

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



2013

Better Newspaper Contest WINNERS

(Winners listed A-Z by category).

Note: Winners must remain members in good standing with NNA through Sept. 2013 to remain eligible for this year's awards.

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

First Place

Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH. Entry Title: Jacob's Story: Dreams and determination. Credit(s): Kristy Foster Seachrist. Judges' Comments: "Very touching story. Well told and moving. A story of hope for the future."

Second Place

The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS. Entry Title: Prairie burn. Credit(s): Paul Harris. Judges' Comments: "A unique take on an issue. This shows the other side of the story."

Third Place

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN. Entry Title: A farming legacy lost. Credit(s): Steve Marion. Judges' Comments: "Unfortunately this story is being told everywhere. This article gave an inside view and personal reflection to the loss of the family farm."

Honorable Mention

Community Impact Newspaper/San Marcos/Buda/Kyle Edition, Pflugerville, TX. Entry Title: Agency says food costs to rise in 2012. Credit(s): Annie Drabicky. Judges' Comments: "Helpful information for the consumer."

Honorable Mention

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: A food revolution. Credit(s): Laura Brown, Brett Bentley. Judges' Comments: "You want to learn about agriculture today, this article tells you where to go."

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

First Place

Allegan County News, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Burned out: Crop damage makes life even harder for county's migrant workers. Credit(s): Tim Keith. Judges' Comments: "This reporter dug deeper to discover the impact poor field conditions have on the workers whose livelihoods depend on good crops. The social undertones of this story are too hard to ignore."

Second Place

The Polk County Itemizer Observer, Dallas, OR. Entry Title: Soaring to the rescue. Credit(s): Jolene Guzman. Judges' Comments: "Storytelling elevated this entry near the top. It brought to life the enterprising spirit to solve a problem for others and provide a livelihood for oneself."

Third Place

North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA. Entry Title: Fertilizer plant faces scrutiny. Credit(s): Jeff Montgomery. Judges' Comments: "Huge issues given a thorough airing with coverage of a public hearing. The resources devoted to the issue was impressive."

Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI. Entry Title: November 14, 2012 Local farmer speeds the plow. Credit(s): Jeff Brown. Judges' Comments: "This story was elegant and touched on something with which most readers can connect."

Honorable Mention

Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA. Entry Title: Elk growth threatens seashore zoning. Credit(s): Summer Brennan. Judges' Comments: "Well-researched story aims to show that the current controversy is not new. It may show it is possible to learn from the past to correct a current problem."

Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division

First Place

East Oregonian, Pendleton, OR. Entry Title: Five die in fiery crash. Credit(s): EJ Harris. Judges' Comments: "Captured the scene. Tragic event but photo was well done."

Second Place

Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL. Entry Title: House Fire. Credit(s): Patrick Leonard. Judges' Comments: "Great job of capturing the essence of the event."

Third Place

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Without seatbelts, people go flying. Credit(s): Jack Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Having the helicopter in the photo turned this from an average news breaking photo into a prize-winning photo."

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

First Place

The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME Credit(s): Dean Kotula. Judges' Comments: "Great timing, strong emotion win out. The despair on the woman's face as the blaze rages behind her says it all. Great picture."

Second Place

The Dundalk Eagle, Dundalk, MD. Entry Title: Heaven is Weeping. Credit(s): Bill Gates. Judges' Comments: "I've seen many similar photos from other vigils and this one just captures your attention. It's intimate, it's heartfelt and really captures the moment. Great lighting and composition."

Third Place

Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA. Entry Title: Misery. Credit(s): David Normand. Judges' Comments: "Shot truly captures the absurdity of the flood disaster. It's just an engaging tableau, a frank, in-your-face this-is-our-life-now shot. Drives home the event."

Honorable Mention

Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA. Entry Title: Heck Yea!. Credit(s): Jolice Provost. Judges' Comments: "This may be just an overturned truck, but I could not stop going back to consider this picture. It just makes you giggle. I just like it."

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

First Place

The Salem Leader, Salem, IN. Entry Title: Tornado devastates Pekin. Credit(s): Stephanie Taylor Ferriell. Judges' Comments: "Good variety of images with this package, good play of the lead image, which also has firefighters in it to provide scale. Good composition, good layering. The secondary images add information without being redundant."

Second Place

Hood County News, Granbury, TX. Entry Title: Swift water peril. Credit(s): Mary Vinson. Judges' Comments: "Photographer seemed to have good access and waited for a good moment. Good framing, good crop."

Third Place

Sonoma Index-Tribune, Sonoma, CA. Entry Title: Fire South Valley. Judges' Comments: "Good framing in the lead photo, good of photographer to get in close. Secondary photo is good information to add to the package. Good photos despite having missed the peak action."

Honorable Mention

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN. Entry Title: Trucker trapped in I-40 wreck. Credit(s): Steve Marion.

Honorable Mention

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN. Entry Title: Driver killed. Credit(s): Steve Marion.

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

First Place

The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford, WI. Entry Title: Carried to safety. Credit(s): Kevin O'Brien. Judges' Comments: "This photograph is outstanding, conveying the urgency of the situation. It portrays a sense of the brotherhood of firefighters, as well. The busy background helps further the sense of an emergency in progress."

Second Place

Gasconade County Republican, Owensville, MO. Entry Title: Fully engulfed. Credit(s): Dave Marnner. Judges' Comments: "The clarity of this picture makes the reader almost feel the heat of the flames. The depth of the picture is essential, as well, and the photographer framed this perfectly so that the reader feels like as if he or she is standing right there with the firefighter in the foreground."

Third Place

Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX. Entry Title: Spin cycle. Judges' Comments: "I love the way this picture gives the reader a sense of flying. The cloudy background and silhouetted rider seem almost like a painting. The bikers on the ground in the background are tiny, providing an interesting perspective and feeling of being part of the action."

Honorable Mention

Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX. Entry Title: Hopeless battle. Credit(s): Russel Skiles.

Honorable Mention

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME. Entry Title: Switch sparks bathroom blaze. Credit(s): Earl Brechlin.

Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division

First Place

Daily Times Herald, Carroll, IA. Entry Title: Half of a Family Gone. Credit(s): Jared Strong. Judges' Comments: "Concise, compelling writing. Strong on human connection with family and responders."

Second Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD. Entry Title: The Thirty-Eight. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "The facts are inherently interesting and compelling, but are more so thanks to Dockendorf's writing."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Driving so crazy. Credit(s): Claudia Lopez, Chuck Bostwick. Judges' Comments: "A comprehensive report; reporters Lopez and Bostwick are on it. Good use of eye witness accounts. Excellent photo."

Honorable Mention

Daily Times Herald, Carroll, IA. Entry Title: Attorney General botches kidnapping case, charges dropped. Credit(s): Jared Strong. Judges' Comments: "Interesting account of the facts, though not especially compelling."

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

First Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Occupy Wall Street Protest Far From the Crowd. Credit(s): Juliet Hindell. Judges' Comments: "Well-written, engaging story."

Second Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: At New Station Problems Persist. Credit(s): Jessica Terrell. Judges' Comments: "Exposing a community problem."

Third Place

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: Isleta ordinance required background checks. Credit(s): Ungelbah Daniel-Davila. Judges' Comments: "Good discussion generated by interviews."

Honorable Mention

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Pier 40 in Crisis. Credit(s): Jessica Terrell. Judges' Comments: "Nice piece."

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

First Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Police suspect homicide in convent fire. Credit(s): Chandra Johnson. Judges' Comments: "Chandra Johnson's story wasn't among my very top choices the first time I went through the entries, but in the end, she presented the most engaging report of a local news event. From the lead on through to the end, it was a well-written account."

Second Place

The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME. Entry Title: Son Kills Father, Uncle, Then Is Shot by Police. Credit(s): Jacqueline Weaver. Judges' Comments: "Jacqueline Weaver is obviously a solid writer with great reporting skills."

She came through with a very strong account of a local tragedy. It was a tough choice selecting first and second place."

Third Place

The Salem Leader, Salem, IN. Entry Title: Tornado Extra. Judges' Comments: "Stephanie Ferriell got out into the community to speak with a lot of people following the storm. There were many stories to tell and she found a lot of them."

Honorable Mention

Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY. Entry Title: Man charged in kidnapping. Credit(s): Mark Heinz, Heidi Hansen.

Honorable Mention

Hood County News, Granbury, TX. Entry Title: Sheriff: Underage drinking fatality case likely to bring multiple charges.

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

First Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: Apartment fire leaves 13 homeless. Credit(s): Terry Davis. Judges' Comments: " This was difficult to judge, but 'Apartment fire leaves 13 homeless,' came out on top. Superior work by both reporters/photographers. Excellent job of laying out the happenings in an informative and easy-to-read manner. The history of that building was excellent, along with info on when building had last been inspected and other large fires in that area over past few years. Great use of quotes from firefighters and police. Super job of interviewing tenants. Art was also exceptional, the building diagram added to the weight of this story. You're the best."

Second Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: Tragedy by the Tracks. Credit(s): Brandon Evans, Joe Duty, Jimmy Alford. Judges' Comments: " Excellent job of reporting, and research. Superior job of telling the young man's story and the dangers of anyone wearing earbuds and walking on railroad tracks. Stories by Brandon Evans excellent, and the sidebar, 'Earbuds mark disturbing trend,' was great, along with map of U.S. showing pedestrian train deaths, and added to the impact of the sorrowful story about the lost of a teenager. Quotes from coach/teacher and others warmed the story. Other tragedies at that site also moved this story. You did a great job of telling the story in an organized way."

Third Place

Western News, Libby, MT. Entry Title: Stinger CEO Dies in Plane Crash. Credit(s): Alan Gerstenecker, Ryan Murray, Matt Bunk, Paul Sievers. Judges' Comments: "This newspaper crew went above and beyond in difficult weather. Excellent job of telling the story and getting information that I'm sure wasn't easy to come by in some cases. The timeline of events was outstanding. Photos and art superior. Wish there had been three first places."

Honorable Mention

The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ. Entry Title: Frightening Sage crash. Credit(s): Bob Burns. Judges' Comments: "It's a car wreck, but written so well. Bob Burns leads the reader through the story well and in a readable, logical order (which other entries didn't do). Art was exceptional and added to telling the story."

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

First Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA. Entry Title: Tragedy at Sea. Credit(s): Kevin Hessel, Deirdre McCrohan, Teri Roney. Judges' Comments: " An exemplary effort of how to meet the challenge of a true breaking news story with a tight deadline. The tragic event began unfolding Sunday and the newspaper had a Monday deadline to be on the newsstands Tuesday. Mission accomplished with quality results. Well-organized and well-written story with added impact from the headlines and graphics. And the story set an example for the dailies and national writers by apparently being the only one with all eight names spelled correctly and proper bios. Timely, important story to the community and handled in award-winning, professional manner."

Second Place

The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford, WI. Entry Title: A tragedy downtown. Credit(s): Kevin O'Brien, Ben Schultz. Judges' Comments: " An important story with community-wide impact and the sense of tragedy and community reaction is captured in the story. As a reader, I was pulled immediately into the story and found it to be detailed, documented, and filled with story-telling quotes. The headlines tie together the main story and the

sidebar. The range of sources aids the story. With the fire and death occurring on Saturday afternoon and the paper distributed on Wednesday, this story was produced under a compelling deadline. Quality work."

Third Place

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: Winning GOP candidate ran in safe district, but hangs his hat in Dem stronghold. Judges' Comments: "An apparently fraudulently elected representative certainly is a timely story of interest and importance to the community. The lead is direct, informative and the headline helps pull reader to the story. Key players in the story are contacted or interviewed, and the facts presented are well documented. Story is organized well and written well. A strong example of a solid news story in which reporter did a fine job of research and investigation."

