

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2020 BNEC & BNAC

SPORTS & OUTDOORS SECTION **B**



**CATCH ME
 IF YOU
 CAN**

Nothing went quite as it was supposed to for the Douglas High School Bearcats in their season opener. From the start of the game, delayed 30 minutes because of inclement weather, all the way to the end, it just wasn't their day. Going down to the final seconds, the Bearcats fell 29-26 against the Buffalo High School Bison.

The game started about as poorly as possible for the Bearcats with quarterback A.J. Yeaman throwing an interception in his first pass. The Bison marched down the field and scored during the first quarter, but missed the extra point.

Please see BEARCATS, page B-2

Story by Harrison Epstein • Photos by Mike Moore

Douglas junior Kody Micke grabs Buffalo quarterback Jackson Moon mid-air before tackling him to the ground during last Friday's home opener in Douglas.

FIRST PLACE, best sports photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
 By Mike Moore | Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

**NNA's 2020
 Better Newspaper Editorial
 Contest
 and Better Newspaper
 Advertising Contest**

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

BNEC & BNAC OVERVIEW

Entries came from 34 states. A total of 523 awards were won by 92 member newspapers in 34 states. Awards were presented Oct. 3, 2020, via Zoom at the #NNAatHome annual convention.

BNEC FUN FACTS

1,276 entries were received

BNAC FUN FACTS

193 entries were received

**EDUCATIONAL
 SUPPORT**

Entries came from 16 newspapers with four awards given. The Newspaper And Education Contest became part of the Better Newspaper Contest in 2018.





FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
By Mike Moore | Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Tione Willox blasts the face of Aaron Mills with purple chalk as he passes a checkpoint during the annual Rainbow Run 5K near Bearcat Stadium June 7.

**NNA's 2020 Better Newspaper Contest,
Better Newspaper Advertising Contest &
Newspapers And Education Winners**

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

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**“ROOKIE” REPORTER
OF THE YEAR**

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Tioga (North Dakota) Tribune, Jacob Orledge. “Great ledes and well crafted stories. This young man is handling a heavy load with this paper and doing a great job. I enjoyed every story.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Jenna Alton. “This entry shows an ability to cover a wide variety of stories. All are informative, well-written and held my attention. A very promising talent”

THIRD PLACE — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Sarah Donaldson. “Very well-written pieces. She writes hard news and features with equal aplomb.”

HONORABLE MENTION — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), KateLynn Slaamot. “This young lady has a future in journalism. It’s quite a feat to be able to write as well as she does without a lot of formal training but she does.”

**BEST FRONT PAGE
DESIGN**

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Chelsi Semler. “The design is eye catching; simple yet classy. A nice in-depth look at “Game of Thrones.””

SECOND PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Staff. “Eye catching photo with hard hitting articles. Good leads and jumps.”

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Chelsi Semler. “Great photo of the capitol. The photos and article are a nice plug for the special section. It is a bit busy at the bottom of the page.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope Valley Press (Palmdale, California), Pam Krogstie. “The design is new and interesting. Page could’ve been chosen with more impactful articles.”

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Dalton (Ohio) Gazette & The Kidron News, Robert McCune. “**** Whoa! This page is all about drawing readers in. Solid news photos. The partly colored jumplines are a bit much. Big and intelligent use of headlines. News headlines in

color generally do not work, but in this case the color works with the content and the fading helps convey the meaning. Risky, but works in this case. Dog rescue photos well played, if not the best quality. The understated flag is interesting, giving more room for what’s most important – the news content, not the name. Too many unrelated photos can compete against each other, hurting a design, and this entry teeters there, but does not fall into the abyss.”

SECOND PLACE — Dalton (Ohio) Gazette & The Kidron News, Robert McCune. “An impactful front page. Excellent photo from ceremony, done with respect and a salute. The headline becomes a solid and meaningful piece of art, though I cannot reconcile the use of that color with the subject, as in a designer should not use color for color’s sake, but only when the color helps tell the story. Army green, for example, could be reconciled with the subject of a soldier’s funeral. Otherwise, stay black. The homecoming story should have gone higher than sports, from a perspective of importance.”

THIRD PLACE — The St Louis American, Mike Terhaar. “Clean look. Dominant photo tugs hard at the heartstrings and played well. Photo nameline and cutline crammed too much against photo. Good blurb use. Lots of white space to bring readers into the page. No need for “separating lines” between stories - the decoration of lines interrupt the white space.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Mark Ridolfi, Scott Campbell. “Good placement of powerful main photo. Heavy reverse in flag and around photo clash for attention. Subhead on bottom story looks crammed. Overall, the page needs the more relaxed feel that comes from better use of white space.”

BEST INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Erica Klimt. “Cheyenne, Wyoming, Frontier Days has strong support in this graphic entry. Lots of interesting info-detail lassoed by the historical graphic.”

SECOND PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Erica Klimt. “Wonderful graphic created by another newspaper, but fine support for the waterbottle advertisement.”

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Holyoke (Colorado) Enterprise, Jes-c French. “Details the statistical effectiveness of the community blood drive AND donor reflections. Graphics support story details without distraction.”

SECOND PLACE — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Athena Redmond. “This graphic account of how a town intends to recover from economic doom relates present-to-future peek at community revitalization plan. Good detail connecting story with images!”

THIRD PLACE — The Holyoke (Colorado) Enterprise, Darci Rodriguez. “Measuring community’s rainfall with a drop of humor and specific details. It supports the story’s focus!”

HONORABLE MENTION — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Aimee Tenzek, David Hartong. “A revealing graphic on how weather, especially rainfall, affects the farming community and its products. Lots of detail, buy some aspects obscure the message.”

BEST ONLINE ALBUM OR SLIDE SHOW

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Ross Corsair. “Hot-air balloon events always have promise, but this photographer’s sense of lighting, shapes, and emotion make for a rich visual narrative. Choosing the

crowd-from-above photo as the lead image was a fresh choice in a series of inventive shots. My one complaint is the lack of individual cutlines, which would have really enhanced several of these powerful and cheerful visuals.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Hannah Miner. “These photos all have energy and vibrant color, largely escaping the monotony of the single vantage point.”

BEST READER-GENERATED CAMPAIGN

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, J. Brian Monihan. “What fun! This holiday campaign demonstrates strong reader engagement and gives the issue a festive feel. The designers handle well the variety of submissions, and the choice of featuring select cards on the front page gestures toward the idea that readers are at the center of the publication.”

SECOND PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. “The reader submissions are clever, and the series makes for a cheerful change of pace in the often divisive space of the Opinion page.”

THIRD PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Chronicle staff. “All of these reader-generated photos are fun and sweet, but the

feature photo is particularly well-selected -- a humorous photo that tells a story.”

BEST REPORTING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Bret Hayworth. “Great coverage of a very important issue. Work on paraphrasing the information you have already covered. This will tighten up your writing and your editors will probably thank you.”

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Great watchdog reporting. Be aware of overuse of jargon and don’t be afraid to paraphrase for ease of reading. Also use quotations sparingly as a way to spice up a story. Reliance on quotations can become difficult to read.”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Fair and clear reporting. Be aware of redundancies while writing and in your chosen quotations. I also would have liked to have known why the change was made to all mail voting earlier in the story.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “This topic is newsworthy and interesting, however, the angle relies too heavily

on one disgruntled community member. I would zoom out on this topic and speak more broadly and do some more independent reporting beyond what one man’s issues with the project is.”

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong, Chip Rowe. “Great stories and sidebars about a county exec’s use of a deputy. Good reporting, details and writing.”

SECOND PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Chip Rowe, Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong. “Excellent coverage of an ongoing evolution of a county bill to limit sharing of documents with the public. Good sidebar on FOIL.”

THIRD PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). “Great story analyzing the applicants for a city manager’s position and the problems with those selected as finalists. Very well explained.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Amy Hubbell. “Good coverage of school board and district. Good use of FOIA!”

BEST USE OF A DOUBLE-TRUCK

Non-Daily Division

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



FIRST PLACE, Photo - Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
By Hope Davis | Spencer County Leader (Ferdinand, Indiana)

Tell City Fire Chief Greg Linne received the call at 11 a.m. Central, on Wednesday, December 11. The former Swiss Plywood Factory was on fire. While en route, Linne noticed the volume of smoke and immediately asked for backup from Anderson Township and Cannelton Departments. When he got a bit closer he called for Carter Township VFD (Dale) to bring a ladder truck. After arriving on scene and seeing the massive building ablaze, Linne asked for assistance from Huntingburg and Ferdinand VFDs. Firefighters from 10 departments were on scene for 13 hours, although Linne released the out-of-Perry County departments earlier. The fire marshal toured the structure on Thursday, December 12, and determined the cause was accidental. Workers were removing some of the furniture-making equipment no longer in use, and sparks caught in sawdust, igniting the conflagration. A portion of the building is salvageable due to an interior fire wall. The building is owned by the Perry County Port Authority.

