

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

# 2016 BNEC, BNAC & NAE



**FIRST PLACE**, best breaking news photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 5,000

By Joe Duty | Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX

**HIGH WATER BILL**—Tropical Depression Bill dumped up to 7 inches of rain on parts of Wise County Wednesday, leading to major flooding, particularly around Chico. Joel Bartlett (right) with Wise County EMS carries 9-year-old Mia Reisch from her flooded home on West Kentucky Street in Chico.

**NNA's 2016  
Better Newspaper Editorial Contest,  
Better Newspaper Advertising  
Contest & Newspapers And  
Education Winners**  
A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

## BNEC & BNAC OVERVIEW

Entries came from 39 states;  
172 newspapers sent in a total  
of 1,752 entries; and 151 news-

papers were selected as win-  
ners and received a total of 470  
awards.

Awards were presented Sept. 24,  
2016, in Franklin, TN

## NAE FUN FACTS

Entries came from 9 news-  
papers; 9 newspapers were  
selected as winners and received  
a total of 15 awards. Kidsville  
News!, a literacy and educational

newspaper, based in Fayetteville,  
NC, sponsored the contest.

## BNEC FUN FACTS

1,436 entries were received.

## BNAC FUN FACTS

316 entries were received.

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Demographic shift causing Harris County to explore community-based health care

Houston's gentrification pushes more low-income individuals to northwest Harris County

Since the Harris County Hospital District began tracking the demographics in the county in 2000, the number of low-income families and individuals have increased more rapidly than those in the city.

Ten years ago, many of the suburban areas in the county traditionally did not qualify for a publicly funded health care system, said Laurie Glaze, executive director of the Houston-based network of private and nonprofit groups working to address the needs of all Texans are addressed.

"Even in areas like Cy-Fair, as our economy pushes out beyond [Loop 410] and Beltway 8, we're seeing a more greater need for more services," she said. "We're seeing a lot of rebounding inside the city, which is pushing out low-to-moderate-income families."

In addition, the state's rejection of a federal expansion of Medicaid—which would have provided

ACCESS TO Health Care IN HARRIS COUNTY

LEVEL OF DISADVANTAGE

- High
- Moderately High
- Moderately Low
- Low

HIGHEST PERCENT FAIR/POOR HEALTH

Source: Houston/Harris County State of Health

Private schools plan expansions

Demand in Cy-Fair sparks need for more space, new facilities

By Shann Arrig  
Increased demand for private and parochial schools in Northwest Houston has resulted in capital campaigns at schools in Cy-Fair, Spring and Tomball to raise money for new facilities and renovations.

Growth in public schools in Cy-Fair has been well-documented, with total enrollment in Cy-Fair ISD increasing from 2,200 students annually through 2020. However, public schools are not the only educational institutions seeing the effects of more and more families moving to the schools.

Growth has hit private schools in Northwest Houston.

See Private schools | 1/1

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Truckee/North Lake Tahoe • Priceless Independent Newspaper

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**"Doubt."**  
LCCC ACTORS ARE SURE THIS PLAY WILL MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION. BY

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle**  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING [WYOMINGNEWS.COM](#)

**POLITICAL GRIDLOCK GOT YOU DOWN?**

Evidence says you can thank baby boomers

By Rick Montgomery  
For Kansas City Star

RANCHO DE LOS LAGOS, Calif.—At some moment this year, a U.S. baby boomer will die, and it's unclear if he or she is right, the generation born between 1946 and 1964, that has had the most influence on the largest political party.

Younger. Years after their influential descendants overtake them in numbers, aging boomers provide the political muscle that has allowed the party to persevere.

Sixty Boomers. We can't work it out.

Right now, the political party that is most likely to lose political power is the one whose members are taking heart for being in charge again. It's not an inaccuracy to say that the largest political party in the country is the one that after retreating in January, nearly two-thirds of whom are now in control, building a legacy as the generation that has had the most influence on politics.

Arcane report out of the Brookings Institution notes: "The primary political power of the divided cohorts has been frustratingly gradual and incremental, but it is clear that the influence of the Baby Boomers on politics has been on the rise for several years."

What happened to the peace and quiet? Why does the Baby Boomer generation continue to insist they have been put off key issues? That's a question that may never be answered, but the evidence is clear.

Boomers are the credit for the state of affairs and business climate that has created a political gridlock. The evidence is stacked high against the boomers, at least when it comes to the world of politics.

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**The boom in the Senate**

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**N.Y. woman tackles pothole problem by planting pansies**

An update: New York woman has solved her pothole problem in her town by filling the holes with pansies. This is a step further by dumping dirt and pansies into potholes on the streets of Cheyenne and Laramie. "It's a good idea," says state climatologist Gerald Claycomb. "It's a good idea, but it's not a very favorable pattern for the crops, so I'm not sure what happened Thursday morning, so we're running the whole gamut of weather."

**Claycomb said a low-pressure system systemically affected the area, and expected the cleanup efforts kept a large portion of the area dry. This will definitely put an end to the pothole problem."**

The Wyoming Department of Transportation announced late Friday afternoon that the highway between Cheyenne and Laramie has been closed until at least sometime next week because of the weather conditions.

See Potholes, page A2

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**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 3,000-5,999

By Josh Harrell, The N' West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA

**SIOUX COUNTY FAIR**—Thirteen-year-old Courtney Spaans of Rock Valley hangs on for dear life as the rest of team Pig Slayers rush to join in during the greased pig competition at the Sioux County Fair in Sioux Center Wednesday, July 14. Contestants were given one minute to capture a pig, place it in a barrel, then kiss the pig.

flooding and think fast in a chaotic scene (and in the rain), I'm sure. Shot is crisp, colorful, captures some emotion. Transports viewers there. All-around great shot. Well done!

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Blue & Gold Fleet, Elliot Karlan  
Night shots can be tricky, and this is pulled off with style, especially given the bright sparks; that's an exposure challenge. The wide angle puts the viewer right there. Beautiful.

**3rd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Deadly crash on I-80, Staff

Captures the magnitude of the truck on fire. Seeing that plume of smoke is shocking. Great framing and color. Love the sequence; great details in the charred remains.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA, According to California Highway Patrol Officer Ed Nuñez, Jenny Kirchner

Captures the commotion and complexity of the moment and the humanity. Colors are off in the PDF, but still puts the viewer in the scene. Good shot.

**BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY**

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Chaos on I-80, Sarah Zoellick

This entry is a clear winner in a tough category. A series of snow-caused crashes involving 45 vehicles on I-80 is a national-level news story that requires local expertise. Sarah Zoellick does a phenomenal job of deadline reporting, capturing details from the scene and compelling quotes from survivors and rescuers, while also providing a bigger-picture understanding of the chaos. The writing is as strong as the reporting.

**2nd Place**—The Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, NY, Prison Break Day 1, Staff

The top winners in this category provided local coverage of major news stories. But they also are alike in that they are examples of excellent reporting under difficult circumstances. This entry—articles about two murderers escaping from prison—is strong because it includes a number of good sources and provides details

that help to answer as many of the readers' questions as possible.

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, \$264M pork plant to employ 1,100 in Sioux City, Dave Dreeszen

Dave Dreeszen's coverage of a new pork processing plant provides a depth of coverage that shows why newspapers remain essential to their communities. The article is packed with information and yet easy to read. Dreeszen covers the breaking news angle but also helps readers understand what the news means.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, South Dakota authorities looking for cellphone of Sioux City woman who died, Nick Hytrek

Nick Hytrek helps to tell the story of a homicide victim through the reactions of a close friend. The contrast of cell phones in the article is striking. While police search for a woman's cell phone for clues to her death, her friend's cell phone buzzes with a reminder of her friend's upcoming birthday party. The article is well written and gives readers insight into the person involved in this terrible tragedy.

**BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY**

Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, Killer alligator killed, Sharon Brooks

Effective use of text and photos to tell the story of neighborhood vigilantes who take it upon themselves to hunt down a rogue alligator. The text has an understated style that accentuates the oddity of the some of the details as they are revealed. I have to think that the pseudonymous Bubba Bear is outed by running the photo of the proud hunters with their kill, but it doesn't look like they really care. The reporter did a good job of getting the details in place in a story I'm sure people are still talking about.

**2nd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Police Chase, Alice Dowty

It is no easy task to gather information on deadline from a chase that covers a wide area. The reporter did so while writing a story that captures the tension and speed of the pursuit.

**3rd Place**—Indiana AgriNews, La Salle, IL, Historic flood

damage, Amie Sites

The reporter has produced a clear explanation of the level of damage that is needed to trigger crop insurance after a major flood. The story is rich with numbers that quantify the impact of the storms. The breakout photos and quotes from farmers quickly encapsulate the extent of the damage.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Religion scholar protests BYU Honor Code, Allie Arnell

The clarity and economy of the writing make this story stand out. Nice work, especially because it was done by a student.

**BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY**

Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

**1st Place**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Community give for young life lost, Christine Kuklica

Fantastic. Something about this particular youth tragedy struck me more. Quotes were appropriate, brief, telling and punctual. I also felt there was a great transition into information to try and avoid another tragedy like this one.

**2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, High Winds, Brian Knox

Brilliant opening and closing with straight information given between. Fantastic disaster story.

**3rd Place**—Washington County Enterprise, Blair, NE, Herman brawl, Katie Rohman

Hilarious but intriguing story about small community squabbles. Even had photos to go along with it. I loved the energy of the story.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, High Winds, Fast Flames, Scott Campbell

Great story that really emphasized the dramatic situation and worked through the story well with the use of quotes. Several photographs were equally dramatic.

**BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY**

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-11,999

**1st Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Shear

Devastation, Alan Campbell

Awesome work in covering this huge story, which hit the region. The front page set the tone for the seriousness of the situation. Love the huge, bold headline and the weather photo showing the storm. The staff did a marvelous job in covering every angle to this huge story. Great writing and story telling helps set this apart from all the other entries! It is obvious this was a genuine team effort!

**2nd Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Waterlogged, Staff

This paper showcased an impressive collection of stories and photos related to the flooding. It was nice to read the variety of angles on how the flooding impacted various people. It is obvious the staff put in a lot of time and effort to cover this compelling story.

**3rd Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, Okanogan County still in line of fire, Dee Camp

Impressive layout and design of the fire showcases this breaking news coverage. I liked how the entire front page was dedicated to this story—certainly appropriate given the seriousness of this story.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, Long Weekend Over: Manhunt For Suspect Ends In Apparent Suicide, Beth Homicz

The sniper photo on the roof sets the tone for this breaking news coverage—great spot news photo! The coverage provided an in-depth look at the manhunt and how it truly impacted the community. Great effort!

**BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN, Person of Interest Named in Wetterling Case, Ellarry Prentice

**2nd Place**—The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX, Robber caught, Melissa Perner

**3rd Place**—The Pinckneyville Press, Pinckneyville, IL, Is a Monster Among Us? Brett Templeton, Jeff Egbert

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Nearly 40 homes, businesses damaged, Hannah Beausang, Deirdre McCrohan; Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Rick Bussler

# Remembering the dearly departed

BY KATHY CRUZ,  
The Hood County News,  
Granbury, TX

First place, best humorous column  
daily & non-daily division, circulation 8,000 or more

## A relationship that took my breath away

**F**amily and friends, we are gathered here today to bid farewell to the dearly departed—Gold's Gym Treadmill, Model 420.

Gym didn't come from money. He wasn't some racehorse pretty boy. You never found him hanging out in the fancier stores.

In fact, the first time I spotted Gym was at the local Walmart. Right after the holidays. January, I believe.

It's not that I was looking. In fact, I was lost in thought about my New Year's resolutions.

But when I spotted Gym ... well, it was as if the earth stood still. Somehow, I knew he was The One. The answer to my prayers. The path to fulfillment. I'm not embarrassed to admit I took Gym home with me that day. Judge me all you want. But when Gym and I went home and shut the doors, we shut out the world.

At the end of a long day at the office, he'd be waiting for me. On weekends, he could be counted on to get my heart racing.

How quickly the time flew during those years we spent together.

I had been warned about his life expectancy, but was nevertheless shocked that our time together was so brief—four years, give or take.

In my heart, I suppose I knew it was too good to last.

The end came during the holiday season.

### THE SIGNS WERE THERE

I started noticing little things, but tried to ignore them. I suppose I was in denial.

Forgive me for being so personal, but it took longer to get Gym's motor going.

Maybe it's me, I thought.

Maybe I'm just not pushing his buttons the way I used to.

Then Gym started

making odd noises. I felt so rejected, as if he was saying: "Get off me."

Did I gain that much weight over the holidays? I wondered. I cut back on sweets and tried to make myself more appealing.

It was to no avail. Something was wrong—very wrong.

### TERMINAL CONDITION

I consulted with a specialist, but the prognosis was grim.

Eventually, it became clear that there was simply no hope.

With a head full of memories and a heart full of sadness, I made the decision to pull the plug.

Then, I called someone to come and get Gym's remains.

Gym, I'll always remember the good times. The laughs we shared, like that time when the cat stepped on you.

And, Gym, I know you'll understand when I tell you that your cousin, "410," has been keeping me company in my grief.

Yes, he's pretty high speed, but, well, a woman has needs.

I just didn't want you to think I was stepping out on you.

Rest in peace, Gym. Gotta run now.

kcruz@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 258



## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

### Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Massive structures emerge as CF construction progresses, Dave Dreeszen

The story of a new \$2 billion fertilizer plant is in itself enormous and complicated. But Dave Dreeszen's account of the construction provides a good mix of details and context to give readers a clear understanding of the project. Dreeszen does an excellent job of explaining what's going on and helping readers to understand its impact.

**2nd Place**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Butler looks back on 55 years at Aggierville Pizza Hut, Megan Moser

This entry is part profile, part history lesson. Megan Moser mixes both themes as she tells the story of Bernie Butler, the owner of a Pizza Hut restaurant that is closing after 55 years. The article shows readers why Butler and the restaurant have been so special to the community.

**3rd Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, High-stakes rustling, David Dishman

David Dishman skillfully reports on a local case of cattle rustling and also includes important statewide information that provides insight into the problem. The range of sourcing makes a good story even better.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Valley healing but wages shrink, Jim Skeen

Economic reports can be boring and dry, but good reporters find ways to make such important information interesting to readers. Jim Skeen shows what the numbers mean and why they are meaningful to the community.

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

### Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA, Cultivating Creativity, Joe Payne

This story easily could have been too long, which would put off a reader. Instead, because of the way it was written, it was a smooth flowing read that I really enjoyed. Not every reporter/writer has a great topic like this, but the author didn't let that stop him from making the story as interesting as the topic.

**2nd Place**—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Scammed, Samantha Hernandez

The reason I rated this so high is because this is a topic that hits so many people, yet no one admits they were a willing participant. This story shows that no matter who you are, what your age is, or what your profession is, it can happen. It's a very good warning for everyone. The article was written in a personal matter that made it a good lesson in a way that was not critical or condemning of bad decisions.

**3rd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, BYU student sells app Snapchat for \$54 million, Lisa Crofts

I really enjoyed this story for several reasons. Many people who use apps don't always understand where they come from or why. This story shows that most arise out of a need someone has identified. Additionally, this well-written story is an example that anyone has the ability to make changes in the field of technology. I wish a little bit more could have been included on the process but otherwise an interested story.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY, Once penniless, Konar excelled at business, Will Astor

I really wanted to rate this higher because I found the subject so fascinating, but I wondered where some of the information came from. Was it all from "Fortune," the family and interviews prior to death? That was my only concern, but it was very interesting. Obituaries/Memorials can go both ways and this took the right path.

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

### Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—Beaumont Business Journal, Beaumont, TX, Amtrak argument, Kevin King

Entry wins for depth of reporting and solid writing; it not only explains the business—its current state and its little-known history—but also dives deep into its impact locally. Tagging along for a ride with the couple provides the detail readers need. Well-conceived, well-executed story.

**2nd Place**—Hamilton County Herald, Chattanooga, TN, Just one more game, David Laprad & Karen Dunphy

A lovingly crafted profile of an interesting arcade. Obviously, the subject is one of expertise and is near and dear to writer's heart, but the piece also stands on its own with delightful details and a vivid depiction of the mood of the business. Entertaining writing.

**3rd Place**—Hamilton County Herald, Chattanooga, TN, Pizza and Wine, Worth the Drive, David Laprad & Karen Dunphy

Mouth-watering descriptions of the pizza. Lovely details and strong writing throughout. Was left wanting similar descriptions of the wine, although the story works without them. Gives reader a clear sense of the business.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Looking back at Jefferson landmark, Angela Gary

Great details. Great sendoff for a piece of the community's history.

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

### Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, \$264M pork plant to employ 1,100 in Sioux City, Dave Dreeszen

This well-written article answered just about every question I had about the announcement of the project (with the exception of how Seaboard Foods and Triumph Foods will pay for it. Do they have the cash? Will they borrow the \$246 million?) Certainly everyone living in Sioux City

would want to read this and would savor the details. I would have liked to see the reporter explain what "One of the nation's largest vertically integrated pork producers and processors, Seaboard" means. But the sidebars were very informative, and the meat packing history timeline and the information about charitable donations being part of the deal.

**2nd Place**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Dorsey Marketplace project submitted, withdrawn, resubmitted to Grass Valley, Ivan Natividad, Teresa Yinmeng Liu, Staff

Reading the four stories definitely provides a lot of information about the Dorsey project, but questions remain. For example, the stories refer to people opposed to the plan, but none are ever identified or quoted. Typically, projects of this size see organized groups, some even incorporated, form to raise concerns. Were there any? If not, might that mean that opposition is not as large as implied by the reporters? Also, what is the property zoned for? "Mixed-use" is a term used in several of the articles, but readers are never told what that means. Was a total cost for the project ever estimated by the property owners? And finally, readers are told in every story that people don't want their town to become "Roseville" Grass Valley. Whatever does that mean? Is Roseville a nearby city that Grass Valley residents avoid for some reason? It needs an explanation.

**3rd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, New bomber comes to Palmdale, Jim Skeen, Charles F. Bostwick

This is a well-written article and does a good job of translating Pentagon-speak into reader-friendly language. But, because the focus of the article was on the jobs this contract will bring to the area, I would have liked to read something, maybe a sidebar, on who these 1,000+ employees will be and what they will be paid.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Great Lakes to leave Cheyenne? Becky Orr

This article relied chiefly on a report and interviews of two officials who differed on their conversation that went into the report. The reporter did as good as she could to try and sort out the truth, but it was still a confusing read. For example, in the second paragraph the airline official says, "There are no plans for his airline to stop offering service..." But later in the story, he is quoted saying, "The pilot shortage will cause 100 cities to lose air service in the next 12 to 24 months." Which is it? I would have liked to have known more about the airline itself. How many employees? How many pilots? Privately owned or publicly traded? How do they rank against other regional carriers? And, if the point to the article is that the FAA erred in making it harder for pilots to file for regional carriers, then I would have liked to read a reaction from the FAA to this and also from a local congressman. Lastly, running a photo with the article that was taken two years earlier seems lazy.

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

### Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—Community Impact Newspaper, The Woodlands Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Falling oil prices starting to affect Woodlands economy, Julie Butterfield

An interesting, well-done story, told from a variety of viewpoints, and illustrated with excellent graphics.

**2nd Place**—Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY, The job hoppers, Velvet Spicer

An interesting and well-done analysis.

**3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper-Plano, Pflugerville, TX, Mixed-use development elevating Plano, Collin County, to global stage, Kelley Crimmins

Well written, with good use of graphics.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Community Impact Newspaper-Lake Travis-Westlake, Pflugerville, TX, The changing face of business in west Travis County, Leslee Bassman

Concise, well-researched, good use of graphics.

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

### Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—Santa Clarita Valley Business Journal, Valencia, CA, A Disconnected Valley, Jana Adkins

Perfect lead! Extensive work on display here. Strong writing and extensive research, with a few typos. (Also, the entry was missing its first page; luckily found it online). Wins in a tough field of good entries.

