

# NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



2012

## Better Newspaper Contest

### WINNERS

#### **(Winners listed A-Z by newspaper).**

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

#### ***Allegan County News, Allegan, MI***

**1st place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999*, 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."

#### ***Allegan County News, Allegan, MI***

**1st place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, 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."

#### ***Allegan County News, Allegan, MI***

**3rd place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999*, Driving the point home, Ryan Lewis, editor. Judges' Comments: "Great angle to capture essence of the message"

#### ***Allegan County News, Allegan, MI***

**3rd place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000*, 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."

#### ***The Anderson News, Lawrenceburg, KY***

**2nd place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999*, 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!"

#### ***The Anderson News, Lawrenceburg, KY***

**3rd place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999*, 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"

#### ***Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA***

**1st place**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*, Long way from home, Maya Sugarman. Judges' Comments: "Interesting, eye-catching photo. Great facial expression. Captures a moment."

#### ***Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA***

**1st place**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*, 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."

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**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**3rd place, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Literacy, Julie Drake, Craig Currier, Rich Breault. Judges' Comments:** "We can never do enough about illiteracy."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**3rd place, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division, Undisputed champ, Eric Smith. Judges' Comments:** "A concise yet moving portrait of a young athlete. Well told."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division, Baby killer invades family's home, Jennifer Santos. Judges' Comments:** "Good coverage on a breaking news story."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division, Turkey Trot, Ron Siddle. Judges' Comments:** "What a fun event. Good photo."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, National Newspaper Week, Dennis Anderson, William P. Warford, Liane Roth.**

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division, Rango, Lavender Vroman. Judges' Comments:** "Well written. Funny, entertaining, clever."

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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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**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division, 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!"

**Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Daily Division, 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."

**Archbold Buckeye, Archbold, OH**

**2nd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, Archbold Elevator License Suspended, David Pugh. Judges' Comments:** "Great following of a local story and the effect one event can have on a community..."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**1st place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**1st place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**1st place**, *Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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"

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**1st place**, *Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division*, 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."

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**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**1st place**, *Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division*, 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."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**2nd place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, 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."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**3rd place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000*, 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!"

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, 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."

**Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ**

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, Bill would expand religious rights on college campuses, Luige del Puerto.

**The Ark, Tiburon, CA**

**3rd place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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."

**The Ark, Tiburon, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000**, It takes a village to prevent elder financial abuse, Deirdre McCrohan.

***The Ark, Tiburon, CA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000**, 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!"

***Azle News, Azle, TX***

**1st place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, 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."

***Azle News, Azle, TX***

**3rd place, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000**, 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."

***Banks County News, Jefferson, GA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000**, Degges is manipulating budget process, Staff.

***The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA***

**1st place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999**, 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."

***The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA***

**2nd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, 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."

***The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA***

**2nd place, Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division**, 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!"

***The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, More than a name on a wall, Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: "touching"

***The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ***

**1st place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999**, Blackout, Charlie Zavalick. Judges' Comments: "Solid defense of the public's right to know. Keep fighting!"

***The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ***

**2nd place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999**, 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."

***The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000, 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."

***The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA***

**1st place, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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!"

***The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA***

**3rd place, Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

***Blaine-Spring Lake Park Life, Coon Rapids, MN***

**3rd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

***Brentwood Press, San Clemente, CA***

**1st place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

***The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC***

**3rd place, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

***The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC***

**3rd place, Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

***The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC***

**Honorable Mention, Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division, Carolina Shores parents pay homage to son killed in war, Laura Lewis.**

***Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY***

**1st place, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division, 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."

***Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Fair thee well, Tom Milstead.**

***Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999, Business as usual, Tom Milstead.**

***Cedar County News, Hartington, NE***

**2nd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000,** River residents are sandbagging to protect property, lives, Anna Reed. Judges' Comments: "A few photos that spoke volumes. Very moving!"

***Cedar County News, Hartington, NE***

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000,** Action is Needed Right Now, Not after the Fact, Rob Dump, Peggy Year.