Honorable Mention

The Park County Republican & Fairplay Flume, Salida, CO. Entry Title: Intermountain Humane Society investigation file released. Credit(s): Mike Potter. Judges' Comments: "A complicated and, no doubt, controversial situation. Story answers many questions about the situation, but also raises many questions. Extremely detailed with much documentation and multiple sources. Reads well for a complex situation."

Honorable Mention

The Times, Blooming Prairie, MN. Entry Title: Best Breaking News Story. Credit(s): Rick Bussler, Annie Anderson. Judges' Comments: "A controversial, but timely, story that definitely has community interest and impact. Headline and lead pull reader into the story, which is well-documented and supported with a variety of sources. Story holds together well."

Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division

First Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: How was BPI slimed? Slow reaction blamed. Credit(s): Dave Dreeszen. Judges' Comments: "Very interesting, both from a business standpoint and from a media standpoint. Just well done overall."

Second Place

The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS. Entry Title: The new kids on the block. Credit(s): Burk Krohe. Judges' Comments: "The writer does a nice job of letting us feel the excitement of these young entrepreneurs."

Third Place

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: Keep on truckin': Multimillion-dollar business in its 63rd year. Credit(s): Cory Fisher, John Hart. Judges' Comments: "Starts out looking like it's going to be a schmaltzy family story, but the salty old owner's quotes keep it peppy -- and were used well to give a sense of the business personality."

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

First Place

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX. Entry Title: Business is Brewing. Credit(s): Kevin King. Judges' Comments: "Great article! Such attention to detail and every aspect of this business! Readers now know that beer is big business."

Second Place

Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO. Entry Title: The Hat maker. Credit(s): Dale Shrull. Judges' Comments: "This is a story to treasure. A wonderful article about a unique trade."

Third Place

Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY. Entry Title: Striking 'white gold' with a mining business (Profile of American Rock Salt co-CEO Joseph Bucci). Credit(s): Will Astor. Judges' Comments: "A great profile about a unique family business."

Honorable Mention

Myrtle Beach Herald, Conway, SC. Entry Title: Mr. Clarence's magic. Credit(s): Charles Perry. Judges' Comments: "Great piece of local history and legend."

Honorable Mention

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Stalled Jackie Robinson Museum. Credit(s): Jessica Terrell. Judges' Comments: "Bringing a community cause to readers."

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

First Place

The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA. Entry Title: Back from the depths. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "Very well written. Good presentation. Good headline. Great story of a small business refusing to give up when down. Just reading it instills confidence! Writer did great job of portraying emotions of the business ups and downs."

Second Place

Blaine-Spring Lake Park Life, Coon Rapids, MN. Entry Title: Blaine man's audio restoration business is taking off. Credit(s): Elyse Kaner. Judges' Comments: "Great story of man's perseverance and later success with his unusual audio restoration business. Well written. Perfect tone for the story."

Third Place

Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN. Entry Title: Business casts positive light on Litchfield. Credit(s): Jenny Berg. Judges' Comments: "Interesting. Well written. Nice display. Good headline. Story needed more 'personality' of the subjects."

Honorable Mention

The Commercial Record, Saugatuck, MI. Entry Title: Virtue Cider plants Fennville roots. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan.

Best Business Story, Daily Division

First Place

The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI. Entry Title: Give 'em credit. Credit(s): Beth Kevit. Judges' Comments: "Fascinating twist on a complex issue. Writing style flows well for readers."

Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: More doctors leave practices for hospital. Credit(s): Becky Orr. Judges' Comments: "Detailed piece outlines clear impact of change for health professionals."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: F-35: Bargain or boondoggle?. Credit(s): Jim Skeen. Judges' Comments: "Comprehensive story outlines financial impact and provides clear information for readers."

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

First Place

Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY. Entry Title: How Kodak lost its way: Strategic choices over 30 years put firm on path to Chapter 11. Credit(s): Mike Dickinson. Judges' Comments: "Fascinating story unfolds the economic demise of a popular company. Packed with details."

Second Place

The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO. Entry Title: CORTEX admits no inclusion plan for 15k jobs. Judges' Comments: "Hard-hitting business story reveals financial impact."

Third Place

Miami Today, Miami, FL. Entry Title: Magic City Casino, which takes in \$1 billion-plus in slots.... Credit(s): Scott Blake. Judges' Comments: "This laid-back story provides a detailed look at the topic while exploring the financial aspects."

Honorable Mention

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX. Entry Title: Jobs... for some. Credit(s): Jennifer Johnson. Judges' Comments: "This is a multi-dimensional story that digs into the details of the topic."

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

First Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: This Bud's for Two. Credit(s): Richard Jackoway. Judges' Comments: "This entry provides a wealth of background information as it delves into the history of a famous company and its legal woes."

Second Place

The Chaffee County Times, Buena Vista, CO. Entry Title: Selling the future of cell in Chaffee. Credit(s): Maisie Ramsay. Judges' Comments: "Comprehensive look at a timely topic from multiple perspectives."

Third Place

North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA. Entry Title: Pizza Wars. Credit(s): Jeff Montgomery. Judges' Comments: "Wide interest and clear economic impact of a story happening in communities across the nation."

Honorable Mention

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME. Entry Title: Mining the glass eel gold rush on MDI. Credit(s): Emerson Whitney. Judges' Comments: "Fully explored topic educates readers about this vital industry."

Best Editorial, Daily Division

First Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: We must stop bullying.. Credit(s): Mitch Pugh. Judges' Comments: "Good, clear writing and call for action on a national issue that has particularly hit home with this community."

Second Place

Clovis News Journal, Clovis, NM. Entry Title: Respect for all result of Portales prayer decision. Credit(s): David Stevens. Judges' Comments: "Brief but clear and concise reason behind stance on a religious issue that obviously is important to this and many other communities."

Third Place

The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI. Entry Title: City strips Silk of its rights. Credit(s): Chris Thompson. Judges' Comments: "Good writing brings attention to politicians focusing on re-election rather than handling business properly."

Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Capital gains. Credit(s): Reed Eckhardt. Judges' Comments: "Lots of good information and arguments but tends to get very long."

Best Editorial, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

First Place

Miami Today, Miami, FL. Entry Title: Jungle Island jobs eerily reminiscent of Marlins' Ballpark. Credit(s): Michael Lewis. Judges' Comments: " Lewis made my blood boil as far away as Texas. It was clear from his first sentence how Lewis felt about this deal and exactly what odor was emanating from it. The last graph wrapped it up so neatly that all the reader needed to do was carry it out to the dumpster, which is where it clearly belonged."

Second Place

Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA. Entry Title: Grandstand fizzles again. Credit(s): Mike Dowty. Judges' Comments: "Dowty uses his editorial scalpel to pare this political puzzler down to bite-size for the reader while at the same time, carving up Gov. Jindal's budgetary maneuvering with surgical precision."

Third Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Who deserves to have their names on the county complex?. Credit(s): Joan Livingston. Judges' Comments: "The commissioners' crass attempt to pay tribute to themselves is brought to shameful light in this blunt editorial."

Best Editorial, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999

First Place

Sonoma Index-Tribune, Sonoma, CA. Entry Title: A question of time, space and chance?. Credit(s): David Bolling. Judges' Comments: " I really like the tone of this editorial, which compels the reader with its simple, dramatic rendering of the tragic scenario, and then offers common sense notes on potential contributing factors from the vantage point of resident, layman and frequent observer."

Second Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Time for real solutions to PERS excess. Credit(s): Jeb Bladine, Cassie Sollars. Judges' Comments: "A calm, dispassionate but well-reasoned argument for reform of public retirement benefit program, that strikes just the right balance of opinion and supporting fact to take on what is surely a hot-button issue."

Third Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Taxing times for tourism trade. Credit(s): Steve Bagwell. Judges' Comments: "An editorial nudge and pat on the back, encouraging the council's possible imposition of a visitor lodging tax, with figures to back up the concept. Nice approach to an effective argument."

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. Entry Title: Best Editorial Northport meetings. Credit(s): Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: "A straightforward, politely stated plea for civility...and always worth doing."

Best Editorial, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

First Place

North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA. Entry Title: Impressions: Why can't we count the votes?. Credit(s): Bill Tubbs. Judges' Comments: "Bill Tubbs examines the political and economic impact of Iowa's first-in-the-nation status in the nation's primary elections, discusses problems that occurred in the most recent elections, and issues a wake-up call to everyone involved. Tubbs cites facts and figures and names names, while keeping the tone civil and the discussion thoughtful."

Second Place

Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA. Entry Title: Heard of cyberbaiting?. Credit(s): Editorial Board. Judges' Comments: "This editorial draws attention to the other side of the story, one concerning a local teacher who was fired after being caught on video responding, inappropriately, to what may have been a form of harassment or bullying by a student. The editorial quotes, directly or indirectly, officials involved with the case and alerts readers to a new tactic that seems to place teachers and other caretakers at an unfair disadvantage."

Third Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: Oversized garages. Credit(s): Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "As Hanneman's well-researched editorial points out, zoning regulations aren't an issue until there's a problem. Hanneman captures readers with an allusion to a late-night celebrity's car collection, clearly outlines the questions involved, and brings the narrative full circle with a closing allusion to the same celebrity."

Honorable Mention

El Defensor Chieftain, Socorro, NM. Entry Title: Consider third-party candidates. Credit(s): Elva Osterreich. Judges' Comments: "Presidential and other ballots generally have many more than just two or three names listed, but mainstream media tends to focus only on the top contenders. Osterreich spotlights some of the other candidates, raising questions of what effects omission of coverage has on our political system."

Best Editorial, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

First Place

The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA. Entry Title: Assurance. Credit(s): Caroline Titus. Judges' Comments: "Excellent paced, well written and exposes a conflict between cronyism and freedom of the press. Newspapers can and should shine the light of public scrutiny where it needs to be shone."

Second Place

Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA. Entry Title: This can't be swept under the rug. Credit(s): Tess Elliott. Judges' Comments: "Strong writing, brave (controversial) stance defending the underdog against big government. Shines the light of public scrutiny where it needs to be shone."

Third Place

The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA. Entry Title: Whose child is this?. Credit(s): Caroline Titus. Judges' Comments: "Compelling calling out of a school and a community for failure to follow their own policies. Well-written and appropriately outraged at how a bullying incident was handled."

Honorable Mention

Countywide & Sun, Tecumseh, OK. Entry Title: Just Fix It. Credit(s): Wayne Trotter. Judges' Comments: "Well-argued and apt. Makes good points clearly, arguments presented logically."

Honorable Mention

Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg, AK. Entry Title: The cost of lost opportunities. Credit(s): Ron Loesch. Judges' Comments: "Strong clear writing that presents voters with the information they need for an important vote."

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

First Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Viewpoints. Credit(s): Jeb Bladine, Steve Bagwell, Ossie Bladine, Nicole Montesano, Marna Porath. Judges' Comments: "Great opening topic brings develops local angle/impact on larger issue. Lots of viewpoints and letters. Good design."

Second Place

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: Ideas & Opinions: Nov. 2, 2012; Nov. 3, 2012. Credit(s): Stephanie Shaire, Cory Fisher, Brian Hamilton. Judges' Comments: "Another really good entry with good design, various viewpoints with local impact, and variety of letters."

Third Place

The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Good mix of editorial, commentary and letters, with focus on local, state and national issues."

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

First Place

West Point News, West Point, NE Credit(s): Willis Mahannah. Judges' Comments: "All elements for outstanding editorial page are here: Local editorials, cartoon (but not local), local columnist, government columnists, letters, an op-ed page when needed, excellent design."