**2nd Place**—Hendersonville Lightning, Hendersonville, NC, Duke Energy, Bill Moss

Great, dogged reporting on an emotional and important subject.

Although not the main thrust of the articles as a whole, the effect of the power line on agricultural and tourism industries, as well as residential property values, was definitely addressed and was obviously important. This is exactly why we need local papers; you did your community proud.

**3rd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Adapt or Die, Melissa Sig

This is extensive, extensive work on display. The level of detail really drives home the effect low-snow winters have had on the area.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Lobster On A Roll, Liz Graves

While the series of stories can get bogged down in terms of industry jargon and initials of organizations, it's solid reporting on a vital issue. Good depth and largely answers questions readers would have. Obviously, love the play on "on a roll."

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—Miami Today, Miami, FL, Free speech trumps school system's gag rule on teachers, Michael Lewis

A well-deserved rant against an over-reaching school district teaching a bad lesson.

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Censoring of trial coverage is improper, D. Reed Eckhardt

Strong First Amendment defense that offers options while putting the paper's money where its mouth is.

**3rd Place**—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM, Eliminating Late Fees is Irresponsible, Clara Garcia

Gutsy take on a local government decision that probably was pretty popular—with a potentially serious budgetary impact.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Coroner's office bill warrants explanation, Jackie Torok

Poses a question that an elected official clearly doesn't want to answer, without being overly confrontational.

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—The Alamance News, Graham, NC, Secret tour for the privileged few, Tom Boney Jr.

Hot issue. Nice job of putting folks to task and shining light on the issue. Good work.

**2nd Place**—The Azle News, Azle, TX, Officials need to act quickly to control unregulated gunfire, Mark K. Campbell

Amazing circumstance. Good job of reinforcing the danger of the situation. Style keeps the reader interested.

**3rd Place**—Milton Times, Milton, MA, Take steps to find information, David Johnson

Good points and clever way to wrap up the piece in the end.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Teens & Driving, Steve Ranson

Good points and well defended. Topic is of interest in almost any community. Nice work.

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, Reverse disaster director decision, Roger Harnack

A clear and well-explained issue with a proposed solution. You didn't have to know anything about the fires there to know that this was a badly handled situation that could have been avoided.

**2nd Place**—The Frankfort Station, Orland Park, IL, No more caning, Rebecca Susmarski

Well put and a reminder about the importance of civic AND civil discourse.

**3rd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Airport an asset, Steve Bagwell

An editorial that gets to the heart of the responsibility government has to take care of public assets and the responsibility the public has to care.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Lang blaming all except herself, Jerry Tidwell

Dumb bureaucrats so often make our jobs easy when they screw up like this. This comment took the clerk to task concisely, making the point without belaboring it.

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Needed: Ethics watchdogs to bite state's shady backside, Brian J. Hunhoff

This editorial spelled out the problem very clearly and then pointed out steps on how the situation can be remedied. A to-the-point editorial.

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Recipe for bond success lies in fostering school patron buy-in, Cecile Wehrman

A very well-written editorial that pinpoints reasons and then neatly succeeds in making its point. I like the comparison to the neighboring school district and its bond issue.

**3rd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Rick Bussler

Good argument for body cams, and the editorial presents a logical structure in telling its readers why body cams are a good idea.

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WV, editorial pages, D. Reed Eckhardt

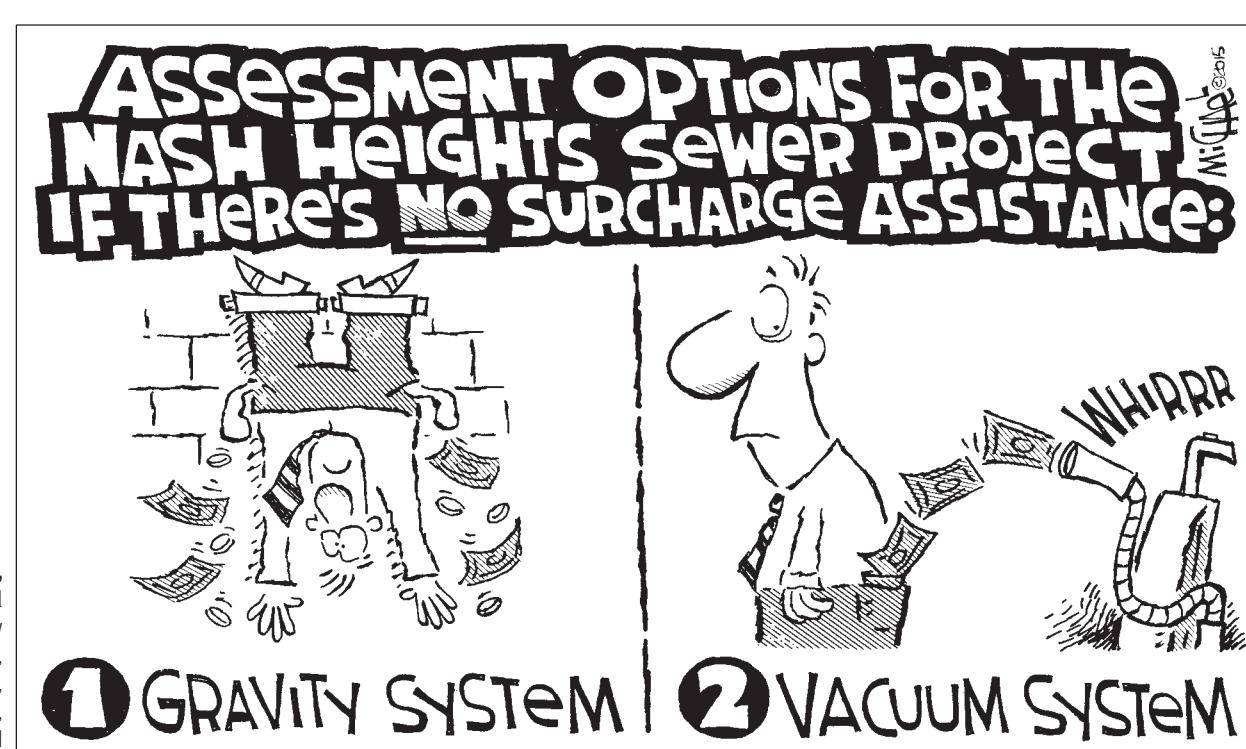
The Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, stands above the rest, but the second-place winner did a good job of staying very close behind. Good assortment of opinion pieces. Very impressed with Young People Must Take Root. I like the editorial. Gives the issue, the paper's belief, and what you think.

**2nd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Viewpoints, Jeb Bladine, Ossie Bladine, Steve Bagwell

Well-written editorials; a good opening to the op-ed page with the art/photo illustration and guest writer. I'm impressed with the robust variety of letters to the editor. Overall, this is a very good op-ed section.

**3rd Place**—Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Editorial Pages, Staff

At first, it took me a few seconds to think about the opening op-ed page, but the photos were a good way to capture my attention. This



**FIRST PLACE,**  
best original editorial  
cartoon, daily  
& non-daily division,  
By Leo Michael,  
The Barberton Herald,  
Barberton, OH

is a nice and clean op-ed section. Commentary is good. Letters to the editor include a good assortment. The top four papers were so close.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, The Union Ideas & Opinions, Brian Hamilton, Cory Fisher, Jim Hemig

The Union has a very clean op-ed section. Good editorials, but compared to some, it lacks a variety. It was a very close toss-up between the Union and Ellsworth American.

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

**1st Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Best editorial page, staff

The human connection with readers brings this entry to the top of the class. Columnists write as if they are having a conversation with their readers, giving readers the feeling they are friends. The editorials are timely and provide much insight for readers. These pages are probably many subscribers' "first reads."

**2nd Place**—The Alamance News, Graham, NC, Editorial Page, Tom Boney Jr. and Jean Boney

Definitely their readers' community watchdog. A nice balance of writings, including praise, humor and strong editorials.

**3rd Place**—The Northwest Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Best Editorial Pages, Staff

Very nice layout on these pages with a variety of sources, editorial comments, informational columns and a humorous column. Best layout composition in this category.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Editorial pages, Steve Ranson

Hard-hitting editorials. Like how these writers call it as they see it. Great skill in sharing their opinions on issues.

## BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, The Friendship Club: Nurturing tomorrow's strong women today, Emily Lavin, Staff

Very well-done package about one community organization supplementing the school system. The stories were interesting! Error-free with excellent use of quotes and data. Excellent work! The column by the former student was a good addition.

**2nd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Guns on Campus: The Next Debate, Randy Dockendorf

Good story tackling a timely, controversial issue. The best part is the source variety; the story consists of viewpoints from students to legislators. Nicely done. It makes me want to follow this issue in this community and state.

**3rd Place**—Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica, CA, At SMASH, mindfulness over matter, Jeffrey I. Goodman

Nicely written. Good imagery, which was important for this story. Good use of quotes. The reporter certainly took the reader into the school.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Hartington-Newcastle Seniors Make History, Randy Dockendorf

Nice story. How many students from each school? How many students in the graduating class? Six football players were mentioned.

Good storytelling. The story flowed well and seemed to capture the past year's developments. A good read.

## BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Pushing transition, Chris McGuinness

A fearless look at a tough subject. Well written and well sourced. Clearly the best of the batch.

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Patriot clamor buffets school, Frances Moody

Nicely written and well sourced. Looks at a community controversy with clear eyes and balance.

**3rd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Paving paradise, Chris McGuinness

Interesting story that makes sure to talk to those most affected—the students. Well done.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Chronicle, Chester, NY, Please don't let me be misunderstood, Pam Chergotis, Ginny Privitar

I just love the approach the teachers are taking on this subject. It highlights the importance of grammar despite technology. A person needs basics before anything else, and the instructors understand. This was very well written, and I was looking for grammatical errors because of the topic! LOL

Community Impact Newspaper-Frisco Edition, Pflugerville, TX, FISD seeks standardized testing remodel, Lindsey Juarez

Community Impact papers tackle education issues with gusto, but they need to focus on writing and sourcing. Each of the stories have first-place potential. Keep working at it!

## BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, Learning & Leading: 'MakerSpace' gives high school students creative control of technology lessons, Wayne Hardy

This story highlights a unique way to give students some control of their education. The topic lends itself immediately to a feature story, but the author didn't just talk to the instructor but included student feedback on how the program works for them. It was well written to keep the reader's attention, providing an image of the class instead of telling me about the class. Nice job.

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, As measles hits Marin ..., Deirdre McCrohan, Kevin Hessel

This story took a national issue and brought it home to a family directly involved in the community, giving the story a face instead of just an issue. The story is well written and shows both sides of the controversy. I am very pleased with how the writer covered this issue.

**3rd Place**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, At-risk youth takes flight, Barbie Porter

I wish the author could have gotten the subject to open up more on what her life was like before the program and just how the teacher influenced her life changes. However, it is a good read and mirrors the importance of how a teacher can change a life and how a student—regardless of age—can make choices that are for the better.

## BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, What happens when hunters and grizzlies collide, Mike Koskmrl

Very comprehensive, well-balanced story based on a variety of sources, including information obtained through FOIA request. Kudos to reporter Mike Koskmrl for his research and for looking at many facets of the human-grizzly conflict. He went beyond the all-too-common, unquestioning regurgitation of source material by spot-lighting questions such as why bear spray is not more widely used, nor strongly promoted in government-produced hunter safety literature. The link between pine beetle disease and the growing grizzly population's need for food fleshes out the complexity of the human-natural world conflict. Very good report in every respect—and a pleasure to read.

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, A Comeback Story ..., Gretchen Lang

Well-written story by ace reporter Gretchen Lang, who used multiple sources to give historic context for harbor porpoises' disappearance and recent return to SF Bay. Stories such as this help affirm the value and success of decades-long efforts to restore the bay's waters. It is also heartening to ready about young, upcoming scientists who will eventually carry on the work of their seasoned mentors. The public is hungry for stories such as this;

keep them coming. Well done.

**3rd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Eyes on the Keys, Kara Fox

A well-written, multi-sourced look at a tenacious problem of importance to Lake Tahoe and relevant to almost any region whose water bodies have been heavily impacted by human activities. The pros and cons of herbicide use and presentation of opposing views are clear, balanced and fair. Keep up the good work.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND, Wind farm proposal, Kevin Killough

Although part two of this entry is missing the jump, it does not diminish the quality of this report on the proposed wind farm. The reporter has done a good job of giving the history of the proposed project, of seeking out all points of views, and of listing some of the potential problems. The newspaper is fulfilling its role as an essential source of information for a community and region preparing to make decisions with long-lasting consequences, both good and potentially bad.

## BEST FAMILY LIFE/LIVING SECTION/PAGES

### Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Siouxland Life—May 2015, Journal staff

It was hard to decide between the first and second place winners in this category. Both have similar styles and ideas with good composition. What this put over the top of the second-place winner was the quality of photographs and how they took an everyday subject like farming and found unique aspects of farming for the features—the originality. One disadvantage was some of the ads didn't pertain to the overall subject, so they distracted from the section—even though that's what pays for the work.

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, June 25 (unusual folks) & Aug. 20 (faith), Alan Campbell

This section was so similar in quality to the first-place winner—writing styles, composition, and originality. The graphic tying all the unusual folks stories together was a great idea, along with the intriguing headlines and use of both black-and-white and color photos. Tackling such a wide variety of churches in one setting was an excellent idea. Great job overall.

**3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Valley sections, Johanna Love

The uniqueness of obituaries was awesome. Having a story for each age group was a great way to pull in all ages of readers, too. Having columnists on a wide variety of topics, especially reaching out to dog owners, added another original touch. Just hard to beat the appearance of the first two places.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Arts & Leisure, Staff

The composition brought this to the top of this class—great way to keep ordinary events appealing to readers. Great way to showcase events instead of just using a typical press release. Love the headlines—really pulled me into the articles. The lack of depth in the articles hindered this entry.

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

### Daily Division

**1st Place**—Santa Clarita Valley Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, Fluorescent flurry, Dan Watson

These "color" events have become perhaps too photogenic, but this one has all the great color and action, nicely proportioned through the photo.

**2nd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Bird on a wire, Ron Siddle

Nature is amazing when it put on a show. You couldn't possibly create this photo; you had to be there and ready to capture it. Nice work.

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Land of the free, Blaine McCartney

Not only is this an image you don't see often, but it is both lively and colorful yet solemn at the same time.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Sharing cowboy stories, Michael Smith

Sweet moment between generations both enjoying a common bond of the love of the cowboy life.

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO

### Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Wilmette Beacon, Northbrook, IL, The Last Barber, Joe Coughlin

Photo tells the story all by itself.

**2nd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Singing with Pride, Scott A. Drake

Colorful and busy, but it works well and complements the story.

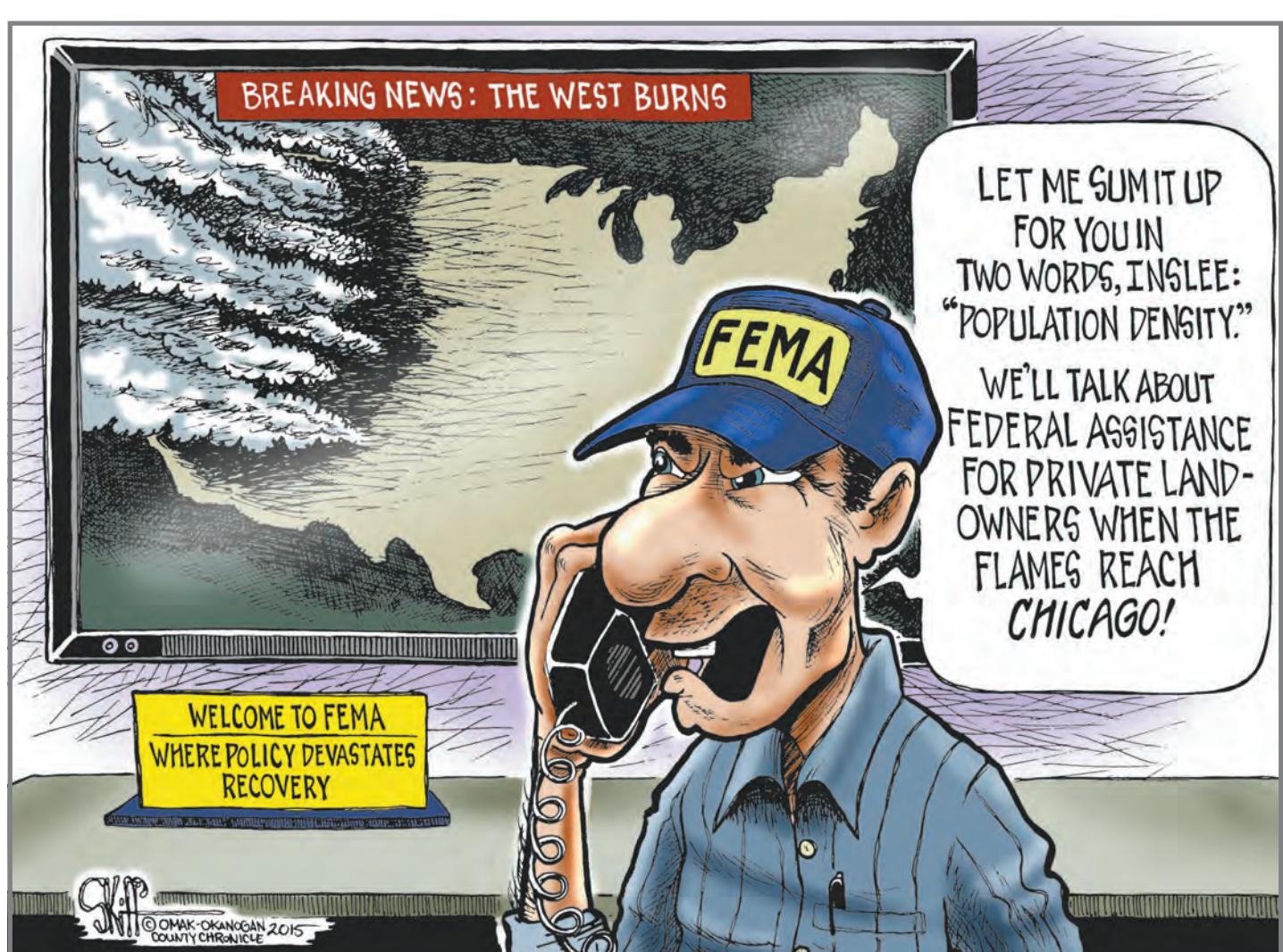
**3rd Place**—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM, Isleta Pueblo PowWow, Julia Dendinger

Nice, respectful image of a cultural event.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Need beads, David Normand

Well timed. Not your typical kid-at-a-parade shot.

## BEST FEATURE PHOTO



### THIRD PLACE,

best original editorial cartoon, daily & non-daily division

By Brad Skiff

Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA

### Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Courtney Spaans—Pig Slayer, Josh Harrel

The photographer literally takes the viewer into the splash zone of a greased pig contest. Good face, peak action and tight framing make this picture stand out.

**2nd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, And the thunder rolls, Josh Harrell

This image has a beauty-and-the-beast quality that makes a memorable image. Patience, good timing and strong composition help the viewer see the powerful beauty of a dangerous storm.

**3rd Place**—The Toccoa Record, Toccoa, GA, Preparing to Strike, Duane Winn

Peak action and a memorable face make this picture work. I wish it had a cleaner background.

### BEST FEATURE PHOTO

### Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, 'This is my prison' —For Marcia Carter, home is a car, Katharine Egli

Katharine Igli made a photo that conveys courage and tenacity, as well as something precious, in Marcia Carter; despite Carter's plight. The tight frame could be claustrophobic here but instead opens up Carter's character. An unforgettable image.

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Sept. 24, Ken Scott

Lovely composition. The dead leaves in the foreground echo the past, but the sunrise and the sailing rigs are a promise. The juxtaposition conveys something visceral, not entirely fixed, and that ambiguity won me over.

