

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



2012

Better Newspaper Contest WINNERS

(Winners listed A-Z by division).

Note: Winners must remain members in good standing with NNA through October 2012 to remain eligible for this year's awards.

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Community Impact Newspaper/Georgetown/Hutto/Taylor Edition Pflugerville, TX, WilCo farmers ponder future, Beth Wade, Samantha Bryant. Judges' Comments: " The 2011 drought in Texas, Oklahoma and adjoining states was a huge agricultural crisis. The writers made its impact vivid and personal, going behind the often-cited statistics of high temperatures and days without rain."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Community Supports Farmer Who Defies State on Raw Milk Sales, Jennifer Osborn. Judges' Comments: " A well-written and timely article, this look at the conflict between local and state regulation of raw milk sales hits an issue much bigger than a routine ag story."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Brunswick Beacon, The Shallotte, NC, County's tobacco heritage still alive on farms, Rachel Johnson. Judges' Comments: " Maybe I liked this story because it reminded me of my three years in North Carolina, but I think it can stand on its merits of solid writing. We don't read much good about tobacco growers today. I enjoyed seeing a face and name on the farm side of the industry."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, Water: Worries, woes and wars, Todd Dickson, Niki Rhynes, Samantha Roberts, Marvin Tessner. Judges' Comments: " Another good drought story. Samantha Roberts' segment was the high point, in which she let her sources tell the story."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Farm and Dairy Salem, OH, Kenny Farms: Missing generation leaves family with hole in heart and management, Kristy Foster. Judges' Comments: " I didn't want to leave this one out. I would have rated it higher if what began as a poignant farm family story had not become more of a nuts & bolts dairy grazing story. Still I think it's a standout entry in a field of outstanding ag articles."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Daily Star-Journal Warrensburg, MO, The Grape Depression... Raisin Hell: Heat destroys grape crop at Montserrat Vineyards, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: " Vivid, crisp, "right there" writing makes this an entertaining read. Gotta admit, the "Raisin Hell" headline grabbed me."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Point Reyes Light Point Reyes Station, CA, Ranchers foresee elk crisis, fear park inaction, Jeremy Blackman. Judges' Comments: " Great piece focusing on the conflict between farmers/ranchers and those folks who want to restore pre-settlement ecology We see similar issues nationwide."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Healdsburg Tribune, The Sebastopol, CA, The Mauritsen family: Sixth generation of farmers tending the land, Rollie Atkinson. Judges' Comments: " I'd like to add some typographic pizzazz to this article, but I thought this tribute to our family farming heritage deserved a spot near the top."

Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, The oyster is their world /Aquaculturists still looking for big payday in Md., Ben Mook. Judges' Comments: " This article introduces us to an industry few of us know anything about -- and one that is apparently in transition from harvesting nature's bounty to becoming true aquaculture."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

1st place, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, Boarding Call, Patrick C. Leonard. Judges' Comments: " A hilarious juxtaposition in this photo with elements on both sides of the frame. The photo is a good example of right place, right time, yet still with a nod toward composition."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

2nd place, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, 3 rescued from fire, Matt Binter. Judges' Comments: " Main photo shows great emotion, but some more elements (like the fire ladder) could have been added to the frame to help tell the story in the photo."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

3rd place, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, Air Race Tragedy, Tim O'Brien. Judges' Comments: " With the headline, this photo helps captivate the reader and find out what happened at the crash."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, Solemn goodbye: William Donald Schaefer's last day at City Hall, Maximilian Franz. Judges' Comments: " Great composition, but with an event like this the photographer had a little forewarning to plan for composition. Still, the picture is interesting and helps convey the emotion of the story."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Daily Star-Journal Warrensburg, MO, Johnson County, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: " The depth of field shown here is excellent, it highlights nearly every aspect of the crash at the moment of impact to the aftermath. Photo has a lot of movement from foreground to back."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Beer bash, David Normand. Judges' Comments: " Good example of a breaking news photo. You can't plan that!"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Valencia County News-Bulletin Belen, NM, Space heater to blame for mobile home fire in Belen, Julia M. Dendinger. Judges' Comments: " I love the silhouette of the firefighter"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, Hood County News Granbury, TX, Two thumbs-up for graduation, Mary Vinson. Judges' Comments: " Good job on focusing on the emotion from one person at such a big event"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Taos News, The Taos, NM, Nuclear reaction, Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments: " The composition helps make this a strong image"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

1st place, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Mourning the loss, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: " This is a spectacular on-the-scene news photo. The contrast among the three men -- the calm of the trained EMT, the shock of the co-worker with his hand to his head, the devastation of the prostrate co-worker -- captures the meaning of sudden death."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

2nd place, Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY, Huge landslide, Bradly J. Boner. Judges' Comments: " My visceral response to the photo was the word "Holy," followed by a word a dare not use, followed by five exclamation points. This is the rare photo whose power matches the power of nature."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

3rd place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, Major fire strikes downtown Amity, Marcus Larson. Judges' Comments: " What makes this photo jump to life are the angles: the diagonal streams of water, the side-to-side power lines and "Do not cross" tape, the tilts of the crane and the flagpole. And the colors are so vivid: the blue sky, the charcoal smoke cloud and, of course, the brazen yellow of the flames."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Hood River News Hood River, OR, Stunningly beautiful, dauntingly difficult, Adam Lapierre. Judges' Comments: " I saw this photo before I saw the other three, and I was sure this would be the winner. The photographer picked the perfect spot, but then needed infinite patience to get the proper shot."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

1st place, Pinckneyville Press, The Anna, IL, Heartbreaking, Jeff Egbert. Judges' Comments: " Great use of the front page layout. Obviously this was taken from a high vantage point, which allows this to be captured at the perfect angle. My photography teacher said that the client doesn't care that you had to hire a helicopter/climb a tree, straddle a ledge, etc., they just want the shot. Congratulations on getting your shot!! Absolutely perfect photo!"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

2nd place, Douglas Budget, The Douglas, WY, Sean Comes Home, Adam Herrera. Judges' Comments: " As a photographer, I know it's hard not to get wrapped up in the moment. Great job capturing this heart breaking moment. Great composition. Technically perfect."

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

3rd place, Commercial Record, The Allegan, MI, Claw full, Scott Sullivan, editor. Judges' Comments: " Absolutely love this composition. The sign hanging out of the bucket is great!"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

Honorable Mention, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, \$358,527,186.00, Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: " Love the cheesing lawyers. Nice crop!"

Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

Honorable Mention, Polk County Itemizer Observer, The Dallas, OR, Charley, We'll Miss You, Pete Strong. Judges' Comments: " Great photo. Good composition."

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

1st place, Sioux City Journal Sioux City, IA, Grace of God, Tim Gallagher , Dave Dreeszen. Judges' Comments: " The depth of the reporting and the quality of writing clearly made this entry stand out among the others. The staff worked hard to capture the voices of the community during this disaster."

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

2nd place, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Teen dad kills baby, shot dead by deputies, Bob Wilson, Chuck Bostwick. Judges' Comments: " Great coverage on a breaking news story that spanned several crime scenes."

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

3rd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, Constellation bought by Exelon, Ben Mook, Nicholas Sohr. Judges' Comments: " Excellent and complete reporting on an important issue that will impact the local economy. Great way to put together a package of a breaking news event."

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Baby killer invades family's home, Jennifer Santos. Judges' Comments: " Good coverage on a breaking news story."

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Daily Star-Journal Warrensburg, MO, Twister slams Sedalia, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Amanda Lubinski, Cynthia Nold. Judges' Comments: " Great coverage."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

1st place, Valencia County News-Bulletin Belen, NM, Del Rio Plaza blazed blamed on electrical fault, Deborah Fox, Clara Garcia. Judges' Comments: " Thorough on the scene coverage of a truly breaking news story. Good writing. The reporter covered all the bases."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

2nd place, Miami Today Miami, FL, Miami Today: Dominant American Airlines' plight no game-changer here, Scott Blake. Judges' Comments: " Good use of sources to cover the varied implications of the event."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

3rd place, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Sheriff's helicopter captures fleeing SUV, Alice Dowty. Judges' Comments: " Some good writing. The reporter went the extra mile in telling the reader what took place."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Valencia County News-Bulletin Belen, NM, BHS teacher fired for being intoxicated while in class, Abigail R. Ortiz. Judges' Comments: " Showed good effort to come up with a thorough and balanced report."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, Port Aransas South Jetty Port Aransas, TX, Big crowd, little trouble, Dan Parker. Judges' Comments: " What a great way to cover a major event in your community. The reporter did a great job and a lot of work following law enforcement around. This really gives an incident to what happens in your community during Spring Break."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard Fallon, NV, High-speed chase results in 2 deaths, Steve Ranson. Judges' Comments: " Great story! Great lead! Great description of what happened! The reporter did a great job of covering this tragic and intense event."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Fire blazes path of destruction, Brandon Evans. Judges' Comments: " Great coverage on a major event that impacted so many in your area."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard Fallon, NV, Answers sought in Amtrak crash, Steve Ranson, Maddie Reynolds, Fran Norton, Zip Upham. Judges' Comments: " Good coverage on a very tragic event."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Fountain Hills Times, The Fountain Hills, AZ, Locals thwart rock burglar, Bob Burns. Judges' Comments: " Good story. Lots of details and great background on the case."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

1st place, Hyattsville Life & Times Hyattsville, MD, Keeping vigil: After fire, community rallies to help family, Susie Currie. Judges' Comments: " A well-developed, meaningful community story that shows the reporter spent time observing and interviewing. Very strong writing, careful choice of language, perfect grammar and punctuation. Sidebar provides relevant information to readers."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

2nd place, Sparta Independent Chester, NY, Sparta Police nab four burglars, Fran Hardy, JoAnn Baker. Judges' Comments: " Engaging narrative, detailed and almost cinematic, with in-depth, entertaining sidebars that enrich the story and provide context. Slightly sloppy editing, but the reporters showed verve and care."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

3rd place, Door County Advocate Sturgeon Bay, WI, Unions fight back, Warren Bluhm. Judges' Comments: " Solid breaking news story, with strong lead and quotes, as well as contextual/bigger picture information."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

Honorable Mention, Hood County News Granbury, TX, Baby Riley's 'Hero', Mark Wilson. Judges' Comments: " An incredible and indelible story. Bravo to the Hood County News for having the courage to report it. It's not written or constructed in a traditional newsy way --the text is nearly all the account of two subjects -- and the writing is not of the highest caliber, but it's one of those few stories you never forget."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Journal, The Crosby, ND, Flood emergency, Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: " Very good coverage of a disaster of major proportions. This is the type of news we would hold the presses. This is a very strong piece in a category where many entrants do not know what breaking news is."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, \$358,527,186.00, Donna Walter, Allison Retka. Judges' Comments: " The judgment is staggering, and it would definitely be breaking news. The headline is provocative, and the story is well written and precise."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Curry County Reporter Gold Beach, OR, Local folks save woman swept into ocean; Tsunami surges hit coastline; People and dogs evacuate from low-lying areas; Curry Commissioners declare an emergency after tsunami, Joel Summer, Matthew Smith. Judges' Comments: " Not too much separates first and third. The sidebars helped this story. The scope in how many people are affected by this article is also a major difference among the first three winners."

Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Clarendon Enterprise Clarendon, TX, Child suffers 'horrific death', Roger Estlack. Judges' Comments: " This is a very sad story, especially for a small community and where interest would be high."

Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division

1st place, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, What to wear? With more than 2,000 costumes to choose from 'it's worth the trip' to the Rough & Ready shop, Cory Fisher. Judges' Comments: " From the opening line, the humor and personality of the profiled costume store owner made this one sing."

Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division

2nd place, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, Canine vacation, Kimber Wallace. Judges' Comments: " This was a fascinating look into the pampered world of doggie boarding and written with a touch of wry humor I appreciated."

Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division

3rd place, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, Scotland Business Set To Expand, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: " This was a good story, but I think some opportunities were missed that could have made it really sing."

Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, McAlester News-Capital McAlester, OK, Whispering Meadows gets early grapes due to heat, James Beaty. Judges' Comments: " A good effort at scene setting but the overall tone/pace of the article did not hook me."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Idaho Mountain Express Ketchum, ID, Recycle, reinvent: Consignment stores fill niche, Rebecca Meany. Judges' Comments: " Hallelujah. This was a good story in a category with some other so-so stories and many that were not categorized correctly. So it was all the more pleasurable to read a bona fide good story in the pile."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Jackson Herald, The Jefferson, GA, Closing shop, Jana Mitcham. Judges' Comments: " A real nice job on a kind of place that is disappearing and worthy of documentation."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Lobster: There's an App For That, Jacqueline Weaver. Judges' Comments: " The only downfall to such a short pithy story is that I was left wondering if there wasn't more to the story that could have been developed."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Splash Liberty Lake's Community Newspaper, The Liberty Lake, WA, The face of new technology/Making leaps and bounds, Kelly Moore. Judges' Comments: " I was fascinated by the subject, a little less so by the writing, but still a fine effort."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, Micro in Size, Big in Flavor, Karen Cernich. Judges' Comments: " Good job"

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Craftsman devoted 50 years to Goebel", Terry Davis. Judges' Comments: " Good lead. Thanks for putting the retirement party info up front. I hate it when writers hide that stuff near the bottom, like, "oh, by the way."

"Piece by piece" did not need to be hyphenated, but that's OK. Really enjoyed the story. Well told. Great flow to it."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, El Defensor Chieftain Belen, NM, Down to earth, T.S. Last. Judges' Comments: " Fun to read, fun to learn about something I did not know about. Well told, and quite a timely piece in this back-to-nature culture that's coming up. The fact that it was the first U.S. organic chicken farm got lost near the bottom; you should have worked it into the lead somehow."

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Niesen seeks good times at Hard Times", Jorge Sosa. Judges' Comments: " Such a folksy tale, well told in a great voice. Great storytelling, great lead, great closing. Loved the casual tone, the music in the background... Makes me want to root for the guy!"

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Slam Dunk, Richard Jackoway.

Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Ark, The Tiburon, CA, It takes a village to prevent elder financial abuse, Deirdre McCrohan.

Best Business Story, Daily Division

1st place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, Won't work for tips, Brendan Kearney. Judges' Comments: " A clear first-place entry. Excellent research, writing and reporting come together. Appreciated the effort in contacting a wide range of sources that humanizes the subject."

Best Business Story, Daily Division

2nd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, Baltimore's "friendly" rivals // Differing approaches of Legg Mason, T. Rowe Price bring differing results, Ben Mook. Judges' Comments: " Good enterprise story. Good research techniques. Would

have liked more on the economic impact of the two firms on the city and comments from employees of both firms to gain their perspective."

Best Business Story, Daily Division

3rd place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Our biggest rival? Weld County, Trevor Brown. Judges' Comments: " Good research techniques in this enterprise story. Would have liked to have heard from oil companies who have chosen both counties and learned why they chose the location they did."

Best Business Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, Still Open For Business, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: " Good news story on the flood. Story needed some context with regard to how much economic impact tourism has on the area. A map of the area would have been helpful."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition Pflugerville, TX, Panama Canal expansion to boost local businesses, Molly Ryan, Rhonda Bowers. Judges' Comments: " A purposeful story showing and explaining a business impact. It has the reader's attention immediately and keeps it. Strong sources, solid data, and data is smoothly worked into the story that relates a local impact of a global story. Well written. The accompanying quotes work well in the graphic rather than crammed into the body of the story, where they would not help the story quality or be as easily seen and read by the reader. Info in graphics adds to story and aids the reader."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Miami Today Miami, FL, Miami Today: Mirror image: American flying high here, suffers elsewhere, Scott Blake. Judges' Comments: " Strong lead immediately pulls reader into the story, which provides an in-depth look at the contrasting situation of American Airlines in great shape in Miami, in trouble elsewhere. Well written and organized with good data and detail in support of main point of the story. Ample sourcing and solid information. Good work on a story where national perception and reality don't happen to match the local situation."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Taos News, The Taos, NM, Taos foreclosure cases: 554 in 5 years, J.R. Logan. Judges' Comments: " This is a hard-hitting story written in a way that captures the reader's attention. People losing their homes are not the only ones affected, and this story does good job of showing this. Aside from noting some obvious economics factors, the story touches on questions of economic need, profit, and unanswered questions about banking procedures. Variety of sources add to strength of the story. This story stayed in my mind."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Warwick Advertiser Chester, NY, Mid-Orange Correctional Facility in Warwick to Close, Roger Gavan, Bob Quinn. Judges' Comments: " Story with strong impact to community. Key sources included in story, which is well developed and written on deadline. Some useful information that adds to depth of the story is included in the graphics, which add to the story presentation. Good work."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Community Impact Newspaper/The Woodlands Edition Pflugerville, TX, ExxonMobil campus could drive broad economic impact, Brian Walzel. Judges' Comments: " Story gets reader's attention. Well written and informative. Solid information, several sources and good quotes to enhance the story. Reader gets overall view of potential impact of the planned new campus. Good report on a business decision that is news of interest to more than business page readers."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Shaken by layoffs" (How the layoffs might impact local businesses, city services, the local real estate and schools), Doug Hanneman, Jorge Sosa, Terry Davis, Kay Johnson. Judges' Comments: " This was a first-rate entry, a solid look at the impact of these layoffs on every aspect of the community...a deserving award winner obviously the result of a substantial staff effort."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, PHASING OUT: Feelings mixed on demise of 2-decade old Enterprise Zone program, Jeremy Duda. Judges' Comments: " Very impressive and informed look at a complex and controversial topic from both a state and local perspective."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Hell for Hais, Allison Retka. Judges' Comments: " These know how to cover the business of law. Start to finish I felt comfortable that I was getting the full story and in language I could understand."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Arizona hospitality industry fears more immigration backlash in 2011, Evan Wyloge. Judges' Comments: " A thorough look at a topic very much in the news...with a little editorial opinion thrown in."

Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Windsor Times, The Sebastopol, CA, Windsor resident developing wine country phone apps, Robin Hug. Judges' Comments: " Solid if not dramatic look at a local business."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Miami Today Miami, FL, Miami Today: Commission, it's time to yield the helm of the SS Jackson, Michael Lewis. Judges' Comments: " The writer did an excellent job making his case and of holding the attention of the readers. This editorial flowed from start to finish."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Civil unions best option in gay marriage debate, D. Reed Eckhardt. Judges' Comments: " This editorial took a lot of courage to write, especially in the climate that exists in that state over the issue of gay marriage and civil unions. The editorial was very well written."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, Your Right to Know, Bill Miller Sr.. Judges' Comments: " Very nice job explaining to the readers why the Sunshine Law is so important - and why everyone should care."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Rio Grande Sun Espanola, NM, Co-op Knows Better, Robert B. Trapp. Judges' Comments: " Nice job on an editorial that comes right to the point. Very fair and balanced editorial that makes the case for the public being able to bring up different subjects during committee meetings."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, Daily Star-Journal Warrensburg, MO, States obese House offers gobs of fat to cut, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: " The information contained herein was impressive. Well done."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, 'No change' is no disclosure, Barbara Grzincic. Judges' Comments: " THE ARGUMENT WAS COMPELLING--GOOD TO HEAR SOMEONE PROVIDE VITAL INFORMATION FOR OUR DEMOCRACY."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "County Board meetings on TV", Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: " Great - Go after those politicians, also well written and strong argument."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Mount Desert Islander Bar Harbor, ME, Occam's 9/11, Earl Brechlin. Judges' Comments: " Well written -- compelling argument -- interesting approach--compassionate, and timely."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

1st place, Bernardsville News, The Bernardsville, NJ, Blackout, Charlie Zavalick. Judges' Comments: " Solid defense of the public's right to know. Keep fighting!"

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

2nd place, Cody Enterprise Cody, WY, SMP officials handled bid process poorly, Bruce McCormack. Judges' Comments: " You are doing a great job in pressing government bureaucrats to be honest. Drawing specifications in a very narrow way usually has a simple explanation: Somebody's getting a kickback. Even if not, the appearance of wrongdoing is there."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

3rd place, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, New Graduates: Be ready for anything, Michael Dashiell. Judges' Comments: " Great writing, very enjoyable. This really more of a column than an editorial. Should be entered in that category."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Hyattsville Life & Times Hyattsville, MD, Can we really listen to each other?, Paula Minaert. Judges' Comments: " A fine appeal for us all to listen to one another. That really doesn't happen much these days, does it?"

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Oberlin Herald, The Oberlin, KS, A whole lot of good ideas can threaten our freedom, Steve Haynes. Judges' Comments: " Clear, concise and passionate writing on that topic most basic to our lives - liberty."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Point Reyes Light Point Reyes Station, CA, Keep Drakes Bay Oyster Company on Point Reyes, Tess Elliott. Judges' Comments: " Excellent writing, graceful, with clear exposition about what went wrong with an E.I.R. and what to do about it."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Ozona Stockman, The Ozona, TX, All fireworks sales should be banned, Melissa Perner. Judges' Comments: " Excellent reasoning yoked to clarity of expression, the names named, and a solution that is sensible."

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Cedar County News Hartington, NE, Action is Needed Right Now, Not after the Fact, Rob Dump, Peggy Year.

Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Banks County News Jefferson, GA, Degges is manipulating budget process, Staff.