***Cedar County News, Hartington, NE***

**Honorable Mention, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000,** 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."

***Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA***

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999,** 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!"

***Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA***

**2nd place, Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."**

***Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA***

**3rd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more,** 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."

***Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA***

**3rd place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999,** 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."

***The Chronicle, Chester, NY***

**1st place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more,** 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."

***Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA***

**2nd place, Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."**

***Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA***

**3rd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999,** 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."

***Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA***

**3rd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999, 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."

**Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division, Martin Weinberger, Brenda Bolinger.**

**Clarendon Enterprise, Clarendon, TX**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY**

**1st place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, 5 Who Made a Difference in 2010, Staff. Judges' Comments:** "Unique idea, loved the portraits and clean design."

**Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY**

**2nd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

**Colby Free Press, Colby, KS**

**2nd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000, WWII veteran remembers 'hell' over Europe, Kevin Bottrell. Judges' Comments:** "Clear and vivid journalistic tribute to a member of "The Greatest Generation.""

**The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI**

**2nd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI**

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000, Claw full, Scott Sullivan, editor. Judges' Comments:** "Absolutely love this composition. The sign hanging out of the bucket is great!"

**The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000, Birdman of Pier Cove an unfinished gem, Scott Sullivan, editor. Judges' Comments:** "Fun, bright feature with excellent pacing and description."

**Community Impact Newspaper/Georgetown/Hutto/Taylor Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**1st place, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**2nd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, Messina's Shoe & Boot Repair, Chase Martinez. Judges' Comments:** "Great use of depth of field and great lighting. well done."

**Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**Honorable Mention, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, Natural gas plans drill up urban debate, Rachel Slade.**

**Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**3rd place, Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**1st place, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**1st place, Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Community Impact Newspaper/The Woodlands Edition, Pflugerville, TX**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO**

**2nd place, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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"

**Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO**

**3rd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999, 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."

**Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO**

**Honorable Mention, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, 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."

**The Courier, Carterville, IL**

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000, The Harmon way, Bill Swinford. Judges' Comments:** "Brisk and descriptive piece capturing a remarkable man."

**The Courier, Carterville, IL**

**2nd place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, "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!"

**The Courier, Carterville, IL**



**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, "Carterville High School Band", Steve Buhman. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful lighting illusion around the girls face. Expression seals the deal. A definite winner."**

***The Courier, Carterville, IL***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, "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."**

***Curry County Reporter, Gold Beach, OR***

**2nd place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, Gold Beach Visitors' Guide 2011, Rebecca Macko, Matthew Smith. Judges' Comments: "Great use of photos and good design."**

***Curry County Reporter, Gold Beach, OR***

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**1st place, Best Business Story, Daily Division, 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."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**2nd place, Best Business Story, Daily Division, 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."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**2nd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, 'No change' is no disclosure, Barbara Grzincic. Judges' Comments: "THE ARGUMENT WAS COMPELLING--GOOD TO HEAR SOMEONE PROVIDE VITAL INFORMATION FOR OUR DEMOCRACY."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**2nd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, 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."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division, 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."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Daily Division, Dictators living next door?, Ben Mook. Judges' Comments: "Excellent story - dictators? The research and writing is marvelous and layout well done."**

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**3rd place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000,** 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."

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**3rd place, Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division,** 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."

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**Honorable Mention, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000,** 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."

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division,** 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."

***The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD***

**Honorable Mention, Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division,** 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."

***The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI***

**2nd place, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division,** 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."

***Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO***

**1st place, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000,** 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."

***Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO***

**1st place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999,** States obese House offers gobs of fat to cut, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "The information contained herein was impressive. Well done."

***Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO***

**3rd place, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division,** Chillin' in Chilhowee, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Too cute! Captures a great, fun moment. Nice play on page."

***Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO***

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division,** 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."

***Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO***

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division,** Twister slams Sedalia, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Amanda Lubinski, Cynthia Nold. Judges' Comments: "Great coverage."