FIRST PLACE — Advertiser-News South (Chester, New York), Pamela Chergotis. “Clear winner in this category. A good double-truck layout will help forward a story; engage the reader in a new way; and be creative. This does all that, and more. GREAT JOB!”

SECOND PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Samantha Nock. “Expertly-done double truck. GREAT!”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah). “This double truck of quotes from a conference has won me over. Very solid. Not a single misuse of space.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Lisa Carroll. “Lots of local names and faces.”

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BREAKING NEWS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Cedar County News (Hartington, Nebraska), Rob Dump, Kenneth Ferreria. “Updates were the key to your win. Great Job.”

SECOND PLACE — Archbold Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, David Pugh and staff. “Great Job on using your FB for crash. Missing updates and links were hard to find.”

THIRD PLACE — The Ozona (Texas) Stockman, Melissa Perner. “Post of the breaking news was a good one. Would have like to have seen a follow up of actual the end result of the indictments.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Staff. “Video was poor quality but pictures said it all.”

CIVIC - COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Emily Mieure, Allie Gross. “The entries in this category are all examples of dedicated work by members of the press in civil service to their communities; however, this entry stands out for its in-depth reporting into multiple facets of the story, the accompanying editorials and the impetus for a statewide legislative change based directly on the work done by News and Guide staff. It’s an example of journalism at its best.”

SECOND PLACE — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), Kim Dean, Alexis Barker. “This entry could easily be overlooked because it’s from a small town; however, that would be a mistake. This is what small-town newspapers do best - dig into the facts and the story behind a controversial issue, present those facts to the public, and, in this case, see real authentic change because of that hard work. This type of work is why community newspapers are so important. The work done will undoubtedly impact the community.”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Daily

Universe staff. “Great example of on-the-ground in-depth coverage of a local story, along with editorials, that helped the story become national news and instigated real change at an institution - change that was by all appearances needed but difficult to realize in such a setting.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Bulletin staff. “Another example of a local newspaper providing fact-based reporting, editorials and more to help a community deal with a controversial topic and move forward, which is absolutely one of the most important community service aspects of local journalism.”

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Tuscola (Illinois) Review, David Porter. “A couple words into this column and I was hooked. While I can remember this happening in my youth I am sure it has happened to many over the years. This one though, was a different take on how the boy got the girl in the end. Really good piece and a really good read.”

SECOND PLACE — Virginia Lawyers Weekly (Richmond, Virginia), Paul Fletcher. “History and personal experience brought into a very humorous piece of writing. Enjoyed it completely and even did a re-read so I could enjoy it again.”

THIRD PLACE — Virginia Lawyers Weekly (Richmond, Virginia), Paul Fletcher. “Telling the tale of the cat has never been done better. The history part was done well and the ending was perfect. As they say, “cats let you live with them” and after reading this you know that is true”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune. “A true life happening told with humor. It would almost make a good subject for a half hour comedy show. Laughed all the way through it while enjoying it”

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Rebecca Miller. “I chose Rebecca Miller’s column on advice to farmers of the changes and opportunities of feeding people. Miller is a talented wordsmith whose insights inspire and encourage her readers of the agricultural publication she edits.”

SECOND PLACE — Philadelphia Gay News, Mark Segal. “A strong appeal to leaders of countries and communities to act now to stop genocide of homosexuals. Eight specific action strategies made this a strong entry by Mark Segal”

THIRD PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Nick Hytrek. “Very interesting but more of a feature than a serious column.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999

FIRST PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Andy Howell. “Place a check for timeliness, for community significance, suitable handling, and originality of handling. A great story of police caring for a wounded man with a toy sword and without acrobatics. With all the other stories being told, this was a great one.”

SECOND PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Jim Headley. “Sometimes, lessons are hard to learn and to remember. One lesson is having a small community not diversify and have its one source go away. Hope it won’t happen, but it will. And you made it an interesting column.”

THIRD PLACE — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Brian Melton. “Things change, but remembrances mean a much to most of us. Your recollections of times past at the plant are a good connections to the present. No doubt, some others in town have had similar memories.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Jennifer M. Simon. “Topic presented and ways and means of achieving it are discussed. Facts presented; information well written. Lacks the emotional pull of others.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “This was the obvious first-place winner. This writer has the rare ability to both captivate and educate his readers. He does a fantastic job of setting the scene, and allowing the emotion of that scene to come out.”

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “The writer does an excellent job of grabbing the reader’s attention right from the start. Great word choice. We have an excellent story teller here, folks.”

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Chip Rowe. “The writer’s sense of humor really hits home. There are several ways a columnist could have approached this, but given the absurdity of the law, he hit the nail right on the head.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Virginia Lawyers Weekly (Richmond, Virginia), Paul Fletcher. “A well written piece. It combines history, great description that can almost place the reader in the courtroom, a personal flavor and a solid twist on the Kmart theme.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Mayumi Elegado. “Numerous submissions dealt with this same topic, but this one did it best. Loved how direct and straightforward it was about

challenges and what it will take to survive, as well as the writing itself. Outstanding piece.”

SECOND PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Cricket, Kris McGinn Straub. “This was an entertaining piece all the way through, but the twist at the end of Sylvia growing up in the home the author now occupies was a great surprise. The use of language and description was excellent as well.”

THIRD PLACE — The Wickenburg (Arizona) Sun, Publisher Jeanie Hankins. “This entry was shorter than many but in fewer words was able to convey what many people may feel about living in the west. The imagery used throughout evoked emotion and either resonated with those living in the west or likely urged others to visit. Nicely done.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Oakland (Illinois) Independent, Janice Hunt. “Beautiful memorial and remembrance of a loss that obviously rocked the community and the author personally. Beautifully written.”

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Tim Gallagher. “Make the readers want to read.”

SECOND PLACE — The St Louis American, Alvin Reid. “Don’t use quote from story as a from article as a caption, we want some facts not all emotional and opinion.”

THIRD PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Zach James. “Didn’t understand why there are pictures of three girls are on the page and up at the top, parts on the side bar stories are missing.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Brian PJ Cronin. “Overall, great job and great column! School of Hard Knocks: could’ve added to the caption; would’ve liked to know where the picture was taken and what part of the race is was took at.”

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell.

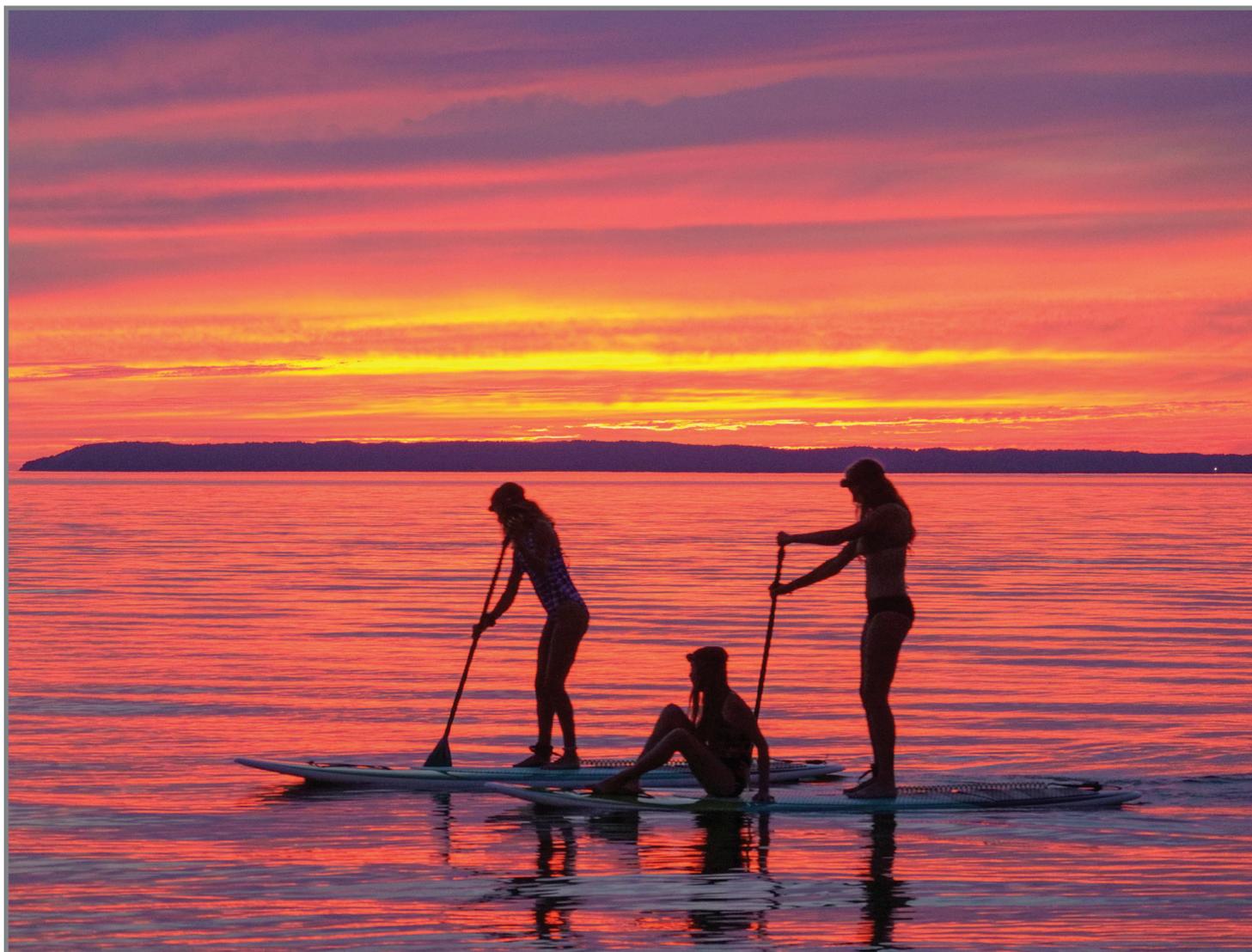
THIRD PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Thomas Ranson.