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Editorial, Staff. Judges' Comments: " I liked everything about this opinion page and the ones that followed--content, layout--photo, good arguments."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Signal, The Santa Clarita, CA, The Signal 9/11 Opinion Page, Staff. Judges' Comments: " This was very appropriate for a 911 remembrance issue--content, subjects were a good balance and in good taste for this special occasion."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, Editorial Pages, Michael Dashiell, Editor. Judges' Comments: " Good editorial to match the cartoon --a variety of subjects and very community oriented."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Opinion, Staff. Judges' Comments: " All good content. Arguments solid--what an editorial page should be--a comment on its communities and government."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, 107 Best Editorial Pages, Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great editorial throughout. Living in Utah, we don't often see such hard hitting at the government."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Hinsdalean, The Hinsdale, IL, The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom, Ken Knutson, Jim Slonoff. Judges' Comments: "Clearly reasoned editorials that are locally relevant. Nicely illustrated. Good letters pull."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Mendocino Beacon, The Fort Bragg, CA, Editorial pages, Staff. Judges' Comments: "Even though layout is old-fashioned, editorial is strong and having lots of letters makes a good Op-Ed page."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, Opinion/More Commentary, Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "Very clean layout. Editorial is relevant. More letters."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Imperial Republican, The Imperial, NE, Editorial pages, staff. Judges' Comments: "Good balanced page. Editorial is relevant. Nicely illustrated."

Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Mobridge Tribune Mobridge, SD, Opinions Page, Katie Zerr,, Betty Street, Christine Goldsmith. Judges' Comments: "Down home and old-fashioned. Conveys a sense of community."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division

1st place, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, Kidder family found: Students solve 110-year mystery, Brian Hamilton, John Hart, Stephanie Shaire, Kim Midboe. Judges' Comments: "You captured the suspense of the mystery in the fine way you reported it. Excellent example of taking education to the next level. Great piece of work."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division

2nd place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Pioneer learning, Aerin Curtis. Judges' Comments: "Great descriptive detail. Well researched and inclusive of many detailed aspects of education. Nice job."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division

3rd place, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, Area Schools Now Walk A Money Tightrope, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Extremely fine job of detailing education/budget cuts for the common reader to understand. Loved the pull-out quote on the front page. This is a complex topic, and you explained it and gave comparisons quite well."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, USD Group Spreading Suicide Awareness, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Excellent story on a fine educational cause. Good job."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Chronicle, The Chester, NY, War and Peace: On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Pamela Chergotis, and Staff. Judges' Comments: "Wonderful story idea and development. Nice lead and awesome quotes throughout. Excellent writing."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, TAP into the future, Amy Asman. Judges' Comments: "Excellent explanation of a complex topic. Nice subheads to help the consistent flow of the story. Nice transitions in following the money. Great visual references (two circles on the whiteboard)."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, The unkindest of cuts (related story Kitzhaber: Trim juvie beds in half), Hannah Hoffman. Judges' Comments: " Fantastic lead to draw reader interest immediately. Great writing skills and nice explanation of data."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Lawyers in Training, Anna Vitale. Judges' Comments: " The clearly superior entry...well-paced, well-written, authoritative."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Mount Olive Chronicle Chester, NJ, New world for boy with autism, Phil Garber. Judges' Comments: " Written with great feeling and insight"

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Impressions of the U.S.", Jorge Sosa. Judges' Comments: " An interesting synopsis of the experiences of foreign exchange students in a small town."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Bill would expand religious rights on college campuses, Luige del Puerto.

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

1st place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, Buzz Kill: When bees struggle for survival, we all feel the sting, Nicole Montesano. Judges' Comments: " Interesting and informative, but not overly dry due to technical details."

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

2nd place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, The spoils of deconstruction, Molly Walker. Judges' Comments: " Good way of showcasing a less-known way of recycling by reusing reclaimed building materials."

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

3rd place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, We All Live Downstream, Karen Cernich, Jeanne Miller Wood.

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition Pflugerville, TX, Natural gas plans drill up urban debate, Rachel Slade.

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

1st place, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, MI, Clay Cliffs grant OK'd for \$5.8 million preservation project, Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: " Hands down a clear winner -- well researched flows well and it is obvious they have the readers interests in mind"

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

2nd place, Pipestone County Star Pipestone, MN, Recycling in Pipestone County, Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: " Loses on research and writing but a real close second."

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

3rd place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, A U.S.-ARIZONA DUSTUP: Freedom to breathe bill may backfire, force EPA takeover of state's pollution controls, Luige del Puerto. Judges' Comments: " I like this one for the storyline and the layout -- a refreshing angle to a story which has been told from many different angles. Bravo!"

Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

Honorable Mention, Healdsburg Tribune, The Sebastopol, CA, Harvesting off the grid: Local farmers rekindle interest in animal powered agriculture, Lynda Hopkins, Lynda Hopkins.

Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, PEOPLE- (121)Best Family Living Section, Karen Cernich. Judges' Comments: " Excellent front pages. Clever, eye-catching layouts with good, expressive action photos. Good detail. Well-written feature. Solid content inside. Super job!"

Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Vilas County News-Review Eagle River, WI, Lifestyle, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Lots of photo that tell the story on one of the fronts. Second front is OK but not as dynamic. This made the difference between 1st and 2nd. The articles were great and the photos showed action. Good job!"

Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, MI, Diversions: Honoring those who gave Diversions: Trail blazers, Staff. Judges' Comments: " One very good front page. Second was good but could have been better. The articles all told a story and were easy to read."

Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Journey sections, WTE Features Staff. Judges' Comments: " This entry represented the category well but lacked some of the extras the others had. Super photos earned it an honorable mention."

Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, Living On the Peninsula, Patricia Morrison Coate, Special Sections Editor. Judges' Comments: " The photo on the front page of the little girl fishing is great but no where in the issue could I find a photo showing her face. Disappointing since her expression would have probably made this one a winner. Second front was busy. Writing good."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

1st place, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Long way from home, Maya Sugarman. Judges' Comments: " Interesting, eye-catching photo. Great facial expression. Captures a moment."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

2nd place, Daily Reporter, The Milwaukee, WI, Steeple Chase, Kevin Harnack. Judges' Comments: " Wow! Loved this photo. Photographer took the reader somewhere they've probably never or ever will be. This is a great example of how to take what good have been an average photo and make it special."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

3rd place, Daily Star-Journal Warrensburg, MO, Chillin' in Chilhowee, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: " Too cute! Captures a great, fun moment. Nice play on page."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, For the birds, Rod Mikinski. Judges' Comments: " This was a beautiful photo. Well played and beautiful."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Turkey Trot, Ron Siddle. Judges' Comments: " What a fun event. Good photo."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Tribeca Trib, The New York, NY, Nutcrackers, Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: " Great job of capturing moment and faces. Would have liked to se it cropped just a little tighter, maybe cutting out two girls at right. Nonetheless, still the best of class."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition Pflugerville, TX, Messina's Shoe & Boot Repair, Chase Martinez. Judges' Comments: " Great use of depth of field and great lighting. well done."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, Central City News Baton Rouge, LA, Central kids climb rock, watch hot-air balloon at Zoar Baptist Fall Festival, Woody Jenkins, Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: " Composition and lighting contrast made this one a winner in the class."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Mariner Mud Dance, Mike Oles. Judges' Comments: " Unique photo. I would have liked to see a tighter crop, saving the four at right. Would have added some more symmetry. Try it and see what you think."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, North Scott Press Eldridge, IA, Catch of the day, Jim Turley. Judges' Comments: " Amazing action shot that is artistic, compelling and simplistic."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Wise reflections, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: " Difficult to place this as second because actually is more visually appealing to me that is first place, however, technical skills and zoom were considered. Also a truly beautiful photograph"

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Allegan County News Allegan, MI, Driving the point home, Ryan Lewis, editor. Judges' Comments: " Great angle to capture essence of the message"

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Buffalo Bulletin Buffalo, WY, Fair thee well, Tom Milstead.

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Barrow Journal, The Winder, GA, More than a name on a wall, Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: " touching"

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

1st place, Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY, Red, White & Dr. Blue, Bradly J. Boner. Judges' Comments: " I wish I would have shot this wonderful image. I will try this myself in the future if I get a chance to mount my camera on a Bi-plane."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

2nd place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Creamed for Relay, Dale Gentry. Judges' Comments: " Great facial reaction at the peak moment."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

3rd place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Not the best thing I've tasted, Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: " The two different faces tell the story."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, MI, Waves of wings, Ken Scott. Judges' Comments: " Nice Image with wonderful color. Nice composition and color"

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Owyhee Avalanche, The Homedale, ID, He has risen, John Zsiray. Judges' Comments: " Fantastic angle, lighting and composition on this one. The circumstances surrounding the event yield an almost spiritual illumination on their faces. Very small window to make this happen and the photographer nailed it."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Frazee-Vergas Forum Frazee, MN, Morning rays, Gale Kaas. Judges' Comments: " Gorgeous, gorgeous, gorgeous. Wonderful fire and ice aspect of the sunrise against the snow. Those who've photographed sunrises know how difficult this is to pull off. Tremendous photography."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Ark, The Tiburon, CA, Just a drill, Elliot Karlan. Judges' Comments: " Tremendously dynamic photo. The hose looks to have been turned into a light saber. Hard to get this shot without your camera (and your face) melting. Simply awesome."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Courier, The Carterville, IL, "Carterville High School Band", Steve Buhman. Judges' Comments: " Beautiful lighting illusion around the girls face. Expression seals the deal. A definite winner."

Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Journal, The Crosby, ND, Graduation emotions, Don Anderson. Judges' Comments: " Best example of emotion in the contest. Timing is everything and the photographer nailed it. Good crop and display on the page as well. Congrats!"

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, One step at a time/There's more to the story, Natisha Hales. Judges' Comments: " Loved the balance. tough issue and well investigated"

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Cortez Journal Cortez, CO, Farewell comrade; A professional guard; Pride and pain; Finding a trade; Military service and a diploma, Dale Shrull. Judges' Comments: " very sensitive. enjoy insight to honor guards"

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Literacy, Julie Drake, Craig Currier, Rich Breault. Judges' Comments: " We can never do enough about illiteracy."

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Remembering Isaac Salas, Ian St. Clair. Judges' Comments: " Took a lot of work to write this. Must have taken a toll on the author."

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, National Newspaper Week, Dennis Anderson, William P. Warford, Liane Roth.

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Blackshear Times, The Blackshear, GA, The New War/ Just One Pill / Bad medicine is big business, Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: " Very nice, in-depth series that highlighted an important issue. Part 2 of the series really brought the problem home with a personal story. Nicely done!"

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Hickman County Times Centerville, TN, Victim of worst domestic assault now recovering, Bradley A. Martin. Judges' Comments: " An important story, well told. Harsh details are not omitted, but they are handled tastefully. Good work!"