***The Daily Universe, Provo, UT***

**1st place, Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

***The Daily Universe, Provo, UT***

**3rd place, Best Sports Photo, Daily Division, 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."

***The Daily Universe, Provo, UT***

**Honorable Mention, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

***Delano Herald Journal, Delano, MN***

**1st place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

***Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI***

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999, Unions fight back, Warren Bluhm. Judges' Comments:** "Solid breaking news story, with strong lead and quotes, as well as contextual/bigger picture information."

***The Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY***

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000, 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."

***The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI***

**Honorable Mention, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter, staff. Judges' Comments:** "Neat historical section."

***El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM***

**2nd place, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

***El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM***

**2nd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999, 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."

***El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM***

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999, 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."

***El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM***

**Honorable Mention, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, 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."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME***

**1st place, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Editorial, Staff. Judges' Comments:** "I liked everything about this opinion page and the ones that followed--content, layout--photo, good arguments."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME***

**2nd place, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME***

**3rd place, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME***

**3rd place, Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

***The Examiner, Beaumont, TX***

**1st place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

***The Examiner, Beaumont, TX***

**2nd place, Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

***The Examiner, Beaumont, TX***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division, Tailgating 101, Chad Cooper. Judges' Comments:** "This was just fun and makes you hungry."

***Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH***

**2nd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more, 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"

***Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH***

**Honorable Mention, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH**

**Honorable Mention, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more, The first cut is the deepest, Kymberly Foster Seabolt.**

**The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA**

**1st place, Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division, Lake Obama, Jack Mays.** Judges' Comments: "Great illustration to show how one man doesn't practice what he preaches."

**The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA**

**2nd place, Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division, Pinocchio, Jack Mays.** Judges' Comments: "Great application of the lesson from a timeless children's story for an adult issue."

**Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA**

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999, 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."

**Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

**The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Locals thwart rock burglar, Bob Burns.** Judges' Comments: "Good story. Lots of details and great background on the case."

**The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999, 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."

**Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN**

**2nd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN**

**2nd place, Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000, 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."

**GA Voice, Atlanta, GA**

**1st place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999, 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."

**GA Voice, Atlanta, GA**

**2nd place**, *Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division*, 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!"

**GA Voice, Atlanta, GA**

**2nd place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*, Homophobia still accepted in pro sports?, Dyana Bagby. Judges' Comments: "A thoughtful examination of a tough topic - well written and researched."

**GA Voice, Atlanta, GA**

**3rd place**, *Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division*, Now it makes sense, Mike Ritter. Judges' Comments: "Biting satire, well composed and illustrated."

**Gasconade County Republican, Owensville, MO**

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*, 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."

**The Healdsburg Tribune, Sebastopol, CA**

**3rd place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, The Mauritson 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."

**The Healdsburg Tribune, Sebastopol, CA**

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000*, Harvesting off the grid: Local farmers rekindle interest in animal powered agriculture, Lynda Hopkins, Lynda Hopkins.

**Hickman County Times, Centerville, TN**

**2nd place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, 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!"

**Hickman County Times, Centerville, TN**

**2nd place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999*, 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."

**The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL**

**1st place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom, Ken Knutson, Jim Slonoff. Judges' Comments: "Clearly reasoned editorials that are locally relevant. Nicely illustrated. Good letters pull."

**The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL**

**3rd place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, 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."

**Hood County News, Granbury, TX**

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, Two thumbs-up for graduation, Mary Vinson. Judges' Comments:** "Good job on focusing on the emotion from one person at such a big event"

**Hood County News, Granbury, TX**

**3rd place, Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, 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."

**Hood County News, Granbury, TX**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999, 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."

**Hood River News, Hood River, OR**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999, Stunningly beautiful, dauntingly difficult, Adam Lapiere. 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."

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**1st place, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, "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."

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**1st place, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, "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."

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**1st place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, "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)."

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**2nd place, Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**3rd place, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, "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!"

**Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN**

**3rd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, "County Board meetings on TV", Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "Great - Go after those politicians, also well written and strong argument."**

***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN***

**3rd place, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, Opinion/More Commentary, Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "Very clean layout. Editorial is relevant. More letters."**

***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN***

**3rd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, "Impressions of the U.S.", Jorge Sosa. Judges' Comments: "An interesting synopsis of the experiences of foreign exchange students in a small town."**

***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN***

**Honorable Mention, Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division, Hutchinson Leader, Doug Hanneman, Editor, Newsroom Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice mix of light and dark face type. Good story-telling headlines."**

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***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN***

**Honorable Mention, Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, "Whole lotta music", Kay Johnson. Judges' Comments: "Hutchinson's homegrown musical festival got a superb review and it made readers want to be there."**

***Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD***

**1st place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999, 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."**

***Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD***

**1st place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."**

"

***Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD***

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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?"**

***Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID***

**1st place, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Recycle, renew, 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."**

***Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999, 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!"**

***Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."**



***The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000*, Editorial pages, staff. Judges' Comments: "Good balanced page. Editorial is relevant. Nicely illustrated."

***The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO***

**3rd place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, Declaring Culinary Independence, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: "Good stuff with a nice payoff late in the piece."

***The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO***

**3rd place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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!"

***The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000*, The Incarcerated Artist Of Jackson County, Jim Dustin. Judges' Comments: "Unusual story told with energy and a nice human touch."

***The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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."

***The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA***

**2nd place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more*, Closing shop, Jana Mitcham. Judges' Comments: "A real nice job on a kind of place that is disappearing and worthy of documentation."

***The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999*, 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."

***Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY***

**1st place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999*, 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."

***Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY***

**2nd place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999*, 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."

***Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY***

**2nd place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999*, 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."

***The Journal, Crosby, ND***

**1st place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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."

***The Journal, Crosby, ND***

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999**, 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."

***The Journal, Crosby, ND***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000**, 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!"

***The Journal, Crosby, ND***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000**, 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."

***Kendall County Record, Yorkville, IL***

**Honorable Mention, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more**, 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."

***Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV***

**1st place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999**, 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."

***Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV***

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, 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."

***Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV***

**2nd place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999**, 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."

***Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV***

**3rd place, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division**, Hazing, Steve Puterski. Judges' Comments: "This series kept up with the breaking and ongoing news about an incident that needed to come to light."

***Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV***

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, Answers sought in Amtrak crash, Steve Ranson, Maddie Reynolds, Fran Norton, Zip Upham. Judges' Comments: "Good coverage on a very tragic event."

***Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX***

**3rd place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999**, 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."

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**1st place, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, One step at a time/There's more to the story, Natisha Hales. Judges' Comments: "Loved the balance. tough issue and well investigated"**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**1st place, Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**1st place, Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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!"**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**2nd place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**3rd place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, A brain disease unknown, Rachel Christiansen. Judges' Comments: "A gripping real-life story well told. Excellent work."**

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***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**3rd place, Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**Honorable Mention, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Water: Worries, woes and wars, Todd Dickson, Niki Rhynes, Samantha Roberts, Marvin Tessneer. Judges' Comments: "Another good drought story. Samantha Roberts' segment was the high point, in which she let her sources tell the story."**

***The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM***

**Honorable Mention, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."**

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI***

**1st place, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000, 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"**

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI***

**3rd place, Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."**

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI***

**3rd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, 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."

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, Waves of wings, Ken Scott.** Judges' Comments: "Nice Image with wonderful color. Nice composition and color"

***Litchfield Independent Review, Hutchinson, MN***

**2nd place, Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division, Litchfield Independent Review, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "Well-laced color that caught the eye and added a nice element to the stories."

***Litchfield Independent Review, Hutchinson, MN***

**3rd place, Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division, Litchfield Independent Review, Juliana Thill.** Judges' Comments: "Nice use of fonts and catchy phrasing that still tells the story."

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**1st place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, Beer bash, David Normand.** Judges' Comments: "Good example of a breaking news photo. You can't plan that!"

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**2nd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999, Twist of Fate, Mike Dowty.** Judges' Comments: "Fantastic story that encompasses so much - resilience, humility, courage and teamwork. I absolutely loved it!"