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Pesicka Recalls a Winter of Coyote Opportunity: wish the picture of the three girls weren’t in the middle of the page and didn’t understand why they were there in the fist place, didn’t feel like the story flowed. It felt all chopped up jumping from past to present.”

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

FIRST PLACE — The Yankton (South Dakota) County Observer, Brian J. Hunhoff. “Brian Hunhoff’s moving, anecdotal tribute to a colleague tells the story of a man,



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
By Daniel Fortune | Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan)

In Glen Arbor, three young women paddleboard through sunset on Sleeping Bear Bay last Wednesday.



SECOND PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
By Morgan Timms | The Taos (New Mexico) News

Taos County Sheriff's Deputy Lorenzo Sanchez passes a paddle under a body below the surface of the Río Grande on Thursday (April 25.) Two Taos County Sheriff Deputies joined a team from Taos Search and Rescue and Bureau of Land Management to retrieve human remains caught in a rapid several miles downriver from the Río Grande Gorge Bridge. Rafters first reported the remains on April 23.

nicknamed Kappy, whose half-a-century-plus working as both a sports journalist and as a sports official made him a near legendary figure in his region. Hunhoff sifted through 20-years' worth of archived columns—close to 900 in all—and drew on his own personal recollections to document his friend's life from 10-year-old bat boy to grade school coach to high school referee to sports official and journalist. But this is no bare-bones,

dry timeline. Hunhoff skillfully weaves into the telling of each event myriad small details and self-deprecating humorous quotes — and some saltier ones — from Kappy himself, creating a memorable salute to a friend and fellow-columnist... and, by extension, to all who play supporting roles in the sports world."

SECOND PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Melissa Siig. "From the first briskly-worded

paragraph, readers have no doubt where Melissa Siig is headed in her profile of a female trail groomer at a local ski resort. In just over a hundred words, Siig introduces her pettily-sized subject and the anything-but-petite machine she drives, sets the scene for exploring the nighttime work of trail grooming, and raises questions about why so few women work in this field. By focusing on the why-and-how experiences of one main subject while also incorporating the voices of several others in the field, Siig's well-organized column expands readers' understandings of the skills required to keep the slopes in good condition and of the women involved in making it happen."

THIRD PLACE — The Community News (Aledo, Texas), Tony Eierdam.

HONORABLE MENTION — Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News, Derek Sawvell. "The subject matter of a sports column sometimes transcends sports itself, which is why Derek Sawvell's commentary about the events surrounding a scoring glitch at a high school state bowling tournament appears in the paper's main editorial section. A parenthetical reference directs readers to the news coverage of the event in a separate section. Here, however, Sawvell takes readers on the emotional journey of watching as members of the local team were stripped of their third-place medals because of a tabulating error in a

computer scoring program only to have them reinstated a short time later when, at the insistence of parents reacting to an off-hand remark by a coach, hand-scored sheets were reviewed. Indignation and incredulity vie in Sawvell's carefully-crafted column, cautioning readers against placing blind trust in technology."

EDITIONS - BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Staff. "Clean, concise headlines. Well done. Would recommend extending headlines to reach both edges of column."

SECOND PLACE — The Sheldon (Iowa) Mail-Sun, Ty Rushing, Jeff Grant, Thea DeWaard. "Nice use of hammer headlines. Consider shortening some hard news headlines for stories three columns or wider."

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Staff. "Many headlines function more as titles rather than headlines. Creative work in the entertainment section."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Daily Universe staff. "Headlines get straight to the point. Be careful to avoid setting type too small."

EDITIONS - BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

FIRST PLACE — Idaho Mountain Express (Ketchum, Idaho), Idaho Mountain Express. "Peter Jensen, Alejandra Buitrago, Mark Dee and Tony Tekaroniake report on what could be bland government meetings - making them readable and relatable. Excellent writing."

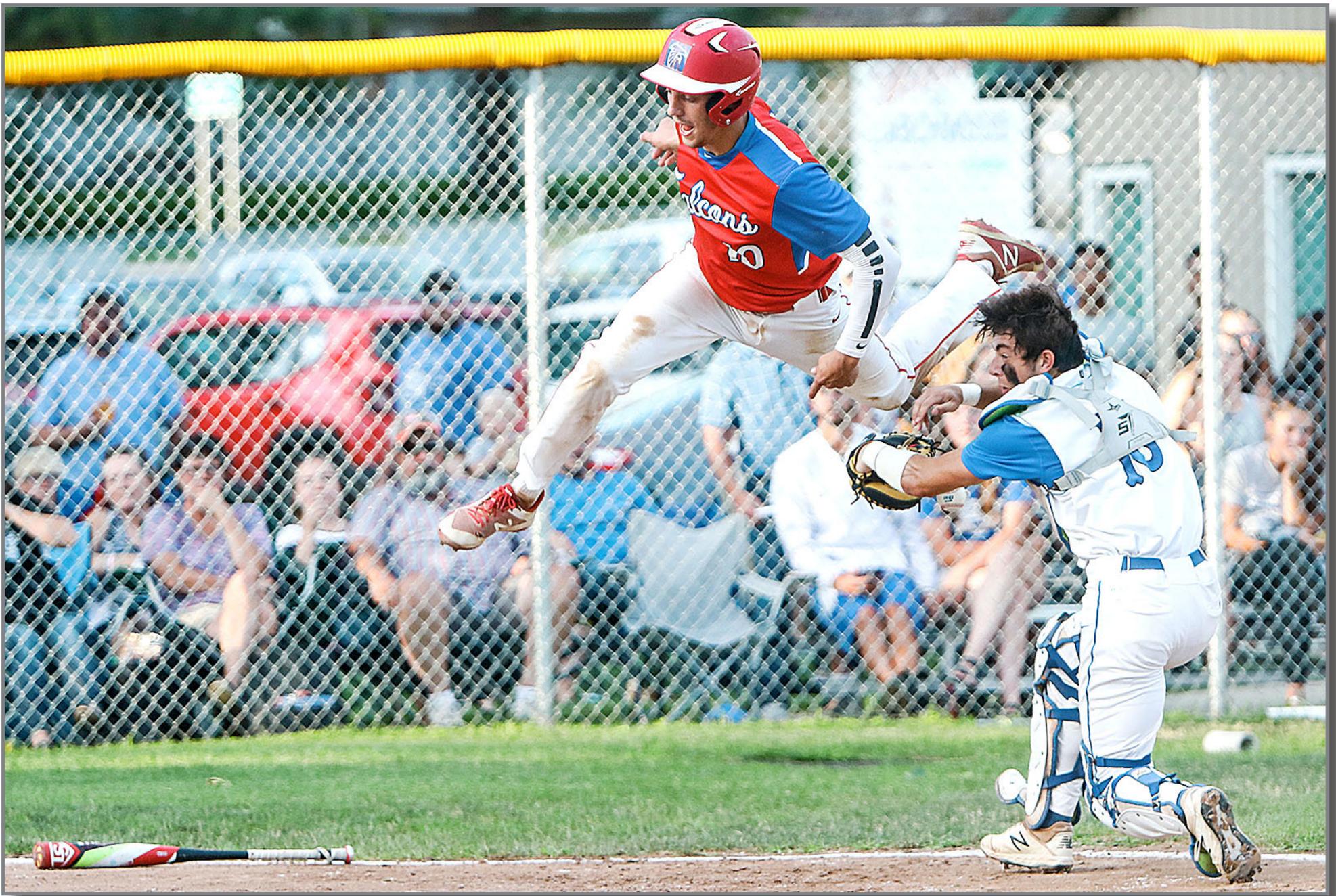
SECOND PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Staff. "Variety of local news stories - arts, education, agriculture, sports and government - pack these pages. Excellent writers."