Second Place

The Times, Blooming Prairie, MN Credit(s): Rick Bussler. Judges' Comments: "Not the prettiest editorial page in the contest, but it's the one that best meets the criteria: 'Evidence of leadership in the community through the newspaper's editorial page...' Outstanding editorial on Prairie Manor. Good local column. Letters. Online poll question ties in with editorial. In-state cartoonist. Work on your design next."

Third Place

Cedar County News, Hartington, NE Credit(s): Rob Dump, Peggy Year. Judges' Comments: "Strong pages. Good editorials, good local columnists, great to have local editorial cartoons, good extra features. Everything well-written. Editorials should be anchored in same position week-to-week. Spaced-out headlines awkward."

Honorable Mention

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN Judges' Comments: "Beautifully designed editorial pages. First Amendment printed at top. Local editorials (though these two subjects weren't the meatiest). Photos even for reader letters. Writers of editorials identified. Online poll results. Could use a local columnist."

Honorable Mention

Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Full color, non-traditional design. Editorial six columns across top of page behind a tint block. Editorials on meatier subjects than many of the entries. In-state cartoons, full color. Good letters."

Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: We have a bullying problem. Credit(s): Aerin Curtis. Judges' Comments: "Strong graphic design supports an extremely important subject. Writer approaches the bullying problem head-on with solid research and strong statistical support."

Second Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Palmdale's Youth Job Academy. Credit(s): Alisha Semchuck. Judges' Comments: "Well-written three-part series focusing on an exceptional program and a great community asset."

Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD. Entry Title: Wagner Student. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Wonderful story of a great program, a teacher's encouragement and an ambitious student taking full advantage of both."

Honorable Mention

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Donating gives these students the gift of empathy. Credit(s): Julie Drake. Judges' Comments: "Highlighting a great program that shows there is more to learning than just what is in the textbooks."

Honorable Mention

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: Changing landscape of education. Credit(s): Christopher Rosacker, Kim Midboe, John Hart. Judges' Comments: "Great graphics accompaniment. Took dry material and made it interesting. But some poor proofreading kept this from one of the top three spots."

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

First Place

Community Impact Newspaper/Round Rock Pflu/Hutto, Pflugerville, TX. Entry Title: Return to Veterans' Hill. Credit(s): JP Eichmiller. Judges' Comments: "I thought this piece started a bit slow, but was won over by the depth of serious analysis of the problem. That was solid work."

Second Place

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: Low Incidence, High Results. Judges' Comments: "A wonderful look inside this special needs classroom."

Third Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: New day, new school. Credit(s): Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "Classic 'first day of school' format that was well-executed. I wrestled with the layering but found it not to be a drawback."

Honorable Mention

Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA. Entry Title: Teacher feature: All abuzz. Credit(s): Jamie Webb. Judges' Comments: "The enthusiasm of the kids shown through. A few technical flaws -- notably run-on quotes -- hurt it a bit."

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

First Place

Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA. Entry Title: Smart art: Who can ask the value?. Credit(s): JP Crumrine. Judges' Comments: "Well-written story on a unique program, smARTS. This was the complete package: solid writing, great photo accompaniment, strong layout design and placement."

Second Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: School day grandmas. Credit(s): Jorge Sosa. Judges' Comments: "Great education reporting. Important story could have impact in other communities. 'Foster Grandparent' volunteer program helps to complement teachers' efforts."

Third Place

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY. Entry Title: Memories + Education. Judges' Comments: "Well-written education story with great interest to students past, present and future. Good community newspaper education reporting."

Honorable Mention

The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN. Entry Title: Spanier Elected President; Of Third Grade. Judges' Comments: "Wonderfully written story showing how one school is closing the textbook and providing its students with real life instruction. This community should be proud of its school."

Honorable Mention

Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN. Entry Title: The power of ICU. Credit(s): Kyle Kuphal. Judges' Comments: "Great story on a fresh educational program. Important to let the community know that its secondary school is 'thinking outside the box.'"

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

First Place

Community Impact Newspaper-Tomball/Magnolia Edition, Pflugerville, TX. Entry Title: Surface water conversion efforts raise questions. Credit(s): Shawn Arrajj. Judges' Comments: "This story has environmental, economic and political dimensions; it's well-researched and written clearly, and it sounds like the writer is somewhat familiar with the community. Quotes or anecdotes from citizens could have made more engaging."

Second Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: Missed the target. Credit(s): Shelly Cone. Judges' Comments: "This is an important environmental story; better organization and editing could have more effectively conveyed the main points. The photos and layout are great."

Third Place

Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX. Entry Title: Volente has high hopes for lake's future despite drought conditions. Credit(s): Joe Lanane. Judges' Comments: "An environmental story with a strong economic angle; various points of view are represented."

Honorable Mention

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX. Entry Title: From Trash to Treasure. Credit(s): Kevin King. Judges' Comments: "This story is well-written and a good read, but it also sounds a little promotional."

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

First Place

Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY. Entry Title: Fractured: The Hydrofracking Debate (two-story series). Credit(s): Sally Parker. Judges' Comments: "The reporting, editing and structure of this story is award-winning. Context and explanation of a complex issue through its history in other states is well done."

Second Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Another kind of fallout. Credit(s): Melissa Meinzer. Judges' Comments: "The human side of this story makes it compelling. The complex issues is well framed without being overhyped. Both sides are given equal time in a well-researched and reported story."

Third Place

Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA. Entry Title: Elk growth threatens seashore zoning. Credit(s): Summer Brennan. Judges' Comments: "This was well-researched, but it's not clear why the entire history piece is needed to understand the current issue. Lack of attribution of sources and byline of writer or writers lacks transparency."

Honorable Mention

El Defensor Chieftain, Socorro, NM. Entry Title: Rhodes family creates conservation legacy. Credit(s): Karen Bailey-Bowman. Judges' Comments: "The human element of the issue is brought to life through the family's story."

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

First Place

Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI. Entry Title: Lifestyle. Credit(s): Kathlyn Ogden, Anthony Drew, Gary Ridderbusch. Judges' Comments: "Good range of lifestyles/people news and features; good photos on fronts. Terrific calendar listing of events. Design, layout are standard, but amount of 'news' presents design challenges (but work on updating it, make it fresher). Not nearly as pretty as some of the entries, but has lots more names of local people than some of the prettier entries. Judge values range and scope of lifestyle/living content above visual appeal. Calendar of events, civic organization information critical in this category."

Second Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Siouxland Life May and August 2012. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Excellent section of 'mom' stories; beautiful photos and presentation. Little content beyond 'mom' stuff. 2nd piece a terrific 'fair' section with great photos and features, a few other features on generic topics. No weddings, anniversaries, social events, club news, calendar, things local people 'live,' etc."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Valley Life. Credit(s): Liane Roth. Judges' Comments: "Very nice 'coming up' teaser feature at bottom of well-designed front pages. Good left column of event briefs. Nice photos. A local column would be better than the syndicated one. Lacks personal events, i.e. weddings, anniv., observances. Attractive presentation, design. Get more names/pics of local people doing what they do."

Best Feature Photo, Daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: You know what you're doing, right?. Credit(s): Miranda Grubbs. Judges' Comments: "Great cropping of subject, and her expression tells the story. You can't help but feel her anxiety."

Second Place

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: PEEKABOO. Credit(s): Jack Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Excellent shot that shows great emotion. A tighter crop with just the child and pole would have moved this to first place -- the pole distracts from the subject."

Third Place

East Oregonian, Pendleton, OR. Entry Title: Leave it all on the field. Credit(s): EJ Harris. Judges' Comments: "Wow! Way to capture a fun moment with unbelievable expressions that show these kids were having fun!"

Honorable Mention

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Lanterns atop the deep. Credit(s): Christina Ramos. Judges' Comments: "Good composition that brings the reader into the story. Photographer obviously knew the impact of the photo and captured a way to illustrate it."

Honorable Mention

The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI. Entry Title: Bird (Air) Watching. Credit(s): Kevin Harnack. Judges' Comments: "It's difficult to illustrate a building story but this one has great composition with the lines and lighting."

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

First Place

Cape Gazette, Lewes, DE. Entry Title: Head over heels. Credit(s): Ron MacArthur. Judges' Comments: "Really nice composition and timing on this frame. A fun found moment. This image works in so many ways."

Second Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Getting Ready for the Show. Credit(s): Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Good job of getting behind the scenes of this program. Body language of girls with backs to the camera waiting plays off so well in the girl's expression facing us."

Third Place

The Orland Park Prairie, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: Safe and Sound. Credit(s): Rick Sanchez. Judges' Comments: "Nice moment captured here. Nice newsy image. A nice moment."

Honorable Mention

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Lunch line. Credit(s): Tina Larkin. Judges' Comments: "Good job getting out into the elements for weather feature art. And, good use of the onboard vantage point. Makes the picture."

Honorable Mention

The Universe, Provo, UT. Entry Title: Living planet plans to grow. Credit(s): Chris Bunker. Judges' Comments: "Solid graphic for the story. Nice job on composition and exposure. All images which were finalists were strong contenders."

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

First Place

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN. Entry Title: Dog getting shot. Credit(s): Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: "If animals could talk! This picture makes it seem they can! Timing had to be perfect to get this shot - good job."

Second Place

Sonoma Index-Tribune, Sonoma, CA. Entry Title: Observing Memorial Day. Credit(s): Robbi Pengelly. Judges' Comments: "This picture is so full of emotion. I love pictures that tell a story without having to read the cutline, and this is one! Nice job!"

Third Place

Sonoma Index-Tribune, Sonoma, CA. Entry Title: Joined at the trunk. Credit(s): Bill Hoban. Judges' Comments: "One of the most creative photos I have seen! Timing really is everything - nice job!"

Honorable Mention

The Homer Horizon, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: In mourning. Credit(s): Tristan Zeier. Judges' Comments: "This picture contains so much emotion it is hard to look at it and not ache! This was such a tough category - but this really is a great photo."

Honorable Mention

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA. Entry Title: On strike. Credit(s): Josh Harrell. Judges' Comments: "The photographer had to be quick on the draw to capture this moment! Too cute!"

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

First Place

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV. Entry Title: Fallon's holiday events sizzle. Credit(s): Steve Ranson. Judges' Comments: "Adorable shot!"

Second Place

The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA. Entry Title: Splash down!. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "This facial expression is priceless!"

Third Place

The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA. Entry Title: Talented Pup. Credit(s): Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: "This was a great photo spread and a wonderful shot of the dog!"

Honorable Mention

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: 'Deer' friends on the farm. Credit(s): Jorge Sosa.

Honorable Mention

Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX. Entry Title: Eclipse Watchers. Credit(s): Russel Skiles. Judges' Comments: "Very artistic photo."

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

First Place

Glenrock Independent, Douglas, WY. Entry Title: So long, farewell. Credit(s): Jesse Bishop. Judges' Comments: "This is a great captured moment. Wonderful light, good time, fabulous framing, what other adjectives do I know? This image grabs the reader and pulls them into the story. It's amazingly clean, the definition of K.I.S.S."

Second Place

Cedar County News, Hartington, NE. Entry Title: Splash Down. Credit(s): Morgan Spiels. Judges' Comments: "These are sweet images but the photographer didn't just rely on cute kids to make the photographs good as it's the moments that make these pictures. Ignore the poor reproduction and just enjoy the peak action, smiling faces and good summer fun. Good execution with proper shutter speeds. The use of a long lens allow the kids to ignore the photojournalist and just have a good time."

Third Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Finding Clarity with a Handhold. Credit(s): Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: " The lead photo is very nice, very serene if you're not afraid of heights. Unfortunately the other two are repetitive and don't provide a lot of new information. It would have been better to see a variation in framing and lensing. Get tight for one then get even tighter for another. This entry was hurt by the editing, which might not have been in the photographer's control."