**3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Flat Creek fishing, Bradly J. Boner

Sweet, simple shot. Simultaneously majestic and intimate. Nice composition; great colors.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, Fair takes county by horns, Chris Thew

Chris Thew worked to make a creative, and original, photo on a typically rote county fair story. Shotgun and Frank Rendon are would-be accomplices in a hoped-for conquest. Nicely done.

### BEST FEATURE PHOTO

### Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, Fueling up for the big flight, Gale Kaas

The quality of this photo brings it to the top of this class. The minute, in-focus details of the butterfly grab the readers' interest,

and if they aren't subscribers, they are going to want to buy the paper to see what's in it. It's a great way to highlight an annual event—using a feature photo to tell the story.

**2nd Place**—Springtown Epigraph, Springtown, TX, A Squirrely Start to Autumn, Mark K. Campbell

Loved this unique approach to what could have been another boring weather photo of a rainy autumn. Great moment for the photographer to catch, plus it really catches readers' attention.

**3rd Place**—Glenrock Independent, Glenrock, WY, Lightning strikes, Phil Hamden

This is a feature photo people who don't live in the area will remember, as well as area residents will identify with. It just has everything from the city lights and star-lit night in the background to the lightning strikes in the foreground.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—West Point News, West Point, NE, Calf Whisperer, Willis Mahannah

Kids and baby animals are a hit with most readers, but the photographer caught one of those rare moments in perfect detail, from the girl's whispering to the details of the calf's hair and the girl's hand on the show stick. Using black-and-white photo of this enhances the photo quality and definitely appeals to readers.

### BEST FEATURE SERIES

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Stopping By, Starla Pointer

This is the grassroots journalism that keeps newspapers alive and thriving as a vital part of a community. Each story has information breakout material to bring folks into that particular interest, as in Wheels Out For a Spin. It's wonderful to hear about new beginnings. At any age. The History Bluff has a great approach. Sip City has powerful photos and is loaded with facts on how to go—throughout the story. Kart Kids brings parents a new fresh view of a sport that not much is written about nor known. Wedding of a Lifetime is a touching story of how persistence pays off. The details make the story. As the Earth Turns is not just for farmers. It's a man's amazing journey. All the stories are well written and ARE presented as stories. That's what we do best, and these stories unite a community. Well done!

**2nd Place**—The Echo Press, Alexandria, MN, The Cemeteries of Douglas County (six-part series + editorial and column), Tara Bitzan

The ambitious, detailed story is a keeper with shelf life for this community. The layout is great, the research deep and the maps help. The sidebars from those about veterans to offering a help in finding far-away grave sites are interesting. The column tells us much, and I learned that most cemeteries are managed by

associations. There is much to learn.

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Vietnam series: 50 Siouland Vietnam veterans in 50 days, Journal staff

This was an ambitious and successful series bringing the voices of veterans and families into the spotlight. Vietnam has changed so much since this war, since these folks were there .... It is a glimpse into a important part of our history and theirs.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Through their eyes, J.R. Logan

This writer captures the hardship of a community when a mine closed. There are not many answers for this problem faced by so many, but there is plenty of community care and love, clearly. People gave their stories with honesty.

### BEST FEATURE SERIES

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—Washington County Enterprise, Blair, NE, Feature Series category—cemetery series, Leeanna Ellis

Very cool idea: profiling cemeteries. In a category full of strong writing, this series stands out. Well conceived, well written and well displayed. Loved the sidebars. Terrific package!

**2nd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, The Weather Makers, Dave Zook

Interesting idea for an important feature series. Compelling layout with multiple points of entry and well written.

**3rd Place**—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, Pedal The Plains, Darci Tomky, Karen Ortner, Brenda Brandt

Love the profiles of the bikers. Big effort; well done.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Travel Nevada, Steve Ranson / Laci Thompson

Fun! Well told and beautifully presented in bite-sized pieces and well laid out page.

### BEST FEATURE STORY

### Daily Division

**1st Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Lucky Life, Randy Dockendorf

This is a nicely written story wrapped around what could have been a boring book review. The facts flowed, and not in an awkward Q&A style.

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Sioux City woman battles stigma associated with HIV, Dolly Butz

Beautifully written and impossible to stop reading. Well done.

**3rd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, A



SECOND PLACE, best breaking news photo, daily division

By Jason Matthew Walker, Lake City Reporter, Lake City, FL

**SUV CAREENS OFF I-75**—First responders work the scene of Monday's accident involving an SUV that left Interstate 75 and crashed onto US 90 during rush hour. Three people were flown to UF Health Shands in Gainesville, and two were reportedly in critical condition at press time.

# Are we there yet? Comcast, part I

BY JAY EDWARDS  
The Daily Record,  
Little Rock, AR

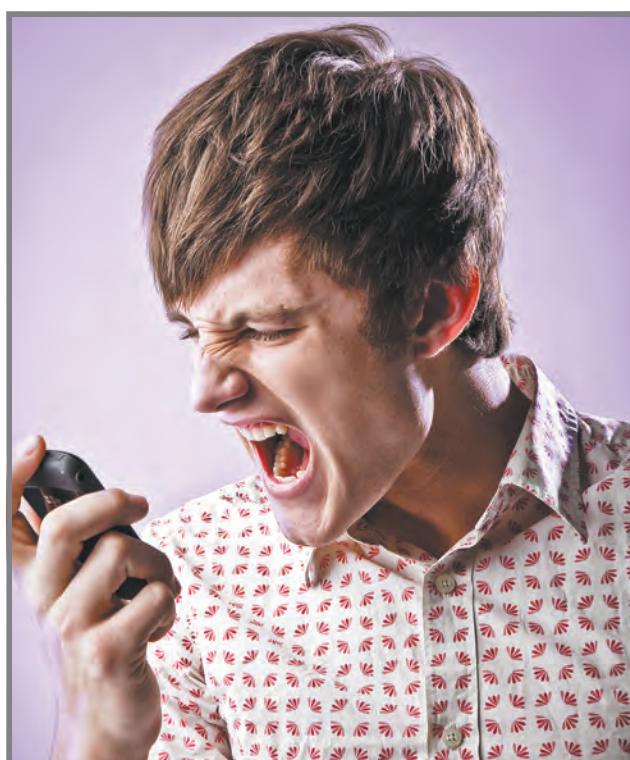
First place, best humorous column  
daily & non-division, circulation 3,000 - 7,999

**H**opefully, KM won't read this. It was decided that our cable package through one of the well-known providers was too expensive. I called them last fall to change something, and let one of their salespersons talk me into a new package I'll just call "The Works." It includes 240 channels, which I watch four or five of during football season and a golf tournament here and there. We also get high-speed Internet and a telephone. Well, the Internet is fast, and it rarely crashes. As for the phone, we've never even connected one. I don't think I even have a land line phone. If I do, it's somewhere in a box in my attic, lying in dust next to a broken Atari or a food processor.

So, KM thought it would be a good idea if we (my nickname is "We" around our house) called Comcast (oops, I mean that well-known provider) and made some changes, i.e. "Get rid of it!"

So, last Saturday, I made the call. The first recording I got told me to listen carefully because their options have changed. Next, I was asked to press one for Spanish and two for English. This is one of those changed options. In the not-too-distant past, it was one for English and two for Spanish. What could this mean?

Either there are now more Spanish customers, or they're just trying to play fair in the politically correct arena. Maybe there were complaints: "How come



"WE never get to press the one?"

So I pressed two and got some music, which, believe it or not, was Stevie Ray Vaughn, so they got that going for them.

Finally, someone answered the phone and said something, but I had no idea what. So I hung up, wondering if I'd pressed the one key by mistake,

while regretting taking Latin rather than Spanish at Catholic High.

I re-dialed, went through the same steps, and got a lady whose English was better. I answered enough of her questions for her to determine she didn't want to deal with me, so she sent me over to Al in sales. Al sounded like he was from one of those faraway places you don't want to travel to right now. I hoped he was in the U.S. because he was pretty nice, but he was still rather hard for me to understand.

Maybe they should have a third option. "Press one for Spanish, two for English, and three if you want to speak to someone who is trying hard to learn English but who might need to repeat the class."

So I began to tell Al my concern. But before I could get very far, he said he needed to take a look at my account. At least I think that's what he said. Either that, or he wanted to drop seeds near a book on the mountain. I said OK.

Al said I was in the X1 plan and asked what I wanted to do. I said I didn't want to pay \$200 a month. Al countered with how great I had it. He almost had me convinced when a familiar voice in my head said, "Get rid of it."

"Thanks anyway, Al, but I think I'll get rid of it."

He began talking faster, probably sensing he was losing me, and that I wasn't even the decision maker, which was frustrating for both of us.

The faster he talked, the harder he was to understand. He either said something about how this would be the biggest mistake of my life, or something about my mother.

I finally said, "Sorry, Al," and he put me on hold and never came back.

To be continued ....



**FIRST PLACE**, best sports photo, daily division  
By Tommy Martino | Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY

**REACHING FOR THE REINS**—Barrel racer Alicia Stockton of Stephenville, TX, tries to grab her horse's rein after it falls during her second go-round run at the 119th Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo on Wednesday afternoon at Frontier Park in Cheyenne.

#### FROM PAGE B6

Priest Dances For The Stars, Randy Dockendorf

The perfect feel-good story for the Christmas season and it is written perfectly. Bravo!

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Lake City Reporter, Lake City, FL, Time fades. His memory does not, Megan Reeves.

This story, and the Pearl Harbor survivor's recounting of the Japanese attack in 1941, is simply told and chilling in its imagery. I had shivers run down my spine, especially at the end. Well done!

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000-14,999**

**1st Place**—Wilson County News, Floresville, TX, Robert C. McDonald

What an interesting article! I learned a lot about powder horns in a well-written, easy-to-follow story. Great sentence structure, great appeal, overall just a great job!

**2nd Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Sports is in the blood of Holden Beach's Ingram, Brian Slattery

What a fascinating woman Sarah Sue Ingram is and what an interesting life described in a well-written story about her. The first paragraph drew me in and kept my interest the whole way through the story. You have a nice way of putting a story together.

**3rd Place**—The Wilmette Beacon, Northbrook, IL, Tale of Survival, Eric DeGrech

Stories about veterans and service men usually tug at the heartstrings and this story about Jeffrey Meek is no different. Nicely put together, good use of quotes for telling his story, and overall a quality piece.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Publisher Jeff David dies, Staff

Nice tribute for the publisher's death. I liked the way the story was written. More than just an obituary, the story tells about the life of an extraordinary man. Lots of human interest for the community, I imagine.

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more**

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, The crop beneath, Hayley Thomas

Beautifully written. Terrific use of quotes, details that paint a picture and short sentences (Yay!) get the reader to "dive" in.

**2nd Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA, Code Conundrum, David Minsky

Who cares? I thought, as I waded through the many entries for Best Feature. But the writing—brisk pacing, great attention to detail and a great eye—made me care. Terrific layout also draws the reader in.

**3rd Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA, Life on Alert, Shelly Cone, David Minsky

Well written. It personalizes the process.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Tinley Junction, Orland Park, IL, Bronze bust, Riley Simpson

An ordinary story—a feature about a bronze bust—turned extraordinary by the writing: details, pacing and voice are all excellent.

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circulation 2,000-3,999**

**1st Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, An Angel Island ..., Paul Dunn

Excellent job combining stats and stories—something that's not always easy to do. Excellent supporting photos.

**2nd Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, The world is his neighborhood: Doug Herrin dropped out of the everyday to see life in every way, Wayne Hardy

Great subject, covered in depth and with feeling. Good idea to include the "guide" and "highlights" sidebars.

**3rd Place**—The Pine Journal, Cloquet, MN, Miss Iris and Sydney graduate, Jana Peterson

This is a subject that could easily become schmaltzy, but you managed to include the charm of this woman without being fawning.

#### HONORABLE MENTION(S)

Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN, Coaching on and off the field, Martha Lueders

Very thorough look at an amazing coach. I'm sure this was inspirational to your community.

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circulation 4,000-5,999**

**1st Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Different Perspective, Jake Harris

A touching, warmly written story about an upbeat teen who has a lot going for him, even though he is losing his eyesight. Saying he has a vision for his life is an understatement but presented with a close-up look, in detail, of the situation. The photos are very good, and the layout on a black background really works. Well done!

**2nd Place**—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, 'Untold Story' Of A Teen Lost To Drugs, Charlie Zavalick

This is a well-written story told by a very brave family about a problem that is close to many in this country. It grabs the reader—all the way through. Great job!

**3rd Place**—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX, Blues Buzzard, Jeff Wick

This is a fun story that grabs a reader, whether he or she is a musical fan or not. It is written with humor and detail that holds the readers to the end. The layout is creative too, using the font ZZ as a tool to bring a reader in.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Football camp will be place for healing, Jeremy Jones

This is a community story about a young man who has had a remarkable experience. It speaks of a small town good story in a state where football is so important to all youngsters.

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

**Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999**

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR,

Taking their wheels out for a spin, Starla Pointer

Wonderful story telling. In this case, the writer really shows she can spin a yarn. Clever phrases and carefully chosen quotes woven into the story make the story flow and keep the reader engaged. The quotes really help develop the character of the people interviewed. Plus, the story contains loads of interesting and informative information.

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Carving their way back, Johanna Love

If asked what is a story with human interest and reader appeal, this story could be used as an example. Coping with PTSD is an issue of national concern, and this story shows how one program is helping veterans cope. Solid writing and interesting quotes help make this a story you won't stop reading once you start it. Quite informational.

**3rd Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, 'Bearytale' unfolds at Esther Bricques, Brock Hires, Roger Harnack

What could have been a matter-of-fact news story became a newsy, but delightful news feature when the writer spotted and developed the Goldilocks angle. Mama Bear and three baby bears snacking on grapes, not porridge, and napping in a tree is of human interest and has reader appeal. Interesting quotes aid the story, and information about the bear problem is worked in nicely. Also, story has a nice wrap-up at the end.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Heidi and the 1,035 paper cranes, Samantha Hernandez

Inspirational and touching. Children working together on a time-consuming, tedious effort for the purpose of cheering on and encouraging someone with cancer certainly has human interest and reader appeal. The writer works in interesting background and pertinent information, such as the poems and how many folds it takes to make a paper crane, as well as incorporating good quotes. A strong read.

# Escaping the echo chamber could lead to real blessings

BY BRIAN KNOX  
Wise County Messenger,  
Decatur, TX

First place, best serious column  
daily & non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 5,999

**L**istening to a police scanner in the newsroom all day, you hear all kinds of calls.

But there's one call I hear from time to time that makes me uncomfortable. It usually goes something like this: "We need an officer in route to the complainant's location for a suspicious person. Black male walking down the street."

I'm sure the people who call the police for this type of thing are well meaning, but it does beg the question: if the person walking down the street had been white, would the phone call have been made?

Race is a conversation most people, particularly white-skinned people like myself, find uncomfortable. We like to tell ourselves that race relations are getting better. Some even argue it's not an issue at all.

And then something like Charleston happens.

Nine black church members killed, all because their skin was the "wrong" color.

The last words they heard were, "You rape our women, and you're taking over our country. And you have to go."

A 21-year-old white man's heart became so filled with hate that he spent an entire hour in a Bible study and prayer meeting with them before pulling out his gun and slaughtering them. He reloaded five times.

A Washington Post story I read over

the weekend said the gunman, after his arrest, told police he "almost didn't do it because they were so nice to him."

Perhaps if this warped young man had spent more time attending that historic black church and actually getting to know those nine church members rather than wrapping himself in an echo chamber of white supremacists who cling with pride to the Confederate flag and argue that this country was better when black people were treated as property rather than the fully equal American citizens they are, the outcome might have been radically different.

But that's not how we operate in this country apparently.

We like to listen to other people who look and think like ourselves to form our opinions about those who don't look or think like ourselves.

Don't believe me? Turn on cable television and note the skin color of those who decry black violence on the streets of Ferguson and Baltimore or those who think it is just fine to degrade one's faith if you use the Arabic word for God, "Allah."

A Muslim friend of mine earlier this month was cornered in a bathroom during a Tea Party event in the Metroplex. A Christian woman, noticing my friend's hijab, a traditional head and chest covering worn by Muslim women, decided to "share her Christian faith" with my friend.

While I don't know exactly what was said, I do know that my friend had to leave the building to go to the parking

lot to compose herself due to the hateful way she was addressed.

My wife and I on a few occasions have had discussions about faith with this young woman, and it has always been a positive experience for all of us.

Of course, we approach the conversation with love for her and respect for her faith, and we listen to what she has to say.

The Tea Party Christian, according to the group's newsletter article about the incident, told my friend she's "in America now where she can be free, and doesn't she want to use that freedom?" She called my friend a "lost soul," and asked if she'd "like to learn about Jesus?"

I know that the lady didn't do any listening. If she

had, she would have realized my friend, while her family is Arab, was born in Fort Worth and has lived in Texas her entire life.

Perhaps my Muslim friend could have told this Christian woman a story about her own father, the owner of a gas station in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Last Thanksgiving, a black family traveling across the state had a blow out while returning to their home. A police officer tried finding a tire store that was open on the holiday, but he was unsuccessful.

The officer called my Muslim friend's father, thinking his gas station might



have a tire. Unfortunately, it did not have the right size.

The family said they would just sleep in their car and try to find a tire store the next morning.

My Muslim friend's dad wouldn't hear of it. He insisted that these strangers stay in an upstairs room at his business where there were couches, blankets, pillows and a bathroom with a shower. He refused any money from the family.

Both the officer and the family were overwhelmed by such an act of kindness for strangers.

I still have a long way to go in my own Christian faith journey, but I saw the love of Jesus shared in one of the two encounters I described above.

And it was shared by a Muslim, not the Christian.

How many white Christians have opened up their home or business to black strangers in need?

Or are we more willing to call the police about a suspicious person?

So often we judge people based on our perceptions of race or culture when we really need to spend more time getting to know those who are different from us.

If we take the time to listen, we might just learn something. Or better yet, we might be blessed.

Perhaps if the Tea Party Christian had been willing to listen to someone different from herself, she might have experienced the love of Jesus herself that afternoon. And if a 21-year-old racist had been willing to seek God with the help of the faith of those nine black Christians at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, our world would be a little less empty today.

bknox@wcmessenger.com

## BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

**1st Place**—The Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND, Amerada Camp kids reunite, Nicky Ouellet

**2nd Place**—La Vernia News, La Vernia, TX, Robert C. McDonald, Nannette Kilbey-Smith

**3rd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Rick Bussler

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Howard Lestrud

## BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Echo Press, Alexandria, MN, (July 31 and Sept. 4), Echo Press staff

"Fez" entry is very creative. Good headlines throughout. Congrats

**2nd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, staff Sheepish, Transit and Bees/Wasps pushed this entry into the finals. Nice work throughout.

**3rd Place**—Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX, Jason Collins, Laura Campbell, Kevin J. Keller

Volley'd & Thunder'd is aesthetically pleasing.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Going Green and Solemn Remembrance, John Nagy, David Sinclair

Green/Blue is clever play.

## BEST HEALTH STORY

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

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Iowa prescription drug abuse on the rise, Dolly Butz

A comprehensive report on a very important and growing problem. A good example for other newspapers to follow.

**2nd Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA, Herd Immunity, Camillia Lanham

A thorough report on a very controversial issue, giving both established science and heartfelt concerns their proper due.

**3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper-Cy-Fair Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Demographic shift causing Harris County to explore community-based health care, Marie Leonard

One of several excellent efforts by Community Impact to help its readers understand the health-care system, which can be opaque to many. This is entry is recognized as the best example of a package that deserves overall recognition, partly because Marie Leonard shared the byline on the second-best story.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, Glasgow Man Recovering From Infection, Kit Huffman

A relatively minor case (not to the individual, of course) apparently created a major concern because of an inaccurate report by another news outlet. This set things straight in a responsible way, giving citizens information they needed.

## BEST HEALTH STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, As measles hits Marin ..., Deirdre McCrohan, Kevin Hessel

Nice job on a controversial story. I wanted to read more—would have made a nice series.