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Hinsdalean, The Hinsdale, IL, Flynn clan is ready for first day of school, Pamela Lannom, Ken Knutson. Judges' Comments: " Fun back-to-school series idea that looks at each of the important milestones for students -- entering kindergarten, junior high, high school and college. A nice slice of life for a local community."

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Journal, The Crosby, ND, Beaten down by the boom, Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: " Although this isn't truly a feature series, the main feature story was an important one to tell, and the follow-up story shows how the community responded."

Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Fort Bragg Advocate-News Fort Bragg, CA, States parks series, Teresa Shumaker. Judges' Comments: " Good idea for a series, but I would caution the writer and newspaper to better define the line between advocacy and objectivity. This series, while interesting, clearly is advocating a position the way an editorial would. Not sure that's appropriate for a feature series."

Best Feature Story, Daily Division

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, The first fish, Shauna Stephenson. Judges' Comments: " Dazzling layout and story to match. This features story is sharp writing and style. A reader doesn't want to stop reading."

Best Feature Story, Daily Division

2nd place, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, The Grand Slam, Trisha Murphy. Judges' Comments: " Wonderfully written story about a 86-year-old athlete. What a wonderful way to promote interest in a community event. The quotes were wonderful and used well!"

Best Feature Story, Daily Division

3rd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, Dictators living next door?, Ben Mook. Judges' Comments: " Excellent story - dictators? The research and writing is marvelous and layout well done."

Best Feature Story, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, You Can Go Home Again, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: " Excellent story with a subject that shared an amazing story."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999

1st place, Central City News Baton Rouge, LA, Central Adopting Adalee, 3, and Smith, 2, Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: " Very emotional piece - I had to read through the tears! This is a great story and wonderful pictures - well done!"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999

2nd place, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Twist of Fate, Mike Dowty. Judges' Comments: " Fantastic story that encompasses so much - resilience, humility, courage and teamwork. I absolutely loved it!"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999

3rd place, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Still here: A World War II veteran's story, Carol Stuart. Judges' Comments: " Wow - what this man has lived through is remarkable! Great job of telling his story. This was a very tough category!"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999

Honorable Mention, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Beyond the Grave, Lisa Dowty. Judges' Comments: " What an interesting idea! Loved the pictures and headline. I scored this piece high, but this was just a tough, tough category!"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999

Honorable Mention, Idaho Mountain Express Ketchum, ID, Educators: Teaching yours, raising theirs, Rebecca Meany. Judges' Comments: " We don't often think of our teachers as parents too - great job of presenting that side of the story!"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

1st place, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, Slice of life, Shelly Cone. Judges' Comments: " The wonderful use of color photos and subject matter helped to edge out all the others. Fairs used to be wonderful events that brought out the best in all of us."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

2nd place, Farm and Dairy Salem, OH, A genetic matchmaker of sorts, Kristy Foster. Judges' Comments: " This article was very informative and was written in a lively manner that not only explained the process, but personalized the work and routine of the subject"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

3rd place, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, Stars and stripes forever/never, Ryan Miller. Judges' Comments: " America is strong because of her strongest and the belief in a system that works. We cannot allow quirky persons in positions of power to wreak havoc on our values"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Tribeca Trib, The New York, NY, Raising Maisy, Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: " I cannot imagine how these brave parents cope with the stresses of knowing their children have such a prognosis. We complain too often about things in our own lives that are insignificant"

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, Jail break, Amy Asman. Judges' Comments: " The reporter did the proper leg work to find out how they system works and how it works in other areas as well. Good job."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999

1st place, Journal, The Crosby, ND, Beaten down by the boom, Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: " Very descriptive. You feel you know the family and you care about their situation. This story also makes you think about how big this kind of problem is in our society - not just for this one family."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999

2nd place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, The Spirits Can Rest, Scott Lauck. Judges' Comments: " An inspiring story and very interesting. Also well told. The argument made the attorney and the attorney really made the story."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999

3rd place, El Defensor Chieftain Belen, NM, Cash over sentiment, a sign of the times, Suzanne Barteau. Judges' Comments: " The reader gets to know the people and care about them and how they came to sell their possessions."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999

Honorable Mention, Staples World Staples, MN, Another Thanksgiving without Peter, Dawn Timbs. Judges' Comments: " The story is very personal and the reader really feels the family's pride in their relative. It makes me want to read the memoir."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999

1st place, Mountain View Telegraph Moriarty, NM, 1st Responder, Rory McClannahan. Judges' Comments: " This newspaper found a great way to localize the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks through the experience of a local resident. The story not only has a compelling subject matter but is compellingly told."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999

2nd place, Hickman County Times Centerville, TN, Beat the heat with a cool creek, Bradley A. Martin. Judges' Comments: " This was a wonderful idea. Everyone can relate to this story and it was remarkably entertaining to follow this attempt to document the best cooling-off spots."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999

3rd place, Fort Bragg Advocate-News Fort Bragg, CA, Adventures of a lunar-tic, Tony Reed. Judges' Comments: " Writing in the first person is seldom a good idea, but this writer made it work. The story was fun to read, even for someone who is not particularly interested in astronomy."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Buffalo Bulletin Buffalo, WY, Business as usual, Tom Milstead.

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

1st place, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, Join us, won't you?, Mark St.J. Couhig. Judges' Comments: " Unusual, quirky, eye-grabbing pic and headline. Very entertaining and compelling narrative style, that of the tour guide. Enough history and sense of place to make it meaningful and understandable."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

2nd place, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, Highway of havoc, Amanda Winters. Judges' Comments: " Very good historical look at a very real problem. Good pics, great stats and great sidebar piece. Solid writing."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

3rd place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Hank Williams ... the night he died, Steve Marion. Judges' Comments: " Fun feature, historic and current. well written and researched. Good use of quotes. Both Hank Williams and the hotel clerk are interestingly portrayed."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, One glorious day, Steve Marion. Judges' Comments: " Touching. Great pics. Well written, a really lovely story of people doing something really nice for no reason other than the right one. Interesting and well presented agricultural story. The ability to write and report about local agriculture and keep it relevant and interesting is important for community journalism."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

1st place, Courier, The Carterville, IL, The Harmon way, Bill Swinford. Judges' Comments: " Brisk and descriptive piece capturing a remarkable man."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

2nd place, Colby Free Press Colby, KS, WWII veteran remembers 'hell' over Europe, Kevin Bottrell. Judges' Comments: " Clear and vivid journalistic tribute to a member of "The Greatest Generation.""

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

3rd place, New Era, The Parker, SD, It stole so much but it couldn't take her spirit, Sarah Ebeling. Judges' Comments: " Sensitive and creative feature reflecting a courageous battle against cancer."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

Honorable Mention, Commercial Record, The Allegan, MI, Birdman of Pier Cove an unfinished gem, Scott Sullivan, editor. Judges' Comments: " Fun, bright feature with excellent pacing and description."

Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

Honorable Mention, Jackson County Star, The Walden, CO, The Incarcerated Artist Of Jackson County, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: " Unusual story told with energy and a nice human touch."

Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Best Headline Writing, Staff. Judges' Comments: " The paper is not afraid to use big headlines when it is appropriate. with perhaps a bit too much all upper case, but still excellent. Those headlines running on top of photos or art were easy to read and that's a trick sometimes."

Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, N'West Iowa REVIEW, The Sheldon, IA, Best Headline Writing, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Good use of large headlines and good mix of fonts."

Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Litchfield Independent Review Hutchinson, MN, Litchfield Independent Review, Juliana Thill. Judges' Comments: " Nice use of fonts and catchy phrasing that still tells the story."

Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, Hutchinson Leader, Doug Hanneman, Editor, Newsroom Staff. Judges' Comments: " Nice mix of light and dark face type. Good story-telling headlines.

"

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Hyattsville Life & Times Hyattsville, MD, Home births on the rise in Hyattsville, Amira Aycock, Susie Currie. Judges' Comments: " Very thorough examination of a much-debated issue. This kind of story is a real public service, providing readers with real-life examples as well as expert opinions. Well done.

"

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Mountain Xpress Asheville, NC, Is There a Doctor in the House?, Caitlin Byrd. Judges' Comments: " An excellent piece on a growing problem across the country. Good job of helping your readers understand why these puzzling health care decisions are being made.

"

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, A brain disease unknown, Rachel Christiansen. Judges' Comments: " A gripping real-life story well told. Excellent work.

"

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Kendall County Record Yorkville, IL, Schools tackle problem of peanut allergies, Matt Schury. Judges' Comments: " An interesting look at a little understood problem. It could have perhaps been condensed to make it more readable, but overall very good.

"

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Abortion bill sponsor unfazed by doubts cast on his evidence, Caitlin Coakley Beckner. Judges' Comments: " Well-written, well-researched story that debunks state rep's claim that gender-selective and minority-selective abortions are occurring in Arizona. Nice lede, matching photo. Good job."

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, Pipestone County Star Pipestone, MN, The doctor deficit, Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: " An important issue for the majority of NNA communities. Primarily a health story, not a legal story or a government-reporting story that secondarily is about health. Not as in depth as some of the other entries, but solid reporting that covers all the bases. One nit: Chart interrupts copy flow."

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, The go-to guy for headaches, Andy Marso. Judges' Comments: " Solid examination of physicians who are expert witnesses in civil cases, concentrating on one, a headache expert, in particular. Story reads like a Grisham book."

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Idyllwild Town Crier Idyllwild, CA, Prostate cancer survivors favor the PSA test, Marshall Smith. Judges' Comments: " Good story idea, talking to group of local prostate-cancer survivors about task-force recommendation against PSA testing. Lede would have been stronger if personalized with subject quoted in second graph."

Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, West Point News West Point, NE, Local health care providers taking team approach to tackle concussion injuries, Willis Mahannah. Judges' Comments: " Well-written story with good local hook. Great that you

interviewed student-athlete who suffered concussion. One nit: Editor's note says "first of a two or three-part series." Make up your mind before Part 1 runs."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999

1st place, GA Voice Atlanta, GA, As luck would have it: Ten years after cancer diagnosis, a few thoughts on survival, Topher Payne. Judges' Comments: " This is by far the best entry in this category, an absolute stand-out among the rest. I didn't skip a word and laughed out loud. The writer did a great job of adding humor and personality to a very serious topic. Conversational writing makes this a piece anyone can relate to. It's funny, well-written and has universal themes. Great job."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999

2nd place, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard Fallon, NV, Not a political column again, Rick Seley. Judges' Comments: " The writer does a great job adding humor and wit to an otherwise less than funny topic on the state of modern politics. Really enjoyed the last several paragraphs of this piece, which kept me reading until the end."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999

3rd place, Lamesa Press-Reporter Lamesa, TX, Is walking considered a fine art?, Russel Skiles. Judges' Comments: " The writer gives a unique perspective to a daily task most of us take for granted--walking. Whether you're a parent with a child in college or you've ever taken a class in your life, this is definitely a piece readers will find entertaining."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999

Honorable Mention, Virginia Lawyers Weekly Richmond, VA, Meet John Doe, Paul Fletcher. Judges' Comments: " Who thought anything about law could be humorous? The writer does a good job of taking a less-than-serious approach to a column that is both informative and well-written."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more

1st place, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, A season of abundance, Shelly Cone. Judges' Comments: " Made me laugh. Great job. Subject matter was a little in-your-face to start, but you worked it well. Super ending."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more

2nd place, Signal, The Santa Clarita, CA, Ooops ... did I sing that out loud, Jim Walker. Judges' Comments: " We could all relate to this column, and it lagged in one place or it would have been the first place winner. Great job. I'm going to steal your story line but with a twist. I have TV commercial song Tourette's in grocery stores."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more

3rd place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, Fasten your seat belt, mom; it will be a ride to remember, Nathalie Hardy. Judges' Comments: " You have the writing length and talent down to an art. Good subject matter. All parents can relate."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Miami Today Miami, FL, Life in the Magic City: Are there any real Housewives of Miami?, Susan Kahn.

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Farm and Dairy Salem, OH, The first cut is the deepest, Kymberly Foster Seabolt.

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Oberlin Herald, The Oberlin, KS, Many lines divide country, Steve Haynes. Judges' Comments: " Funniest and wittiest of the bunch. He got the sweet/unsweet dividing line just right! Liked the firefly line, too."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Pipestone County Star Pipestone, MN, Ned, I owe you an apology, Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: " Consistently funny and hit all the current technological buzz spots uniquely."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Jackson County Star, The Walden, CO, Declaring Culinary Independence, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: " Good stuff with a nice payoff late in the piece."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Cedar County News Hartington, NE, Editor's attention span is put to the test, Rob Dump. Judges' Comments: " The chore of producing a weekly is known by few and this piece educated readers with chuckles."

Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Jackson County Star, The Walden, CO, The Court of Jim In Thong & Thstory, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: " This was a great idea and pretty funny. Bet readers like to see it annually."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Niobrara oil play, Shauna Stephenson, Michael Smith, Angela St. Clair. Judges' Comments: " Good job at breaking down the oil boom in this area. Well thought out and put together. Each piece came together to create the entire story."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division

2nd place, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, Bank on the Brink: Facing the recession's challenges (7/16/11); Bank on the Brink: Citizens Bank looking or investors (7/18/11); Feds shut down Citizens Bank (9/24/11);, Trina Kleist, Kim Midboe, Stephanie Shaire, Jeff Ackerman, John Hart. Judges' Comments: " Personal finances can be a very emotional topic for many people, and rightfully so. This was an important series for keeping the public informed of details that maybe had been missed in the often generic bank release. Good work. Just wanted to add that you guys should be very proud of your work."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division

3rd place, Signal, The Santa Clarita, CA, Nurses challenge staffing, Jim Holt. Judges' Comments: " Such an important job and group of folks working to provide a vital service to the community. Giving a voice to this group and having proven results at the end are a good way for any story to conclude."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Rio Grande Sun Espanola, NM, Loopholes Plague State Sex Offender Registry, Bill Rodgers. Judges' Comments: " Bill Rodgers' three-part series goes beyond the typical sex-offender scare article to examine the shaky registry system purporting to protect innocents from harm. Rodgers' thorough research, in the form of multiple documents studied and interviews conducted, yields a clear and in-depth explanation of how and why the system does and doesn't work. More important, Rodgers looks beyond problems with the registry to the carrot/stick driving the system."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Taos News, The Taos, NM, Gas back on ... finally, Staff. Judges' Comments: " This single-issue series of articles filed by various staff writers deserves recognition for its well-rounded documentation of the events surrounding a six-day natural gas outage that affected their community. The Taos News' concerted effort to provide the information in one issue gave readers a broad picture of what happened, why, and what should happen next."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, Vermont Woman South Hero, VT, Making the Economy Our Own - Measuring a Successful Economy by Well-Being not Wealth, Rickey Gard Diamond. Judges' Comments: " This series of articles, written for a specific community of readers, considers an alternative approach to our nation's economic indicator reporting and to the overall structure of our economy. It is notable for its breadth and for its use of atypical sources."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

1st place, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard Fallon, NV, Best in-depth series Destination Southwest Asia, Steve Ranson, Michael Higdon-page designer. Judges' Comments: " With so many newspapers relegating overseas coverage to syndicates, the Lahontan Valley News' on-the-spot coverage of local troops serving in Afghanistan is nothing short of remarkable. Steve Ranson's reporting is thorough, balanced, and smoothly written, giving the reader a first-

hand look at what life is like for the men and women serving in various capacities -- and at their thoughts about returning home. Michael Higdon's page design presents Ranson's work to its fullest advantage."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

2nd place, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, The Lowdown on the Slowdown, Mark Couhig, Amanda Winters, Matthew Nash. Judges' Comments: " Mark Couhig, Amanda Winters, and Matthew Nash took on a daunting topic -- explaining the finances of the real estate and mortgage industry in ways the average reader could understand. Wisely, they secured the help of someone familiar with accounting terms and statistics to help them present the information clearly. Quoting professionals and non-professionals, as well as presenting, citing, and clearly explaining -- through words and images -- the statistics behind the numbers makes this entry a stand-out."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

3rd place, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, MI, Schools In Transition, Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Chris Olson. Judges' Comments: " Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, and Chris Olson explored the financial changes to school funding that have taken place over the last couple of decades. Their in-depth, well-documented, and solidly written coverage of this sometimes forgotten aspect of education provides needed information to their community."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, El Defensor Chieftain Belen, NM, Co-op loses lawsuit (But at what cost?), T.S. Last. Judges' Comments: " T.S. Last's close coverage of a convoluted lawsuit affecting the community's electric co-op provides a detailed, easy-to-follow description of the court proceedings and of supporting documents."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Cortez Journal Cortez, CO, Veterans Day, Dale Shrull. Judges' Comments: " This beautifully written and designed two-part series by Dale Shrull reaches deep as it explores the military contributions Cortez area veterans have made for almost a century."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Birthright citizenship legislation series, Luige del Puerto. Judges' Comments: " An very good job of making a national story applicable to the reader. It was very easy to follow the progression and see some of the causes and effects of this particular issue."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Archbold Buckeye Archbold, OH, Archbold Elevator License Suspended, David Pugh. Judges' Comments: " Great following of a local story and the effect one event can have on a community..."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Blaine-Spring Lake Park Life Coon Rapids, MN, Youth homelessness on the rise, Elyse Kaner. Judges' Comments: " Very good coverage of emotional issue. Good way of bringing the reader in and helping identify with the different people mentioned in the story."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, Allegan County News Allegan, MI, The Allegan County News (local news coverage), Staff. Judges' Comments: " Truly demonstrates what local news is all about. Thorough coverage of rural community events, as well as the death of a teen athlete. Kudos for a top-notch publication that reflects the interests of its readers."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Barrow Journal, The Winder, GA, Barrow Journal, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Packed with news appealing to a diverse readership, this publication successfully delivers up-to-date information on vital topics. Excellent mixture of in-depth and news briefs."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Mount Desert Islander Bar Harbor, ME, Best Local News Coverage, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Emphasis on "local" is evident throughout publication. Excellent combination of staff-generated articles and submissions from community organizations."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, Missourian (113 Best Local News Coverage), STAFF.

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, N'West Iowa REVIEW, The Sheldon, IA, Best Local News Coverage, Staff. Judges' Comments: " This paper did a great job in communities throughout the region. The stories were well written and demonstrated how local news should be covered."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Best Local News Coverage, Staff. Judges' Comments: " This paper took a unique approach to covering a single subject on the front page. The stories were well written about a topic that had wide community interest."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Rio Grande Sun Espanola, NM, Fatal DWI Case Jeopardized, Lou Mattei, Robert B. Trapp.

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Double-digit growth again, Dale Gentry, Steve Marion, Gayle Page, Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: " Good mix of local news throughout the entire paper. Keep up the great work!"

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Delano Herald Journal Delano, MN, Best local news coverage - Delano Herald Journal, Staff. Judges' Comments: " The newspaper has clearly tapped into the heartbeat of the community, as shown through the wide variety of topics appealing to a diverse audience. Thorough approach to local news coverage."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Commercial Record, The Allegan, MI, The Commercial Record, Scott Sullivan, editor, Tim Kieth, staff writer. Judges' Comments: " This paper sets itself apart from others as one that focuses on delivering its readers a solid mix of coverage pertinent to the coverage area -- education and the environment. Crisp, clear writing sets the stage for a well-developed product."

Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Pipestone County Star Pipestone, MN, Deal struck - March 31, 2011 issue & America is free because of the brave - Sept. 15, 2011 issue, Debra Fitzgerald, Steven Swenson, Kyle Kuphal, Kevin Kyle. Judges' Comments: " This publication is packed to the seams with local news ranging from adult literacy to rain gardens and a tax levy decrease. Excellent mix of community news topics."

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Sioux City Journal Sioux City, IA, SiouxCityJournal.com, Journal staff. Judges' Comments: " From the little things like a privacy policy to the big things like layout and typeface your site has it nailed. Excellent color palette. Your site stood out with a compelling layout and organization. Advertising is present but not overwhelming and works to complement the site without causing a distraction. The main navigation menu features are top notch, with the expansion to show featured headlines and news content along with links. The sticky menu bar while scrolling down is a nice touch. Good mix of social media sharing and connection options. The mobile site was clean, simple and easy to navigate. Every link clicked went somewhere without any dead links. Overall an attractive, easy to use, and ultimately informative site."

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, GA Voice Atlanta, GA, www.thegavoice.com (website of the Georgia Voice), Design: Ryan Watkins, web manager, Content: Staff, Graphics: Bo Shell, art director. Judges' Comments: " This site shows that with a few open source tools you can create a great looking, well laid out site that looks just as good as websites that cost way more. Very slick features from the menu expansion to the control users have over story display help separate this site from the pack. Easy to access and upfront social media buttons help reader stay in touch and share the content. Advertising on the site is placed well and not a distraction while still remaining visible and effective. Article pages are clean and very readable with plenty of social media sharing tools. Job well done!"

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Best Newspaper Web Site, Staff. Judges' Comments: " The separate branding concept is intriguing and your execution of the concept is largely successful. The Fenceviewer half feels very news oriented with minimal distractions. The homepage being devoid of social media/sharing links was surprising but helped with that as well. The site is easy to navigate and very responsive with minimal load times. Article pages felt a little busy but option to adjust font size was a nice feature."