Honorable Mention

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: Gone to pot: medical marijuana on sale. Credit(s): Evan Wyloge. Judges' Comments: " Clean, well-composed, well-executed image., the photographer did a good job with a moment that he/she was able to control. The judge is not a fan of the titled horizon, especially one this radical, which makes the photo uncomfortable to view. But otherwise, the photo technique is nice with a good foreground, good image of the purchaser, and a background that is not distracting."

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

First Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Miracle in Mapleton series. Credit(s): Dave Dreeszen, Nick Hytrek, Tim Gallagher. Judges' Comments: "Many news organizations often lack follow up on stories, but not the case here. Excellent work on a major disaster even a few years after it happened. Miracles do happen!"

Second Place

Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA. Entry Title: Central's Road Crisis; State of Emergency; Kids Pack Courtroom: Moms Lead Fight. Credit(s): Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: "This was a great job of showing what a group of people (moms) is doing with a huge public safety concern. The writers did a great job of explaining the concern and what's being done to handle it."

Third Place

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: Residential burglaries: Sharp spike seen in first six months of 2012. Credit(s): Liz Kellar, Matthew Renda, Christopher Rosacker, Kim Midboe, John Hart. Judges' Comments: "I like this series and how the writers took readers beyond the crime stats. Kudos to the police reporter for keeping tabs on what's going on in the community and reporting on it to make everyone safer."

Honorable Mention

The Murfreesboro Post, Murfreesboro, TN. Entry Title: Surviving child abuse. Credit(s): Michelle Willard. Judges' Comments: "Child abuse is a touchy topic to deal with, but the writer handled it well. This should have been an eye-opener for many."

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

First Place

Daily Times Herald, Carroll, IA. Entry Title: Kenzie's Crash. Credit(s): Jared Strong. Judges' Comments: "Really well written. This series is a glimpse into the event every parent fears. The focus of the article remains the young

woman and her courage, changes in life. The reporter listened and reported her progress, who she was, her trials. A sensitive event came across well. The photos are extraordinary and the layout is inviting."

Second Place

Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA. Entry Title: Eli's Travels. Credit(s): Eli Hamann. Judges' Comments: "Photographers can definitely write and this series is proof that they add so much to a narrative with details they look for. The series is a great idea. The communities must have loved the stories and the beautiful photographs. The consistency in the layout helped a reader identify the series. Bravo."

Third Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Quality Time. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "GREAT stories, all grabbers. And the layouts plus excellent photos grabbed the reader. Wonderful work."

Honorable Mention

The Valley Reporter, Waitsfield, VT. Entry Title: Renovated barns: the Round Barn; Skinner Barn; and barn will house artifacts. Credit(s): Rachel Goff. Judges' Comments: "Lovely stories about barns, a fixture on our landscapes and in change. Believe a locator map of where they are would have been nice for the reader. Good listening and the romance behind the purchases was not lost."

Best Feature Story, Daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: A big night at Big Country. Credit(s): Josh Rhoten. Judges' Comments: "This was really a pleasure to read, taking me into a world I am already familiar with -- small town racetrack -- but showing that you don't need 'big' or 'big time' to make a compelling story."

Second Place

Daily Times Herald, Carroll, IA. Entry Title: Kenzie's Crash. Credit(s): Jared Strong. Judges' Comments: "The writer has a very good narrative style making me forget I was reading a newspaper -- not much higher compliment possible."

Third Place

The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA. Entry Title: Revealing a real Titanic story: Lisa McDougald will tell story of Titanic survivors. Credit(s): Michele E. Buttelman. Judges' Comments: "You put me in the time period and aboard the Titanic."

Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Homecomings that never came. Credit(s): Nick Hytrek. Judges' Comments: "This was an aspect of Memorial Day told many times before, but with fresh insight, taking a required annual story to the level of required reading."

Honorable Mention

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD. Entry Title: With SNL On Break.... Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "I enjoyed getting to peek inside the SNL world and only wished there would have been a little more of the river's lure included."

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

First Place

The Dundalk Eagle, Dundalk, MD. Entry Title: After six decades, a reunion. Credit(s): Nicole Rodman. Judges' Comments: "What an incredible story! I was moved to tears - literally! Very well written - I gave it 10 out of 10 - absolutely loved it!!"

Second Place

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: An Unexpected Family Reunion. Judges' Comments: "What a story! This was so fun to read - with each sentence I was wanting more. Great writing - nice job!"

Third Place

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: One of the Best Kept Secrets. Credit(s): Julia Dendinger. Judges' Comments: "Very well written story about a very important issue. Thank you for tackling this with such candor - good job!"

Honorable Mention

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX. Entry Title: One veteran's journey through the VA. Credit(s): Sharon Brooks. Judges' Comments: "Thank you for bringing this important information to the public's attention! This is a very good story in a really tough category. Nice job!"

Honorable Mention

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: Two Heroes and Two Moms. Credit(s): Clara Garcia. Judges' Comments: "This was such a tough category! I really loved this story, there were just so many good ones. I fell in love with Ferdinand! Nice job."

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

First Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Family torn by deportation. Credit(s): Chandra Johnson. Judges' Comments: "Fascinating story, well written and well structured. Stood out head and shoulders above the rest. Congratulations on great story-telling and excellent writing."

Second Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: We Don't Like Change. Credit(s): April Koral. Judges' Comments: "Great read. Structured and paced just right. Excellent story-telling."

Third Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Tenants Claim Delays After Hurricane Sandy. Credit(s): Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Very interesting piece, very well written and structured."

Honorable Mention

The New Lenox Patriot, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: Dancing with horses. Credit(s): Sean Ostruszka. Judges' Comments: "Nice story, well told."

Honorable Mention

Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA. Entry Title: New documentary highlights musicians' exploration of love and gender. Credit(s): Larry Nichols. Judges' Comments: "Out of the mainstream subject matter made for interesting reading. Well written piece. Well done."

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

First Place

Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO. Entry Title: Give the kid a hand. Credit(s): Dale Shrull.

Second Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA. Entry Title: Off on the right foot. Credit(s): Dan Breen.

Third Place

The Lockport Legend, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: What a laugh. Credit(s): Jon DePaolis.

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

First Place

North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA. Entry Title: From fairy tale to nightmare. Credit(s): Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: "This is one of the most heart wrenching stories I've ever read. It brought tears to my eyes. The writer did an exceptional job in explaining the heart ache this family has endured and also pointed out how God worked in their lives to prevent this from becoming even a greater tragedy. Nicely done!"

Second Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: Life Minus One. Credit(s): Brandon Evans, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "A close second. The writer tackled a tough topic to write about, but handled it admirably. I'm glad this writer didn't stray away from suicide like so many others do."

Third Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: 1,700-mile walk. Credit(s): Kay Johnson. Judges' Comments: "This was an off-the-beaten path story of somebody doing something very unusual. The writer did a great job of capturing human emotion in this inspiring story."

Honorable Mention

The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ. Entry Title: Fire. Credit(s): Michael Scharnow. Judges' Comments: "This was a nice story of how human kindness turned a tragedy into something positive. I like how the writer weaved human emotion into a tragic story."

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

First Place

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA. Entry Title: The Unofficial Millionaire. Credit(s): Melissa Siig, Emily Dettling. Judges' Comments: "This story is a pleasure to read. The writer gives us transition sentences that tell us the man loves to ski and he's no dummy. Overall, though long, the story holds the reader with so much interesting information. GREAT layout and presentation that helped a reader not turn away from the story."

Second Place

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV. Entry Title: Neptunus Lex. Credit(s): Steve Ranson. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful story and tribute to a hero. The words keep the reader interested and share an aviator's passion. The layout is marvelous and poetic. Excellent work."

Third Place

Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva, WI. Entry Title: Heroes, forgiveness, ragged hope. Judges' Comments: "The story holds the reader from beginning to end. And is timely in it's message of bravery as well when threats are in children's lives. Excellent work."

Honorable Mention

The Ark, Tiburon, CA. Entry Title: Ex-dude wrangler. Credit(s): Rosine Reynolds. Judges' Comments: "This is a grabber of a story and the lede tells that the reader that immediately. The history shared that is easy to get into makes one want to follow all. Wish it had better play and presence though it's a good photo."

Honorable Mention

Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA. Entry Title: Hundreds work to complete playground. Credit(s): Marshall Smith. Judges' Comments: "I usually don't think a story should jump three pages. BUT this story is clearly the story of community and in it are all kinds of information that will be historic. And the photos are very good. The whole town seems to be involved in this community project. Well covered event."

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

First Place

Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA. Entry Title: The final voyage of the Barbara Faye. Credit(s): Summer Brennan. Judges' Comments: "Wonderful story, with great writing. The writer did an excellent job of interviewing those involved, and clearly is well versed in the background history. The writing also elicits a feeling of empathy and a sense of hope, both of which raise this piece above the others in the contest."

Second Place

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: A desert mirage: 1 year later, no progress on state border fence. Credit(s): Jeremy Duda. Judges' Comments: "A terrific piece about a sensitive subject, this story was well written and well presented. The photographs included with the article really help set the scene for the reader, and the well-thought-out interview questions provided insight into the issues at hand."

Third Place

The Plainwell & Otsego Union Enterprise, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Techno Trojans find success in year one. Credit(s): Tim Keith. Judges' Comments: "This story really draws the reader in, and the excellent writing leads the reader to really root for the kids in the story. The interviews with the kids involved adds a depth of interest to the piece."

Honorable Mention

Lennox Independent, Lennox, SD. Entry Title: Local Cowboy Wins The Masters. Credit(s): Debbie Schmidt.

Honorable Mention

Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA. Entry Title: As census shows exodus, younger Inverness residents uproot. Credit(s): Trevor Bach.

Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: July 16 and Sept. 5. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "While I really think the design got in the way with oversized headlines and color chaos that really needs to be dialed back, I think this staff is closer to readers, writing headlines in common language and with a more personal and magazine feel."

Second Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "An excellent example of solid but traditional headline style. Very consistent throughout. As a small community paper, I wish they would take off

the tie and give readers a more direct and casual headline approach. Good, clean design also helped this publication. Headlines were obvious and easy to read."

Third Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: July 23 and Sept. 24. Credit(s): Richard Jackoway, Jill Miller, Ryan O'Shea. Judges' Comments: "For the content they had to work with, this paper did a great job on both headlines and how information is presented in general. The use of breakout boxes for much of the detail helped them keep their headlines clean and to the point."

Honorable Mention

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: 7/20 & 9/14 issues. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Another newspaper doing a solid job on headlines and lot of other things."

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

First Place

Cape Gazette, Lewes, DE. Entry Title: Report: Beebe let lock problem linger. Judges' Comments: "This was the single most significant story in all of the entries because of its impact on the community. Timeline was super in this most-detailed and well-written story about death of a teen because of gross neglect on the part of a hospital and its staff. Job extremely well done."

Second Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Cake and chemo for 1st birthday. Credit(s): Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "Excellent job and subject manner. Good length. It's difficult to tell about the personality of a one-year-old, but you did a super job."

Third Place

The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO. Entry Title: Skin Deep. Credit(s): Sandra Jordan. Judges' Comments: "Excellent writing. Lead came in with the human side and then gave reader info and stats that were not just informative but need-to-know information to all of us. Writing length was just right."

Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Speedy response key for stroke victims. Credit(s): Becky Orr.

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

First Place

The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN. Entry Title: Coping with Depression. Judges' Comments: "Great job of bringing a much-needed discussion to the forefront. The actual stories of two individuals who battle depression as part of life made the difference. Liked that you offered some advice for treatment as well."

Second Place

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: BIRTH-CONTROLLED: Pro-life activists push for greater restrictions on abortion, contraception. Credit(s): Luige del Puerto. Judges' Comments: "Series did a very good job at analyzing the abortion issue, the church and politics. Unbiased view was refreshing."

