've faced this year. York had really great pressure on us. We had success against it, but it also frazzled us at times, too."

Early on, the Loggers had no problem with York's full-court pressure, using Breen at the top of the press because of her size and ability to see the court. AHS led 17-6 after one quarter, and the pace of play did not suit York Coach Jess Stacy.

Midway through the third quarter, AHS pushed its lead to 38-21 on a basket by Abby Waterman, who finished with 14 points. From there, the Wildcats began their comeback. A 10-0 run cut the deficit to 38-31 before Mackie hit a 3-pointer to give Oceanside a 41-31 lead going to the fourth.

York forced 10 AHS turnovers in the second half and pulled within two points, 51-49, on an Emily Rainforth layup with 1:18 to play. Rainforth scored 13 of her 29 points in the fourth quarter, including a trio of 3-pointers. Ava Giacobba added 12 points for York.

Down 52-49 with 39 seconds left, a York turnover effectively sealed the AHS win. The Loggers went 5 for 6 at the line in the final minute, with Mackie going 4 for 4.



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Headline #6: 17-25 Characters

Story #6 New Principal: On Tuesday, March 22, the Abraham Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. David Russell as the new Jr/Sr High School Principal. Dr. Russell will start officially on Monday, April 25, 2022.

Dr. Russell is currently the assistant principal at the Cosgrove, a position he has held since 2019.

We are very excited to bring Dr. Russell’s energy and passion to collaborate with our students, teachers, and parents,” said Merritt Holly, Superintendent of Schools. “He is a strong instructional leader who has consistently made positive connections with all stakeholders in his previous experiences. We look forward to Dr. Russell’s leadership as we continue to follow our vision to cultivate a world-class community of learners who exceed core local, state, national, and international standards.”

Dr. Russell earned a Bachelor of Arts, History, Adolescent Education from SUNY Geneseo, a Master of Education from Roberts Wesleyan College, and a Doctor of Education from the University of Rochester.

The district posted the position on February 2, 2022, and 17 candidates applied. A 15-member committee consisting of students, teachers, parents, administration, and board members narrowed the field to two finalists. A final interview with the superintendent was conducted on Friday, March 18, 2022.

Dr. Russell takes over for Mr. Tim McArdle, who left on Friday, February 4, 2022, to take an assistant principal position at Caledonia-Mumford Central School District. The district would like to sincerely thank Mrs. Beth Patton, who has been interim principal since Monday, February 7, 2022.



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SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please follow the instructions below carefully, as this will be very important in our ability to receive, process, and distribute your work for judging.

1. Determine how you are going to get your work to your advisor (email, school network, flash drive, etc.).

2. You will need your Sectional Code & School Code to name your files. If you don't know your codes, you can find them on the email attachment or at:

www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series

3. Turn your work into a PDF. You can do this via a scanner, a scanning app on a phone or device.

If you cannot do so as a PDF, then take a photo of it and submit as a JPG that is approximately 2MB and 100 DPI is preferred.

The name of your file should be your Single Digit Sectional number – Event Category – Four-Digit School Code.

Example below:

1 – Headline Writing – 1234

5. Submit the file to your advisor and confirm they received it.