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, thedailyrecord.com, Danny Jacobs, Jon Sham, Dave Kuhn. Judges' Comments: " A great example of a newspaper website that entices you to become a subscribers but highlighting what you missing out on by not being one. Layout of news content was done well. The timecode letting people know how fresh the Latest News is was a nice touch. Multimedia content isn't relegated to the bottom of the page but presented in the upper third. Falling short only in a few key areas like the main navigation bar design and color palette this site isn't far off from contention with the rest of the top sites."

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, St. Louis American, The Saint Louis, MO, www.stlameric.com, Ishmael Sistrunk. Judges' Comments: " The site excels is the presentation of news content. Straightforward and simple, the content was easy to find and access with good load times. The promotion of the e-Edition on the front page was one of the better ones across all entrants with multiple links and advertisements for it. The site only feel short in a few areas, such as the top navigation bar seemed almost lost above the header and banner ad. It went unnoticed when viewing the site the first couple times. Also the use of white space felt uneven on the home page."

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, John Keith, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Here is a man I wish I had known. The layout, photos, quotes convince me he made his community, family and friends better for knowing him. A beautiful tribute."

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Examiner, The Beaumont, TX, Remembering Bryan Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Davis, Taryn Sykes, Jennifer Trahan. Judges' Comments: " The story honors the man, his family and community with a comprehensive look that integrates while separates the event from the consequences from the shared loss. Excellent layout helps to tell the stories in a meaningful way. Newspapers rarely fully tell stories anymore; it takes commitment. This is the way it should be done — not in sound bites."

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Brunswick Beacon, The Shallotte, NC, Shallotte mayor laid to rest Saturday, Rachel Johnson. Judges' Comments: " An obituary should tell the story of who the deceased was as a human being as well as their contributions to others while on this earth, not told in resume form but in story form. They serve a greater purpose than just documenting a death but should bring the individual to life one last time in a memorable way for all to learn from. They tell us how to live - or not - a life. When a man like Shallotte dies it's important to share how he lived. Well done."

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Claremont Courier Claremont, CA, Martin Weinberger, Brenda Bolinger.

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Brunswick Beacon, The Shallotte, NC, Carolina Shores parents pay homage to son killed in war, Laura Lewis.

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Ferndale Enterprise, The Ferndale, CA, Lake Obama, Jack Mays. Judges' Comments: " Great illustration to show how one man doesn't practice what he preaches."

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Ferndale Enterprise, The Ferndale, CA, Pinocchio, Jack Mays. Judges' Comments: " Great application of the lesson from a timeless children's story for an adult issue."

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, GA Voice Atlanta, GA, Now it makes sense, Mike Ritter. Judges' Comments: " Biting satire, well composed and illustrated."

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, It Takes A Village Idiot by R.L. Crabb, R.L. Crabb. Judges' Comments: " Funny twist on America's annual Occupy event."

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, House of cards, Ross Mayfield. Judges' Comments: " Immensely detailed drawing, great work by the artist."

Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Bah, Humbug!, Ian St. Clair. Judges' Comments: " This writer makes the timeless story and personality of Scrooge come to life, indeed. Great writing and the layout of the story makes a powerful presentation."

Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, McAlester News-Capital McAlester, OK, Concert draws thousands, James Beaty.

Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD, Foss Fiddles Way To Fame, Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: " Wonderfully written story about a musician who didn't count time a negative in his dream of playing the fiddle. The reader is swept away in the story telling."

Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Whole lotta music", Kay Johnson. Judges' Comments: " Hutchinson's homegrown musical festival got a superb review and it made readers want to be there."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

1st place, Examiner, The Beaumont, TX, Remembering Bryan Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Davis, Taryn Sykes, Jennifer Trahan. Judges' Comments: " A wonderful tribute. What a great way to capture a sad moment. This brought tears to my eyes."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

2nd place, Mountain Xpress Asheville, NC, Eyes on the street: Asheville Argus aims to read between the (head) lines, Max Cooper. Judges' Comments: " Eye-catching! Black and white photography is great to see the insight into a person's soul. That is what this essay did."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

3rd place, Tribeca Trib, The New York, NY, Raising Maisy, Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: " Very moving. What a way to tell the story of this family's struggle."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, 22nd annual Bataan Memorial Death March, Todd Dickson, Niki Rhynes. Judges' Comments: " Great way to capture this event. An inside look into small town rodeo."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, "Going to the dogs", Terry Davis. Judges' Comments: " The Hutchinson Leader chose a topic that would tug at anyone's heartstrings. The photos are sharp, positioned in a way to draw the reader into the essay and hold them until they exit in the lower right of the page. The emotion felt is immediate and it's easy to see that the photographer has a great understanding of how to photograph dogs. The paw print in the middle is a little distracting, however, the choice and position don't break from the storytelling concept created on the page. Best of Show (pun intended)."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, A stalwart in the storm, Maximilian Franz, Rich Dennison. Judges' Comments: " From the very first picture of the mourners gathered to the last photo of the folding of the flag, this series of photos tell a great story of a great man. The Daily Record did their research, found the real story and supported it with good photography. A lot of planning obviously went into the shooting of the photographs and the placement of the photos throughout the story. Good job."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Claremont Courier Claremont, CA, National Socialist Movement protest, Steven Felschundneff. Judges' Comments: " The Claremont Courier took on a tough subject and covered it excellently. The emotion one feels from some of the photographs is immediate and compelling. The pictures tell a dynamic story of both love and hate. Well done."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

1st place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Downtown cruise-in, Dale Gentry, Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: " This essay captures not only the classic elements of these great cars, but the camaraderie of the folks who show them. The photographs give the reader the overall cruise-in experience along with an up-close look at the cars' finer details. This was the best story-telling package of all entries."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

2nd place, Taos News, The Taos, NM, Beekeeping, Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments: " Minimalist in its approach, this essay had us swatting at bees. Outstanding dominant photo!"

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

3rd place, Cortez Journal Cortez, CO, Ropin', wrestlin' at the Ranch Rodeo, Sam Green. Judges' Comments: " Great photos overall, but the impact suffered because of the lack of a dominant photo. A solid third-place."

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, 'One day at a time', Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: " The photos really told the story on this one!"

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Cedar County News Hartington, NE, River residents are sandbagging to protect property, lives, Anna Reed. Judges' Comments: " A few photos that spoke volumes. Very moving!"

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Occupied, Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: " Love the photos!"

Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Pinckneyville Press, The Anna, IL, Paving the Way!, Jeff Egbert.

Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Daily Universe, The Provo, UT, Lifetime of dreams now realized, Court Mann. Judges' Comments: " Great story framed by a captivating layout. Emotional, heartfelt writing complemented by an energy-charged layout. I will look for this recording and buy it."

Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA, A little Austen will do you good, Ryan Miller. Judges' Comments: " Fresh look at an ancient subject. Writer reminds the reader of the story, but then leaves the story in the background and focuses his comments on the production itself. Well written."

Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, A portrait of a brilliant, repressed, enigmatic man, Amanda Green. Judges' Comments: " Well written. Centers more on the film than on the historical perspective, rightfully so. Reviewer gives just enough biographical background to help movie viewer more appreciably enjoy the cinema experience."

Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Rango, Lavender Vroman. Judges' Comments: " Well written. Funny, entertaining, clever."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

1st place, Brentwood Press San Clemente, CA, Old dogs enter golden years of rusty gears, Ger Erickson. Judges' Comments: " Love it. Love the wonderful language that paints such a vivid image. Love the photo that draws me into the column and makes me fall in love a little bit...with the dog, with the writer, with the relationship between the two and the sweet scent of the trail ahead. Well done."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

2nd place, Miami Today Miami, FL, Miami Today: The circus comes to town, pitches tent at Miami City Hall, Michael Lewis. Judges' Comments: " Great column from a writer who clearly does not lack topical material, and who obviously knows all the players. You made me glad to only have the problems with City Hall I have. Bet this piece got the heads talking."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

3rd place, Union, The Grass Valley, CA, Jeff Ackerman: Rua died as he lived: On his terms, Jeff Ackerman. Judges' Comments: " A very touching, simply told story of one man's decision to die with dignity, which encourages us to contemplate the larger implications of that decision for all of us. Beautifully done."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Valencia County News-Bulletin Belen, NM, A Native Voice, Ungelbah Daniel-Davila. Judges' Comments: " A provocative call to the Native American community to combat the "rhetoric of otherness," and a thoughtful reminder to others of a shameful chapter in this country's history. Your message was a strong and personal one, well-conveyed despite some awkwardly structured sentences. Well done."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Daily Universe, The Provo, UT, Aborting responsibility; That's not liberation, Jade McDowell. Judges' Comments: " Both of these columns are well-argued and concisely written. The "Ban on Burqas" is the strongest of the two, deftly unclocking, as it does, the very real bias behind the French ban."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

1st place, Azle News Azle, TX, Making the highway journey of a lifetime, Mark K. Campbell. Judges' Comments: " Tender. Beautiful. Well-written story from the heart. It flows well (and only digresses a little, but that's understandable under the circumstances.) Rhythm of writing super. Perfect ending."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

2nd place, Anderson News, The Lawrenceburg, KY, Ripy House: Love at first sight, Meaghan Downs. Judges' Comments: " Excellent job on restoration column. Great description, and in a conversational and easy-to-read tone. Love that you're a young writer. Keep it up, kiddo!"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

3rd place, Anderson News, The Lawrenceburg, KY, The great American Dream, Meaghan Downs. Judges' Comments: " tory grabs you then went off in a tangent on what's wrong with America, but finally came back to an excellent ending"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Milton Times Milton, MA, Coping with Cancer Changes Body Mind and Spirit, Pat Desmond. Judges' Comments: " Difficult story to write. Well done. Been there, too. Good luck."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

Honorable Mention, Mountain View Telegraph Moriarty, NM, Things Could Be Worse So Appreciate Your Life, Rory McClannahan. Judges' Comments: " Well-written, strong story."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

1st place, McAlester News-Capital McAlester, OK, Re-living the loss, MJ Brickey. Judges' Comments: " Among several columns focusing on the anniversary of 9-11, this one stood out for its raw emotion captured in easy-to-read, short sentences that pull the reader along. Great job of putting a really human face on the tragedy."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

2nd place, Bernardsville News, The Bernardsville, NJ, Two friends who touched many, Charlie Zavalick. Judges' Comments: " Does a great job of basically painting a picture with words - a pair of moving funeral ceremonies contrasted with life going on a usual right down the street."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

3rd place, Central City News Baton Rouge, LA, Donal Ray Kennard: A Legacy of Integrity, Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: " An interesting tribute focusing not so much on the legacy of a former legislator but on the wife who has done so much behind the scenes. Well told with special details."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

Honorable Mention, Jackson Herald, The Jefferson, GA, Well, hell, we're all dying, Mike Buffington. Judges' Comments: " Part editorial with some biting comment and criticism summed up well with the great sentence pulled out for the headline. Classic case of a watchdown not letting something slip by without due consideration."