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), WTE staff. "An enjoyable newspaper packed with stories about local government, religion, recycling, sports and even chicken curling. Great color photos help tell the stories."

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope Valley Press (Palmdale, California), Julie Drake. "Julie Drake does not hesitate to call out the school system - from a drowsy school board attorney (perhaps he suffered jetlag?) to teachers posing with a noose (what were they thinking?). The headline font is distracting."

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Staff. "A "newsy" newspaper that I enjoyed. Putting



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
By Rylan Howe | The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa)

West Sioux senior Trevor Schuller takes the high road and leaps over West Lyon junior catcher Gavin Lorenzen near home plate last Saturday in Larchwood. He scored on the play and the Falcons won 6-0 over the fourth-ranked Wildcats in the Class 2A District 1 final to advance to substate.

myself in the reader's shoes, I felt like I could get news and information about most any topic - government, school, community events, etc. Coverage ranged from briefs and notices to in-depth pieces, which I appreciated. It appears the staff makes a great effort to thoroughly cover the community. Excellent local photos and sports coverage, too!"

SECOND PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "It was a very difficult decision for 2nd and 3rd places. If I could have voted for a tie, I would have; however, the judging rules are very specific to not do that! I believe both newspapers deliver a very quality, local news coverage to their readers. I actually went through both the Buffalo Bulletin and the Port Aransas South Jetty several times. I finally pulled them both up side-by-side and compared page-by-page of both. Here's the tie-breaker for me: The Buffalo Bulletin article count for page 1 was higher than Port Aransas and The Buffalo Bulletin's editorial page was totally local (even their advertising person writes a column). So, great job to the staffs of both papers. I really had to put some time and nitty-gritty comparison into it!"

THIRD PLACE — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty. "Based on my comments for 2nd place, hats off to the Port Aransas staff for local coverage. Keep up the great work!"

HONORABLE MENTION — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Staff. "I enjoyed browsing through The Highlands Current. Good community focus."

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

FIRST PLACE — Nogales (Arizona) International, Jonathan Clark, Genesis Lara, Nick Phillips. "Wow! The International lives up to its name. It really covers its very diverse community without shying away from controversial topics. And, it covers the events, people and day-to-day that defines a community. Outstanding."

SECOND PLACE — The Sheldon (Iowa) Mail-Sun, Ty Rushing, Jeff Grant, Thea DeWaard. "Comprehensive and thorough. This newspaper has a great balance of hard news, community information and features that every good community newspaper should have."

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California). "What a

great local newspaper. The way this paper delves into really local news is outstanding. This paper provides its community with what it need to know."

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Staff. "The Antelope County News's comprehensive flood coverage was outstanding. In general, the coverage of a variety of local events makes it a winner."

EDITIONS - BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Staff. "No question on first place. Scott Campbell's photos memorialized a championship. I didn't need to know the score. Those expressions he captured told it all. The action photos, as well, were outstanding. Mark Ridolfi's "Learning New Abilities" was an excellent photo essay. Give it a full page next time! What a talented staff!"

SECOND PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore, Staff. "Mike Moore's photos are excellent. I would have selected a different photo for 6/19 front -

perhaps Congregating Cowboys. The 6/12 front photo was excellent. Great photo essay "Rockin the Block." Solid sports photos."

THIRD PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Staff. "Jenny Higgins and Carrie Pitzer had excellent photos throughout the two issues. In the 6/12 issue, "Bull-A-Rama" deserved better placement and color. That was a fantastic, terrifying photo and I wanted to know more than the cutline provided. Bicyclists on the front made me smile back at them."

HONORABLE MENTION — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), NLJ Staff. "Full of excellent action photos and photo essays. It was noted that many of these were submitted from a chamber of commerce. For the staff, Sonja Karp's photos livened the sports pages. Pam Penfield had some nice feature shots."

BEST EDITORIAL

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Brian Martin. "This is a powerful, thoughtful, and well-

400 friends say 'so long' to rancher Bill Saunders

Wyoming born and raised, a cowboy, a skier, an icon

BY MARK HUFFMAN

Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide

FIRST PLACE, Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute, Daily & Non-daily Division

Bill Saunders rode rodeo broncs, schussed down mountains on wooden skis and served two years in the Marines as they fought their way from is-land to island toward Japan.

When he wasn't doing those things, he survived 93 years of just plain day-in, day-out Wyoming. He married, he ranched, and he raised five kids who gave him 14 grandchildren who gave him 13 great-grandchildren.

Saunders died Sept. 13 after a crash the day before near his home in Bonduvant. Riding an ATV, he drove onto Highway 191 and was hit by a woman driving a Subaru. He was on his way to take a look at the cattle.

Family had suggested he give up the ATV, said his daughter-in-law Stacy Saunders. Bill Saunders was mostly retired and had stopped driving a pickup on account of his age, she said, but still liked to ride the four-wheeler around the River Bend Ranch, run in recent years by his son Tony. Bill liked to check things on the land where he had ranched on leased range since 1971, where he and his wife, Martha, raised five kids.

But Saunders wasn't a man to give anything up easily, said his friend Steve James, always advising that the only way to go about life, in skiing or in rodeo, was "to take the line and you win the race."

"He carried that right on into life," James said. "When the opportunity came he took it."

The River Bend Ranch is in Bonduvant, where some ranches and homes are scattered along several miles of Highway 191, about 35 miles southeast of Jackson. The Highway Department sign up the road reads "Population: 100."

But at a memorial held Saturday for Saunders nearly 400 people showed up, people he'd known and helped over the decades, people he'd impressed and befriended, those who rode with him, worked with, who sat to play cards and checkers, who listened to a lot of jokes.

"It's overwhelming to see all the people he touched," daughter Laurie Hanson said. "These are people he's known for 40 years, 50 years, and it's a good feeling to see that they remembered."

Stacy Saunders said the family was gratified but not surprised by the turn-out at the memorial.

"There's not a lot of old-timers

left," she said. "It's sad that they eventually go, but they do."

Hanson's daughter, Bailee Burgess, said she was "in awe at his ability to touch so many lives." But she also told the crowd her grandfather would have wanted celebration and not mourning.

"He wouldn't have wanted it to be a sad event," she said of the gathering. "He would have said, 'Quit your blubbering and get on with it.'"

William D. Saunders was born Dec. 19, 1925, to Roy Saunders and Mabel Seaton Saunders. Family lore has it that Bill's arrival was ahead of that of the doctor, who was riding to the blessed event on horseback. Mabel's mother delivered her new grandson, who joined brother Bobby and preceded sister Darlene.

Saunders lived his early years on his grandparents' ranch in the far north on land that is now part of the National Elk Refuge. When the Saunderses' cattle came out on the losing end of an encounter with wolves, the family moved to south of Jackson and ranched land that's now part of the Rafter J subdivision. Bill's father and grandfather were also carpenters and went into the building business. The carpentry helped when Bill found an interest in skiing, and he and many other local kids had home-made skis when they began skiing at Snow King Mountain, about to become Wyoming's first ski hill.

Bill graduated from Jackson-Wilson High School in 1943. He wanted to enlist right away but his mother had to sign for him, and she insisted he cowboy a final summer on the family's operation on Togwotee Pass.

Just after he turned 18, Saunders was part of the 1st Marine Division assault of Peleliu in the western Pacific. Taking the island was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, but Saunders wasn't much of one to discuss it.

"He never talked about his military career," said Richard Thomas, a long-time friend. "I knew him for 15 years before I knew he was in the Marines."

As Saunders recalled, he just waded over the coral toward the beach, Thomas said, and tried to keep the important things dry.

"I held my rifle high," Thomas recalled being told. "And I was worried about getting that box of Lucky Strikes in my pocket wet."

Trena Eiden, who worked at the ranch, said she asked Bill about the war and heard the same story about the cigarettes. She asked him if he wasn't terrified during the landing.

She said he told her no, he wasn't: "I was too dumb to be afraid," he said.

Saunders later served on Okinawa before being discharged in 1946. The



Bill and Martha Saunders married in 1951.

at the bottom of the mountain. He served as president of the Jackson Hole Ski Club.

In the early 1960s he was part of the team that scouted peaks around Jackson before settling on Rendezvous Mountain as the site for the new Jackson Hole Ski Resort.

In the late 1950s he bought the Wilson Rodeo, moving it to Jackson two years later, where it still operates every summer. He ranched in Wilson and guided hunters in the fall. In 1972, after Gilman Ordway bought River Bend Ranch, Bill and Martha and their family moved there to run the place.