**2nd Place**—Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN, Best Health Story—"An itchy situation," Martha Lueders

Tough subject—made me itch. Good job getting the interview with an obviously frustrated mom. This itchy situation can—and does—affect many families of young children.

**3rd Place**—The Pine Journal, Cloquet, MN, One step at a time, Jamie Lund

I wanted to join this group of women, running for health and camaraderie. Weak lede bumped this one from second place.

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—The Daily Record, Little Rock, AR, Are we there yet—Comcast, part 1, Jay Edwards

Funny, well written, and a topic everyone can identify with. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of reading it.

**2nd Place**—Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Richmond, VA, A chance to say goodbye, Paul Fletcher

This column took on the challenge that few can master—a sad subject that was both touching and humorous. I found myself smiling and feeling sad at the same time. Well done!

**3rd Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, My granddaughter's so perspicacious; and she'll be even more so once she finishes 3rd grade spelling, Robert M. Williams Jr.

Absolutely charming. Any grandparent, who is asked for help with homework by their grandchild, can identify when they are left feeling befuddled and confused on a subject they felt they were fairly knowledgeable about. I enjoyed every minute of this column.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Farewell to a friend, Scott Campbell

This writer captured the feeling each of us has had, when parting with an item with which we've gone through most of our lives and we need to pack it in. Funny and nostalgic.

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Remembering the dearly departed, Kathy Cruz

Dear Gym: None of the columns in this division made me laugh

out loud. But this one made me smile the most. Well written.

**2nd Place**—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Christmas cards are making all my friends look old, Heidi Hodges

More bittersweet than humorous—but it's well written. Nice job.

**3rd Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Swamp park adventures, part I, Jackie Torok

We all have to laugh at ourselves sometimes. A nice read.

## BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Don't RUSH, live MORE (20 signs for South Dakota), Brian J. Hunhoff

Funny stuff here, the best of the entries. Witty and fun—especially for locals, certainly, but anyone anywhere could plug in their own signs.

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, What A Joke—Weight of the world on my belly, John Bayer

Concise and funny—columns don't have to be ridiculously long. Some laugh out loud one-liners. Good job.

**3rd Place**—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, Coming clean with a secret that sparkles, Russel Skiles

This column went a different direction; I thought it was going to be about placating a grandchild. Funny—and recognizable—stuff for those of us who battle the teeny critters.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, First Chair, Last Call, Gretchen Brugman

Tries pretty hard to be cool and hip, but the piece is still funny enough to place. Locals certainly related to it.

# Don't RUSH, live MORE

**BY BRIAN J. HUNHOFF**  
**The Yankton County Observer**  
**Yankton, SD**

First place, best humorous column  
 daily & non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000

## 20 signs for SD

**E**xperts say clever traffic signs help motorists focus on highway safety. A federal study showed positive response to messages like, "Click it or ticket" and "That seat belt looks good on you."

Utah's witty traffic sign campaign included: "Turn signals: the original instant message" and "Steering wheels are not a hands-free device."

Massachusetts used phrases that played off the state's regional dialect: "Use yah blinkah" and "Wear yah seatbelt."

So far, the best South Dakota has produced is, "Don't Jerk and Drive." That lame campaign was pulled soon after state highway officials admitted the double-entendre was intentional.

State Rep. Mike Vericho spoke for many when he

described the ad as, "a terrible error in judgment."

It was the same ad agency that produced, "It's better to live in South Dakota than die on Mars." If we keep paying for slogans like that, we'll need signs entering our state that say, "Please don't laugh at the natives."

Even a catchphrase can only do so much. We could post signs saying, "Speed limit enforced by snipers," and plenty would still drive recklessly.

Following is a list of signs I'm suggesting for roads in Yankton County and other parts of our state. They may be humorous and/or taken seriously. You decide.

1. Sign for Yankton's West City Limits Road:  
Suicidal Deer: Next 3 Miles.
2. Sign for speed trap in town of Irene: Drive slow and see our town. Drive fast and see our jail!
3. Sign for Highway 46 between Irene and Mayfield Store: Speed Limit 65 (Tractors, keep up best you can).
4. Sign for local dead-end known as 'Smoke Road': Stay off the grass.
5. Warning sign for Highway 52 near Lewis and Clark Lake: Hit a deer at 45 mph, you'll live. Hit a deer at 70 ...?
6. Speed limit sign for Yankton's Broadway Avenue: Cars: 30 mph. Semi trucks: Whatever.
7. Sign for bumpy gravel roads west of Yankton: Rumble Strip: Next 2 miles.
8. Good reminder sign for I-29 near Truck Towne:

Top legal speed for South Dakota: 80. Top safe speed for most semi tires: 65.

9. Sign for Highway 50 between Yankton and Vermillion: No racing while texting.

10. Sign to post between Mitchell and Chamberlain: I-90 is the road, not the speed limit!

11. Sign (inspired by Pink Floyd) for roads near Mitchell Corn Palace: Wish you were ear.

12. Sign to slow tourists entering Hill City: Caution: Dinosaur Crossing!

13. Sign for Sturgis Motorcycle Rally: Road vs. Helmet = Tie. Road vs. Head = Die.

14. Sign for deadly Boulder Canyon highway to state's favorite town for gamblers: Road to Deadwood: Where the odds are against you.

15. Sign for motorists on busy 41st Street in Sioux Falls: Better late than never, but never 41st is better.

16. Sign for interstate between Sioux Falls and Brookings: This is not the I-29 Motor Speedway.

17. Sign for top of Needles Highway in Black Hills: Shoulder Drop-Off.

18. Sign to post near any South Dakota correctional facility: Avoid hitchhikers wearing orange.

19. Sign for Kadoka exit: Real Badlanders Buckle Up.

20. Sign for busy road to South Dakota's greatest attraction: don't RUSH, live MORE.

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Daily Division

**1st Place**—The Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, NY, Prison Break, Joe LoTempio

Tough call in a very competitive category. The exhaustive nature of this report and this local paper leading the coverage of what became a national story is commendable and pushes it to the top.

**2nd Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Misuse of taxpayer money at McAlester Public Schools, Glenn Puit, James Beatty, David Dishman, Kevin Harvson, Dawnya Hill

Kudos to this paper and its reports for doggedly staying on this story. Great use of FOIA requests to dig deeper and ultimately reveal what was going on in this district.

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Sioux City case highlights gaps in teacher-student sex law, Nick Hytrek

Good job shining a light on a discrepancy in the law that definitely needed to be corrected.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Young, Vulnerable. And homeless, James Chilton

Excellent profile on a heartbreaking problem communities face.

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Airing out concerns, Colin Rigley

The most professional and thorough effort in the class.

**2nd Place**—Northside Sun, Jackson, MS, Savannah bidding woes, Anthony Warren, Wyatt Emmerich

Dogged pursuit of chicanery by the mayor might have won first in this category if the writing and editing had been better. It was OK, but those were hallmarks of the winner.

**3rd Place**—The Northbrook Tower, Northbrook, IL, Affordable Housing, Matt Yan

Thorough look at an issue that many in town would probably rather ignore.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Community Impact Newspaper—Spring Klein Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Annexations provide millions to MUDs, city of Houston, Matt Stephens

A story well told in words and graphics.

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Dryings Times, Nicole Montesano & Staff

The clear winner in this category. Good coverage of all angles—excellent photography helped tell the story. This one was broader in scope than others—which added to the appeal.

**2nd Place**—The Alamance News, Graham, NC, Federal judge rules on DOJ case vs. Sheriff, Tomas Murawski and Tom Boney Jr.

The headline—probably the best of the entries in this division—was an attention-grabber. A thorough look at a sheriff attempting to do his job while being scrutinized by a variety of agencies.

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Best investigative or in-depth story—School lunch series, Emma Kennedy

School lunches: A solid look at the waste involved—both food and money—when children refuse to eat unpalatable meals. And by the sound of it, who can blame them? Nice job.

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Hennessey Clipper, Hennessey, OK, OSBI plays games with school board over records about coach, Barb Walter

Excellent job with a tricky subject—thorough and sensitive. Kudos for not giving up when they threw roadblocks in your way! Great idea to give editorial page support for your series.

**2nd Place**—The Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND, All that remains—the legacy of past oil booms, Nicky Ouellet

Extremely thorough and well-thought-out pieces. Good use of photos/graphics to support this series.

**3rd Place**—Mid Hudson Times, Newburgh, NY, Newburgh's Zombie Properties, Shantal Riley

Great research and clear and concise coverage of a big problem.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Eden Valley-Watkins Voice, Drugs ... A Lifetime Struggle, Laurie Schultz

Beautifully and sensitively written while still maintaining journalistic integrity. Excellent photos.

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Best Local News Coverage, Staff

Outstanding newspaper, cover to cover! Strong local content, editorial voice, good design. I would enjoy reading this paper cover to cover!

**2nd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Staff

Another excellent newspaper! Design and content are top-notch.

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, staff

Strong local coverage and editorial commentary

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ

Good content, nice, clean layout. Editorial was short, but present.

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID, Selection of two issues, Pam Morris, Gregory Foley

Beautiful newspaper with lots of local stories with staff bylines. Attractive design. Local articles in every section cover every aspect of community life. Wonderful job!

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, March 5, Sept. 3, Alan Campbell

An abundance of local stories all written by staff writers.

Wonderful photos, too. Interesting historic pieces (which is often not the case), and I especially enjoyed the story about the weather watcher who was back from a month-long vacation.

**3rd Place**—The St Louis American, St. Louis, MO, Staff

Many staff-bylined stories for the community. More enterprise stories would add more depth. Excellent use of photos throughout and commentary (columns).

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Community Impact Newspaper-Cy-Fair Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Kelli Ray, Marie Leonard, Shawn Arraj

Nice design, especially of ads. Stories of great interest to members of its large community. Seems a bit oriented toward promoting area businesses, but long, in-depth news stories included, as well. Glad to see this paper tackling information for this growing community.

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN, Independent Review staff

Very good, thorough coverage of community. Good coverage of local government, as well as community life.

**2nd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, March and April Editions, Moonshine Ink, staff

Very extensive coverage of community life. Could use more local government coverage.

**3rd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Best Local News Coverage, Staff

Good local news coverage, as well as stories about people and events in the community.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—West Point News, West Point, NE, Local news coverage

Good local news coverage.

## BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, 'A long ways to go'

Marriage equality is a right, but locals keep working, Cody Hooks

Just about a perfect example of bringing a big national story home, with good writing and a good local example, especially important in this subject matter.

**2nd Place**—Milton Times, Milton, MA, Movie puts 'Spotlight' on town, Kathy Kurtz Ferrari

Smart use of movie release to update the local story that went international, told mainly through the eyes of someone who knew many of the people involved.

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Sentencing change leads to early release of federal drug offenders, Nick Hytrek

Thorough look at local impact of a national story, although not as big a national story as the first- and second-place winners.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Storm Lake hoops encounter alters news arc, Tim Gallagher

A great story that was well told, but somewhat underplayed the national issue.

## BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Echo Press, Alexandria, MN, Echo Press

This site has a lot of quality content to offer, and it is easy to

find. Responsive homepage design fosters a sense of community by prominently displaying an area voices module, packaged with local columnists, making this site a good source of one-stop shopping for views in the area. Excellent use of image thumbnails, which are effectively cropped by human editors for maximum effect. Video content is showcased on the home page instead of being hidden in a dropdown. Individual story files have trending/latest modules and good keyboarding to encourage site stickiness.

**2nd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper-Leander/Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX; Judy Anderson, Derek Sullivan, Jose Salazar, Emilie Lutostanski, Brandy Cohen

Easy to navigate, responsive site design works really well on mobile devices without sacrificing desktop functionality. Good combination of scrolling and drop-down site navigation make this site easy to use. Advertising doesn't cover content, making this a pleasant user experience. Excellent keyboarding and similar content links encourage viewers to stay on the site. Community-specific design allows for cross publishing without the clutter of unrelated stories from other geographic areas. This is a sophisticated solution for a site that provides content from so many different (but loosely connected) areas.

**3rd Place**—The St Louis American, St. Louis, MO, Stlamerican.com, Ishmael Sistrunk, Kenya Vaughn

Very clean and easy to navigate desktop site with sophisticated use of text and visuals. Non-responsive design makes it a bit more challenging to read this site on a mobile device. I really like the idea of including photos and videos in separate sections of the most popular/most viewed tables. I wish there was better keyboarding and cross-linking between similar content.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, WyomingNews.com, staff

The home pages for this site has a ton of stuff on it and looks a little jumbled. Once inside, however, it has a clean, responsive design that makes it easy to view well-produced stories and images on desktop and mobile. Interior design encourages site stickiness by giving viewers easy options to find more content.

## BEST OBITUARY

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, A Song In His Heart, Randy Dockendorf

I was engaged from the first sentence. The obituary gave the reader a real sense of the man, as well as the era in which he lived. The photo accompanying the article was perfect, and the lede made the reader smile. Well done!

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Alex Robbins—Age 3, Cyndi Wood

I was hooked and wanted to read more from the first sentence. The writer did an excellent job of characterizing Alex and the impact he had on others.

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Obituary: Jacob Kaskey, Jen Colletta

This was a well-written tribute to a person who really made a difference in the lives of the LGBT community and increased awareness of their issues.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Local Historian Ralph Gregory Dies at 105, Karen Butterfield  
Very well done story on a man whose work will impact his community in perpetuity. The writer was able to convey the humility of the man who contributed so much to historical preservation in his town and beyond.

#### BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON

##### Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Barberton Herald, Barberton, OH, Norton sewer assessment options, Leo Michael

An instant laugh while fully understanding the message.

**2nd Place**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, It takes a village idiot, R.L. Crabb

Well delivered.

**3rd Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, FEMA response, Brad Skiff

Strong drawing technique.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, cartoon—failed five school merger, Wayne Stroot

Well constructed message.

#### BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

##### Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Legendary recording engineer remembered, James Beaty

This is the best entry in a group that included a slew of great writing on multiple subjects. No other entry was as in-depth in its coverage. The subject was enthralling, and the writing just right. Fantastic job!

**2nd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Lights, camera, adventure; Glen Starkey

In a contest with multiple exceptional entries, this one was superb. What a great idea, and the concept was covered completely. This is very good and of interest to even the casual reader.

**3rd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, CSI: Jerusalem, Kay Johnson

What an interesting concept, and the coverage of it was excellent. This is what a community newspaper can do best—highlight talented local folks who are doing extraordinary things. Fine job.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, New documentary focuses on 'gaymer' culture, Larry Nichols

Here was a subject that I knew little of, and now I know a lot. The writing here is super and informative on a unique topic. This was a fine piece in a category loaded with them.

#### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

##### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

**1st Place**—The St Louis American, St. Louis, MO, Scenes from Baltimore, Lawrence Bryant

Great spread. No text needed.

**2nd Place**—Chino-Chino Hills Champion, Chino, CA, Growing for Goodness' Sake, Marianne Napolis

Sharp pictures, bright color and good composition, both in individual photos and on the page.

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Philly Pride 2015, Scott A. Drake

An ambitious spread. Could have used more variety in size of your photos.

#### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

**1st Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, A dandy of a Dairy Day, Terry Davis

This beautifully presented photo essay quickly conveys the story with the nicely-composed photo of the girl feeding the calf, supported by others portraying Dairy Day celebrants in a variety of activities.

**2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Smiles and Sunshine, Joe Duty

Joe Duty's "Smiles and Sunshine" said it all, and was a very close runner-up to the winner, especially with the street-level shot of the crowd seen through the horse's legs. Great work.

**3rd Place**—The Pine Journal, Cloquet, MN, Making magic backstage, Jana Peterson

Jana Peterson's "Making magic backstage" perfectly encapsulated the flurry of activity before any stage production, and may well have won this competition if the layout had been more cohesive. It just did not flow as well as the others. Nice work, though.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Brining History Back to Life, Steve Ranson / Laci Thompson

Lovely layout and beautiful presentation of this story, warrants commendation.

#### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

##### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-12,000

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, The Beetle Man of Thyne, Price Chambers

Oh my! Great photo story with such excellent shots. I don't think I would want to hold those beetles long in my bare hands.

CONTINUED ON, PAGE B14

# Residents slay killer alligator responsible for local man's death

BY SHARON BROOKS

The Examiner

Beaumont, TX

First place, best breaking news story daily & non-daily division, circulation 12,000 or more

**A** band of self-proclaimed "good Samaritans" took the law—and a rifle—into their own hands, saying they wanted to protect children and other area residents who swim in Adams Bayou from a killer alligator responsible for a local man's recent death.

It all began in the early morning hours of July 3 when 28-year-old Tommie Woodward of Orange and a female companion went swimming in Adams Bayou. Woodward jumped into the water from the deck of Burkart's Marina at 1802 Mississippi Ave. in Orange.

The fun session of night swimming took a turn when Woodward quickly warned the woman to keep her distance, OPD Captain Cliff Hargrave said, telling her to stay back because a "gator" had taken hold of his arm. She ran for help, getting the attention of staff of the closed marina. They called 911 at about 2:30 a.m., but by the time first responders got to the scene, Hargrave reports, Woodward "was already gone." It took a search team nearly two hours to find his body.

"They found him about a half mile down the bayou," said Capt. Hargrave.

Texas Parks and Wildlife confirmed that Woodward's injuries were consistent with an alligator attack. Judge Rodney Price ordered an autopsy.

Hargrave said Woodward, who worked at Crumpler's Shipyard in Orange, lived close to the marina in the Cove area. According to Hargrave, alligator sightings—and even attacks—are not unheard of in the area, but this is the first death resulting from an alligator attack he has seen during his long career.

"People get bitten all the time, but fatalities are rare," he said.

Allen Burkart of Burkart's Marina told The Examiner that Woodward took off his shirt and shoes on the deck of the marina before leaping into the murky water of the bayou, reportedly in spite of verbal warnings from marina staff and without regard for a sign reading "NO SWIMMING—ALLIGATORS" in black and white near the facility's boat launch. Burkart had put up the sign in the weeks preceding Woodward's death after spotting a massive American alligator, estimated at the time to be between 10 to 12 feet in length.

"We've never had anything like this happen before," said Burkart.

Residents who live nearby said they swim in the bayou all the time, and so do their children, so Woodward's

swim—other than perhaps its timing, in the wee hours of the morning—was not unusual.

"My kids swim in that water," one local resident at the marina said July 6. "We all do."

After the attack on Woodward, TPWD said they would not be out hunting the alligator that killed him but indicated there could be an ongoing search for the animal. According to TPWD Captain Rod Ousley, when alligators or other wild animals attack or display aggressive behavior, nuisance control hunters are contracted to track down the threat and dispose of it. That does not always mean killing the wild animal, Ousley explained. In some cases, he said, the animals are rescued. For example, Gator Country's Gary Saurage is permitted as a nuisance control hunter, and has assisted TPWD in capturing and rescuing multiple nuisance gators, which he then relocated to Gator Country, according to Ousley.

"These guys are very helpful to us," Capt. Ousley said of the hunters.

In this case, nuisance control hunters were not the ones who caught up with the killer alligator in Adams Bayou. Instead, it was a group of men from Orange Cove led by the self-professed gunman, a man who would identify himself to The Examiner only as "Bubba Bear."

In a search for information about the July 3 alligator attack, The Examiner paid a visit to Burkart's Marina in the Cove area of Orange at about 2 p.m. on Monday, July 6, and made a macabre discovery when walking around the corner of a building on the property. There, lying lifeless at the edge of a boat launch at the marina, was an alligator measured by locals at 11 feet, 6 inches, a bullet-hole clearly visible right between the hulking beast's eyes, a piece of wood jammed into its mouth propping open its massive jaws, exposing dangerously sharp teeth.

Bubba Bear told The Examiner that he and two other residents of Orange Cove went out into the bayou on a boat near where the attack occurred, baited a line and then



waited. When the creature emerged from the depths, he shot it in the head—only 30 minutes prior to this conversation.

"I shot it," Bubba Bear said. "It was a killer. It had to go."

Bubba Bear said he had heard that the beast was still at large and that no one was hunting it, so he decided it was up to him to protect his beloved community.