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Winters Express, The Winters, CA, Never forget that every moment matters, and remember them all, just in case, Debra DeAngelo, Editor. Judges' Comments: " Jesus was the greatest teacher, and he always spoke in parables, telling a story using word pictures. You have that remarkable ability. You wrote with passion, and I felt it. Never stop writing! " Woody Jenkins, Editor, Central City News, Central, LA"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Courier, The Carterville, IL, "Some things never change", Rev. Ralph Brandon. Judges' Comments: " You must be a heck of a preacher, because you're a mighty fine writer. Jesus was the greatest teacher, and he always spoke in parables, painting a word picture to make an indelible mark on the mind. I like the way you used word picture to tell this story. Good job!"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Jackson County Star, The Walden, CO, Plan A Movie Night With The Kids, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: " When people are being destroyed all around us by the use of drugs, it is difficult to be silent, isn't it? Thanks for telling people what they desperately need to hear. Even if they don't go see the movie, you've made an impact on many lives with your column. Good job!"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Ozona Stockman, The Ozona, TX, My firefighter, Melissa Perner. Judges' Comments: " What a gift you have! You have the ability to tell a great story, and you did it in this column. We are the experts on our own lives, and you used your life's experience to pay tribute to those who are risking their lives for us. But you are also an insider who is living the story, and that made it all the more powerful. Keep writing!"

Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Ark, The Tiburon, CA, A year in denial: I learned to be a cancer survivor, Karen McMullen. Judges' Comments: " You had me with you the entire way. I'm sure this column touched many lives and gave hope to those you are suffering. Keep writing!"

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Frontier Days Souvenir Edition, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Excellent guide for anyone attending the festivities as well as a nice souvenir section to treasure for years to come. Great color and information."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, Life is Good in Las Cruces: 2011-2012 Community Guide, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Anything and everything you would want to know about Las Cruces in a handy, color-coded piece that makes your particular area of interest easy to find."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, St. Louis American, The Saint Louis, MO, Diversity, A Business Imperative, Staff. Judges' Comments: " A multi-section piece that covers many areas of business and industry; centering on individual stories."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Welcome, Antelope Valley Press Staff. Judges' Comments: " A very nice, comprehensive section that gives interesting facts and historic information on many of the areas that comprise the Valley."
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Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

1st place, Cody Enterprise Cody, WY, 5 Who Made a Difference in 2010, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Unique idea, loved the portraits and clean design."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

2nd place, News-Register McMinnville, OR, Discover Yamhill Valley, Dan Shryock, Chris Miles, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Great design and photos, amazing advertising support."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

3rd place, Signal, The Santa Clarita, CA, The Chase: 2011 Santa Clarita Valley Football Preview, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Unique approach on the same old thing. Good design and photos."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Walsh County Record Grafton, ND, History Made, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Good use of photos, great for the reader."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Villager, The Greenwood Village, CO, GENTS: A look into the men's side of fashion, what's hot this summer, Scottie Taylor Iverson, Cynthia Meschke, Elizabeth Denton. Judges' Comments: " A unique idea"

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Going Green ----- Best of the Capitol 2011, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Best of the Capital - what a unique and fun publication. A great way to humanize those in politics. Nice clean layout, good photos"

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Curry County Reporter Gold Beach, OR, Gold Beach Visitors' Guide 2011, Rebecca Macko, Matthew Smith. Judges' Comments: " Great use of photos and good design."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Winters Express, The Winters, CA, Deaths fake, feelings real (A-1); Drunk driver kills two, injures two (A-12), Debbie Hemenway, Staff Writer, Debra DeAngelo, Editor. Judges' Comments: " Great idea and impactful to the reader."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, The 13th Annual Women's Justice Awards, Jill Young Miller, Managing Editor, Jason Lewton, Art Director, Jessica Huang, Designer, Karen Elshout, Photographer. Judges' Comments: " Like the use of full page profiles with portraits."

Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Edgerton Reporter, The Edgerton, WI, Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter, staff. Judges' Comments: " Neat historical section."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Be mad at me, not a little girl, Ian St. Clair. Judges' Comments: " Well said. Hits some very valid points at the risk of angering parents even more, since they probably missed the point of this column as well."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

2nd place, Rochester Business Journal Rochester, NY, Wiffle ball is dangerous? Only to state bureaucrats, Rick Woodson, sports columnist. Judges' Comments: " Right on the money and a little humor thrown in for good measure. Hits a home run against bureaucracy."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

3rd place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, I do it for the love of sports, Darren Reese. Judges' Comments: " Might have placed this higher, but since it was a reprint I chose others which had been written within the past year as first and second. Even so, it's a very good column."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, Got my own story now, Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: " Great job of getting the real story on bull riding first hand. I would have liked to see the entire series."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, The night they beat Chipper, Mark Blumenthal. Judges' Comments: " A rare look at a baseball superstar before he was Hall of Fame material, and well written."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place, Allegan County News Allegan, MI, Leonard left lasting impression on many, Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: " What seemed to be a routine story about another high school player took two turns and left the reader with the wisdom only seen through a child's eyes. I must hand it to Wesseldyk's column for bringing the reader not one, but two twists to his piece."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

2nd place, North Scott Press Eldridge, IA, Bettendorf wrestlers a 'litter of adopted pups', Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: " Insightful and well thought out column on a very disturbing trend. The writer looks at the topic from various angles, including the coaches, the athletes, and his."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

3rd place, Azle News Azle, TX, Death from above: helicopters vs. wild pigs, Mark K. Campbell. Judges' Comments: " A little humor never hurt any old sports column, and this one benefits from a lighthearted view about a real nuisance in the Lone Star State. Well done."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Owyhee Avalanche, The Homedale, ID, A well-built legacy, Jon P. Brown. Judges' Comments: " This column does a great job of paying tribute to a coach who obviously put his life into a schools athletic programs. The reader is left wondering if the writer is saying more than what is on the page by mentioning the coach had been replaced the previous year."

Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

Honorable Mention, Mountain View Telegraph Moriarty, NM, Runner, 22, Was an Inspiration, Harold Smith. Judges' Comments: " A fitting tribute to a fallen former athlete. Very touching."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division

1st place, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, Bull riding is for this dummy, Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: " Joshua Kinder's journey leaves bruises! An engaging tale."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division

2nd place, Signal, The Santa Clarita, CA, The Emotions of Sports, Cary Osborne, Joey Gulino, Dan Agnew, Paul Putignano. Judges' Comments: " An ambitious project, but it delivers good stories about a variety of sports and athletes - science meets emotion on the playing field."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division

3rd place, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Undisputed champ, Eric Smith. Judges' Comments: " A concise yet moving portrait of a young athlete. Well told."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, High School Football - Friday Night Lights, Sports Staff. Judges' Comments: " A solid series that looks beyond the ordinary view of Friday night football. Social media--the other sport!"

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division

1st place, Buffalo Bulletin Buffalo, WY, Cowgirls don't cry, Tom Milstead. Judges' Comments: " The headline, the opening section, Halli Ledford's spunk in this story draws you in, from start to finish."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division

2nd place, GA Voice Atlanta, GA, Homophobia still accepted in pro sports?, Dyana Bagby. Judges' Comments: " A thoughtful examination of a tough topic - well written and researched."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division

3rd place, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard Fallon, NV, Hazing, Steve Puterski. Judges' Comments: " This series kept up with the breaking and ongoing news about an incident that needed to come to light."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Examiner, The Beaumont, TX, Tailgating 101, Chad Cooper. Judges' Comments: " This was just fun and makes you hungry."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Paynesville Press, The Paynesville, MN, Camaraderie best experience of trophy buck hunt, Mike Jacobson. Judges' Comments: " You don't have to know much about hunting to understand the value of this program for the veterans. Moving but not overly sentimental."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

1st place, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, Lancaster Grand Prix, Maya Sugarman. Judges' Comments: " This photos demands attention, full of joy and action while telling the story of a winner's celebration. Capturing a good auto racing photo, barring a wreck, takes a photographer who knows what to hunt and Maya Sugarman captures excitement with this playful trophy shot."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

2nd place, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, Soccer, Patrick C. Leonard. Judges' Comments: " Crisp photo with good flow of action that shows everyone is looking at the ball except for Davis, who has no doubt that she scored."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

3rd place, Daily Universe, The Provo, UT, BYU 42, New Mexico St. 7, Luke Hansen. Judges' Comments: " One guy chased by a stampede of red helmets, caught at the goal line, but stretching for the score is dramatic. This is an example of solid football photography " conflict between opponents, each striving to achieve in a game of inches."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, Ridin', Ropin', Steer wrestlin', Patrick C. Leonard. Judges' Comments: " One can almost hear hooves pounding the arena floor. Sharp, nicely cropped to fill the frame and target the flow of action."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

Honorable Mention, Antelope Valley Press Palmdale, CA, JetHawks baseball, Ron Siddle. Judges' Comments: " Catches the eye. Getting a spot-on shot of a tag at the plate is tough, but this is that shot."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, Mincemeyer Stretches Over, Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: " Nice job by Mr. Battle getting that peak moment in athletics. Great composition at that moment she knows she's over the bar but has not yet let the pole go. A very strong field of finalists."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

2nd place, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, LSU big plays, David Normand. Judges' Comments: " Tough to finish second with such a strong image. This was a very competitive field of finalists Great image. I enjoyed viewing your picture."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

3rd place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, Leimkuehler Flies, Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: " Great "up" action. Your pixs were all really nice images. Good job."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA, Landry air mails DS win, David Normand. Judges' Comments: " The light gods were shining on you this day. Great composition and peak action with the catch and shadow. Another strong entry in a field of strong images."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

Honorable Mention, Taos News, The Taos, NM, Ambassadors from Rwanda, Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments: " This is a fun image to examine. Just enough of a weird angle to draw the reader into all the face. A fun image to view. Good job. This was a strong field of finalists."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999

1st place, Barrow Journal, The Winder, GA, splashing success, Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: " Best of the Best. The cropping is tight and the expression on the swimmers face grabs the readers attention. Out of all the photos in this category, this photo makes you feel as if you are in the water with the swimmer. Depth of field is excellent."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999

2nd place, El Defensor Chieftain Belen, NM, SHS track & field teams 7th at state meet, T.S. Last. Judges' Comments: " This could have been just an average photo. However, the perspective the photographer used by shooting upwards, with the lead runner dominating the photos is what makes this the second best in this category. Good cropping helps this photo demand attention."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999

3rd place, Claremont Courier Claremont, CA, Football champs, Steven Felschundneff. Judges' Comments: " There were other celebration photos entered in this category, however, this one had the most impact. Tight cropping, good expression on the football player and the contrast of the players uniforms garners this photo third place."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999

Honorable Mention, Fountain Hills Times, The Fountain Hills, AZ, Orme Days Celebration, Ryan Winslett. Judges' Comments: " This was one of the judge's favorites in this category. The tongue hanging out of the horses mouth added a certain element to the photo that made this shot a contender. Shoot this photo a little earlier or later and it won't have the same impact. Good job."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

1st place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Title celebration (boys), Darren Reese. Judges' Comments: " Really nice moment. There's a lot going on in this frame. Nice job with composition. Winner in a really strong field of finalists. Great job. Moments are our friend!"