In a remembrance, Bill's grandson JT Saunders, son of Bill and Jennifer Saunders, wrote that his grandfather was "the hardest working man I've ever been around ... one of a kind and lived all 93 years of his life to its fullest."

A granddaughter, Gretchen Kimble, daughter of Bill's daughter Sheryl, said her grandfather "taught me about grit, to do a job right if you're going to do it, and that hard work is good for the soul."

Friend James said Bill was demanding about "doing it right" but also so good-natured that it didn't hurt when he told a cowboy he'd gone off course.

"He could chew your butt out, tell you everything you did wrong, and just as he turned around you'd see that big smile on his face," he said.

Many people said that Bill Saunders would live on because of what he did and who he was in Jackson Hole and Bonduvant. Bill's friend Eiden said the place had been marked by him.

"He's too big a presence to ever be gone," she said. "A hundred years from now the people who live here will hear, 'Oh, you're at the River Bend Ranch, Bill and Martha's place.'"

"When you live in the hearts of those you love," granddaughter Bailee said, "you never die."

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developed editorial. In the cadence of a landmark speech, the voice of the publication is firm and resolute, while providing lucid and meaningful background about the reasoning for its strong stance."

SECOND PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Michael Gors, Sioux City Journal editorial board. "This firm, clear, and well-reasoned editorial demands accountability and action on behalf of national representatives, underscoring the most vital responsibility of newspaper editorial pages."

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Brian Martin. "In this complex situation, the editorial describes the events and actions clearly, demonstrating the extent of the administrative failures and leading the reader to a clear and straightforward call to action."

HONORABLE MENTION — Philadelphia Gay News, Jess Bryant. "In this thoughtful and timely editorial, the staff demonstrates strong research and effective reflection of broad-based public opinion."

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Editorial Board. "This is a very powerful piece — and it's good to hear it prompted much needed action. Well written, well researched and to the point. This editorial easily stands out as tops in its class."

SECOND PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Eric Carlson. "This needed to be said. The writer did a great job of pointing out the problem and letting the public know something is wrong and should be fixed."

THIRD PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), John Elchert. "A timely and important editorial. This was well written and included some important, solid background."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Brian Melton. "Well written. The writer does a good job of laying out the facts. This piece was a little too lengthy, however."

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Mark Ridolfi. "This editorial clearly points out the community challenges, offers insight into the struggle, and offers guidance for future action. It is well written and easy to understand."

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. "This editorial on a local challenges involving public health and recreation, and the impact on property taxes, gives the reader the sound reasoning for supporting the YMCA project."

THIRD PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Bill Tubbs. “This editorial informs readers on a state and national challenge. It praises Iowa’s process for drawing congressional districts. It is very well written.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Uinta County Herald (Evanston, Wyoming), Sheila McGuire. “Holding government officials accountable is a central role of community newspapers. The Herald’s editorial shows initiative through its research into how government officials withheld public information and in chastising them for their actions.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Southwest Ledger (Elgin, Oklahoma), Mike W. Ray. “Excellent editorial commentary on an issue that desperately needs to be addressed. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE — Petersburg (Alaska) Pilot, Ron Loesch. “Well written editorial commentary on how federal regulations affect a local population.”

THIRD PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Mayumi Elegado. “This is an interesting commentary on a local issue, with excellent insight and clearly written opinions.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Southwest Ledger (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. “Great piece on a controversial issue. Well thought out by a level headed writer.”

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Michael Gors. “The edge in close competition goes to the Sioux City Journal for excellent local endorsements of City Council and School Board candidates. A provocative column on how to talk about racism adds to this entry.”

SECOND PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Brian Martin. “Dramatic colorful presentation of opinions in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. Persuasive plea on the need for more women to get involved in politics and become leaders is timely. Thumbs Up and Thumbs-Down opinion approach with four local opinions is a novel format. Reader poll drew amazing response on local controversy.”

THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Staff. “Two local editorials merit recognition, particularly the plea to support an auction to raise funds for an important youth program vital to the community. Also, a good analysis and conclusion based on study of 2-4 D’s impact on Eurasian Water Milfoil.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Josh Carter. “This student-produced

newspaper merits recognition, particularly for its complete and fair dedication of an entire opinion page on enforcement of the Honor Code at Brigham Young University.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Richmond (Missouri) News, Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia. “Two strong editorials on taxing on-line sales and favoring food stamps opposed by those who benefit from government programs. This entry merits first place for its two-page illustrated presentation on timely defense of the First Amendment Freedom of the Press. Letters provoke leadership on timely issues”

SECOND PLACE — The N’West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Staff. “Excellent analysis on keeping precinct caucuses and improving them. Columns on” Preaching through Pain” and “Ways to stop mass shootings” offer much food for thought.”

THIRD PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Two solid local editorials on involving local authorities on issue of changing gun-free-zone law and cautioning any decision on a local four-day school week. Clever and thoughtful columns by Sven”

HONORABLE MENTION — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Bill Tubbs. “A good assortment of opinions on four pages, and particularly the personal tribute to a community leader who died. Pros and cons of Socialism missed the mark of being a real debate, as you warned. Weekly poll is interesting.”

BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Mike English. “This one made me laugh out loud. I can relate to this editorial cartoon.”

SECOND PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Clay Jones. “Ouch. Pointed illustration of how big companies steamroll everyday taxpayers.”

THIRD PLACE — Omak-Okanogan (Washington) County Chronicle, Brad Skiff. “Nice call-out to Harold Hill.”

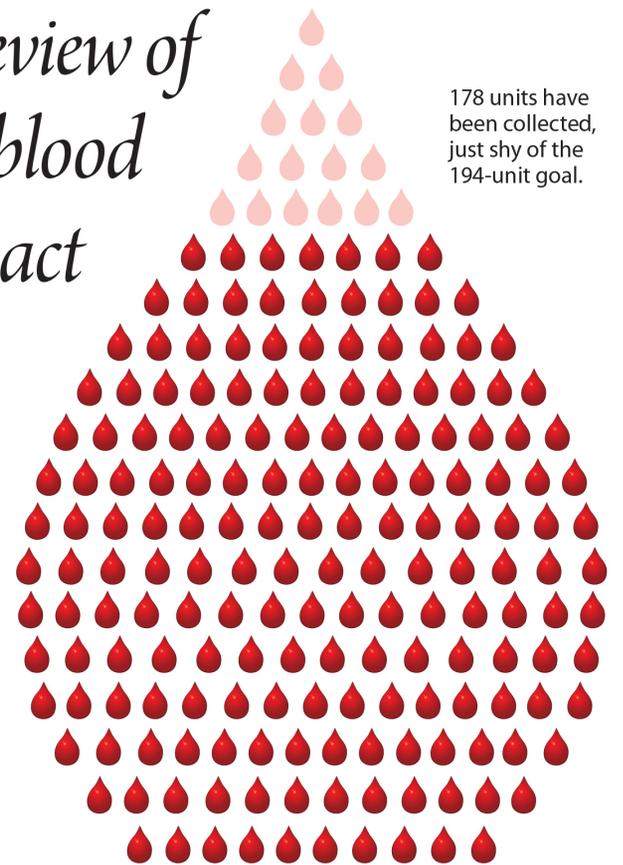
FOI - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Brad Nygaard. “Over the course of several weeks, via in-depth news articles and an editorial aptly headlined “The hill you’re willing to die on,” the Crosby (ND) Journal peeled apart what led to the abrupt firing of the director of a county tax equalization department. County officials chose to stonewall, to deny, to prevaricate about the reasons and the process that led to the sudden firing. The newspaper staff kept digging, and used freedom of information laws to

A 1-year review of Holyoke’s blood donor impact

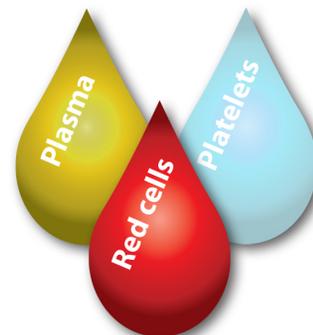
4
Blood drives held in Holyoke in the last year



49% of the units came from people who had never donated with Red Cross before.



Women account for twice as many blood donations as men in Holyoke.



149 pints
whole blood donated



29 pints
power red donated
A power red unit typically goes to a single person, while whole blood components can be divided up to help three individuals. That’s **476 people** that may have received blood from Holyoke drives in the last year.

FIRST PLACE, Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division
By Jes-c French | The Holyoke (Colorado) Enterprise

bolster both their fact-finding and what they told the reading public. They pointed out discrepancies in how crucial meetings were notified and how the firing came despite the lack of any serious problems in job performance noted in documents obtained, via public records, in the personnel file. The stories also questioned how the commissioners could reach a quick and unanimous decision despite denying they had discussed the matter prior to the public meeting. A great example of a newspaper going it alone in the cause of demanding that public servants do their business in public view.”