"They weren't going to kill it, so I had to," he asserted.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials and officers with the Orange Police Department arrived at the scene about an hour after the alligator was discovered dead at the boat launch, just yards from where Woodward was killed. After some time, the animal was removed from the scene. TPWD Capt. Ousley said in order to preserve what they could of the animal, it was transported to a nuisance control hunter, Swamp People's Harlan Hatcher.

"We took possession of the whole alligator," Ousley said, "so as not to waste it."

Hatcher reportedly skinned the 400-pound animal and opened it up for examination. Orange County Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace Judge Rodney Price said human remains positively identified as Woodward's were discovered in the alligator's throat during that examination.

Capt. Ousley said the killing of the alligator was poaching, an illegal act regardless of the specific circumstances.

"We're investigating at this time," Ousley reported. "It is illegal. We're going to do our job. We're going to put together a case and put it in front of the Orange County prosecutor. Then, it's up to them."

Ousley said the charge is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by fines ranging from \$25 to \$500.

Bubba Bear said he doesn't care about the fine; he is just glad he got rid of the gator.

"I'd do it again," said Bubba Bear. "I'd do it right in front of the game warden. I'll take the fine."

Orange Cove residents and Adams Bayou swimmers are a little safer now, he said.

Even though the alligator responsible for Woodward's death has been killed, alligator sightings are quite common in the area, said Capt. Ousley.

For information about alligator safety and about what to do to report an alligator sighting, visit the Texas Park and Wildlife website at [tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/alligator/safety/index.phtml](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/alligator/safety/index.phtml). OPD Capt. Hargrave warns that no one should approach an alligator if they spot one and advises instead to call local law enforcement.

sharon@theexaminer.com.



**THIRD PLACE**, best feature photo, daily division, By Blaine McCartney | Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY

**LAND OF THE FREE**—Riley Holhausen, 13, and others help support the middle section of a large American flag as the National Anthem is played prior to the start of the third performance of the 119th annual Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo at Frontier Park Arena in Cheyenne.



**SECOND PLACE**, best breaking news photo, non-daily division, circulation 5,000 - 9,999

By Chris Thew | Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA

**BUDDING HERPETOLOGISTS**—Alexia Cruz, 4, and her brother Gabriel, 3, of Omak, check out a Burmese python during the Reptile Man show at the Omak Performing Arts Center on Thursday. The event was hosted by the Okanogan County Community Coalition.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.nnaweb.org/contests-awards](http://www.nnaweb.org/contests-awards) or call 217-241-1400, ext. 300

**THIRD PLACE**, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000

By Phil Hamden | Glenrock Independent, Glenrock, WY

**AND THE LIGHTNING STRIKES**—Summer thunderstorms are active across the High Plains, like this massive thunderhead that passed over Rolling Hills in the middle of the night June 25.**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, daily division,

By Dan Watson | Santa Clarita Valley Signal, Santa Clarita, CA

**FLUORESCENT FLURRY**—Timothy Chavez, left, joins hundreds of runners as they throw colored cornstarch into the air at the start of the third of three 5K runs for participants of different physical levels as part of the second annual "Santa Colorita" 5K fun run held at Castaic Lake on Saturday.**SECOND PLACE**, best feature photo, daily division, By Ron Siddle | Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA**IN THE MOON'S GLOW**—With a glowing moon as a backdrop, pigeons take a rest on telephone lines recently along 20th Street West in Lancaster.



**FIRST PLACE**, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000  
By Will Ravenstein | Cedar County News, Hartington, NE

**SWIMMING LIKE A DOLPHIN**—Cazden Christensen prepares to touch the wall and turn around Wednesday during Hartington Swim Team practice at the Hartington public pool. The Dolphin swim team found success at the Wayne swim meet.

#### FROM PAGE B11

**2nd Place**—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Parade of Pageants, Dale Gentry, Kimary Clelland

What can you say? Excellent photos that tell a fun story.

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos Pueblo Powwow Gathering of Nations, Katharine Egli

Nicely done! The drama of the photography makes the reader feel like a part of the event.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Self-reflection, Katharine Egli

Very nice job. Nice photos.

#### BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

**1st Place**—The Observer, Dundee, NY, A CLEAN SWEEP, Brandon Lawson, David Specksgoor

Good flow, nice contrast of images. Cropping, color, quality of photos is solid. Tells the story.

**2nd Place**—Mobridge Tribune, Mobridge, SD, MPHs Commencement: A time for tears, a time for smiles; Travis Svhovoc

Beautiful job from standpoint of balance, layout, photo quality, making photos of same topic appear fresh and eye appeal. Great flow. VERY solid work.

**3rd Place**—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, Chicken-Fried Fun; Russel Skiles, Herrel Hallmark, Regina Crutcher

Nice images, and while there is a lot there, the page does not suffer from "busy-ness" as much as it might have. Cutlines are a bit tight, and that detracts a little. Good effort.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Banks County News, Jefferson, GA, Turn and Burn, Mike and Clark Buffington

Appealing to the eye but a little repetitive; the shots of potted and pots have a sameness that cutting a photo or two and enlarging a couple might have eliminated. Nice layout.

#### BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, Why & what now? Wayne Hardy

The most thorough, professional and accessible critique of public notice proceedings submitted to this category.

**2nd Place**—The Alamance News, Graham, NC, Public Notice SHOULD have been provided, but wasn't, Tom Boney, Jr. and Staff

This publication's staff demonstrates obvious dedication to its community of readers and raises important questions in each editorial submitted, as well as advertises easy avenues for readers to raise their own questions. A true public service. However, the downright snarky writing style can be off-putting to some who need to hear your point the most. You can be hard-hitting without being haughty.

**3rd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Proposed Utah State Prison relocation stirs questions, emotion among residents, Megan Kennedy

An important and well-followed series of coverage that analyzes the situation at hand from many vantage points. I most valued the perspectives presented in the prison tour, regarding both guards and inmates—especially surrounding mental health treatment. I would have liked to see more data—regarding current water usage shortage in Tooele County versus consumption by the current prison in Gunnison or average consumption by more-modern facilities—to confirm/deny claims quoted in the articles and better illustrate the problem.

#### BEST REVIEW

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Going to the ends of the earth to get married, Scott A. Drake

What a review this is ... thorough, interesting and descriptive. It sold me on a trip to Key West!

**2nd Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Straight

Outta Compton movie review, David Dishman

I had never had any interest in seeing this movie—until I read this review. Excellent, clear and engaging comments. Use of the box to present facts and figures is a great idea.

**3rd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, On The Water, Ellen Booraem

Great review. It made me laugh, reminded me that I need to get a new can of bug spray, and made me want to see "On the Water."

**Honorable Mention(s)**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Noises Off: North Scott High School, Erin Gentz

This review makes me pull for the kids in the show. I want to know ... did the audience grow for subsequent performances? I'm sure hoping so!

#### BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Our Starry Flag Unfurled, The Hope of All the World, John Nagy

Wonderful column that quickly grabs your attention and maintains interest throughout while making a bold point.

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, It's time for truth-talking about Wyoming's schools, D. Reed Eckhardt

Hard-hitting column that I'm certain generated a lot of response, which is what good editorial writing is supposed to do.

**3rd Place**—Miami Today, Miami, FL, Creak, clank, bump, wreak, clatter: Welcome to Miami; Michael Lewis

Nicely done with a topic most wouldn't think about.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH, Tragedy of farm accidents hits home for rural residents, Judith Sutherland

Strong lede that immediately grabs your attention.

#### BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Escaping the Echo Chamber, Brian Knox

Knox makes an important point about religion and our rush to judge those whose faith differs from ours ... a point, which cannot be made too often. This was the best of a very strong group of entries.

**2nd Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Bubbles, soap and a close election; James Beaty

Beaty lures the reader with the intriguing question, "How many bubbles in a bar of soap?" then delivers the knockout punch with a lesson on voting rights. Well done. A very close runner-up for first.

**3rd Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA; There's no easy way to report, or read, bad news; Robert M. Williams Jr.

Williams handles a difficult story, and the subsequent reader fallout, with a clear explanation of the legal process, and the delicate balance between accusation and guilt that is the responsibility of every reporter to maintain. In doing so, he also lets the reader know that their concerns matter, and why the newspaper handled the story the way it did. We've all been there.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, The day that made me thankful to be an Iowan, Bill Tubbs

In both of his column entries, Tubbs brings essential historic and personal perspective to some of the most difficult and controversial moral issues of our time. Though lengthy, they proved to be compelling reading.

#### BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, New West—Loving bears is not a license for hatred, Todd Wilkinson

Well-written, powerful point of view. Column writing at its finest.

**2nd Place**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, What would Jesus do? Kathy Cruz

Strong opinion, well expressed. I'll bet some readers weren't too pleased with this great column.

**3rd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Treatment tops jail for substance abuse, Patti Brandt

Nicely argued. Well written.

# Reverse disaster director decision

BY ROGER HARNACK  
Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle,  
Omak, WA

First place, best editorial  
daily & non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999

## Effort to improve emergency management office failed to keep locals informed

**D**uring the peak of the wildfires this past weekend, one county employee was notably missing—the emergency management director.

As the wildfire bore down on Chewiliken and Tunk valleys, Twisp River, Buzzard Lake and other places this past weekend, Okanogan County Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall was unavailable. When multiple orders and subsequent retractions to evacuate Tonasket were given, he was out of town. According to other county officials, he had left the area to attend a wedding.

In his absence, multiple evacuation notices were issued and retracted for areas where emergency situations did not exist. Residents panicked, then returned home, then panicked again. That's after Goodall had said, when he took the job and finished setting up a new emergency notification system, that he would be cautious about issuing alerts so as not to "cry wolf." At the same time, the number of relevant evacuation notices appeared to decline—certainly, the effective dissemination declined for rural residents. And when notices did go out, they were often too late to be of use to affected ruralites. People's homes burned. Some livestock perished. Panic ensued.

While he was absent, county commissioners Jim DeTro, Ray Campbell and Sheilah Kennedy—who now oversee the emergency management and serve as Goodall's boss—spent time calling in spot fires and monitoring fire movement, caring for other people's animals and fighting fire. Their efforts helped save people's homes and lives. But they should have never authorized Goodall to leave at the height of the catastrophic fires, especially after three firefighters had died. With Sheriff Frank Rogers generally out of the decision-making loop—due to bureaucratic management policy revisions earlier this year by commissioners—our county was devoid of on-the-ground local emergency management leadership for the evacuations and fire fight.

Goodall said he attempted to manage his duties by delegating authority and remaining available by telephone. But without an on-the-ground manager, problems worsened.

In place of local leadership, up popped Angela Seydel, a FEMA "external affairs strategy and messaging specialist." Although unfamiliar with the area, she masqueraded as the Okanogan County emergency management spokeswoman.

Multiple Chronicle calls seeking information went unreturned Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We didn't waste our time Sunday.

Without Goodall here and with Rog-

ers' hands tied, accurate, up-to-date fire information was virtually nonexistent from the Emergency Operations Center. Information from national incident command fire officials was at least eight hours old as they relied on infrared night flights and updates at shift changes. Rural residents were left in the dark when it came to information they truly needed.

More public information officers were brought in. Yet, less accurate, timely information was disseminated. At one point Friday, several PIOs sat around a table in the Emergency Operations Center trying to decide whether to issue a Twisparea evacuation notice. The notice was finally issued more than an hour later. We question the wisdom of allowing so-called information officers decide when to release evacuation notices, especially when they are unfamiliar with our communities and terrain.

Arriving PIOs spent time creating "talking points" for national Incident Commander Todd Pechota and others. They kowtowed to television media from Seattle and Spokane, clueless that local repeaters were offline, leaving many area residents without television service. And when they did organize informational meetings, they, too, provided hours-old data and took journalists to areas out of harm's way, where they were unable to report what was really happening.

Outside the Emergency Operations Center, private security guards manned some roadblocks without legal authority to prohibit access to publicly owned roads. There were scattered reports of residents trying to get back to their homes to fight fire, as is their right, but being blocked. Among security brought into the area were a few from Phoenix Protective Corp.—the same company essentially run out of town a couple years ago after allegations of using inappropriate, thug-like tactics at the Omak Stampede during a thunderstorm. "What we have here is failure to communicate," to quote the 1967 movie "Cool Hand Luke." When compared to the Carlton Complex, management of information about the Okanogan Complex fires this year is a fiasco.

Commissioners wanted to improve on last year's response. But the system in place today—as fires continue to burn—is not the answer. And if they were inclined to grant leave to Goodall, who started the job in April, they should've assumed the manager's job themselves or discussed having Rogers take the helm again.

When Okanogan County Sheriff's Office deputies were on the front lines last year, information was accurate and timely—that wildfire burned just as fast and was much hotter.

Residents knew when to go and when to stay.

And residents never had to wonder who was in charge—Rogers never left his post.

County residents would be better served by returning to last year's system. We should put the Sheriff's Office back in charge of overall emergency management and send the FEMA "messaging specialist" and other so-called information officers home.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD.  
Bricks and Mortar: Getting Hitched, Gray O'Dwyer  
Great sense of place. Well done.

## BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN, Suicide Should Never Bring Ease to a Community, Ellary Prentice

Brave column suggesting understanding for a young man who committed suicide rather than face charges relating to consensual sex with a minor.

**2nd Place**—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, An ending to remember, Russel Skiles

Sweet tale of sportsmanship not seen often enough these days.

**3rd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Rick Bussler

Wistful piece about dad sending his only son off to college.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, A sad visit to the past helps to appreciate the present, Rob Dump

Nice going-home story.

## BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

**1st Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, 100th Anniversary, Valley Press Staff

This section is deep and rich with articles and images from Antelope Valley history. The headline typography is beautiful and consistent; the photos are intriguing, with an effort made to show places past and present; and the range of stories is great. Good work!

**2nd Place**—The St. Louis American, St. Louis, MO, Diversity: A Business Imperative, Staff

This is a GREAT idea for a special section—getting businesses large and small to talk about the importance of diversity and their own efforts to achieve it. Good pictures, nice layout—great typography. Overall, a really nice piece.

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Frontier Days Souvenir Edition 2015, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, staff

This section makes me want to be a rodeo fan. Fun, friendly and colorful images; nice type treatments; good sectioning of content in the various topic baskets. Nice job.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, High School Football, Chad Cooper

Overall, the color scheme used, and the structural way in which the teams are outlined is great. The body text stops it from being a top winner: shorter line lengths, consistent word counts, and more white space could improve it. Otherwise, good job!

## BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999

**1st Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, All of Us, Staff

Great job! Fabulous photos! Fun, energetic, enthusiastic writing.

**2nd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Train derailment coverage, Katie Devereaux

Excellent photos and news coverage, covering a variety of viewpoints.

**3rd Place**—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX, Veterans Voices, Elaine Thomas, Jeff Wick, Bobby Bedient, John C.

Unique topic for a special section, nicely done. Interesting to read.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Land Water People Time Cultural Guide, Staff

Nice, professional job. Very well done.

## BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

**1st Place**—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, Golden Tornado Jubilee edition, Staff

The Lamesa Press Reporter's Jubilee Edition contains a prodigious amount of content that covers the reunion weekend and related activities from multiple angles and through multiple formats. Reporters gathered information and wrote articles covering current issues and events, and they dug into the archives to present voices and faces from the past. Photographers captured current images, editors and community members commented on the goings-on, and an editorial cartoonist poked fun at it all. Visually, the animated tornado image on the front page and the various tornado graphics repeated throughout create a whirlwind of energy that pulls readers through well-organized sections filled with thoughtfully-selected photos.

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Roping up a future, Journal Publishing staff

The striking cover photo on Roping up a Future, the Fall Agricultural Special for the Tioga Tribune, captures the essence of the section, which focuses on the future of agrarian communities. Inside, articles and photos move from youngsters participating in rodeo clubs to high school students competing in rodeo events to teens raising hogs to adults who are experimenting with raising new crops. Crisp, colorful action photos are given plenty of room to tell their stories, which complement the written text. On pages without images, pullout quotes add extra white space, giving the pages a relaxed and uncluttered look.

**3rd Place**—The Vienna Times, Vienna, IL, Shawnee Mass Transit

Open House, The Vienna Times

The Vienna Times' tabloid section covering the grand opening of a new mass transit facility uses articles, photos, floor plans, infographics, lists, maps, and timelines to explain how the facility was built, how it will be used, and how it was funded. Additionally, the section tells the human stories about passengers, drivers, dispatchers, mechanics, administrators, and others who are part of the public transportation system in the region. Overall, the section is packed with information about the mass transit district's people and services.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, Emerald Awards; Darci Tomky, Brenda Brandt, Isaac Kreider

The Holyoke Enterprise's coverage of the winners of The Emerald Awards, given to local educators, runs only six pages and does not include any color pictures or color graphics. Nevertheless, the bold font combinations on the cover and in the article headlines, together with sharply focused black-and-white photos and an effective use of pullout quotes, compel readers to pay attention to each winner's full-page profile, which includes a one-column sidebar with basic biographical information.

## BEST SPORTS COLUMN

### Daily & Non-daily Division, 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon, NY, Further Review, Ken Cohen: Forget about enrollment

Love the opinion, presentation of the problem, facts supporting the argument, and offered solutions. Great column.

**2nd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Drum roll please, McHugh David

Couldn't agree more with many of the points made in collegiate recruiting.

**3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Mountainside—Weighing outdoor joys against pain of loss, Molly Absolon

Heartfelt and a fantastic dissection of the risks/rewards of sports.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Batboy Death Stirs Awful Memories, Randy Dockendorf

Great story and comparison with a current event, but what argument is being made for the use of helmets? That's all that's holding this column back.

## BEST SPORTS COLUMN

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Cortez Seales: More than just slam dunks and jump shots, Scott Campbell

One of the best sports personality pieces I have read in a long time, and in a very strong category. Manages to talk about sports, education and life's lessons, while addressing sportsmanship and unselfishness. Nice style; easy to read.

**2nd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Williams wows after falling in love all over again—Advocate News, Derek Sawtell

Superior work from start to finish. A little long, but if there was a wasted word, I didn't see it. He told her story both interestingly and compellingly. Fine writing.

**3rd Place**—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, Electric atmosphere adds charge to crackling rivalry, Kelly Fenton

Insightful; very well-crafted piece. Could have been considered a bit longish if it hadn't been so well written and interesting to follow from start to finish. Excellent work.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN, Baseball's unwritten rules, Louie Opatz

Extremely well done. I am not a huge baseball fan, but I hated for the column to end. Beautifully said from first word to last. A sports column written "the right way." Standout in a tough category.

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

### Daily Division

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Nance's night out, Robert Gagliardi

Great profile of a hometown hero.

**2nd Place**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Playing for Anna: Lady Falcons play championship game with heavy hearts, Walter Ford, Laura Mahaffy

What a tragedy. But the reporter's profile of Anna's teammates vividly illustrates their commitment to honor her memory.

**3rd Place**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Cantele kicking with a clear head, Joshua Kinder

Good for Cantele! Nice profile of an athlete, who did not let those who refuse to remember it's just a game, get him down.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Taking a Stand, Randy Dockendorf

Worthy project by some fine young athletes. Nicely reported.

## BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

### Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, 'Nothing limits me', Cody Tucker

An encouraging read. No doubt, this story has reader interest. It is a top-notch human interest feature. The writing style makes it easy to read, and it has quality quotes and information. I like the emotion evoked by the story. Another plus is that it is not a typical "super star" story.

**2nd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, A bond between brothers, Jen Sieve-Hicks

How could a reader not find this story interesting, sports fan or not? That two brothers dream of playing together is not news. That their dream ended in such a totally unpredictable manner is news. The story wraps together the circumstances in an interesting manner and through use of quotes and insightful events makes a compelling read.