Third Place

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Discipline raises issue of fairness. Credit(s): Jack Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Too often these conditions get shoved under the carpet and people won't speak up, other than those directly affected. Did a good job describing what Prader-Willi Syndrome and show people deal with it."

Honorable Mention

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: His bridge to life. Judges' Comments: "Good look at a life-saving device that could help other people with a similar condition by reading the story."

Honorable Mention

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. Entry Title: MoveIt!. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice job of focusing on the various aspects of fitness and featuring a person active in each aspect."

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

First Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: To lie or not to lie?. Credit(s): Shelly Cone. Judges' Comments: "I found this column 'quietly' humorous, expressing the ironies inherent in raising children, and as genuine as a mother's love."

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. Entry Title: Cell phones. Credit(s): Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Writer aptly expresses my generation's frustration with technology with a touch of wit and grace."

Third Place

Miami Today, Miami, FL. Entry Title: Make Flagler our Times Square. Credit(s): Susan Kahn. Judges' Comments: "I don't know a thing about Miami or New York, other than what I see on TV; but I like the wit and style of this writer."

Honorable Mention

The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA. Entry Title: Hey Mom, my friend got an iPatch. Credit(s): Jim Walker. Judges' Comments: "Witty and well-written, if a bit silly. Probably the entry best representing traditional in-your-face humor."

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

First Place

The Villager, Greenwood Village, CO. Entry Title: I think I'm smarter than you. Credit(s): Stacie Chadwick. Judges' Comments: "Terrific writing, and wise."

Second Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA. Entry Title: He's a wee bit embarrassed. Credit(s): Dan Breen. Judges' Comments: "Bright piece about a young reporter out on the exotic beat."

Third Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: The Naked Truth About Welcome to Wise. Credit(s): Bob Buckel. Judges' Comments: "Witty and lighthearted about a tart and tangy topic."

Honorable Mention

Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM. Entry Title: The Best Vacuum Technology May Be As Old As Dirt. Credit(s): Rory McClannahan. Judges' Comments: "Just good, fun writing."

Honorable Mention

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA. Entry Title: Keep flying fish away. Credit(s): Ken Fuson. Judges' Comments: "Nice light handling of a serious topic."

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

First Place

The Commercial Record, Saugatuck, MI. Entry Title: Blue Star: S.E.X. Games. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan. Judges' Comments: "Witty column on what would have been too risqué otherwise."

Second Place

Countywide & Sun, Tecumseh, OK. Entry Title: Sure, Elvis Is Really Dead - But So Is Siri. Credit(s): Wayne Trotter. Judges' Comments: "Just a fun read."

Third Place

The Hennessey Clipper, Hennessey, OK. Entry Title: Husband brings home another girl friend. Credit(s): Barb Walter. Judges' Comments: "We love our cats. Nice going."

Honorable Mention

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY. Entry Title: Don't get too close Judges' Comments: "Best punchline."

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

First Place

The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA. Entry Title: Santa Clarita Valley's Unsolved Murders. Credit(s): Jim Holt. Judges' Comments: "This series required an extensive amount of research, which was done very thoroughly. The writing made the stories even more interesting and easy to read."

Second Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Safety first?. Credit(s): Nathan Robson. Judges' Comments: "This subject is very timely. Home care is a national phenomenon and identifying potential problems and loose regulations is a public service."

Third Place

The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA. Entry Title: Newhall Land, judge trade salvos. Credit(s): Luke Money. Judges' Comments: "Investigating the judiciary is difficult. This series demonstrates that all branches of government need transparency. Well written."

Honorable Mention

The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI. Entry Title: Milwaukee faces race-based fights. Credit(s): Kirsten Klahn.

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

First Place

The Dundalk Eagle, Dundalk, MD. Entry Title: Dundalk Eagle steel mill coverage Nicole Rodman. Credit(s): Nicole Rodman. Judges' Comments: "The changing American economy is often documented through the innovation and growth of new technology; but the loss of older technology is seldom noted as well as this writer has done. Kudos."

Second Place

Chino Hills Champion, Chino, CA. Entry Title: Marijuana Outlet Makes Home in Hills. Credit(s): Marianne Napoles. Judges' Comments: "Nice job. Regardless of views on marijuana legality, this story epitomizes investigation and in-depth."

Third Place

Carolina Forest Chronicle, Myrtle Beach, SC. Entry Title: Black eye for Project Blue?. Credit(s): Michael Smith, Charles Perry, Tom O'Dare. Judges' Comments: "Very interesting. Journalists usually react, but this effort was proactive. Great research, time consuming and thorough."

Honorable Mention

Cape Gazette, Lewes, DE. Entry Title: Nothing stops a state pension ... not even on-the-job crime; Are schools enabling abuse?. Credit(s): Melissa Steele.

Honorable Mention

Carolina Forest Chronicle, Myrtle Beach, SC. Entry Title: Emails outline ouster. Credit(s): Michael Smith.

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,000

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. Entry Title: Mammoth snow storm. Credit(s): Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Chris Olson. Judges' Comments: "Terrific job putting this all together in such conditions! Great teamwork shines through!"

Second Place

The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA. Entry Title: 'I've helped a few'. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "Nice piece that was well written and interesting to read."

Third Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, Conway, SC. Entry Title: Executive's past raises questions; Why government vetting is so secretive - and sometimes weak; Covation exec didn't file tax returns for 14 years, EDC focusing on transparency, accountability. Credit(s): Charles Perry, Michael Smith, Tom O'Dare. Judges' Comments: "Great writing and very interesting subject. Well investigated and presented."

Honorable Mention

Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA. Entry Title: Methamphetamine Series. Credit(s): Tony Reed.

Honorable Mention

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME. Entry Title: 1. Tax breaks grow on trees, 2. Bill to toughen tree growth tax system fails. Credit(s): Richard Broom.

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

First Place

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA. Entry Title: Tahoe Forest Hospital Under the Microscope: Where Does the Money Go?. Credit(s): David Bunker. Judges' Comments: "Solid, in-depth research on display; there's great relevance and importance to doing this story. I like that it's not news-cycle-driven; the paper and writer showed a commitment to readers beyond something happening to make headlines. Every community needs to delve into their local public institutions with this vigor and clarity. Won out with solid writing and good organization."

Second Place

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: Darin Mitchell wins election, but doesn't live in district. Credit(s): Hank Stephenson. Judges' Comments: "This story is tenacious, well-researched and of great importance to the community. Writer went above and beyond to truly chase down the details behind what would otherwise have been politicians throwing accusations around. Writing was frank, clear and insightful. Close second."

Third Place

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Dozens of newly public discipline cases reveal lawyers' problems. Credit(s): Heather Cole, Scott Lauck, Melissa Meinzer, Donna Walter, Mike Trask. Judges' Comments: "The amount and detail of research is impressive and presented well. Writers took great care to summarize a great variety of cases, accusations, charges and backstory; it's all delivered with a sure tone and a clear organization. Supporting sidebars make it easy to pore through what was obviously a massive undertaking. Excellent piece."

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

First Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "I love this newspaper as it appears to capture everything that is going throughout the region. Strong writing on a variety of stories. There is a great mixture of local news covering every aspect of the community. Outstanding work!"

Second Place

The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "I sense strong community involvement between the newspaper and its readers. Readers appear to be engaged in their community paper. I noticed how readers are involved through commentaries and letters to the editor. I especially love the cops and court news! Great community paper."

Third Place

The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great local news coverage throughout the paper. Strong story telling abilities with the writers. I love how the local news is packaged in an easy-to-read format."

Honorable Mention

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: March 10, 2012; Sept. 14, 2012. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "This paper hits the mark with strong local news throughout the paper. Readers should be proud of this publication."

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

First Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: March 17 and September 29. Credit(s): Wise County Messenger Staff. Judges' Comments: "Wonderful mix of hard news coverage and feature stories throughout this great local community newspaper."

Second Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN Judges' Comments: "Great job of local community news coverage."

Third Place

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Good job covering community news."

Honorable Mention

Allegan County News, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: March 8, Sept. 27. Credit(s): Staff.

Honorable Mention

The Barberton Herald, Barberton, OH. Entry Title: 09-27-12 and 3-8-12 issues. Credit(s): Cheryl Vespoint, Carl Boon, Randy Broadwater, Rich Muller.

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

First Place

Delano Herald Journal, Delano, MN Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "An excellent community newspaper regarding 'local news coverage.' Broad range of topics, from births and obits to city hall, school lunches and sports. Local columnists and editorial cartoonist. Records from police and sheriff blotter to emergency responses. Lots and lots of local names and faces. Not as skillfully or artfully assembled as some of the other entries, but a solid, hefty package of local news from all over the county. The sports page on the back, separated

by the classified section, is distracting. Why not build the entire sports package in from the back page, then separate all sports from the general news with the classified section? I bet your subscriptions don't expire until your readers do."

Second Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Excellent range of coverage, photos and presentation. Good number of letters. Sparse school and sports news, but good coverage of govt., features and entertainment. No obits in the first issues. Very attractive offering; the best looking entry in this class."

Third Place

Cedar County News, Hartington, NE Credit(s): Rob Dump, PeggyYear, Deanna Anderson. Judges' Comments: "Not the prettiest package, but it's full of solid community news, from obits and weddings to city, sports and classified ads (ads are news too!). Decent number of photos. Plenty of people features, and a local editorial cartoonist! Encourage some tinkering with layout and design, and try to find a way to get color into your paper. You're serving the community well."

Honorable Mention

The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE. Entry Title: March 15, Sept. 20. Credit(s): Staff Staff. Judges' Comments: "Another good solid community news package. Broad coverage, solid records reporting, sports; nice editorial page. From city hall to farm field. Nice ad product, including classifieds."

Honorable Mention

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Fine community newspaper with wide range of news, features and photos. Full package for citizens interested in their community."

Best Newspaper Web Site, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX Credit(s): Sarah Mangum, Derek Sullivan, Joe Lanane, Emilie Boenig. Judges' Comments: "Excellent layout! Fine use of white space. Great layout of stories. Advertisements are not obtrusive and annoying. Easy navigation. People can easily find their community news. Terrific content. Great use of tags, as well as Facebook integration for story 'likes.' Unique sidebar graphics differentiate each section. Excellent incorporation of Twitter feed. It's nice to see a news organization respond to readers on the social network! Many do not."

Second Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: NewsRegister.com. Credit(s): Dan Shryock, Ossie Bladine, Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "Great site! Excellent use of color and white space, as well as font sizes and styles. The layout is wonderful - easy to read and navigate. Good use of the navigation menus. It's great that you allow comments on stories. Consider integrating more social sharing, as appropriate for non-subscription stories. The advertisements are great - slick and nicely set into the site. They don't detract from the news content. The obit section has a great table-style layout that is easy to navigate - especially for older readers. It is nice that the obit section isn't bogged down by advertisements."

Third Place

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY Credit(s): Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Your redesign paid off. What an excellent layout, filled with colorful photos, interactive features and easy-to-read content. I love the large headlines and large photos at the top of the stories. The large headlines are odd; you don't see them often on news sites. But they don't hinder readers from scrolling down to the full content. Excellent integration of social media for sharing and interaction. Overall good navigation, but you need buttons to toggle between stories, when you pull up individual pages. Great job!"

Honorable Mention

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: azcapitoltimes.com. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: " Nice clean layout with uniform photos and graphics. Nice interactive map. These are especially important for online election coverage. Homepage offered flash errors. Get rid of anything flash, as this does not work on Apple devices and in certain browsers. Nice special section on election results. However, the letter at the top is too long. The CONTENT links and photos should be at the top. The editors note should be part of the sidebar, or accessed through a clickable graphic. It is important detail, but there is too much text before readers get to the meat of the section."

Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Fantastic microsite for Wyoming sports. Easy to navigate. Great integration of text, multimedia and interactive content. Excellent comment policy message. No one can miss it! Like the comment integration with social media."

Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI. Entry Title: Bo's Brave Battle Ends. Credit(s): Samantha Hernandez. Judges' Comments: "This was an overpowering piece that truly captured the emotion the entire town must have felt. Even to a crusty newspaper editor, it was moving...a deserving winner."

Second Place

Daily Times Herald, Carroll, IA. Entry Title: Wall Lake icon passes. Credit(s): Douglas Burns. Judges' Comments: "I caught the spirit of Wall Lake and felt very strongly the attraction between the town and its product. It was clear that the writer appreciated the task the obit presented, and was up to that task."

Third Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Sixties socialite, Taos 'bruja' Butchie Denver, 74, dies. Credit(s): J.R. Logan. Judges' Comments: "Lively, entertaining...I loved it ... as I suspect she would have wanted me to. Wonderful story-telling."

Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY. Entry Title: McCabe was angler, publisher and photographer. Credit(s): Thomas Dewell.

Honorable Mention

Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX. Entry Title: Longtime Port Aransas artist Tiddle Caylor is remembered. Credit(s): Mary Judson.

Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Cape Gazette, Lewes, DE. Entry Title: Get excited. Credit(s): Chris Wildt. Judges' Comments: "Clean, clear message. Good art. On-line gambling is not the topic of much debate in our live-and-let-live culture. But, behind the scenes, it is killing many families. A good choice for a message, ably executed."

Second Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: California sinkhole. Credit(s): Ross Mayfield. Judges' Comments: "A powerful message that jolts the reader and leaves no room for doubt that there is a problem. Good art, clear message."

Third Place

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: Does a bear sit on the goods?. Credit(s): R.L. Crabb. Judges' Comments: "Good message. We always want to know 'Where can we cut the budget?' and this tells us where to start."

Honorable Mention

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: What's the exact opposite of progress? Congress. Credit(s): Jack Miles Ventimiglia.

Honorable Mention

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Seat Belt. Credit(s): Jack Miles Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Thought provoking and troubling, as it was intended to be. It fits well with the editorial next to the art. A work such as this may be the thing that wakes someone up and makes him decide to 'buckle up' - more than a preachy editorial. Pulls at the emotions, and that's good."

Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Jake Byrd presents. Credit(s): Josh Rhoten. Judges' Comments: "Josh Rhoten's detailed, descriptive prose flows more like the honeyed tones of a smooth jazz set than like the jarring blasts of the heavy-metal rock concert organized by the teenaged promoter he's covering. Considering the entire piece is a study in contrasts, the disjunction more than works. Rhoten weaves strong reporting, which includes both plenty of contextual information and quotes from a variety of sources, with in-the-moment writing to produce a well-structured article that conveys both the economic and the social-entertainment aspects of a segment of the community's arts scene."

Second Place

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: It's Like Watching Magic. Judges' Comments: "Karen Cernich's colorful writing and solid reporting paint a vivid portrait of a young performer who finds creative ways to participate in an inclusive theater program. The article moves back and forth between performer and program to provide a rounded picture of both."

Third Place

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI. Entry Title: 4-4-12 - Jungle Book to be staged here. Credit(s): Mark Scarborough. Judges' Comments: "By including each of almost 100 children's names featured in a local stage production of the musical Jungle Book, Mark Scarborough ensures this particular edition of the paper will be bought, read, and saved. Additionally, Scarborough quotes several children, and not just ones playing main characters, about their experience. The tightly-written article provides contextual knowledge and a clearly organized list of cast members."

Honorable Mention

Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI. Entry Title: Door Concerts at a crossroads. Credit(s): Christopher Clough. Judges' Comments: "Christopher Clough accomplishes the delicate task of reporting on a division within a local arts organization by balancing quotes from sources representing differing viewpoints and by clearly presenting background information in a neutral manner."

Honorable Mention

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: Fabric Art. Credit(s): April Koral. Judges' Comments: "April Koral introduces readers to a less familiar artistic medium by recounting, in descriptive detail, the stories behind the works of fiber art displayed in a local exhibit."

Best Photo Essay, Daily Division

First Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: From the ground up. Wasteland Derby Dames bring unique sport to Valley. Credit(s): Maya Sugarman. Judges' Comments: "Very nice composition and use of depth of field."

Second Place

East Oregonian, Pendleton, OR. Entry Title: Death a part of life. Credit(s): EJ Harris. Judges' Comments: "Main photo is very intriguing and attention grabbing."

Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Jake Byrd presents. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "Nice layout overall."

Honorable Mention

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Death chase: 'Suspect made decision'. Credit(s): Ron Siddle.

Best Photo Essay, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

First Place

Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA. Entry Title: community chest. Judges' Comments: "Good coverage overall."

Second Place

Cape Gazette, Lewes, DE. Entry Title: Delaware State Fair. Credit(s): Ron MacArthur. Judges' Comments: "Good coverage. Need to use depth of field a little more."

Third Place

The Orland Park Prairie, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: Orland preschoolers prepare to move on to kindergarten. Credit(s): Sue O'Malley. Judges' Comments: "Like the shots of the little faces. Nice sharp pictures."

Honorable Mention

Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA. Entry Title: PHILLY PRIDE 2012.

Honorable Mention

The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY. Entry Title: We Don't Like Change. Credit(s): Carl Glassman. Judges' Comments: "Good clarity. Nice angles."

Best Photo Essay, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999

First Place

Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO. Entry Title: Going hog wild at the Pick 'n' Hoe. Credit(s): Sam Green. Judges' Comments: "Love all the action shots!!!! Nice sharp pictures."

Second Place

Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY. Entry Title: Chapel Anniversary. Credit(s): Price Chambers. Judges' Comments: "Good use of ambient lighting and story coverage."

Third Place

Hood County News, Granbury, TX. Entry Title: Long Journey Home. Judges' Comments: "Very tasteful coverage."

Honorable Mention

Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI. Entry Title: Spring show. Credit(s): Kurt Krueger.

Best Photo Essay, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

First Place

Gasconade County Republican, Owensville, MO. Entry Title: Heat. Credit(s): Dave Marner. Judges' Comments: "Great collection and variety of images. Really loved the image of the 2 men sitting in the shade of the tree."

Second Place

The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA. Entry Title: Doggone Good Time. Credit(s): Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: "Great action image of the dog jumping in the air."

Third Place

Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX. Entry Title: Flying for the Fund. Credit(s): Rusel Skiles. Judges' Comments: "Nice variety of images."

Honorable Mention

Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX. Entry Title: Bee County Landmarks. Credit(s): Bill Clough.

Honorable Mention

Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX. Entry Title: Bee County Landmarks. Credit(s): Bill Clough.

Best Photo Essay, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

First Place

Glenrock Independent, Douglas, WY. Entry Title: Deer Creek Days. Credit(s): Jesse Bishop. Judges' Comments: "Top notch images throughout a great layout. Good variety of faces, atmosphere and scenes. Well done."

Second Place

The Observer, Dundee, NY. Entry Title: Ambrose two time winner at the glen. Judges' Comments: "Great faces and variety in images."

Third Place

The Commercial Record, Saugatuck, MI. Entry Title: High flying. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan. Judges' Comments: "Good profile."

Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI. Entry Title: Fourth of July. Credit(s): Mark Scarborough. Judges' Comments: "Great effort with some nice scene setting images."

Honorable Mention

The Journal, Crosby, ND. Entry Title: 43 years and counting. Credit(s): Don Anderson. Judges' Comments: "Photographer had a couple of really nice images."

Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: 'Tinker Tailor' a slippery, sophisticated spy drama. Credit(s): Lavender Vroman. Judges' Comments: "Engaging review of a film. Excellent description and research. Gives just enough information about the film to intrigue the reader, but doesn't give everything away."

Second Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Movie 'Bully' hits us right where we live. Credit(s): Bruce Miller. Judges' Comments: "Excellent review of a documentary that takes place right in the author's hometown. It's short, but poignant, and makes the reader think about the topic of bullying. If they don't see the film, this review will still leave an impact."

Third Place

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: 'Tangled' gets a bit hairy with singing. Credit(s): Julia Dendinger. Judges' Comments: "The author does a great job of balancing the good with the bad in this review. She did not go overboard with the negative comments, which was refreshing on a Disney cartoon review."

Best Serious Column, Daily Division

First Place

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Bill burns books without matches. Credit(s): Jack Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "A powerful column that goes after hate and intolerance, the writing is clear and to the point. Excellent job in taking a strong stand."

Second Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: One dream weaved, one dream dashed. Credit(s): Tim Gallagher. Judges' Comments: "Tim does a wonderful job crafting this incredibly moving story. He is great at holding the attention of the readers."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Afghan who killed GI hired to protect troops. Credit(s): Dennis Anderson. Judges' Comments: "A strong and powerful column that shares the tale of the death of a GI that never should have happened. This is column writing at its best."

Honorable Mention

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Columnist: Tolerance, intolerance. Credit(s): Jack Miles Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "An amazing column that those with challenged children will totally understand - and hopefully, those who have misconceptions will better understand."

Honorable Mention

The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS. Entry Title: Through loss we learn. Credit(s): Ned Seaton. Judges' Comments: "A very well-done column that successfully shifts scenes."

Best Serious Column, Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

First Place

Miami Today, Miami, FL. Entry Title: What part of 'inappropriate and illegal' can't city understand?. Credit(s): Michael Lewis. Judges' Comments: "Lewis pulls no punches in his indictment of city/county solons. Well said."

Second Place

Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA. Entry Title: Father's Day Awakens Watercolor Memories. Judges' Comments: "Poignant column about father. Outstanding."

Third Place

The Rio Rancho Observer, Rio Rancho, NM. Entry Title: How automobiles become part of your family. Judges' Comments: "Cars & late Dad for Father's Day column. He couldn't go wrong."

Honorable Mention

The Dundalk Eagle, Dundalk, MD. Entry Title: Rage against what is being done in the shadows. Credit(s): Steve Matrazzo. Judges' Comments: "A good example of the role the press is supposed to play in society."

Honorable Mention

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: Let Johnny be Tonto, we wouldn't want to. Credit(s): Ungelbah Daniel-Davila. Judges' Comments: "I was intrigued by the writer and her perspective on issue from a native American point of view."

Best Serious Column, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999

First Place

Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD. Entry Title: A resident evil. Credit(s): Hugh Turley. Judges' Comments: "Turley implores us to be attentive to the signs of trouble around us and holds us accountable---as he did himself---for the evil that we, in our discomfort, choose all too often not to heed. It is an insistent wake-up call that we ignore at our own peril."

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. Entry Title: Time can't wash away drowning memories. Credit(s): Patti Brandt. Judges' Comments: "Following a report of a drowning, a poignant memory resurfaces, and Brandt brings us face-to-face with the personal tragedy of what may otherwise have been just another fleeting headline."

Third Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Raising the Hardy Boys (Rewriting myself). Credit(s): Nathalie Hardy. Judges' Comments: "Hardy writes with grace about the universal search for identity, and the never-ending quest to understand that we are exactly where we were meant to be. Her lovely description of her 'real mom' alone is worth the read."

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. Entry Title: Finding a way. Credit(s): Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Campbell weaves a tale of a fishing trip into a contemplation of the ever-changing current of journalism in a way that should make readers take note. With his closing paragraph, he elicits a fervent 'Amen, brother,' from this reader and fellow journalist."

Best Serious Column, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

First Place

Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva, WI. Entry Title: Heroes, forgiveness, ragged hope. Credit(s): John Halverson. Judges' Comments: "Very detailed and therefore powerful rendition of this harrowing occasion. I tried to be cynical about this, but was unable to be."