SECOND PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Chip Rowe, Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong. “Chip Rowe’s work as both a reporter and a columnist on ‘Secret Putnam’ made this entry a very close 2nd in this category. As a reporter, Rowe came across a new county policy allowing any county employee and even consultants to mark any document as ‘Confidential,’ which was intended to keep that document secret from the public. In his news article,

Rowe discovered there were no standards shared with county staff to guide them on what could be stamped and why. Open government spokespeople immediately labelled this effort as ‘ridiculous.’ Rowe’s followup stories showed that even as the county executive signed into law this new standards, local citizens were lining up against it and state officials scratched their heads. The coup de grace was Rowe’s column in which he noted: 1) Lawyers agreed the county law was pointless and unenforceable, as it was contrary to state law, and 2) Anyone who stamped a document as ‘Confidential’ was helping investigative reporters, since all the reporters now had to do was request all documents stamped ‘Confidential.’ That would be a quick way to find the stuff that the bureaucracy was most interested in hiding. The work prompted local government to reconsider the misguided initiative altogether.”

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), WTE staff. “Even in this age of public disclosure, many school districts think they are exempt

from public oversight when they try to cover up serious problems. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle was not going to let this happen when it learned that blatantly racist and anti-LGBTQ posters and talk was going around a junior high school. The school district conducted an internal investigation. The school district then did all it could to make sure that report never reached the public which was paying for the school and sending its children there. Challenged by the newspaper, the superintendent said he could not comment. Faced with a public records request from the Tribune Eagle, the district refused to give up even a redacted version of the investigation report, citing student privacy concerns. The district also refused to say if a principal who suddenly departed quit or was fired. An in-depth news story revealed all of this to the readers, and also noted that the Tribune Eagle had lined up a busload of open government heavyweights to challenge the school district's decision to remain silent. The group joining the Tribune Eagle in going to court included the Associated Press, a television channel, a radio station and a statewide open government group. Open government class is in session in Cheyenne, Wyoming."

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. "The Antelope County News appears to be experienced in using Freedom of Information Act rights to obtain records from local government, and did so to obtain emails from commissioners to reveal more about a decision to hire a forensic auditor. This dispute played out against the backdrop of a recall movement against some commissioners. Even though things had heated up in Antelope County, the newspaper quoted from the email of one county official that he was "boss hog" and continued to press for full disclosure. In followup articles, the News revealed that some commissioners responded to a public document request promptly while others delayed for several months. The News took names and made them public. The News is also to be commended for live-streaming the public meetings of several local boards and commissions, noting that doing so has boosted, not hurt, newspaper circulation."

LEGACY.COM'S BEST OBITUARY TRIBUTE



Daily & Non-daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Mark Huffman. "Well-written and evocative, and, importantly, well-structured. The right things are emphasized in the right places to

hold interest. A well-sourced, well-rounded portrait of a life, presenting biography, personality, and resume in equal proportion."

SECOND PLACE — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Gregory A. Summers. "Reporting does an excellent job of detailing what the subject meant to the people in his community, while telling his own life story factually and compellingly. A convincing, life-affirming story of resilience."

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Chrissy Suttles. "Strong reporting and clear, efficient writing details a life lived in service to a cause, depicting a person who was respected, admired, and valued by her community."

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "Thoroughly sourced appreciation of a subject who never seemed to seek kudos while she was alive, whose survivors were determined to see that she received her due honor in the end."

NIE - EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & CIVIC LITERACY

Daily & Non-daily Division
FIRST PLACE — The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser, Tammy Witherspoon. "An interesting project with an important mission"
SECOND PLACE — The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser, Tammy Witherspoon. "Nice way for students and veterans to connect"

NIE - PARTNERSHIPS

Daily & Non-daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida), Jodi Pushkin, Patty Langgle.
SECOND PLACE — Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida), Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Lisa Schillinger.

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "Back home: Salute given as draped casket pulled from hearse captures the meaning of the moment. Technically, sure, the photo can be picked apart. But the importance of the image carries the day."
SECOND PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Jesse Brothers. "City Council. Nice reaction shot of looking at cell phone for election results. Normally, background stuff is best cropped out, but the cheers in the background add to the photo."

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
THIRD PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Tony Kukulich. "Lots of smoke can make shooting a grass or any other types of fires tough, but the photographer captures a solid image of the

firefighters at work. I would have liked the context of how the newspaper used the photo, rather than just having the photo."

SHINE ON Anyone say prophet?



FIRST PLACE, Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division
 By Mike English | Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California)

firefighters at work. I would have liked the context of how the newspaper used the photo, rather than just having the photo."

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Steve Marion. "I love the composition and contrast to this photo, especially how the smoke billows above the building. This photo drew me in immediately, and I am a stickler for breaking news. I wasn't to see photographers work under pressure. Good job."
SECOND PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Morgan Timms. "Good composition. Love the closeness of the facial expression and urgency. This has nothing to do with the photo, but your editor did a disservice by not enlarging this photo past a 3-col placement."
THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Kurt Krueger. "In a small community, sadly fire is a top breaking news ever. The photo grabs the reader's attention."
HONORABLE MENTION — Cody (Wyoming) Enterprise, Bob Kennedy. "I like the creativity to show something different with a breaking news event. The canoe in relationship to the flooding tells it all. It's a great photo."

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Spencer County Leader (Ferdinand, Indiana), Hope Davis. "A great photo should be able to run by itself, without any words, and be able tell the whole story and this photo does exactly that. The lone firefighter with his head down as he walks by a now crumbled building shows a somber moment in the most incredible way. And the smoke rising from the "ashes" proves you don't need fire to make an impactful fire photo."
SECOND PLACE — Douglas

(Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. "What an amazing capture. From the smoke rising from the ground, to the silhouetted firefighter, everything about this photo is incredible."

THIRD PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Lisa Carroll. "This is as breaking news as it gets. The wide angle allows for the entire scene to be shown. The photographer did an excellent job capturing the moment a second helicopter is coming in, while EMS crews work the scene. Great job!"
HONORABLE MENTION — Richmond (Missouri) News, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. "Well done capturing an emergency moment. The perspective of the border the volunteers are building around the city's water supply, combined with the rising river make this a great photo showing the extreme moment."

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo. "Definitely down and dirty with the action. Their expressions show it. I like the composition of the kids with the pig and the overall appeal of this photo. Great job on this photo."
SECOND PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Tim Hynds. "The conductor's expressions shows her love for what she's doing. The blurred image of the choir adds to the depth and composition. This photo alone makes me wish I lived nearer so I could see a performance."
THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "The top 3 to 4 photos are all great. The photographer captures something the reader doesn't see often. The horse's head draws in your reader."



SECOND PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
By Mike Moore | Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Rural firefighter Mandy Lovitt clears remaining flames along a fence line after a passing train car sparked a large grass fire along North Antelope Road east of Douglas July 24.

Good balance of equine and humans.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo. “This photo could’ve easily been a 3 but I can’t have ties. Looking through the windshield of a classic vehicle contrasts the old with the new. Nice treatment of your subject.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Tony Kukulich. “Nice quality. Sets a mood. Could have been cropped a bit tighter”

SECOND PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). “Nice photo.”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Preston Crawley. “Go Cougars!”

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

FIRST PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune. “The sunset is stunning. Kudos to the photographer for capturing a beautiful, colorful photograph.”

SECOND PLACE — Warwick Advertiser (Chester, New York), Robert G. Breese. “What a great shot! The photographer has a great eye.”

THIRD PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Ryan Dorgan. “This is not only a great wildlife photo, but also a good way to show just how much snow is on the ground. Wow!”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Morgan Timms. “Who has ever seen dogs tubing? This is a great photo!”

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

FIRST PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. “Great timing. Great presentation. It’s an eye-grabber that draws you into the story - it makes you WANT to learn more!”

SECOND PLACE — Myrtle Beach (South Carolina) Herald, Janet Morgan. “I erupted in sweat when

I laid eyes on this because, at least in my mind, if God wanted us to fly, etc., etc. lol! Another shot with great timing and really puts you in the plane - as possibly next in line. Verrry evocative, if not scary. :)”

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Ross Corsair. “This is the photo that makes you do the double-take. Dryly humorous and gets you thinking. It’s also just plain enjoyable.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Ross Corsair. “You can never go wrong with the kid capture, moreso when they’re in a group. The captured expressions say it all!”

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

FIRST PLACE — Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News, Ashley Darnold. “This image provides viewers with a good sense of what makes an event like a color run so popular. Good juxtaposition of clouds of color and people having fun. This would have benefitted from being run larger on the page. If it’s good, run with it.”