**3rd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Local sports coach builds bridges to Cuba, Gretchen Lang

While this is not a traditional sports feature, it is a revealing look at a sports personality—he coaches little league baseball and especially loves baseball—who uses his sports as an avenue to reach and aid others, in this case Cubans. A different type of sports feature written in a smooth, easy-to-read style. Good variety of quotes and sources.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, Her Cup Runneth Over—Tobin Heath adds another trophy to the case, Kelly Fenton

Reader interest? You betcha. Hometown girl succeeds in her sport on a world stage while retaining image as team-oriented and humble. Lots of information stuffed into this story, which is well written and presents a vivid picture of the woman's achievements.

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Leads within reach, Tommy Martino

The frenetic action in this image is amazing—a beautiful woman, a beautiful horse, a moment of panic, yet the rider knows what she has to do. Grab that rein! The white hat and crisp uniform contrast beautifully with the flying dirt. Well done!

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Nic Scheelhaase embraces the baton after winning the 2A distance medley relay, Jim Lee

Such an emotional image. This photo captures the range of feelings of a runner who has now won, after making a costly mistake in the meet the previous day. It's one of those "real sports" moments. Perfect foreground focus and lighting.

**3rd Place**—Santa Clarita Valley Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, Incredibl! Dan Watson

With excellent depth of field, this shot captures a great moment, the crowd's joy, the despair of the opposing player, and the lucky disbelief of the player who shot the ball. The ball in foreground is a nice touch.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Unfortunate injury, Ruby Varela

Capturing the look of pain on the young woman's face is great. If only a moment later, the person with the backpack in the foreground may have moved out of the way, so the player's body in the arms of the coaches would have been in full view. Or, a tighter crop! Otherwise, nice picture.

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, LSU fake field goal, David Normand

Perfect sports news photo, capturing the trick play that wins the game. Nice composition with the runner looking around for would-be tacklers; his expression says he knows he's getting away with something great.

**2nd Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Beatini glides at BB&T Cheerleading Showcase, Michael Paul

Beautiful, colorful action shot. Great vertical composition, very nice work clearing the treeline in the distance. I love the trust these kids place in their peers to catch them, and to be able to catch. This makes me want to turn to the jump page to see more photos.

**3rd Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Winning Moment, Bill Battle

A moment of pure joy, nicely captured. It's great that so many faces are in the shot, passionate expressions.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Ziegler Concentrates, Bill Battle

Excellent action. Nice vertical composition, light-colored uniform in the center, surrounded by purple. Great focus on the player's face, as he concentrates on the basket.

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999

**1st Place**—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA, Going for a ringer, Jenny Kirchner

Framing nails it! I hope the photographer got out of the way before they were beamed by the horseshoe! Easily a first place

**2nd Place**—The Salem Democrat, Salem, IN, Luck o' the farmer, Kate Wehlmann

Framing n rainbow. Good picture but knocked due to layout. I would have liked to make it more of the focal point and reduced the others more and laid out page differently. Close second in tight class.

**3rd Place**—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA, Zac Archuleta ..., Jenny Kirchner

Framing makes this a third place in a very hard class.

Might have liked to make it a smidgen bigger in order to see more of the kids in the back. Very good placement on page, love the knockout!

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Best sports photo—It's tournament time, Alex Shoemaker

Like due to emotion! Hope he did not get an unwanted object inside him. Good background or lack thereof. Very tough class

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

**1st Place**—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, She's on the line, Daniel Burton, Dave Gentry

There were more than a dozen strong images in this category that could have placed and choosing the finalists was difficult. This is a very strong, story telling moment. I love that the photographer saw this happening and captured the entire scene. While technically not as perfect as some of the other finalists, I chose it based on its story telling ability.

**2nd Place**—Palisadian-Post, Pacific Palisades, CA, Catching Baseball Fever, Rich Schmitt

This is really a great moment, and it's also excellent technically.

**3rd Place**—The Frankfort Station, Orland Park, IL, Natural leader, Paul Bergstrom

This story reveals a lot about this coach and her team. Another great story telling image. The use of this photo in print was horrible, with lots of type and logos on the image, which looked terrible. No one should be doing that with excellent sports action or news photos.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, Oroville upends White Swan, Chris Thew

This photo might have won a lot of contests, but the content of the higher-placed winners was better.

### BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, Swimming Like a Dolphin, Will Ravenstein

Composition, contrast and an intriguing subject not normally found in athletic photography.

**2nd Place**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, TD dive, Rob Dumb

Great stretch and image. A lower angle might provide an even better composition.

**3rd Place**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, Nate Nguyen tackled his opponent, Joleen Giefer

Great image capturing the moment before (tackle), the reaction and foretelling the ensuing struggle.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Observer, Dundee, NY, Basketball Handstand, Brandon Lawson

Fantastic moment captured.

### BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Douglas, WY, Sports sections: February and October, Cody Tucker

This category was difficult to judge because all of the top entries were outstanding. The Douglas Budget earned first place because of the unmatched attention to detail throughout the section. Every page was visually appealing and contained compelling content. There was no drop-off in quality from the first page to the last page, which is very difficult to accomplish.

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Journal staff

The Sioux City Journal finished a close second in among a group of strong entries. The section is packed with a lot of great content, and the pages are filled with good photos and art elements. A reader could spend a long time just reading the agate page. The staff-produced articles are well written and informative.

**3rd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff

Few newspapers offer the amount of local sports coverage that is found in the N'West Iowa REVIEW. The February issue, for example, had 11 pages devoted to local sports. The photographs are outstanding, and the page designer does a great job of using them to create eye-catching layouts.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin Sports Staff

The Door County Advocate's sports section has a clean, professional look with excellent local content. The centerpiece features are paired well with coverage of a wide range of sporting events.

### BEST SPORTS STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, In the long run, Taylor Vortherms

Taylor Vortherms' story is clearly about much more than sport, and that's what made it stand out. The story has a nice pace and a trove of good quotes. It's also informative. Well done.

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Diamonds sparkle on East County field of dreams, Kyle Szymanski

Sweet feature on the ragtag bunch of former and wannabe pros

CONTINUED ON, PAGE B18

# The community grieves for young life lost

BY CHRISTINE KUKLICA

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV

First place, best breaking news story, non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 5,999

**T**he community is grieving over Thursday's death of a Churchill County Middle School eighth-grader who died by suicide.

Taylor Hutchings, 13, died at her home late Thursday afternoon of a gunshot wound, reports the Churchill County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Ben Trotter said a firearm and several notes were found near the body.

Hutchings, a native to Fallon, was born on July 3, 2001.

Hutchings' family, friends and teachers remember her for her cheerfulness.

Her grandmother, Mary Hutchings, said Taylor was her first granddaughter, and the retired teacher described her as an All-American girl.

"She was beautiful inside and out," Mary Hutchings said. "She would light up any room she walked into. Her positive attitude and happy-go-lucky personality were contagious."

"She always knew how to make people smile, and she was always smiling, too."

Mary Hutchings said her granddaughter was a talented athlete who accomplished anything she set her mind to.

"She was always there to help anyone who needed the help," said her father, Paul Hutchings. "When her mother and I got divorced and I became a single father to three children, at 8-years-old, Taylor, would help me out with cooking dinner or do laundry to help with the responsibilities I had ... that was the type of kid she was."

Both Mary and Paul Hutchings said Taylor was very close to her family and that the loss of Taylor will forever leave a hole in their lives.

Mary Hutchings said Taylor and her siblings used to put on plays in her backyard to entertain the family and that even though she was very "girly," she loved to go on hunting trips with her grandfather, even if they came back unsuccessful.

"Everyone one of us has fond memories of Taylor that we will hold on to and cherish forever," Mary Hutchings said.

Brittany Bonner, Taylor Hutchings' friend since elementary school, said she was devastated and in shock when she found out what happened to her friend.

"I'm still having a hard time grasping what happened to Taylor," said Bonner who now attends school in Winnemucca. "Taylor was the type of person who was always willing to help someone out ... she was the type of friend you would want to have."

Teacher Jennifer Buckmaster had only kind words to say about Taylor on Facebook.

"Enjoying this beautiful day and knowing that Taylor Hutchings is with us! Missing you deeply!" she said.

Katelynn White, another one of Taylor's friends, expressed thoughts felt by many on her Facebook post.

"If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again."

"We all miss you so much, Taylor. Rest easy my friend. We'll meet again! I Love you babes!"

Churchill County Middle School Principal Scott Meihack said after learning about the tragedy on Thursday night, he implemented the crisis tree. He said a staff meeting was held at 7 a.m. on Friday, and he and his staff went through the plans for the day.

"Extra staff was called in to add support for the students and teachers," he said, "as well as counselors from other schools and grief counselors from Naval Air Station Fallon."

Andrea Zeller, executive director for the Churchill Community Coalition, said the number of suicides among teens in rural areas is increasing.

She said there are signs to indicate a person may be struggling with depression.

"Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss or change," she said.

Zeller said these signs may mean someone is at risk for suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Acting anxious, agitated or behaving recklessly.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawn or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

"Right now, teens are dealing with a lot of cyberbullying," Zeller said.

"Parents need to engage with their children and check their phone, e-mail or Facebook page. Bullies now are going through the Internet to harass people, and parents must be more aware of that."

Zeller said if someone notices an individual who has any of the suicide signs or an individual is experiencing suicidal thoughts, to call 1-800-SUICIDE or 1-800-273-TALK. She said there is also a number individuals can text to get assistance. Text LISTEN to 839-863.





THIRD PLACE, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 4,999

By Jenny Kirchner | Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA

**BIG JUMP**—Zac Archuleta of Orange County and part of The Lost Boys Project, jumps over five people as fellow skaters watch on in awe last Saturday at the Idyllwild Skate Park. The Lost Boys Project's vision is to provide an awesome, safe environment to build up, mentor and develop students in their academic and daily life, and spiritual journey in their Christian faith.

## Our starry flag unfurled, the hope of all the world

BY JOHN NAGY  
The Pilot,  
Southern Pines, NC

First place, best serious column,  
daily and non-daily division, circulation 12,000 or more

In five days, we honor one of this country's great traditions, a celebration focused on open hearts and inclusion. Brethren we all be, thanking God for blessings bestowed.

At a time when we remember those first natives and immigrants coming together in gratitude and grace, it's all the more woeful that some have taken this past week to harden our national heart—and borders—from those who seek refuge within.

In the name of national security—but really out of fear—there are calls that the United States take a giant step backward from one of its great ideals.

That ideal is inscribed in a bronze tablet at the base of the Statue of Liberty, a gift from our oldest ally and fellow believer in Liberty, France:

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she*

*With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,*

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

More than 30 governors, virtually all

Republican presidential candidates, and the U.S. House of Representatives are on record as saying this country should no longer accept Syrian refugees fleeing the violence of their country.

These concerns follow the Paris attacks last week and reports that one—one—of the terrorists could have been a Syrian refugee. All the other attackers are believed to have been natives of European countries such as France and Belgium.

Some have said we should just bar Muslims, but allow Christians, since their faith is under persecution by the Islamic State. But most have just simply said we should bar all Syrian refugee resettlements until we can be assured they have been properly vetted and pose no security risk.

The mayor of Roanoke, VA, even recently conjured the thought of internment camps for refugees, comparing this situation to the Japanese camps following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The mayor must have forgotten that we now consider that a shameful and regrettable part of our history.

The fear mongers believe President Obama is loading up C130s and flying Syrian refugees to this country as fast as the planes can be loaded. They'd have you believe we're not even patting them down for suicide vests as they board the planes.

Here's the reality. The United States has agreed to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees. So far, about 1,800 have come in. Of that total, half are children, and a quarter are adults over the age of 60. Officials say 2 percent are single males of "combat age."

Before Syrian refugees can enter this country, they undergo a screening process that takes 18-24 months. It begins with a referral from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees.

That includes in-depth interviews, reference checks and biological screening.

That's before they even get referred to the United States.

Then, they are screened by police, the State Department, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. Their names, faces and fingerprints are put into every computer database and searched for possible threat. Then they are personally interviewed and their stories scrutinized.

About half of the refugees pass this screening test.

How is it working so far? According to Time magazine, the United States has admitted 750,000 refugees since Sept. 11, 2001. Of that, two people—Iraqis in Kentucky—were charged with terrorist activities.

So is the system foolproof? No. How many such processes are? None. Air travel in this country was pretty secure on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, but it didn't prevent those attacks. You can't control for every eventuality. We cannot let fear of the unknown destroy 240 years of what has made this nation the shining light of liberty. We cannot be the world's leader with weak moral compasses or navigate by political winds of convenience.

If you are not of Native American descent, you are from somewhere else. Your people maybe came from

Scotland, seeking refuge from religious persecution. Or Cambodia, needing harbor from political oppression. Or Rwanda, where you fled genocide. Or China or Pakistan, where your family could work hard and achieve an economic success unavailable in your native country.

Long have we been a country of huddled masses yearning to breathe free. And, to be sure, there's also been a distinct minority calling for an end to all that. There have been those who tried to close the golden door on Cuban refugees, Haitians, Sudanese.

We tried to say "no more" to Irish Catholics, Eastern Europeans, Pacific Islanders—the list goes on. But all those times, our greater ideals and open hearts prevailed. We settled these individuals and families. They flowed into our society, melding their cultures into ours, an alloyed nation stronger as a result.

On Thanksgiving, many of us mark it with the patriotic hymn "America." The song served as one of our national anthems before "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted in 1931.

We all know the first stanza, proclaiming this a "land of the pilgrims' pride." But it's a long song. The last stanza goes like this:

*Grand birthright of our sires / Our altars and our fires / Keep we still pure!  
Our starry flag unfurled / The hope of all the world/  
In peace and light impaled / God hold secure!*

Contact editor John Nagy at 910-693-2507 or john@thepilot.com.

**FROM PAGE B16**

playing, mostly, for the love of the game. I wanted to read more.

**3rd Place**—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Cordier delivers in Marlins' debut, Korey Mallien

Nice feature on the local player done good. Korey Mallien and the paper's staff heard serendipity calling, took advantage and delivered for the reader.

**BEST SPORTS STORY**

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

**1st Place**—The Echo Press, Alexandria, MN, Today's Athlete, Eric Morken

A nice bit of enterprise amidst a category filled with the usual stuff. Nicely sourced and written.

**2nd Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Emotional exit, Cody Tucker

A solid two-story look at an end-of-the-season disappointment. Well done.

**3rd Place**—Santa Clarita Valley Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, Teammates at birth, Mason Nesbit

A nicely written feature.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Glencoe Anchor, Orland Park, IL, Trevis football, Fouad Egbaria

Solid story-telling.

**BEST USE OF COLOR**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD, HL&T Color, Ashley Perks

Love the primary, bright colors ... like a box of Crayolas. Great job throughout, both in news design and advertising.

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Staff

The use of large feature photos in the news layout, not just in color ads, helps elevate this entry toward the top.

**3rd Place**—The NWest Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff

Especially liked the use of color in the Shrimp Delight headline. Ingenious! This paper would have scored higher if there had been more color, overall, throughout the issue, although that's a matter of economics, I realize, more than design.

**BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Brad Boner, Kathryn Holloway

Photo usage fits the category perfectly. Excellent and interesting photos that pull the reader straight into the story and accurately summarize the subject of each story.

**2nd Place**—The NWest Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff

A very close second! Excellent photos that pull the reader into the story.

**3rd Place**—Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, MN, staff

Nice mixture of staff photos, file photos and submitted photos. Your use helps tell the story well! Excellent job.

**BEST WEEKEND EDITION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, staff

This paper has a really good mix of both hard news and solid features, is visually pleasing and creative in its presentation.

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Journal staff

These issues are jam packed with so much to digest I almost wonder at the focus. It's wonderful, but are you trying to be too many things to too many people? That said, lots of good content.

**3rd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Staff

I notice a lot of horizontal layout in inside pages and little vertical, especially in the March 22 issue. More vertical layout would make the issue more attractive and inviting.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Criminal justice system of southeast Oklahoma, Parker Perry

Very good, hard-hitting coverage of issues with important public safety ramifications for community. Also addresses failure of those in public service, or office, to do their jobs. Shows how the system is at fault, as well. Well-written stories. Stories generate demand for change.

**2nd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Civic—Community Service Award, Rick Bussler

Good coverage series of a sensitive and deep problem facing all communities. Well written with prominent display in newspaper. Raises public awareness, and that can lead to action.

**3rd Place**—Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX; Stopping sex trafficking; Jason Collins, Laura Campbell, Bill Clough

Well-written series of stories about a heart-wrenching problem. Good front-page display. Points out how public can help.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Grimesey Reinstated, Board Moving to Fill Four Vacancies, John Nagy, David Woronoff

Newspaper's coverage and editorial led to school board being held accountable.

**FOI—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, East Dubuque Schools Freedom of Information, Hillary Dickerson

Excellent, dogged coverage of the superintendent's suspension and a fine example of using FOIA and legal counsel to ferret out the facts. The Gazette stuck with its two-and-a-half-month pursuit of the reasons for Supt. Herbst's suspension, despite roadblocks by the acting superintendent. Obtaining and publishing the memo that explained the basis of the suspension was a public service of the highest order. It balanced coverage of the strong outpouring of support for the popular superintendent and heavy criticism of the school board with what appear to be valid concerns about his performance. The community is well served by the Gazette's commitment to thoroughly reporting the facts about its local government. Well done!

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Tiburon Salmon Institute v. Romberg, Gretchen Lang

Good example of how information obtained through CPRA-fleshes out the picture. Without this info, the story would not have been fully accurate and balanced. The author did a good, thorough job of getting the facts and letting them speak for themselves. Well-written and edited, the package leaves me interested in the general subject and curious about a follow-up.

**3rd Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Open and shut government in South Dakota, Brian J. Hunhoff

Excellent series of editorials hammers a topic that should be the top priority of every newspaper. These are especially good because they include specifics, humor, fact-based criticism and recommendations. Well-done series.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Glenview Lantern, Northbrook, IL, Glenview police, Alex Mayster

The Lantern truly fulfilled its watchdog duties in covering the story and using FOIA to bring to light questionable use of taxpayer money.

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Good, all-around local newspaper. Plenty of local stories with a wide variety of sources and strong writing. Attractive design throughout. A highlight was the focus on local veterans, which offered new insights for Veterans Day coverage.

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY

Great photos, art and design throughout. Straightforward headlines and fine writing.

**3rd Place**—The Union, Grass Valley, CA

Dynamic front pages and good design throughout. More local stories needed. Good photos.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

Beautiful special features sections. Straightforward headlines and writing. Busy pages but with information that draws readers into the stories.

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Pilot of Southern Pines, NC

In an upscale market having lots to work with, The Pilot of Southern Pines, NC, makes the most of it. Faulted only for too many grey, thin headlines by the news staff of 12. Photography and writing is of the highest quality. Multiple pages of opinion, lots of donated photos run, included an "Out and About" feature, along with "country correspondents," exhaustive and well-played community calendar, book section with local best-seller list, police blotter, public record, and wide variety of sports, including golf and horses—two biggies for the area. Advertising is remarkable for a page of QR codes which readers can scan for info, 4-6.5 pages of classified ads, auto ads, a beau of a Service Directory and a separate Marketplace.

**2nd Place**—Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID

Front-page coverage of march on the newspaper by gun advocates who objected to sensible editorial on overdoing the public-carry laws inside what should be safe places. News staff of 10 includes four reporters, two photographers, copy editor, three editors. Abundance of good, staff-written copy throughout. Good public records. Two pages of opinion with "Our View" and "Other Views" delineated well. Cable TV listings, some syndicated material like NYT crossword puzzle liked by generally upscale market readers, some AP, Game Time and Kids Corner pages. Ads are mostly modular stack, lots of color, six to seven pages of classifieds plus automotive, attractive business directory, good legal notice display and separate editorial summary of them.

**3rd Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO

Very local paper that serves its readers with big news well covered, but a plethora of faces and names from dozens of contributed photos in each issue, three pages of business news, four to six page editions for local communities. I don't denigrate the grip-and-grins since it get people in the paper. Also some AP copy. Ads are stacked right, a time and true, reader-friendly way. Five pages of classified stand out, along with the best Public Notice head among the entrants. Real estate and auto still strong.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE IDIOT**

BY R.L. CRABB

**SECOND PLACE,**

best original editorial cartoon, daily & non-daily division

By R.L. Crabb

The Union, Grass Valley, CA

anything that goes on in and around the community, be it schools, sports, public events, meetings. If much of anything was not locally generated, it was hard to spot. Other than some occasional odd headline placement air-wise, not much to say that isn't good.