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**2nd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999, 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!"

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Opinion, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "All good content. Arguments solid--what an editorial page should be--a comment on its communities and government."

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 -14,999, 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!"

***Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**1st place, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division,** Bull riding is for this dummy, Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: "Joshua Kinder's journey leaves bruises! An engaging tale."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division,** 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."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**2nd place, Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division,** 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."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division,** For the birds, Rod Mikinski. Judges' Comments: "This was a beautiful photo. Well played and beautiful."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more,** 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."

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS***

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division,** 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."

***McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK***

**1st place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999,** 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."

***McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK***

**2nd place, Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division,** Concert draws thousands, James Beaty.

***McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK***

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division,** 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."

***The Mendocino Beacon, Fort Bragg, CA***

**2nd place, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000,** 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."

***Miami Today, Miami, FL***

**1st place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more,** 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."

***Miami Today, Miami, FL***

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**Miami Today, Miami, FL**

**2nd place, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Miami Today, Miami, FL**

**2nd place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**Miami Today, Miami, FL**

**Honorable Mention, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more, Life in the Magic City:** Are there any real Housewives of Miami?, Susan Kahn.

**Milton Times, Milton, MA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Coping with Cancer Changes Body Mind and Spirit, Pat Desmond.** Judges' Comments: "Difficult story to write. Well done. Been there, too. Good luck."

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**1st place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, Lawyers in Training, Anna Vitale.** Judges' Comments: "The clearly superior entry...well-paced, well-written, authoritative."

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**1st place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 'One day at a time', Karen Elshout.** Judges' Comments: "The photos really told the story on this one!"

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, \$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."

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**2nd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999, 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."

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**2nd place, Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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!"

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**3rd place, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**3rd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, Occupied, Karen Elshout.** Judges' Comments: "Love the photos!"

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000, \$358,527,186.00, Karen Elshout.** Judges' Comments: "Love the cheesing lawyers. Nice crop!"

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, Slam Dunk, Richard Jackoway.**

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

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

**Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO**

**Honorable Mention, Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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!"

**Mobridge Tribune, Mobridge, SD**

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, Opinions Page, Katie Zerr,, Betty Street, Christine Goldsmith.** Judges' Comments: "Down home and old-fashioned. Conveys a sense of community."

**Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

**3rd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, 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."

**Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Occam's 9/11, Earl Brechlin.** Judges' Comments: "Well written -- compelling argument -- interesting approach--compassionate, and timely."

**Mount Olive Chronicle, Chester, NJ**

**2nd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, New world for boy with autism, Phil Garber.** Judges' Comments: "Written with great feeling and insight"

**Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM**

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999, 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."

**Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Things Could Be Worse So Appreciate Your Life, Rory McClannahan.** Judges' Comments: "Well-written, strong story."

**Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, Runner, 22, Was an Inspiration, Harold Smith. Judges' Comments:** "A fitting tribute to a fallen former athlete. Very touching."

**Mountain Xpress, Asheville, NC**

**2nd place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

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**Mountain Xpress, Asheville, NC**

**2nd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**The New Era, Parker, SD**

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000, 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."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**1st place, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, 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."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**2nd place, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, The spoils of deconstruction, Molly Walker. Judges' Comments:** "Good way of showcasing a less-known way of recycling by reusing reclaimed building materials."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**2nd place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, Discover Yamhill Valley, Dan Shryock, Chris Miles, Staff. Judges' Comments:** "Great design and photos, amazing advertising support."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999, 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."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**3rd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**News-Register, McMinnville, OR**

**3rd place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more, 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."

**North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA**

**1st place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, Catch of the day, Jim Turley. Judges' Comments:** "Amazing action shot that is artistic, compelling and simplistic."



**North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA**

**1st place, Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA**

**2nd place, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

**The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA**

**2nd place, Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division, Best Headline Writing, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "Good use of large headlines and good mix of fonts."