SECOND PLACE — The Exponent (East Grand Forks, Minnesota), Bruce Brierley. “Clean composition, limited depth of field and a good facial expression make this photo a quick read. Nicely executed.”

THIRD PLACE — Lamesa (Texas) Press-Reporter, Russel Skiles. “Good timing and an intense facial expression show that disc golf can bring out the competitor in players.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Steve Booker. “Good foreground and interesting texture in the clouds make this photo stand out.”

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo, Nadav Soroker and Valerie Mosley. “Excellent photos

throughout, with strong lead images on each spread. Despite the number of pictures, every image added something to the package. Nice editing.”

SECOND PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Jacob Byk. “The lead photo on the opening spread is terrific. The reflection photo on the second spread is also solid. The rest of the secondary photos are fairly predictable.”

THIRD PLACE — The Greeneville (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cutshall. “Good daily coverage”

HONORABLE MENTION — Philadelphia Gay News, Kelly Burkhardt. “Some of the photos have good emotional content, but unfortunately they’re hidden in a sea of weaker pictures. A tighter edit would have made this more compelling.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999

FIRST PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Steven Lloyd. “Eye-catching photo that captures reader’s attention. Page designed to show the photos and it shows both actions and focuses on the faces. Stops the reader for a long look. I just kept coming back to this entry.”

SECOND PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Morgan Timms. “Photos capture a tough story and have the faces and action of the man involved. Showing some of the toughness he handles in his daily 120-mile ride. Action shows the work he does. Hard to believe.”

THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Gary Ridderbusch, Kurt Krueger. “Clearly smiling faces, found to catch readers’ attention. The lady at the top pulls reader to the page. The value of these pictures make the page.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Becca Noble. “Couple of nice pictures, some interesting unusual shots, good action, and lots of faces. Some good shots of people taking part. Good shots to see.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — The N’West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Nick Geels. “Loved everything about it: Quality of photos, page design, copy... A complete package. The variety of photos moved this to 1st in a contest where 1st & 2nd place was tough to decide. ‘Human element’ of many of the photos helped tell a story that copy alone couldn’t.”

SECOND PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. “Excellent! Choosing a 1st & 2nd in this contest was tough. I flip flopped a few times. This is great work and tells a great story. The difference for me was the variety of photos, since this is a ‘photo essay’ contest. Still, your photos and accompanying story is, well let’s just say, “Bravo!””

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Ross Corsair. “Both of this paper’s entries were good photo essays and show what newspapers can do to tell stories of the communities they serve. Just not as in-depth as the top two entries. Good work.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Dan Parker. “Excellent photography with some unique angles. Just not as in-depth of a photo essay as others in this contest, each of which also had excellent photos.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Cricket, Erika Brown, Chris Langathiotis.

“Great use of photography and representation of this event.”

SECOND PLACE — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Brad Nygaard. “I love seeing so many aspects of this event. The photography is well planned and representative of the event.”

THIRD PLACE — The Exponent (East Grand Forks, Minnesota), Bruce Brierley Rollin Bergman. “This is a great feature and use of imagery that evokes emotion in community relations.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Cedar County News (Hartington, Nebraska), Kenneth Ferreria. “Great feature and photos. I would love to read the article.”

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo. “Drama. Action. Beautifully shot and cropped. Love the angle.”

SECOND PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo. “Terrific ‘in your face’ shot.”

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Michael Cummo. “Order amidst the celebration.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Washington (Missouri) Missourian, Arron Husted. “This is one of the more difficult football photos to capture & Arron Husted got it all. Plus, it was a touchdown play. You got the faces, fingers & feet in one great photo. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE — Washington (Missouri) Missourian, Bill Battle. “Now this is a rare photo - a ball brushing a player’s back in a rundown. Without the ball, this is a good photo & with ball, an excellent photo. Love it! Readers of the Missourian have been so fortunate to have Bill Battle & Aaron Husted showcasing their skills on the sports page.”

THIRD PLACE — Washington (Missouri) Missourian, Bill Battle. “This photo makes me feel 2 things: An elbow to the neck, & that the

coach could submit this to match officials on a penalty that was missed.... Great shot!"

HONORABLE MENTION — Washington (Missouri) Missourian, Arron Husted. "This photo has all the essentials: well cropped, focus, suspended animation. I can almost taste the dirt... Great shot!"

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Rylan Howe. "Great job catching this frame. Photo is a little bright, which causes it to be a little flat. Otherwise, this photo was the clear winner."

SECOND PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Melanie Fritz. "Great timing catching this moment on film. Love the expression. This photo was taken at exactly the right second."

THIRD PLACE — Prince George's Sentinel (Lanham, Maryland), Daniel Kucin Jr. "Nice pig pile. Colors pop. With the background blurred as it is, it brings focus right where it needs to be. This photo could easily make the cover of any sports section. Good job."

HONORABLE MENTION — The News-Gazette (Lexington, Virginia), Stephanie Mikels Blevins. "Great moment. The coach's facial expression takes the fourth place win. Loving the clarity of the water falling and the onlooker clapping. Nice job."

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

FIRST PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. "Clear winner. Great action picture. Clear, sharp, colors look good. Pops well. Cropped in well. Great job!"

SECOND PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Harrison Epstein. "Great action picture! Caught at the perfect moment. Great job!"

THIRD PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Thomas Ranson. "Love the emotion on this player's face. Nice moment to catch on film."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Skip Pearlman. "Photo could be cropped in from bottom a little better. I appreciate that the full picture is in frame. Can't help but wonder what exactly is going on with the person climbing through the window. Nice job. (Side note: nice catch of the soccer player in the photo above.)"

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

FIRST PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. "Once-in-a-lifetime photo! Wrestlers grappling, each landing on his head! GREAT!"

SECOND PLACE — Sauk Centre (Minnesota) Herald, Mark Klaphake. "GREAT EMOTION! on the winners already celebrating, and the catcher for the other team mourning a missed play. EVERYTHING YOU LOOK FOR in a sports photo."

THIRD PLACE — The Observer (Dundee, New York), Brandon Lawson. "Fantastic emotion on these players! Solid shot!"

HONORABLE MENTION — Cedar County News (Hartington, Nebraska), Rob Dump. "The look on the defenders face as the elbow approaches her--WONDERFUL! Great timing on the photographer's part."

BEST REVIEW

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Bruce R. Miller. "Provides readers with a good idea of why and how the film works. The plot is explained, but the review is more than just a recitation of the timeline. Makes the reader want to see the movie. Well done."

SECOND PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Hannah Weikel. "No doubt parents appreciated this insight into the play. In offering it, the reviewer went above and beyond just outlining the plot and pointing out outstanding performances- although this article also does both."

THIRD PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Erin Gentz. "Well written review that let's the reader know what to expect- and want to see the play."

BEST FAMILY LIFE/ LIVING SECTION/PAGES

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. "A clear winner, this section is bold, modern, and easy to read. Full of meaningful, useful content and with photos and graphics that pop. Well done!"

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Staff. "This section is thoughtfully laid out and well executed. Nice job!"

THIRD PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Melissa Cassutt. "Full of interesting stories and photos, this section was eye-catching and nicely put together. I loved the story about Ana Martinez (and I'm a sucker for big floofy cats)."

HONORABLE MENTION — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Michelle Doolittle, Gary Ridderbusch. "A job well done, this section is chock full of great information for local families."

BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The St Louis American, Staff. "Excellent does not seem to be a big enough word to describe this piece. The subject matter held my interest throughout an as expected every page got better. I cannot imagine the work that went into this but I can imagine the pride



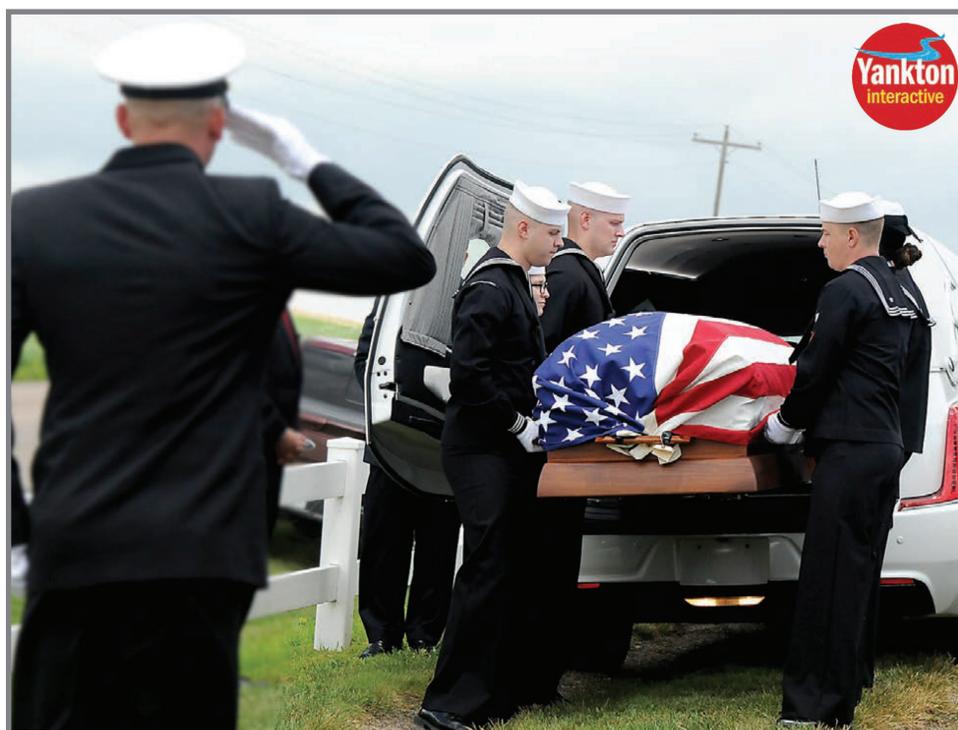
FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
By Tony Kukulich | Brentwood (California) Press