**2nd Place**—Glenrock Independent, Glenrock, WY

Solid work in every area—photos, community coverage, sports, education, use of graphics, outstanding editorial page. Great front pages. Very readable. Good writing, from what I saw.

**3rd Place**—West Point News, West Point, NE

Proof that color does not necessarily make a paper better. Great use of photos (shadow border is a nice touch) and a very nice layout make for an excellent flow for the eye of the reader. Superior coverage of all aspects of local news, and writing appears solid, as well. Headlines and graphics are well used. A fine newspaper, beautifully put together.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Colorful, bright, clean newspaper; well laid out, consistent sectionalization, easy to read. Nice editorial content, solid community coverage. Great photo quality. Writing seems solid. Excellent work. Lack of editorials not a serious issue.

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

College Division, Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA

Tough call here, but the edge goes to an unbelievably high-quality, although monthly, student newspaper at a community college, no less. The difference really is the approach to hard news and an editorial page that is deep in local content. The paper grades accessibility of college leaders from A-F, declares the campus unsafe for women, and had a regular columnist writing on Sex and The Sun, tasteful but direct. Editorials are punchy, setting the "The Issue" and "Our Position" clearly. There are two to four pages of Opinion, relevant Viewpoint pieces by local writers, and multiple staff cartoons. Writing quality, headlines are professional, and coverage of controversial topics is well handled. You get the feeling they don't overlook much, despite frequency. Arts reviews are included of campus events, and a variety of features are interesting and well written, grabbing the reader. Less editorial color than the second-place choice. There is no advertising, perhaps by policy, but a missed opportunity. Large editorial staff of 49. Staff photography is professional and voluminous. Advisor Dr. Max Branscomb gets my congratulations.

**2nd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT

Coverage very relevant to its community, but this feels, unavoidably so, like a house organ. Case in point: Opinion is limited to a page of "Issues and Ideas" with syndicated cartoons, Readers Forum of letters, and Opinion Outpost with selections from daily newspapers. Best feature is a Tweet Beat. Graphics are stylish, attractive and informative. Student life pages include two NYT Crosswords, Sudoku, eight syndicated comics, two strips each. Police Beat comes closest to "hard news," perhaps along with five AP stories of the week with art. Major stories are included on church topics, students returning from Mission, and cyber security. Staff of about 27. Advertising professional, tasteful and attractive, much in color. Head style selection good and proper use of vertical lines for story separation. AP news briefs.

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—Mid Hudson Times, Newburgh, NY

Exceptional. Great layouts from stem to stern, excellent photos and color, what appears to be thorough coverage of just about

## 2016 Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

### BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

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

**1st Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Moving? Seth Prestwich

Love the graphics. Very eye catching and clean!

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, A Taste of Brentwood, Eric Kinnard

Love the map. Very creative!

**3rd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Draw Your Mom Ad, Andrew Hutchens

Great idea for a contest—I might have to steal it!

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Universe, Provo, UT; You have stuff that needs a space. Come to the Wilk and find your place; Nathan Daniels, Steffany Beddes, David Taylor, Seth Prestwich, Brett Bertola, Joseph Moxon

Good idea and use of artwork.

### BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Grant Tribune-Sentinel, Imperial, NE, Hospital Health Page, Staff

What a great idea. Health is the big-ticket item right now, and for you to get such a large contract from the hospital is huge. It's a plus that the contract will continue another year.

**2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Wise Real Estate

This is a great idea, and the layout is wonderful. The page is very eye catching.

**3rd Place**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, State Wrestling Signature Pull Out Poster ad, Tammie Nunn

I love this idea and I love that you print it on 50# to make the page stand out.

### BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Legals & Classifieds, Carol Laird, Connie O'Neill

Nice clean copy. Good use of color.

**2nd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, AV Press Classified Sections, AV Press Staff

Great use of photos. You made me want to read the ads.

**3rd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Best

### Classified Section, Staff

A little different on the legal layout, but overall great and inviting pages.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Best Classified, Staff

Good clean copy, for the most part. There were white space holes in some spots that could have been cleaned up a bit.

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

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

**1st Place**—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Diversity Staff

Hands-down the best entry in this category. Terrific job of mixing news-editorial content to drive reader through the well-done ads. Excellent job on a vital topic. Congrats to all involved.

**2nd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Pigskin Horoscope Ad Shell, Andrew Hutchens

Good job of taking advantage of both the popularity of football and the challenge of competition. Good use of color and graphics.

**3rd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA; Go Downtown, Anne Ray, Lonnie de Lambert, Eric Kinnard

Nice job of featuring downtown businesses, especially pulling one out to be highlighted. Good use of color and graphics.

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

#### Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

**1st Place**—Waushara Argus, Wautoma, WI; Kids Design an Ad 2015; Mary Kunasch, Marge Williams, Karla Perkins

Great new concept and awesome kid's art!

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Pet Page, Karin Eberhardt

Effective page for shelter pets with sponsor under each photo

**3rd Place**—Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY; Over the River and Through the Woods to Downtown Warwick We Go; Beth Moriarty, Nicole Wynn, Lajla Abrams

Love the map! Page is very nicely designed and different from usual layout

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Enchanted Circle Map, Karin Eberhardt

Excellent artwork and use of color.

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

#### Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5000

**1st Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Home, Staff

What a beautiful section. It was bright and cheery. Every

page, every ad nicely done. Lots of good information. What brought this to the top was the overall look—it really caught my eye.

**2nd Place**—Milton Times, Milton, MA, Milton Uncovered, Aldo Pinto

What a nice community guide. The ads fit nicely with the section. I read the ads right along with the stories. I imagine the advertisers as well as the community really appreciated this section.

**3rd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Heart Matters

What a great idea for a section—the heart. Very nice layout. Nice font choices. Easy to look at.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, State Wrestling Signature Pull Out Poster ad, Tammie Nunn

Great layout - easy to look at. Loved the checkerboard effect with the ads. A nice keepsake for state wrestling.

### BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 16,000 or more

**1st Place**—Miami Today, Miami, FL; (Meet Fluffy), Staff

This entry stands out because of the clean, no frills approach. Message is conveyed effectively to the reader in an appealing fashion. Good balance of white space with color added as needed.

**2nd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT; I spy a planner, two flashlights; Nathan Daniels, David Taylor

Very creative concept that easily catches the reader's attention. Mix of artwork adds to the overall impact of the ad.

**3rd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT; Find them in TWO; Conner Newbold, Nathan Daniels, Miranda Facer, Victoria Wilkins, Maddi Dayton

The simplicity of this ad makes it very appealing to the reader while accomplishing the goal. Rather than cluttering the ad with words, this is a very visual type of image.

### BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000-15,999

**1st Place**—The Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Color - Newspaper promotion, Paul Hatton

The Livingston Parish News' series of ads promoting the use of color in ads makes its point with clever catch phrases, quirky characters, and a bold use of the color the ad department is selling—raising the newspaper's revenue, as well as the revenue of its customers. Talk about a win-win situation.

**2nd Place**—The Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, 24-7 - Newspaper promotion, Paul Hatton

Selling convenience, The Livingston Parish News's imaginative series of black-and-white-with-a-touch-of-yellow ads keeps the revenue flowing by reminding customers they don't have to wait for daylight to place their classified ads.

**3rd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Circulation Gotta Have It Ads, AV Press staff

The Antelope Valley Press boldly touts the "big savings and solid coverage at a great price" customers get when they pick up the Sunday edition at one of the convenient locations listed in the ad or when they arrange for home delivery.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO; Digital - E-Edition; Jeanine York, Whitney Livengood, Ethan Busse

"Your News. Your Way." is what the Missourian offers, and they make it one-click easy for customers to activate a full-access subscription.

### BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME; Draw Mom; Staff

This is a great promotion! I loved it.

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Tradiciones - Taos Pueblo, Karin Eberhardt

Great campaign. I would not change a thing.

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Dining Out, Karin Eberhardt

This was also a great campaign. It was a tough decision in this category.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Grant Tribune-Sentinel, Imperial, NE, Newspaper Week Promotion, Samantha Goff

Great promotion with huge impact!

### BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION

#### Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Sex Offenders

Very useful information.

**2nd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, AV Press Public Notice, AV Press staff

Clean looking.

**3rd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Public Notice Section, Staff

Nice looking.



**FIRST PLACE**, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation 5,000 - 9,999, By Daniel Burton, Dave Gentry, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN

**SHE'S ON THE LINE**—Senior Carson-Newman, Head Coach Mike Mincey and the Lady Eagles' bench point to Queens' Sheridan Pressley's foot on the sideline as Jai Jai McLaughlin and Whitney Kyle trap the Royals' guard.

## BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

**Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more**

**1st Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT; Housing Guide 2015; Universe design & special sections staff

WOW! A huge virtual book of ads and articles giving anyone—students and parents alike—all the information they need to make housing choices. Good job.

**2nd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT; New Student Edition 2015; Universe design & special sections staff

Great service to the students with lots of information in both the ads and in the news-editorial articles, features, maps and charts. You make it easier to be a new student.

**3rd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA; Home & Garden Edition; Anne Ray, Eric Kinnard, Teri Fitzhugh, Carol Laird

Nicely done package of advertising and news-editorial, including a directory for advertisers. Good photography, color and graphics.

## BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

**Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000**

**1st Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Color Tour, Debra Campbell

The richly colored cover of the Leelanau Color Tour 2015 guidebook, produced by Leelanau Enterprise, both beckons readers outdoors to enjoy the fall foliage and draws them into the pages of the book to plan their adventures—including plenty of shopping and dining stops. Inside, readers find useful information, including a double-page map in the center, several smaller maps in articles and ads, ideas for themed color tours, and an indexed listing of businesses in the back. The language speaks directly to the reader (e.g., "Your Tour Awaits ... " on the cleverly designed contents page and "Picture Yourself on a Circle Tour" on the lead article page). Many of the individual business ads either mention the tour directly ("Enjoy the colors," "A Color Tour dining destination") or feature images and graphics reflective of the fall theme and colors—with an occasional departure from the fall palette to grab readers' attention. The articles appeal to a variety of reader interests from food/wine to art to history to ghost stories and more. The purposeful and uncluttered layout shepherds readers through a virtual tour of the county that readies them to hit the real road on their own. My guess is that this themed edition goes along for the ride in either print or digital format—another plus—and that readers refer to it often in planning their stops along the way. Some of the content is useful

year-round, too, which extends the life of this publication and of the ads therein.

**2nd Place**—Hendersonville Lightning, Hendersonville, NC, North Carolina Apple Festival Guide 2015, staff

Readers have little chance of forgetting they are perusing the 2015 NC Apple Festival guide, a Hendersonville Lightning publication, as apples images, apple graphics, and apple-themed articles and ads appear throughout. The overall tone, from punning headlines to cheerful coupons, invites readers to chuckle their way out the door, into their cars, and on the road to the Festival. The attractive guide offers readers a detailed listing of Festival events and a map of where they occur, as well as a map and roster of local apple farms and other related businesses. As the Festival lasts several days, readers likely will find the guide useful and informative for at least the duration of the Festival and possibly beyond.

**3rd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Holiday Gift Guide, staff

No traditional red or forest green for the Ellsworth American's Holiday Gift and Entertainment Instead, the bright/almost-pink and not-quite-lime green—plus the touch of royal blue—hint that the contents include a contemporary take on places-to-go, things-to-do, gifts-to-buy-and-mail during the holiday season. Packed with holiday-themed ads and articles, even the curmudgeonliest reader might find it hard not to enjoy the season.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Delish, staff

Delish's yummy cover and distinctive individual ads create a smorgasbord of tempting possibilities for readers seeking answers to the age-old question of "what's for dinner?"—or for breakfast, lunch or late-night snack, for that matter.

## BEST SERIES AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, South Georgia Endoscopy Center Inc., Robert M. Williams Jr.

These winners were all close. All were excellent campaigns that could have been even better. This entry got the edge because it was a very difficult series handled very well. Tighter writing/editing and getting the headlines off the photos could have significantly improved the campaign. But the results were powerful and intimate—a strong combination in advertising campaigns.

**2nd Place**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Nutshell Eatery, Kelly Mason

This is a really good campaign for a small space advertiser. The format of the ad and the logo hold the campaign together and

make all the ads recognizable, but the content changes each time. This is much better than trying to cram more stuff into a small ad or running the same ad over and over. More newspapers should be doing these kinds of things more often for their smaller advertisers!

**3rd Place**—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA; Bennett, Bennett & Johnson Insurance Agency; Robert M. Williams Jr.

Good campaign was not quite as good as Endoscopy series, but it did personalize the people who work there. I think this copy could have been stronger with a better transition to the insurance work they do. More teams should consider personalizing the staff of advertisers as this campaign did effectively.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, staff

Cute campaign—very creative.

## BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Gorge, Karin Eberhardt

These ads really pulled the eye with their great photos. The design was similar, creating the theme, and there was often open space to draw the eye. Basically, I was real hungry and thirsty after looking at these ads. Very good use of color photos and excellent photography.

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Tradiciones - The Randall Family, Karin Eberhardt

The theme was clear; this family has a long history of experience. Using sepia tone really gave it a historical feel, which just amplifies the message. Clean ads, not too cluttered.

**3rd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Matthews Roofing, Decatur, TX

Very interesting ads that were eye catching and educational. I learned a little about roofing from reading these ads. My top two favorite were the old cowboy and the Licensed by WHOM?

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Parcht, Karin Eberhardt

Eye-catching: great photos and design.

## BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—Colby Free Press, Colby, KS, Haunted House, Kyle Hunter, Sharon Funk

Excellent use of reverse and readable type sizes.

**2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Rabies Day

Excellent in drawing viewer into ad.

**3rd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Tucker's Dec. 3, Debra Campbell

Excellent holiday connection to bowling.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Calling All Artists! Sarah Greeng

Great design and typeface.

## BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 16,000 or more

**1st Place**—Community Impact Newspaper—Northwest Austin Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Kit's Wings, Cierra Aiken

A strong, simple message that makes me think wings!

**2nd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Moving? Seth Prestwich

Very clean, modern ad with a clear message.

## BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000-15,999

**1st Place**—Community Impact Newspaper San Marcos, Buda, Kyle Editon, Pflugerville, TX, Buda Parks and Recreation, 10th Annual Boo-da Halloween, Miranda Baker

Really nice, sophisticated use of color. Nice use of the strip ad size, as well. This is a great example of how to mix colors and use white to highlight the small skeleton figure. Wish the messaging was a little better. Needed stronger wording to get me excited about the event!

**2nd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper—Leander, Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Leander Public Library, Cathy Chedrawi

This was a solid small-space ad that made good use of color. By sticking to one dominant color instead of being tempted to turn up the volume on messaging that was already dense, this ad designer saved the day. Less can be more when using color!

**3rd Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Sullivan Golf, Stephanie Fitzgerald

An impactful ad that made good use of a color photo to help readers understand and want to try out some new golf technology. Catchy use of the putting green at the top of the ad helped, too.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Town & Country Fair - Budweiser Clydesdales 7.8.15, Whitney Livengood

Allowing the photo of the famous horses to dominate this ad was the right strategy for this ad.

## BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Golightly Cashmere, Karin Eberhardt

Excellent use of color, striking image, and plenty of negative space. Basic text conveys important information without cluttering the space.

**2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Open House, Decatur, TX

Great use of space—nice job of getting a lot of information into limited space without looking crammed. Choice of graphic does a good job of separating information while containing it.

**3rd Place**—Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica, CA, Ashland Hill, Darren Ouellette

Great image and use of type. Love the elegance of the font and simplicity of the design.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Parcht, Gorge, Karin Eberhardt

Fantastic images and good layout—really like the balance.

## BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

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

**1st Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Door-to-door without the sales, Stephanie Beddes

Clean ad and simple design that was eye-catching and had the empty space to draw the eye.

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA; Walking the Dog; Eric Kinnard, Anne Ray, Fred Ginsler

Cute ad, nice heading, good use of color to match artwork.

**3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper Plano, Pflugerville, TX, Nadine's Music Manor, Aubrey Cade

Good layout; nice photo with the guitar pointing right to the main message.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Community Impact Newspaper—Southwest Austin Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Skinny's Old School Barber Shop, Kristin Bruno

Good layout, a pop-out colorful coupon, very appealing design and tastefully done for the number of items in the ad.

## BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Sabroso, Karin Eberhardt

Terrific ad! Eye catching, and the colors are downright delicious!

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Randall Lumber & Hardware, Karin Eberhardt

Love the use of history to tie the present-day operation of this business to the past.

**3rd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Alpenglow Cleaning Ad, Lauren Shearer and Mayumi Elegado

Great use of art. Fun, modern, and makes an impression.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Cloudpeak Closets, Stacy Bronson

Nice artwork; gets the message across in a glance.

## BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 16,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Mind the Gap, Seth Prestwich

Simple design and excellent use of color. Usually, simple is the best answer in using color in advertising!

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Del Sol Energy, Eric Kinnard

Again, simplicity helps here. Better visuals copy more focused on the user would have helped improve this entry.

**3rd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT, Then relax and enjoy summer, Seth Prestwich

Nice image and headline helped this entry stand out among the others.

## BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000-15,999

**1st Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Bark Harbor, Barbara Tedesco

Cute ad that caught my attention right away. Nice font—worked well with the ad; clean layout and good models! I mean, who doesn't love pets?

**2nd Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Sperlings Christmas Ad, Barbara Joseph

Well laid-out ad that doesn't look busy or cluttered considering how much is in the ad—good job to get it all in. Good use of a strong font—looks nice. Loved the use of Santa in the ad!

**3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper—Conroe Montgomery, Pflugerville, TX, Cozy Grape Wine Bar & Bistro/Cozy Supper Club, Jennifer Brahm

Very elegant ad—nice use of copy and fonts. The two businesses look nice side-by-side—great job of incorporating them in one ad.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Classic Chevrolet-GMC, Kelly Mason

Loved the look of this ad and the use of red and white

## The National Newspaper Association thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2016 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspaper And Education Contest

Anne Anderson  
Reed Anfinson  
Peyton Auill  
Joanne (Joni) Berg  
Layne Bruce  
Rick Bussler  
Mark Campbell  
Curt Chandler  
Jennifer Chciuk  
Al Cross  
Laura Crozier  
Ashleigh David  
Sharon DiMauro  
Reed Eckhardt  
Laurie Ezzell Brown  
Eric Falquero  
Deborah Francola  
Tania French  
Eileen Gilligan  
Benji Hamm  
Terry Hawkins  
Max Heath  
Harry Hix  
Dodie Hook  
Linda Ireland

Bill Jacobs  
Gale Kaas  
Richard Khavkine  
Delinda Korrey  
Cecile Krimm  
Kate Lee  
Ryan Lewis  
Julie Madden  
Julie Ann Madden  
Brian Martin  
Joel McNece  
KC Meadows  
Ellen Meany  
Bob Mudge  
Bill Ostendorf  
Steve Ranson  
Christine Sablinski  
Dennis Schick  
Larry See  
Steven Solomon  
JT Strasner  
Scott Sullivan  
Karen Trachtenberg  
Ray Weeks  
Amy Wilson

vehicles to set off the present—made it very Christmassy. Nice, clean ad. Liked the header and the use of the advertiser's name.

#### BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 8,000

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Jackson Hole Airport, Lydia Redzich

Nice graphic; great balance and use of simple typography.

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Mother's Day Sale, Lydia Redzich

Excellent job getting a lot of information into the space without cluttering up the ad. Nice use of typography and single images.

**3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Leslie, Lydia Redzich

Excellent use of image and basic copy. Love the simplicity of this design and the harmony of the color.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI; Derby Thank You Celebrating 52 Years; Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch

Great use of images, nice layout.

#### BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Use of Local Photography in Taos, Karin Eberhardt

These photos take the ordinary and make them extraordinary. Visually, the entries are appealing because they draw the reader's attention. However, because of the unique angles, the photos offer a much deeper perspective, which increases the impact. All aspects of the photos, from color to cropping, create an effective message.

**2nd Place**—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, State Wrestling Signature Pull Out Poster ad, Tammie Nunn

For a sig page, these type of images are well worth the investment for the advertiser. These photos greatly enhance the likelihood that readers will examine the page thoroughly and take note of the supporters.

**3rd Place**—The Universe, Provo, UT; Housing Fair 2015; Nathan Daniels, Steffany Beddes, David Taylor, Seth Prestwich, Brett Bertola, Joseph Moxon

The collage of images makes a significant impact toward ensuring the reader receives the message of the ad. Good mix of items to draw attention. Placement of items in the photo is handled well to ensure no one item overshadows the others.

## Congratulations

to all the winners  
of NNA's  
**Better Newspaper  
Contest,**  
**Better Newspaper  
Advertising Contest**  
and  
**Newspaper and  
Education Contest**  
from the board  
and staff of the

**National  
Newspaper  
Association**



**SECOND PLACE**, best sports photo, daily division  
By Rich Schmitt | Palisadian-Post, Pacific Palisades, CA

**CATCHING BASEBALL FEVER**—Dodgers runner Campbell Ford slides into second base as Phillies shortstop Matt Henderson attempts to catch the ball in a Pacific Palisades Baseball Association Mustang Division game on Opening Day Saturday morning at the Field of Dreams. The Dodgers won 10-9.

**Wednesday, November 11, 2015 |** The voice of Siouxland. Print, online and mobile.

# Sioux City Journal

**MOVING FORWARD**  
Today the Journal unveils its male cross country runner of the year: SPORTS BI

**GRANT:** The state approves \$4.8M grant to help build a road to new pork plant. THE TALK 2

**Justices skeptical of Tyson Foods arguments**

Case involves pay dispute at pork plant in Storm Lake

**'A COMPLICATED WAR'**

SERVICE WITH HONOR

**Bush seeks to regain footing in GOP debate**

Rubio, Trump call for more military spending

**VETERANS DAY**

**Hearing set for Thursday on pipeline project**

**SP Homeless Shelter on Council Agenda**

**Members Concerned About Daytime Programs**

**OPINION**  
**Cobb's Service is Greatly Missed**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
Leave Midland Alone

**Books**

**Mr. GOODFELLOW**

**FIRST PLACE**, general excellence, daily division  
Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

**THE PILOT**

**The Church-Supper Congressman Coble Loved Lending a Hand**

**SALUTE TO SERVICE**

**Parade Brings Focus On County Vets' Sacrifice**

**SP Homeless Shelter on Council Agenda**

**Members Concerned About Daytime Programs**

**OPINION**  
**Cobb's Service is Greatly Missed**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
Leave Midland Alone

**Books**

**Dining Out**  
THE SUMMER MENUS HAVE ARRIVED

**Airport hearing raises \$10 million question**

**Pinecrest Football Punished**  
Wins Forfeited After Paperwork Violations

**SPADES**

**DEATHS**

**Ride on the wild side**

**So what did Taos get from the special legislative session?**

**Bookmobile rolls on in 21st century**

**FIRST PLACE**, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more  
The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC

## BETTER NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

Visit [www.bnaweb.org](http://www.bnaweb.org)  
or call 217-241-1400, ext. 303

**Grand OPENING**

**THIS VALENTINE'S WEEKEND!**

**Dinner&Jazz THURSDAY 7-10PM**

**DJ OLIVER FRIDAY 9 TO MIDNIGHT**

**DJ Mike SATURDAY 9 TO MIDNIGHT**

**John Carey Band New Orleans Blues FAT TUESDAY 8:30 TO CLOSE**

**KYOTE club**  
A CULINARY BAR

**FIRST PLACE**, best use of local photography in ads, daily & non-daily division  
The Taos News, Taos, NM

**Drink your colors.**

**STEP 1:**  
How Hungry Your Wing Style?  
- CLASSIC  
- BONELESS  
- MIX IT UP!

**STEP 2:**  
How Hungry You're?  
5 - Just a few please  
10 - Quite the appetite  
20 - Family company  
50 - Small get-together  
100 - Bring on the Party Platter

**STEP 3:**  
Choose Your Flavors Wisely:  
- Classic Buffalo (hot or spicy)  
- Honey Mustard - BBQ  
- Mango Habanero - Lemongrass  
- Naked - Teriyaki  
- Peanut - Garlic Parmesan  
- Lemon Pepper - Kickin' Bourbon  
- Asian Spicy  
- Orange - Tamarind  
- Thai Chili

**The Soup Peddler Hwy 183 N next to iFly**

**\$5 OFF**  
YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE.  
Expires 12/15/15

**512-382-0845**  
8701 W Parmer Ln  
Austin, TX 78729

**FIRST PLACE**, best single advertising idea, color  
daily and non-daily division, circulation 16,000 or more  
Community Impact Newspaper Northwest Austin Edition, Pflugerville, TX

READ THE STORY OF DIZZY DEAN SECTION 2

There are baseball heroes – and then there are legends.

Follow Dizzy and his teammates on their journey as they grow from a ragtag bunch of misfits to true champions.

# THE N'WEST IOWA REVIEW

VOL. 42 NO. 49

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

SHELDON, IOWA

## Any way the wind blows

214 turbines start reaching for the sky in O'Brien County as part of massive Highwind Wind Project

BY LINDSEY KRUSE  
STAFF WRITER

**HIGHWIND**—An increasing inventory of wind turbines is transforming O'Brien County's rural landscape.

According to county engineer Tom Snyder, all 214 turbines in the Highwind Wind Project had been erected as of Friday morning as part of the largest wind energy partnership between MidAmerican Energy Co. of Des Moines and Denver-based Wind Development of Chicago.

Work on the 495-megawatt project, which must be completed by June 30, 2016, is nearing a potential completion date of later this year.

MidAmerican Construction Co. of Minneapolis

See WIND on page A9

Lori Schenckbeck feeds the chickens on Wednesday afternoon at her farm about four miles east of Melvin. The chickens at Schenckbeck Farm Fresh Foods have been tested negative for H5N2 avian influenza, so Lori can begin selling eggs again, but is still afraid to return to the market because of the recent H5N2 outbreak in Hyacinth, Iowa.

PHOTOS BY RYAN HORN

## Detroit band claims Battle of the Bands

Group picked to play RiseFest

SHERIDAN—Bluegrass music organization behind the annual competition in Sheldon, has announced Detroit-based Alve City will be the winner of the 2015 competition.

Every year we get tons of information from many talented groups that apply to compete, said Steve marketing director.

See RISEFEST on page A9

ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT!  
**RISEFEST**  
**WEDNESDAY**

See CALL CENTER on page A9

Photo by Ryan Horn

<div data-b

# MIDHUDSONTIMES

Vol. 27, No 47 • NOVEMBER 25, 2015 • ONE DOLLAR

Shop locally!  
Pages 27-29

Exceptional seniors  
Page 40

SERVING NEWBURGH AND NEW WINDSOR

## Feeding the masses

### St. Mary's Outreach continues despite church closure

By SHANTEL RILEY  
[sriley@newspapers.com](mailto:sriley@newspapers.com)

The line wrapped around the building from the entrance all the way to the rear parking lot.

"I need the bus," said Laura Journals, a city resident and mother of five she waited at the end of the line on Friday.

It was St. Mary's Outreach Giving Day and hundreds of people were gathered at the building, formerly known as Mamix Hall, carrying bags of potatoes, stuffing and rice to share with their families over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Our last Central Hudson bill was \$300," Kwanish explained. "That's why we have to do this."

This was the fourth annual Thanksgiving Giving Day. "It's been a great success every year," Kwanish said. "This year we had more people come." Rainy as she remained to hand out guns and toilettes.

Food was distributed from turkeys, chicken and beef, eggs, oil, margarine, cheese, sour cream, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, juice, cereals and soups.

The community also received coats, children's baby formula, diapers and personal hygiene items.

Approximately 17 tons of food, clothing, household goods and furniture were distributed to about 300 families that day, said Marcella Allen, director of St. Mary's Parish.

The average family served by the annual Giving Day makes anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year, she said. "It's about poverty we're dealing with," she said.

Mamix Hall is located on the St. Mary's Church campus on South Street. The church was closed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York over summer, despite agreeing to keep it open for parishioners to use.

Headed by Orange County now, Mamix Hall is no longer used by the parishioners to kibitzing, but the building is still used by St. Mary's Parish was merged with St. Patrick's Parish, as part of the Restructuring's Making All Things Right initiative. However, St. Mary's Outreach was permitted to remain based on its services to the community. "We're here to help," Allen said.

The outreach distribution agency mainly consists of food, clothing, house

Continued on page 26

**Newburgh City Council adopts 2016 budget**

**Comptroller: Property tax levy remains flat**

**By SHANTEL RILEY  
[sriley@newspapers.com](mailto:sriley@newspapers.com)**

The City of Newburgh Council adopted the city's 2016 budget on Monday. The \$43.5-million spending plan included funds for police, parks, public works, fire department staff, among others.

The budget brings a 1.1 percent increase in property taxes, but keeps property taxes at the same level as 2015. The budget passed with a four-to-two vote by the six-member council.

The new tax levy of \$15,462,564 produces a homeowners tax rate of \$18.5 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is slightly above the projected rate of \$18.2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The rates bear 30 cent and 70 cent surcharges.

The homeowners' appeals to single- and three-family homes, explained City Comptroller John Aben on Tuesday. "The budget is balanced and it's good for more families, as well as all commercial properties," he said.

The budget is final budget – separately covering costs for sewer, water and sanitation – comes to \$15,087,719, an increase of 4.2 percent from the previous year, said

Continued on page 26

**Volunteer Shabab Islam, a student at GAMC Tech Magnet School, helps out at St. Mary's Outreach Giving Day on Friday.**

**WWW.MIDHUDSONTIMES.COM**

We focus on the  
**FACTS**  
We leave the  
**FLUFF**  
to others

If knowledge is power then our readers are the most powerful people in town.

Use Miami Today to reach the most action-prone, inquisitive consumers.

We have the strongest readership base in South Florida and advertising with us  
**should be a must if you are looking for results.**

A small yellow chick with fluffy feathers is standing on its legs. It is wearing a pair of black-rimmed glasses and a bright green, knitted scarf with a fringed edge. The chick is facing slightly to the right.

**Meet Fluffy.**

Call our Advertising Department at 305-358-1008 for more information.

**MIAMI TODAY**  
A Singular Voice in an Evolving City

## Newspaper And Education Contest

### CIVIC LITERACY

Division B, daily newspapers 10,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL; Floridians and War; Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

I loved the balance struck between feature reporting and guides explaining related rights, responsibilities and avenues for civic engagement. This edition is an excellent educational tool.

### CIVIC LITERACY

Division B, non-daily newspapers less than 5,000 circulation

**2nd place**—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO, staff

Bravo for getting youth to critically analyze and participate in democracy! This is an inspiring program.

### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Division A, non-daily newspapers 5,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—Washington Weekend Missourian, Washington, MO; Missourian In Education News Quiz, Dawn Kitchell

The online quiz for students, tying technology to the printed product, tipped the scales in favor of the Missourian's entry. The result: Growing future readers who appreciate quality news stories. Personal letters to students are a great way to connect. This is the way an NIE program is supposed to work. Great job.

**2nd place**—The St Louis American, St Louis, MO, STEM Program, Cathy Sewell

The online stories were a pleasure to read. Great job by a "two-person team" who took time to work with students on writing/reading skills. It proves your dedication to your product. Professional design.

**3rd place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Farm to Table Project: Using Ag Education to Enhance Literacy in the Classroom, Nicole Schweitzerberger

A tough decision to make. Excellent program, with great support in the community. Signs of a healthy newspaper. Third place because you had to answer annoying pop-up surveys to read the student-written stories.

### OTHER

Division B, non-daily newspapers 5,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—Park Cities People, Dallas, TX, Park Cities People Historic School Bond Coverage, People Newspapers staff

A school bond issue is important to the community, and showing both sides is what a newspaper should do. You have done an excellent job of informing the community on the bond issue over a long period using different forms of media. I also liked how you gave the community a way to participate in the dialogue. Your goal statement was right on point explaining very clearly your object for the coverage. The printed articles were also eye-pleasing, using nice graphics. I imagine the coverage was good for students to learn about what the bond issue was and how it would affect them and future students. Continue the good work and your passion for the school.

**2nd place**—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL; From the Scrub to the Twist; Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

What an interesting section on the history of The Scrub and Tampa's history. The section was well written and very nice to look at. I was absorbed from the cover through to the last page. I'm sure this was well received in the schools and was used to help educate the students on the history in their town. Nice job of reporting.

### OTHER

Division B, Non-daily newspapers 5,000 circulation or more

**3rd place**—Washington Weekend Missourian, Washington, MO, The Missourian's Little Free Libraries, Dawn Kitchell

Reading and literacy is important, and little free libraries are a great addition to a town. Nice job to get the word out and let students and the community know what the little free libraries are and how to use them. Keep up the good work on helping literacy in your community.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Division A, daily newspapers 10,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA; Marijuana and e-cigarettes: Facts teens can use to make healthy choices, Bridget Harkness, Diane Brady, Linda Perrin

First-place prize because of its educational content on a very important issue to teens: Marijuana and e-cigarettes, in a state that legalized marijuana use. I think its public value outweighs the others.

**2nd place**—Post-Bulletin, Rochester, MN; 2016 Student Design an Ad, Randi Kallas, Sue Lovejoy

This entry was moved up several divisions because of a few entries. While I find the instructional pieces quite detailed and created originally by consultant for internal newspaper use, the overall level of participation shown by the students as reflected

**FLORIDIANS AND WAR**  
AN EXPLORATION OF CONFLICT  
THROUGH THE EYES OF FLORIDA VETERANS

Florida Humanities Council

ARMED FORCES HISTORY MUSEUM

Tampa Bay Times NIE  
newspaper in education  
tampabay.com/nie

Above: This formation of B-29s is shown flying over enemy territory in Korea. Over twenty-four million pounds of bombs have been dropped from B-29 bomb bays during the months of July and August, 09/06/1950, National Archives Below: Bill Allen and other POWs in the Korean War.

**NEWSPAPER AND EDUCATION WINNERS**—Examples of winning Newspaper In Education programs and ideas that won awards in the National Newspaper Association's Newspaper And Education contest: from the Tampa Bay Times, Tampa, FL.

in the 24-page section is chock full of interesting, colorful, creative, if sometimes simple, ads is a testimony to the success of this promotion.

**3rd place**—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL; La Florida—Land of Flowers: Ornamental Horticulture with Florida Native Plants, Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

This entry was moved up several divisions due to few entries. Exhaustive information and illustration that is useful for adults and children alike. Impressive work by the writer, the artists, and layout people involved in this project. I'd love to have it if living in Florida. A great effort in 16 exceptional pages. Just not as much potential community value or proven involvement as the first two places.

**Honorable Mention(s)**—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL; Pathways to Understanding; Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

This entry was moved up several divisions due to few entries. While this work is very useful information to an area of high

Muslim population, it is angled as much to adults as children, and it is unclear how much is original or supplied by outside parties. And with only three visible references to youth in the 16 pages that were marvelous in their production values and presentation of facts, I relegated this to honorable mention. But admirable partnership with community group to educate people of all ages.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Division A, non-daily newspapers 5,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—The St. Louis American, St. Louis, MO; St. Louis American Community Partnerships; Cathy Sewell

St. Louis American has not only created effective partnerships within a vast community of readers, but there is plenty of data

to provide documentation of success. The resources provided by the newspaper are exceptional, which in turn benefits the students and the community sponsors.

**2nd place**—Wilson County News, Floresville, TX; Community of Learning; Tiffany K. Polasek, Elaine Kolodziej, Kristen Weaver

Based on the examples provided, there's no doubt that the Wilson County News, Texas Newspapers In Education program plays a significant role in the community. Program coordinators have clearly established successful partnerships throughout the community to make learning a priority using the local newspaper. It is also notable that the partnerships have been developed across all stages of education, from day cares to public and private schools.

### STUDENT EDUCATION

Division B, daily newspapers 10,000 circulation or more

**1st place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Using the Newspaper Genre to Enhance Literacy in the Classroom, Nicole Schweitzerberger

The Sioux City Journal has found the perfect ingredients for success in the operation of the NIE Siouland project. Students are supported at all levels through various initiatives, including Kid Scoop News Siouland. There is a clear sense of community demonstrated through the various elements of the project, all of which combine to truly support students and learning in the community.

ST. LOUIS AMERICAN • JANUARY 21 - 27, 2016

**CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT**  
Students in Stephanie Linn's third grade class at Griffith Elementary School in St. Louis, Mo., are learning about the Civil War by reading books, writing reports and creating art projects. Pictured are: Natalie, Leah, Anna, Taylor, Jordan, and Kaitlyn.

**SCIENCE STARS**  
African-American Neuroscientist Eric Jarvis

**SCIENCE CORNER**  
Neuroscience is the study of the brain and nervous system. It includes the study of the brain's structure, function, development, and diseases. This field is very complex and requires a multidisciplinary approach involving biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. For this group to be successful and competitive in the field, they must understand how the brain works and how it affects our lives.

**WHY IS NEUROBIOLOGY?**  
It is developing. That's why many scientists are interested in it. They are fascinated by the brain and how it works. They are fascinated with how it functions with their bodies. Because the brain is so complex, it is difficult to understand. By understanding the brain, we can better understand ourselves and the world around us.

**SCIENCE EXPERIMENT**  
Background Information: This experiment is a fun way to teach students about the effects of exercise on the brain.

**SCIENCE CORNER**  
Science is the study of the natural world. It is a way to understand the world around us. It is a way to explain how things work. It is a way to predict the future. It is a way to solve problems. It is a way to improve our lives.

**TASTE VS. SMELL**  
Background Information: This experiment is a fun way to teach students about the effects of exercise on the brain.

**PRECAUTIONS:**  
1. Make sure the taste test is the last part of the experiment. If the taste test is done before the smell test, the smell test will not be as effective.

**PROCEDURE:**  
1. Make a chart of your results. Write the name of each food in the first column. In the second column, write the taste of each food. In the third column, write the smell of each food. In the fourth column, write the taste and smell of each food.

**LEARNING STANDARD:** I can follow directions to complete a task. I can identify the parts of a task and follow the steps to complete it. I can identify the parts of a task and follow the steps to complete it.

**MATH CONNECTION:**  
Background Information: This experiment is a fun way to teach students about the effects of exercise on the brain.

**SCIENCE CORNER**  
Math is the study of numbers, quantity, space, structure, and change. It is used in almost every field of science and engineering, as well as in business, medicine, and the arts. The word "mathematics" comes from the Greek word "mathema", meaning "knowledge, study, and learning".

**MATH IN THE MUSIC!**  
Background Information: This experiment is a fun way to teach students about the effects of exercise on the brain.

**MAP CORNER**  
Background Information: This experiment is a fun way to teach students about the effects of exercise on the brain.

**ACTIVITY ONE**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY TWO**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY THREE**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY FOUR**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY FIVE**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY SIX**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY SEVEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY EIGHT**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY NINE**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY TEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY ELEVEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY TWELVE**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY THIRTEEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY FOURTEEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY FIFTEEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2. Listen to another piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 3. Listen to a third piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 4. Listen to a fourth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 5. Listen to a fifth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 6. Listen to a sixth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 7. Listen to a seventh piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 8. Listen to an eighth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 9. Listen to a ninth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 10. Listen to a tenth piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music.

**ACTIVITY SIXTEEN**  
1. Listen to a piece of music. Write down the title of the piece of music. 2



**SECOND PLACE**, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999

By Ken Scott | Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI

**SAILING SUNRISE**—The day dawned Sunday on Suttons Bay with a promise for water sports.