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

2nd place, Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY, LOTOJA winners, Bradly J. Boner. Judges' Comments: " Nice job of composing this image with winner reaction and trailing racers, timer, signage. A really strong image in a field of strong finalists."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

3rd place, Standard Banner, The Jefferson City, TN, Eye on the ball, Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: " This could have been even more dramatic with a really tight crop for DEEP vertical imaging display. Eyes are GREAT."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Sliding in to out, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: " Another strong image of peak action in a strong field of finalists. Great color/light."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

Honorable Mention, Sequim Gazette Sequim, WA, One big splash, Jay Cline. Judges' Comments: " Nice color and texture of water plume. Stronger of two similar boat-racing events. Worthy of an honorable mention in a strong field of finalists."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place, West Point News West Point, NE, Head over heels for bull riding..., Willis Mahannah. Judges' Comments: " West Point News photographer Willis Mahannah has shot a classic photograph for the ages. The timing of the shot is what makes the picture so compelling. Good cropping, and print reproduction makes this the best photo in this category."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

2nd place, Owyhee Avalanche, The Homedale, ID, Rivercats grab third at Caldwell wood bat tourney (Release), John Zsiray. Judges' Comments: " The use of depth of field is excellent in this photo. Great cropping, and sharp quality of the photo make this one of the best in this category. The signature in the lower right is distracting and should be left off."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

3rd place, Pipestone County Star Pipestone, MN, Stretching it out, Kevin Kyle. Judges' Comments: " Love the eyes of the hurdler on this shot and tight cropping. The caption in the upper left hand corner distracts from a good photograph."

Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Honorable Mention, Courier, The Carterville, IL, "For the love of the game", William Bateman. Judges' Comments: " This photograph grabs the attention of the reader and makes one want to read the caption to find out more. Good cropping and a sharp crisp focus made this a finalist in Best Photo category."

Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, North Scott Press Eldridge, IA, Best Sports Section, Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: " This section stood out above all others and is deserving of first place. They feature dynamic action shots and excellent articles. There is a good balance of sports and the section is loaded with photos. The articles are well-written."

Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Washington Missourian Washington, MO, 124 Best Sports Section, Bill Battle, Craig Vonder Haar. Judges' Comments: " Big headlines make the front pages pop! Good action photos. Wide variety of coverage. Detailed articles."

Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Wilson County News Floresville, TX, Sports & Outdoors, Taryn Smith-Morales. Judges' Comments: " Good variety of sports coverage. Front pages are better than most. Writing is good bur didn't impress."

Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Manhattan Mercury, The Manhattan, KS, The Manhattan Mercury, Joshua Kinder, Cole Manbeck, Joel Jellison. Judges' Comments: " Front pages are good but not outstanding. Heads need to be different sizes to catch the eye. Excellent action shots."

Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Gasconade County Republican Owensville, MO, Best Sports Section, Will Johnson. Judges' Comments: " Large action shots with one-word heads grab the reader's attention. Good photos but none on pages 2 or 3."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Adios, Austyn, Robert Gagliardi. Judges' Comments: " The reporter showed a lot of pluck and loads of savvy. He couldn't have been expecting the departure of Austyn Carta-Samuels, and yet, he did outstanding reporting, even getting an interview with the departing quarterback and a close friend. But what makes this story stand out is the reporter's own observations from the preceding season. Describing Carta-Samuels as "downright giddy" despite a loss was a moment of piercing analysis."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

2nd place, Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL, The Big Kill, Mark Blumenthal. Judges' Comments: " It is rare to read a story in which the story of an individual player's redemption and fulfillment overshadow a team's accomplishment, but here, the reporter made me care about, and think about, Kayshia Brady even more than about the team. The complementary story lines worked perfectly together."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

3rd place, Hood County News Granbury, TX, Special delivery, Rick Mauch. Judges' Comments: " The reporter did an excellent job of noticing everything about the drama of both the birth and the stirring comeback by the team. It reads like a screenplay, "Hoosiers" with a pregnant mom playing the Gene Hackman role. I smiled throughout."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

1st place, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Bond of broken hearts - In wake of tragedy, Lady Bulldogs forge way to title, Richard Greene. Judges' Comments: " Excellent work - this story is worthy of front page coverage. Great storytelling!"

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

2nd place, Frazee-Vergas Forum Frazee, MN, Learning curve for Hornet football team begins with season opener, Barbie Porter. Judges' Comments: " Great story. This is everything that a good game story should be."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

3rd place, Allegan County News Allegan, MI, Blackhawks carry on with heavy hearts, Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: " Great job at showing the emotions of the players in what could have been a typical game story."

Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000

Honorable Mention, Bernardsville News, The Bernardsville, NJ, The Green Grass of Home, Kelly Fenton. Judges' Comments: " Good work on following a local athlete as she battles health issues. Great job recognizing local talent."

Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition Pflugerville, TX, Best Use of Color, Rhonda Bowers, Molly Ryan. Judges' Comments: " Crisp, clean color that added to enhancement of the articles as well as the advertising."

Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Litchfield Independent Review Hutchinson, MN, Litchfield Independent Review, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Well-laced color that caught the eye and added a nice element to the stories."

Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, N'West Iowa REVIEW, The Sheldon, IA, Best Use of Color, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Multiple sections each had an interesting composition of color used in unique ways."

Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Vilas County News-Review Eagle River, WI, Vilas County News-Review (all photos), Staff. Judges' Comments: " Photos are of people doing things in the community. They are bright and sharp. The paper uses many sizes of photos giving dominance There are very few gray pages and most pages have photos, some in color and others in black and white.

Very nice."

Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Claremont Courier Claremont, CA, Claremont Courier, Kathryn Dunn, page design, Steven Felschundneff, photographer. Judges' Comments: " Paper's photos have dominance so your eye knows where to go first. Many photos are playful and fun. The photographers work to make mug shots interesting and not just another head. Only complaint is a few of the pictures were a little dark."

Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Best Use of Photographs, Photo staff. Judges' Comments: " Frontier Days pictures are superb and the photo-art (squirrel -smartphone) was very good. I would have liked to have seen an edition that wasn't done during Frontier Days, which is, of course, the biggest event of the year in Cheyenne."

Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Wyoming Tribune Eagle Cheyenne, WY, Best Weekend Edition, Staff. Judges' Comments: " This was a clear cut winner - hands down the most impressive paper in the category. This is an impressive comprehensive package from the front to back. Love the "Cold Cases" feature to kick things off. Great use of color throughout the paper. Photos are superb. It is easy to navigate through this paper. There is certainly a high credibility. Nice use of graphics throughout the paper."

Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, Hutchinson Leader, Doug Hanneman, Editor, Tina McMillan, Ad Director, Hutchinson Leader Staff. Judges' Comments: " Great job in covering the impact of a major company with huge layoffs. This paper does a nice job of layout and design, especially with eye-catching photos, graphics and white space on the

front. I question why the opinion page revolved around on different pages as well as why advertising is placed on the opinion page."

Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Wise County Messenger Decatur, TX, Best weekend edition, Staff. Judges' Comments: " Outstanding job of spot news coverage on the front. The photo of the construction accident tells the tragic story more than any words can. The paper has a clean looking layout with nice use of white space."

Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, Las Cruces: A Photographic Journey, Staff. Judges' Comments: " WOW! What an undertaking! To say this was a community service is a terrible understatement. Fantastic work!"

Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Barrow Journal,The Winder, GA, Barrow County budget crisis, Susan Norman. Judges' Comments: " Great job by the reporter to not just take the numbers at face value but to dig into them and discover the \$2 million error! Well done!"

Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Blackshear Times, The Blackshear, GA, The New War / Just One Pill / Bad medicine is big business / Drug net nabs ten / Twelve arrested in drug roundup, The Blackshear Times - Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: " An important series that hopefully opened the eyes of many in the community to work to stop this problem."

Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division

Honorable Mention, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Under Wraps, Heather Cole. Judges' Comments: " An important project by a publication representing the people who are most affected by this issue. Great in-depth work! Good job supporting and explaining a project that was vital to your community!"

Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, Arizona Capitol Times, Jim Small, Bill Bertolino, Julie Lanley, Gabe Turner. Judges' Comments: " Throughout the pages of the Arizona Capitol Times, typography is treated with respect and care, even when it's used with flair, such as in a reverse or set in color. There's a strong sense that designers at this publication are aware of the finer points of good typography and that they carry that awareness into the design, especially in their special sections. Nicely done.

"

Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Jason Lewton, Art Director. Judges' Comments: " Appealing interaction between different typeface styles is a hallmark of this publication's design. Generous use of negative space helps to set off the well-thought-out typographic approach. Careful use of color adds to the overall appeal. It's a publication that's comfortable to read and easy to follow. Good work!"

Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition Pflugerville, TX, Excellence in Typography, Kara Nordstrom, Derek Sullivan, Jenn Rains, Macy Hurwitz. Judges' Comments: " Typography in this publication is tightly controlled. There's little risk here, with a few exceptions, and that's one of the reasons why the typography excels. Strong consistency and attention to detail raises the typography to a level much higher than other entries in this category."

Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place, Arizona Capitol Times Phoenix, AZ, WHAT WE'RE NOT IRC-ING, Christian Palmer, Evan Wyloge. Judges' Comments: " Redistricting is one of a state's most important political tasks, and transparency is vital to public support of the outcome. The Arizona Capitol Times went to work on behalf of the people's right to know, started asking key

questions of people who really didn't want to answer them, and broke the entire secretive system wide open. Watchdog reporting at its best."

Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division

2nd place, Central City News Baton Rouge, LA, IBTS: Low Bidder - Note: Central City News' fight for access to public records in city where entire government has been privatized. Newspaper's suit is before La. supreme court. Meanwhile, city has fired the contractor in part over lack of transparency., Woody Jenkins, Candi Lee, Terrie Palmer, Jolice Provost, Shara Pollard. Judges' Comments: " Sometimes the best journalism starts with a single question that begets other questions, until the reporting exposes system wide failure. This is the case here, as the reporter unveils a dysfunctional disclosure regime."

Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division

3rd place, Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, No difference? No disclosure, Danielle Ulman. Judges' Comments: " Timely, significant local issue that demonstrates the importance of access to government information in ways that really resonate with readers."