**The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA**

**2nd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA**

**3rd place, Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division, Best Use of Color, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "Multiple sections each had an interesting composition of color used in unique ways."

**The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS**

**1st place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS**

**1st place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID**

**1st place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID**

**2nd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."

**The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX**

**3rd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

***The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, 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!"

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**1st place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*, 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."

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**2nd place**, *Best Feature Story, Daily Division*, 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!"

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**2nd place**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*, 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."

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**2nd place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more*, 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."

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more*, 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."

***Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*, 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."

***The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*, 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."

***The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL***

**1st place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000*, 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!"

***The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000*, Paving the Way!, Jeff Egbert.

**Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN**

**2nd place, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000, Recycling in Pipestone County, Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: "Loses on research and writing but a real close second."**

**Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN**

**2nd place, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."**

**Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN**

**2nd place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, Ned, I owe you an apology, Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: "Consistently funny and hit all the current technological buzz spots uniquely."**

**Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN**

**3rd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."**

**Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN**

**3rd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."**

**Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA**

**2nd place, Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000, 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."**

**Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA**

**2nd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."**

**The Polk County Itemizer Observer, Dallas, OR**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000, Charley, We'll Miss You, Pete Strong. Judges' Comments: "Great photo. Good composition."**

**Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX**

**1st place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999, 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."**

**Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM**

**1st place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."**

**Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Fatal DWI Case Jeopardized, Lou Mattei, Robert B. Trapp.**

**Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY**

**2nd place, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more, 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."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**1st place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more, 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."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**2nd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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)."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**2nd place, Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more, 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"

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more, 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."

**Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division, House of cards, Ross Mayfield.** Judges' Comments: "Immensely detailed drawing, great work by the artist."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**2nd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**2nd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, 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."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**3rd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**3rd place, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Editorial Pages, Michael Dashiell, Editor. Judges' Comments:** "Good editorial to match the cartoon --a variety of subjects and very community oriented."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999, 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."

**The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA**

**2nd place, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA**

**2nd place, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000 or more, 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."

**The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA**

**2nd place, Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division, 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."

**The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA**

**3rd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division, 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."

***The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA***

**3rd place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999,** The Chase: 2011 Santa Clarita Valley Football Preview, Staff. Judges' Comments: "Unique approach on the same old thing. Good design and photos."

***Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA***

**1st place, Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division,** 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."

***Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA***

**1st place, Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division,** 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."

***Sparta Independent, Chester, NY***

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999,** 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."

***The Splash Liberty Lake's Community Newspaper, Liberty Lake, WA***

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more,** 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."

***The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO***

**3rd place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more,** Diversity, A Business Imperative, Staff. Judges' Comments: "A multi-section piece that covers many areas of business and industry; centering on individual stories."

***The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO***

**Honorable Mention, Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division,** www.stlamerican.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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**1st place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999,** 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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**1st place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999,** 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!"

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**2nd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, Creamed for Relay, Dale Gentry. Judges' Comments:** "Great facial reaction at the peak moment."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**3rd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, Not the best thing I've tasted, Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments:** "The two different faces tell the story."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**3rd place, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**3rd place, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**3rd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999, 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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999, 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."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN***

**Honorable Mention, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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!"

***Staples World, Staples, MN***

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999, 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."

***The Taos News, Taos, NM***

**2nd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

***The Taos News, Taos, NM***

**2nd place, Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999, Beekeeping, Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments:** "Minimalist in its approach, this essay had us swatting at bees. Outstanding dominant photo!"

***The Taos News, Taos, NM***

**3rd place, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

***The Taos News, Taos, NM***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more*, Nuclear reaction, Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments: "The composition helps make this a strong image"

***The Taos News, Taos, NM***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more*, 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."

***The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY***

**1st place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more*, Nutcrackers, Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Great job of capturing moment and faces. Would have liked to see it cropped just a little tighter, maybe cutting out two girls at right. Nonetheless, still the best of class."

***The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY***

**3rd place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more*, Raising Maisy, Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Very moving. What a way to tell the story of this family's struggle."

***The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more*, 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"

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***

**1st place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division*, 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."