Second Place

Allegan County News, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Remembering though V-mail. Credit(s): Ryan Lewis. Judges' Comments: "The story-telling was first-rate. A few technical shortcomings in the writing left it one step short of the gold medal."

Third Place

Western News, Libby, MT. Entry Title: A Christmas Story of Lost Production and a Wall Street Anomaly. Credit(s): Matt Bunk. Judges' Comments: "Fresh take. I liked this approach to the story, and think it's worth relating."

Honorable Mention

Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Richmond, VA. Entry Title: Dare to be stupid. Credit(s): Paul Fletcher.

Honorable Mention

Western News, Libby, MT. Entry Title: A Farewell to Dad. Credit(s): Alan Gerstenecker.

Best Serious Column, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000

First Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA. Entry Title: The Bloom Box boondoggle. Credit(s): Lindsay Leveen. Judges' Comments: "The writer performed thorough research and succinctly explained complex, highly technical concepts with clarity. The topic has potentially substantial impact on readers."

Second Place

The Winters Express, Winters, CA. Entry Title: If only they were still fetuses, someone would care. Credit(s): Debra DeAngelo. Judges' Comments: "In a well-written opinion piece, the writer presents a challenging tone that nevertheless maintains compassion and common sense. The piece leads the reader to consider a current 'hot topic' and in so doing, reflect upon a larger cultural issue."

Third Place

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA. Entry Title: Capitalism, Culture, and the Tahoe Ski Industry. Credit(s): David Bunker. Judges' Comments: "The writer provides brief yet vibrant portraits of individuals who promoted the culture of the region and offers insight into what cards the area may have been dealt if not for the independence and vision of these figures."

Honorable Mention

The Norton Telegram, Oberlin, KS. Entry Title: Child of the 40s. Credit(s): Liza Deines. Judges' Comments: "With this entertaining story, the writer has created a well written illustration of not only a particular home, but also an era. In this piece, the writer creates a genuine illustration."

Honorable Mention

The Plainwell & Otsego Union Enterprise, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Downtown Talk: Politics in China: look for change. Credit(s): Walter Kaechele. Judges' Comments: "The writer brings a global issue to a local context in a well-written piece that relays a personal experience while keeping the focus on facts and elements relevant to the issue."

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

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: 2012 Frontier Days Souvenir edition. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Wow! Amazingly well done and extremely interesting. Great editorial focus, use of photos and graphics. Every aspect of Frontier Days than anyone could need is provided. Kudos!"

Second Place

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: Visitors Guide. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great stories and photos. Well put together, very readable. Lay out is great. This is more than a visitors guide, it is a complete piece for anyone visiting or even moving to this area."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: AV Scrapbook. Credit(s): Valley Press Staff. Judges' Comments: "Awesome and interesting idea. Great photos and stories. Well laid out. Top notch work."

Honorable Mention

The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO. Entry Title: Diversity: A Business Imperative. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great special section, courageous on the part of the newspaper to take an honest look at diversity across all levels of the community. Interesting, thorough, honest, well-written and put together."

Honorable Mention

The Taos News, Taos, NM. Entry Title: Remarkable Women of Taos. Judges' Comments: "Nicely done, great layout, great stories. Interesting, historical and engaging. The contest that involved the community is a really good idea."

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

First Place

Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY. Entry Title: Legends. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "I loved the editorial portions of this special section. The great detail to history sold me. The layout of the whole piece was excellent."

Second Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: Close to My Heart. Credit(s): Erika Pedroza, Alea Pena, Todd Griffith, Madeline Pena, Brian Knox. Judges' Comments: "This was a beautiful special section. There were plenty of ads and the whole piece was laid out beautifully."

Third Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: Fall Sports Preview 2012. Credit(s): Richard Greene, Clay Corbett, Joe Duty, Pierre Moua, Andrew May. Judges' Comments: "I loved this sports section because it gave so much detail to all of the teams. I could tell a lot of work and detail went into this section."

Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY. Entry Title: Jackson Hole News&Guide Fall Arts Festival.

Honorable Mention

The Polk County Itemizer Observer, Dallas, OR. Entry Title: Explore Polk County. Credit(s): Staff.

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

First Place

The Fairbury Journal-News, Fairbury, NE. Entry Title: Drought! Is the Past Becoming the Future?. Credit(s): Jim Headley, Staff. Judges' Comments: "Timely section considering the weather. Nice mix of color and b/w throughout section. Very informative and easy-to-understand graphics."

Second Place

The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS. Entry Title: Fire Issue. Credit(s): Stephanie DeCamp, Kim Davis, Crista Sauvage. Judges' Comments: "Very close second. Solid issue considering circumstances. Nice fire and smoke photos to grab attention of readers."

Third Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA. Entry Title: Fall Survival Guide. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Helpful and informative not only to those in Arkansas but to people visiting."

Honorable Mention

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: Going Green. Credit(s): Josh Coddington, Gabe Turner, Samantha Bush. Judges' Comments: "With the talk of going green spread far, good section on ways to accomplish that."

Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI. Entry Title: Tobacco Heritage Days. Credit(s): Diane Everson. Judges' Comments: "Interesting historical perspective on tobacco."

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

First Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: The Bleacher Bum Chronicles Vol. XXVI. Credit(s): Jeremy Thomas. Judges' Comments: "Tough choice to declare one the winner among two great entries at the top. Both combine excellent writing and storytelling. This one was probably the more difficult to write, with multiple sources. A good, easy read on a challenging subject."

Second Place

Hood County News, Granbury, TX. Entry Title: Royal treatment: Bolton recalls friendship with legend. Credit(s): Rick Mauch. Judges' Comments: "Like first place, great writing and storytelling. A great mix of write input with some terrific quotes gives the column a personal interest for the readers. Good job!!"

Third Place

The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS. Entry Title: All eyes will be on two great, yet very different quarterbacks Saturday night. Credit(s): Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: "Good comparison between two quarterbacks in the midst of a season -- a comparison that is particularly catching after you know how the season eventually turned out for both players."

Honorable Mention

The Rio Rancho Observer, Rio Rancho, NM. Entry Title: Coach teaches life-long skills while recruiting. Judges' Comments: "Good, solid writing that keeps the readers' interest."

Honorable Mention

Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY. Entry Title: C'mon, really, who wouldn't chase down a bucket of fried chicken?. Credit(s): Rick Woodson. Judges' Comments: "Both thought-provoking and entertaining read."

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

First Place

The Polk County Itemizer Observer, Dallas, OR. Entry Title: 'Heart on your sleeve' kind of day. Credit(s): Nicole Watkins.

Second Place

North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA. Entry Title: Campbell's Scoup: 'Uncle Sam' enjoys his big night in The Pit. Credit(s): Scott Campbell.

Third Place

Allegan County News, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Jones continues to make Saugatuck proud. Credit(s): Leo Martonosi.

Honorable Mention

Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva, WI. Entry Title: Bad side of sports. Credit(s): Mike Ramczyk.

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more

First Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: A true soccer mom. Credit(s): Eric Smith. Judges' Comments: "This writer caught my attention from the start and held it until the end of the article. It is interesting and very well-written. Easy to pick No. 1. Congratulations."

Second Place

The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA. Entry Title: Mykaela Delgado: Trinity trail blazer. Credit(s): Jon Stein. Judges' Comments: "The spotlight fell on a unique situation and the writer made the reader pull for the success of the young swimmer. Good job."

Third Place

Hood County News, Granbury, TX. Entry Title: Derby queen. Judges' Comments: "Good article. Writer did a good job of telling the story of this young woman, not only when she had her skates on but in her daily life as well. Nice work."

Honorable Mention

Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA. Entry Title: Courville; Top Candidate for All-State QB. Credit(s): Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: "Writer did an excellent job of telling the story of this young man."

Honorable Mention

Wilson County News, Floresville, TX. Entry Title: Mike Lee. Credit(s): Pat Kopecki. Judges' Comments: "Interesting. Good writing skills. Excellent description of this rodeo personality."

Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000

First Place

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY. Entry Title: A way to lose. Judges' Comments: "Incredible story of sportsmanship and high school athletics. Wonderful writing and handling of a very special story. Nobody reads this story without tearing up. Sports Illustrated should be calling this writer tomorrow."

Second Place

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV. Entry Title: North Maine Ballpark. Credit(s): Dave Price. Judges' Comments: "Wonderfully told story of a classic ballpark filled with lots of characters and stories that helped shape a community. I hope the writer turned this story into a book, because it deserves a bigger stage."

Third Place

The Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY. Entry Title: Confessions of a Quarterback. Credit(s): Cody Tucker. Judges' Comments: "A classy story written about an athlete with just as much class. Well written feature on a high school QB with big shoulders. Success, heartbreak, the best and worst of times in sports is captured in this story. Truly a sports feature, and the writer saw the angle and wrote the story. Bravo!"

Honorable Mention

Allegan County News, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: All in the family: Running together serves as source of bonding for Fennville's Mendoza family. Credit(s): Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: "Great feature rolls sports, family, health and wellness into one neat package. Well written and great photo accompaniment."

Honorable Mention

The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ. Entry Title: Family ties help Falcons soar higher. Credit(s): Ryan Winslett. Judges' Comments: "Baseball, scholastic athletics and family ties -- a great recipe for a community paper feature. A five-star story, both figuratively and literally. This writer hits one out of the park."

Best Sports Photo, Daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Bull rider. Credit(s): Miranda Grubbs. Judges' Comments: "Emotion, timing, clarity--this picture has it all. Great color, great composition; it grabs your attention and keeps it. Great, great shot."

Second Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: So much joy ... so much pain. Credit(s): Maya Sugarman. Judges' Comments: "Player celebrations after big wins are fertile ground for photographers, granted, but this shot still nails it. The emotion is raw, the way the jerseys of the players are sort of distorted by their embrace is interesting. A great moment captured well."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: On her own. Credit(s): Christina Ramos. Judges' Comments: "The brutal vulnerability on display in this portrait helped it stand out from other equally good shots. It's simple, but it truly draws you in. Technically good and well-composed. Nicely done."

Honorable Mention

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: Conditioning key to turning wrestlers into champions. Credit(s): Christina Ramos. Judges' Comments: "Wrestling photos are always good for awkward moments but this one was just so viscerally graphic that there's no way it should go unrecognized. First you wince--then you want everyone in the room with you to see it. Great moment, good picture."

Honorable Mention

Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL. Entry Title: Interception. Credit(s): Patrick Leonard. Judges' Comments: "Spectacular timing. This is the visual equivalent of a stadium full of people gasping all at once. Very fun shot."

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

First Place

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: Concentrating on the Ball. Credit(s): Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: "Great focus and peak action!"

Second Place

Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM. Entry Title: Minor baseball: Tough weekend for county teams. Credit(s): Mike Stearns. Judges' Comments: "Great moment."

Third Place

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: Over the Top. Credit(s): Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: "Nice timing."

Honorable Mention

The New Lenox Patriot, Orland Park, IL. Entry Title: Pride and Pain. Credit(s): Mike Lorenz. Judges' Comments: "Nice moment and action."

Honorable Mention

The Universe, Provo, UT. Entry Title: From sudden death to Elite Eight. Credit(s): Sarah Hill. Judges' Comments: "Great reaction with atmosphere."

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

First Place

Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO. Entry Title: Mr. Sandman. Credit(s): Sam Green. Judges' Comments: "Crisp, clear photo - powerful image."

Second Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: Close Call. Credit(s): Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Capturing the action at just the right time, facial expression priceless."

Third Place

Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY. Entry Title: Air Chair. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful image - captured the moment of action and that breath-taking view. Not a typical sports photo."