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***

**1st place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division*, 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."

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***

**2nd place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division*, Bank on the Brink: Facing the recession's challenges (7/16/11); Bank on the Brink: Citizens Bank looking for 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."

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***

**3rd place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*, 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."

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***

**3rd place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more*, 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."

***The Union, Grass Valley, CA***



**Honorable Mention, Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division, It Takes A Village Idiot by R.L. Crabb, R.L. Crabb.** Judges' Comments: "Funny twist on America's annual Occupy event."

**Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM**

**1st place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM**

**2nd place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, Space heater to blame for mobile home fire in Belen, Julia M. Dendinger.** Judges' Comments: "I love the silhouette of the firefighter"

**Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM**

**Honorable Mention, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more, 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."

**Vermont Woman, South Hero, VT**

**3rd place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI**

**1st place, Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI**

**2nd place, Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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!"

**The Villager, Greenwood Village, CO**

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

**Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Richmond, VA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999, 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."

**Walsh County Record, Grafton, ND**

**Honorable Mention, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999, History Made, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "Good use of photos, great for the reader."

**Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**1st place, Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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!"

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**1st place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Missourian (113 Best Local News Coverage), STAFF.**

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**1st place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**2nd place, Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**3rd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**3rd place, Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, We All Live Downstream, Karen Cernich, Jeanne Miller Wood.**

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**3rd place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, Leimkuehler Flies, Bill Battle.** Judges' Comments: "Great "up" action. Your pixs were all really nice images. Good job."

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Micro in Size, Big in Flavor, Karen Cernich.** Judges' Comments: "Good job"

**Washington Missourian, Washington, MO**

**Honorable Mention, Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 107 Best Editorial Pages, Staff.** Judges' Comments: "Great editorial throughout. Living in Utah, we don't often see such hard hitting at the government."

**West Point News, West Point, NE**

**1st place, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000, 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."

**West Point News, West Point, NE**

**Honorable Mention, Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000**, 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."

**Wilson County News, Floresville, TX**

**3rd place, Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division, Sports & Outdoors**, Taryn Smith-Morales. Judges' Comments: "Good variety of sports coverage. Front pages are better than most. Writing is good but didn't impress."

**The Windsor Times, Sebastopol, CA**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000**, Windsor resident developing wine country phone apps, Robin Hug. Judges' Comments: "Solid if not dramatic look at a local business."

**The Winters Express, Winters, CA**

**1st place, Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000**, 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"

**The Winters Express, Winters, CA**

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

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**1st place, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999**, 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."

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**1st place, Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000**, 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!"

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**2nd place, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, Wise reflections, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Difficult to place this as second because actually is more visually appealing to me than is first place, however, technical skills and zoom were considered. Also a truly beautiful photograph"

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**3rd place, Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**, Fire blazes path of destruction, Brandon Evans. Judges' Comments: "Great coverage on a major event that impacted so many in your area."

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**3rd place, Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX**

**Honorable Mention, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999, Sliding in to out, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments:** "Another strong image of peak action in a strong field of finalists. Great color/light."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Feature Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Special News- Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**1st place, Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**2nd place, Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**2nd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division, Pioneer learning, Aerin Curtis. Judges' Comments:** "Great descriptive detail. Well researched and inclusive of many detailed aspects of education. Nice job."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**3rd place, Best Business Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**3rd place, Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**3rd place, Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**Honorable Mention, Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more, Remembering Isaac Salas, Ian St. Clair.** Judges' Comments: "Took a lot of work to write this. Must have taken a toll on the author."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**3rd place, Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**3rd place, Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**3rd place, Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, 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."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**Honorable Mention, Best Business Story, Daily Division, 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."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**Honorable Mention, Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division, USD Group Spreading Suicide Awareness, Randy Dockendorf.** Judges' Comments: "Excellent story on a fine educational cause. Good job."

**Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD**

**Honorable Mention, Best Feature Story, Daily Division, You Can Go Home Again, Randy Dockendorf.** Judges' Comments: "Excellent story with a subject that shared an amazing story."