Honorable Mention

The Barberton Herald, Barberton, OH. Entry Title: Magics finish first, Panthers second at Dalton. Judges' Comments: "Captured facial expression at just the right time, such effort for the athlete."

Honorable Mention

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA. Entry Title: Sibley-Ocheyedan junior catcher Tyler Reck holds up the ball. Credit(s): Josh Harrell. Judges' Comments: "Love that facial expression, 'Look at me!' Great moment to freeze time."

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

First Place

The Polk County Itemizer Observer, Dallas, OR. Entry Title: Bigger dreams ahead. Credit(s): Pete Strong. Judges' Comments: "You really captured the power of emotion with this shot. Loved it!"

Second Place

Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX. Entry Title: Flyin' at State. Credit(s): Dan Parker. Judges' Comments: "Perfect positioning and works great at the top of the page. Nice photo and liked the headline."

Third Place

Azle News, Azle, TX. Entry Title: Hold your horses. Credit(s): Mark Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Was that legal? Really captured the action with this one; nice crisp, clean photo!"

Honorable Mention

The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA. Entry Title: Freshman Football Battle. Credit(s): Jessica Brown. Judges' Comments: "Hard moment to capture but you got it. Nice photo effect with the background."

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

First Place

Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN. Entry Title: Hats Off. Credit(s): Kevin Kyle. Judges' Comments: "No doubt about this as a newsworthy photo. This dramatic action, sure to snare reader attention, occurred in a semi-final playoff game and it captures the violence of football, which is an on-going story line (helmet safety, concussions). Tightly cropped for impact showing helmet flying, mouth guard dislodging, and facial expression. Photo quality is good, and for this viewer the slight focus issue is not distracting."

Second Place

The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN. Entry Title: Trent Hansen Out at Home?. Judges' Comments: "I feel safe in saying this is a quality action shot bound to catch a reader's attention. It has enhanced news value because the umpire's out call was controversial (photos seem to show runner not tagged and ump ruled he must slide). Crisp photo. Could be cropped tighter on left and at bottom."

Third Place

The Goodland Star-News, Goodland, KS. Entry Title: Bull Riding. Credit(s): Kevin Bottrell. Judges' Comments: "Good action, not typical bull riding shot with rider in mid-air or being butted by bull. The front angle enhances photo, as does catching the gate tender watching the ride. Sharp focus with good depth of field. Nice, tight crop. Among best bull riding pix I have seen."

Honorable Mention

The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE. Entry Title: Imperial's T-ball program. Credit(s): Jan Schultz. Judges' Comments: "Nice feature pic guaranteed to draw reader response. Captures facial expression with tongue sticking out. Tightly cropped and sharp focus."

Honorable Mention

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Finding clarity with a handhold. Credit(s): Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: "This angle and crop add impact to picture and depth. Non-mainstream sport adds to value of picture. Has both feature and action aspects."

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

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: Feb 5 and Oct 27. Credit(s): Scott Nulph, Robert Gagliardi, Jeremiah Johnke, Alex Riley, Dave Shelles. Judges' Comments: "So often, well designed papers are empty of content. Not so here. A great overall mix of design, visual journalism and storytelling to give readers of this section a wide and compelling look at the world of sports."

Second Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Strong photojournalism, a good mix of traditional storytelling and shortform storytelling. Excellent inside pages that are both visually engaging and full of good news and info."

Third Place

The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL Credit(s): Andrew Brunner. Judges' Comments: "This sports editor can run a lede writing clinic. Engaging, compelling and colorful storytelling."

Honorable Mention

The Taos News, Taos, NM Credit(s): Cody Olivas.

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Best Sports Story, Daily Division

First Place

The Union, Grass Valley, CA. Entry Title: 'Destined to play': Former Major League pitcher inspiration to PV boy. Credit(s): Anthony Barstow. Judges' Comments: "This is a well written, interesting story of two individuals overcoming insurmountable odds. Good use of quotes, and the narrative was fluid."

Second Place

The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS. Entry Title: Wildcats stun Sooners on home field. Credit(s): Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: "Overall, a good gamer. The story could use more player quotes, and comments from the opposition. To create excitement in a story like this, focus a little more on the crowd."

Third Place

East Oregonian, Pendleton, OR. Entry Title: Volunteer coach dismissed. Credit(s): AJ Mazzolini. Judges' Comments: "The reporter did a good job in the research of this article. This is not your run-of-the-mill story, and the reader gains a better sense of the thought process of all involved."

Honorable Mention

Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL. Entry Title: A Little Too Wild. Credit(s): Mark Blumenthal. Judges' Comments: "This is a good story but could use a little more punch in the narrative."

Best Sports Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more

First Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: Everybody in the pool. Credit(s): Carl Dubois. Judges' Comments: "Toss-up between first and second place, but I felt the narrative and usage of quotes was a little more stronger. This story kept my attention, and I like the wide range of interviewed subjects, etc."

Second Place

News-Register, McMinnville, OR. Entry Title: In the long run. Credit(s): Ben Schorzman. Judges' Comments: "Another great story... While the reporter used quotes well, it would also be interesting to have others comment on your subjects as well since you are writing an in-depth story."

Third Place

Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA. Entry Title: Coach Sid is Back. Credit(s): Woody Jenkins. Judges' Comments: "Solid third-place story, in-depth reporting with statistical information. Well written."

Honorable Mention

Miami Today, Miami, FL. Entry Title: Seat Prices at ballpark in free fall. Credit(s): Scott Blake. Judges' Comments: "Although stats were provided on ticket prices from around the league, the story did not offer too much in the way of new material. What keeps it above the rest of the entries is the quality of reporting."

Best Sports Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000

First Place

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN. Entry Title: Ken Sparks wins 300. Credit(s): Darren Reese. Judges' Comments: "This coverage, like the man honored, stands out from the crowd. Solid writing and well organized. Sidebars offer variety of sources and quotes that enhances the human interest of this feature. Strong reader appeal. Top-notch work."

Second Place

Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch, Winsted, MN. Entry Title: Band of Brothers. Credit(s): Matt Kane. Judges' Comments: "This story oozes human interest. Quite unusual, if not unique, to have 24 consecutive years with brothers playing on the same high school team. Reader interest enhanced by the writer getting interesting facts and good quotes from the parents and others. Story ties together well and is an interesting read."

Third Place

The Plainwell & Otsego Union Enterprise, Allegan, MI. Entry Title: Back in the finals: Trojans claim OT win over DeWitt in semifinals for second straight year. Credit(s): Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: "Lead pulls reader into the story, which is well-organized and has a nice flow. Interesting tidbits of information are sprinkled into the story, and quotes give life to the narrative. Stirrs reader interest and response without rah-rah approach."

Honorable Mention

The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX. Entry Title: New turf: school board okays playing field change. Credit(s): Melissa Perner. Judges' Comments: "Story holds reader interest not because it is the typical joy of victory or agony of defeat story, but because it takes a potentially bland topic (a new field for the football stadium) and builds an interesting and compelling story with interesting and important facts, clear explanation, and quotes that give life and meaning to the subject. Solid, well written."

Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great color throughout, especially Arizona at 100 features. Also enjoyed the look of the timeline."

Second Place

Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX Credit(s): Jean Chen, Rachel Slade.

Third Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Issues May 1 and Aug. 31. Credit(s): Staff.

Honorable Mention

Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX Credit(s): Jean Chen, Rachel Slade.

Honorable Mention

Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

The Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY Judges' Comments: "This paper really committed to photography during their county fair. The entries featured several full page photos and lots of good images."

Second Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: October 13 and October 17. Credit(s): Clay Corbett, Bob Buckel, Jimmy Alford, Joe Duty, Mack Thweatt. Judges' Comments: "What I really liked about this publication was how they committed to the images they ran. They didn't run a lot of photos and there were some grey pages, but when this team ran a picture, they knew that the right way to run a picture is LARGE, helping generate impact and interest."

Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: July 26 and July 27. Credit(s): Michael Smith, Miranda Grubbs, Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "An overpowering design really got in the way of some strong photography and photo play. Overpowered by color and giant headlines, it was hard for even these images to shine."

Honorable Mention

Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA. Entry Title: September 6, September 13. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Lots of images and good photo play but some odd cut-outs and photo manipulation, a weak design and some weaker images held them back a bit. But this paper is still a showcase of how a local paper can commit to pictures and be visually interesting."

Honorable Mention

Missouri Lawyers Weekly, St. Louis, MO. Entry Title: Aug. 20 and 27. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "This is just a really well done publication, with thoughtful use of pictures played appropriately. The limited range of images and topics is all that kept this publication from ranking higher. Unfortunately, it was a little too reliant on portraits and needs to find ways to diversify its approach (using more images to illustrate topics rather than portraits, when appropriate, for example)."

Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: March 25 and Oct 28. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Overall, a complete package. Strong design sets the tone and grabs attention. Mix of alternative and traditional story forms engages readers. Strong photojournalism. Inside pages are as well thought out as covers."

Second Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA Credit(s): Lavender Vroman, Lisa Wolf. Judges' Comments: "A solid mix of listings and short and long form story telling."

Third Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Well-designed section. The content categories are well thought out and compelling - week ahead and looking back as examples."

Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX. Entry Title: America's Costliest War. Credit(s): Bob Buckel, Brandon Evans, Brian Knox, Erika Pedroza, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Wow! An excellent series on a subject that impact every community in this country. Unfortunately, most communities choose to set it on the back burner. You have placed it on the front burner in Wise County!"

Second Place

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. Entry Title: Bullying coverage. Credit(s): Nathan Robson, Mitch Pugh, Nick Hytrek, Bruce Miller, Tim Gallagher. Judges' Comments: "A very close second! Your efforts are well done and bring to light a touchy subject."

Third Place

The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL. Entry Title: Honor Flight. Judges' Comments: "We have to honor our Veterans. We are losing this generation and this helps to remind readers just how important they were and they are!"

Honorable Mention

Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO. Entry Title: Without seatbelts, people go flying. Credit(s): Jack Ventimiglia. Judges' Comments: "Well done. It just take a few seconds to click!"

Honorable Mention

Washington Missourian, Washington, MO. Entry Title: Book Buzz: An Ongoing Literacy Project. Credit(s): Dawn Kitchell, Chris Stuckenschneider, Karen Cernich. Judges' Comments: "Reading, reading, reading it is a vital part of our industry. Your efforts over the past 10 years are to be celebrated."

Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

The Universe, Provo, UT Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Liked the Going green recycling symbol. A real attention grabber. Liked the look of the sea of blue for the graduates and the placement of barefoot running and the placement of photos for the sleep deprived feature."

Second Place

Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN Credit(s): Staff.

Third Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA Credit(s): Staff.

Honorable Mention

Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ. Entry Title: 4/6 & 12/28 issues. Credit(s): Staff.

Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY. Entry Title: April 5 and Dec 6. Credit(s): Staff.

Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division

First Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: The mystery of the Lompoc Pen. Credit(s): Jeremy Thomas. Judges' Comments: "Excellent FOI-driven reporting in a captivating tale of malfeasance, apathy and corruption. This is why FOI exists."

Second Place

Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA. Entry Title: The life and death of Jerry Berns. Credit(s): Amy Asman. Judges' Comments: "A tour de force, and a telling example of how FOI laws can say one thing and agencies can do another."

Third Place

Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA. Entry Title: \$4 million dollar woman - Kimberly Shaw. Credit(s): Alisha Semchuck, Dennis Anderson. Judges' Comments: "Detailed, richly sourced and document-driven, this is a story that can't be put down. Important work on a critical topic of local interest."

Honorable Mention

Clovis News Journal, Clovis, NM. Entry Title: Behind Closed Doors. Credit(s): Robin Fornoff. Judges' Comments: "Really important topic, handled deftly by an aggressive, persistent reporter."