Chloe Sissa endured cold, wind and rain to participate in a candlelight vigil commemorating the victims of a fatal accident held in Antioch, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019. The accident on Friday, Jan. 11, took the lives of 13-year-old Jaia Lightner and 17-year-old Leana Rubin, and four others suffered injuries ranging from moderate to life-threatening.



FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
By Steve Marion | The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee)

Firefighters from multiple departments attack a fire at the 16,000 square foot Silver Phoenix building yesterday morning in Dandridge.



FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division
By Randy Dockendorf | Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Members of a U.S. Navy unit remove the casket of USN Seaman First Class Joseph Keith Maule from the hearse for the graveside funeral in his hometown of Bloomfield, Neb. Maule died at Pearl Harbor but his remains were only recently identified through DNA testing.

when viewing the finished product. Just a totally wonderful publication, first class all the way.”

SECOND PLACE — Preston Hollow People (Dallas, Texas). “Very well done. Everyone chosen for a personal introduction provided a good story and that is why we put out sections such as this. Everything about this from layout to writing to photos was top of the line.”

THIRD PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas). “A very excellent look at the success and passion of the Lady Scots. From producing sports special sections of our own to reading many others, this one has to be one of the best if not the best I have read. Congratulations to putting something of this quality out for your readers.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming). “A lot of research went into creating piece. As predicted the stories tell the story of Wyoming women from the past, present and takes a look at the future. Interesting all the way.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Scott Gerdes, Taos News staff. “Gorgeous layout, beautiful photographs and compelling content. This is what special sections are supposed to look like!”

SECOND PLACE — Preston Hollow People (Dallas, Texas). “Very well done. Everyone chosen for a personal introduction provided a good story and that is why we put out sections such as this. Everything about this from layout to writing to photos was top of the line.”

THIRD PLACE — Cody (Wyoming) Enterprise. “When an event turns 100, one would hope the local paper

would recognize it like this. Good job!”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser, Tim Flora, Tommy Collins, Tammy Witherspoon. “Breathtaking wall-to-wall coverage of a major news event. Curious it’s here and not in the breaking news category but worthy of recognition wherever it was submitted.”

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

FIRST PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California). “In a very competitive category, this entry rose to the top with some great photos - especially the main cover page photo - and some compelling stories throughout. This is a stellar idea for a special section, and it gives a chance to spotlight some community folks who may not always get the kudos they deserve. The stories were very interesting and drew me in as a reader. The design was very attractive throughout the entry. The ads were nicely done and complemented the stories and content. Outstanding work.”

SECOND PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Cricket, Erika Brown, Ashish Jha, Kris McGinn Straub. “This was a very nicely done special section, especially for the first time out. I see a lot of gift guides and home sections when judging newspaper contests. This was a unique combination of the best of those. The writing was crisp and drew me in. The photos, illustrations and layout were stellar. The ads complemented the news side very well. Fine job!”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California). “In a category with a lot of home and



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Daily Division
By Michael Cummo | Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming)

Pascal Isabelle of Okotoks, Alberta, competes in bareback bronc riding Monday at Frontier Park Arena in Cheyenne. Monday was the third rodeo of the 123rd annual Cheyenne Frontier Days, which continues daily through Sunday’s championships.

home improvement sections, this one really sparked with some compelling and interesting stories. Each was unique yet I’d have to believe that many readers could relate to each family’s housing story. I especially liked the focus on making dwellings ‘new’ for their owners. Photos and layout are great. Outstanding job!”

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska). “This judge is a former 4-Her so i really enjoyed seeing this entry. The stories were fun, especially the one about the makers of the hen house fixture turned dresser and the Chevy tailgate bench. Good photos and good writing make this a keepsake. The ads complemented the news copy. Good job!”

BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Sioux City Journal sports staff. “A great-looking sports section with something for fans of every area team -- and there are a lot, with all the college and high school programs.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Daily Universe sports staff. “The Universe sports department should be commended for the attention it gives to both the high- and low-profile sports on campus. The reporters also do a good job with interviewing a variety of players and coaches.”

THIRD PLACE — Antelope Valley Press (Palmdale, California), Pam Krogstie. “The thoroughness of the Valley Press’s local sports coverage is evident.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Washington (Missouri) Missourian,

Bill Battle, Arron Husted. “This is a tremendous amount of work for such a small sports department; kudos. In some ways it’s too much work: Don’t be afraid to trim your stories a little and put more space between packages to make the pages look less crowded.”

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3,000-9,000

FIRST PLACE — The N’West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa). “These reporters cover it all, and quite well. Impressive quality and quantity of content. Nice balance of solid game reporting with quotes from players/coaches to fill in the first-person emotion of the event. Byers & Hall, with support from Grant, Rushing, Mahoney & Paulson are tops in this contest class. Writing/reporting = A+; Photography = A; Layout = A+; layout is the best in contest.”

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Gotta love March Madness and tourney play. Headline writing A+; Writing well balanced: with details of the games/competitions, background story, personal feelings with quotes from coaches and players. Nice touch for reporter to add a breakout box of his ‘takeaways.’ Box scores - nice to see as these are becoming an endangered animal in newspapers. Well done congrats page 12C in March issue. Nod to local business sponsors - good idea.”

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Skip Pearlman. “I really liked the layout of the pages; clean and very pleasant on the eye. Writing & reporting = A; Photography = A; Very nice entry.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Chris Olson. “Writing & reporting = solid B; Photography = B; Layout & design = C; Congrats



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division
By Michael Cummo | Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming)

Elijah Tripp, 7, (left, in a Batman costume) and Hannah Tripp, 6, (center, in a Supergirl costume) both attempt to grab a pig, while teammates Brice Lasley, 6, (top, in a Stormtrooper costume) and Austin Leakier, 7, (right, in an Iron Man costume) prepare their next moves during the pig wrestling competition Wednesday during the Laramie County Fair at the Fairgrounds at the Archer Complex in Cheyenne. Teams of four, ranging from elementary school kids to adults, had to work together to catch a pig within the allotted time, with the quickest team winning their division’s cash prize and trophy.

page = A+; well done, not crowded or over done. Overall nice effort. You should be very proud."

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

FIRST PLACE — The Community News (Aledo, Texas), Tony Eierdam. "This is a very solid sports section all around. The amount of detail in the game reports is great; the descriptions of the goals scored in the soccer game, the big baseball inning, etc. are a nice touch, giving the copy some flavor without going overboard on length. If there's a reason for the use of the all-caps headline style, which is so jarringly different from your other, more traditional headline style, that reason is not apparent; the pages would likely look even better without it."

SECOND PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Jay DeSilver. "There's a lot to like about this approach of having separate sports pages for each school. One opportunity for improvement there is in flexibility, so that news of a local state championship is no longer relegated to the second page just because the winning school district isn't the one where the newspaper is based. The photographers are above-average for such a small-town publication. The photos could have even more punch by cropping the wider shots more tightly to better home in on the subjects."

THIRD PLACE — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), Sonja Karp & NLJ Staff. "The sportswriting here has a lot of flourish, the downside being that it can sometimes come off as more long-winded rather than substantive. That said, the coaches' and players' comments are very beneficial and enjoyable, adding some strength to the reporting. The tight cropping on the basketball photos is unfortunate; the choice of photos that emphasize the local players is the correct idea, but the opposing player who's right next to them is usually an important part of what makes it a great action shot, and a lot of quality is sacrificed when that player is cut off at the arm!"

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Kaitlyn Bancroft. "Great use of combined online and social media to cover a major issue and event happening at BYU. Very captivating and a great way to reach out to younger readers!"

SECOND PLACE — ETV News (Orangeville, Utah), Scottie Draper. "Great job keeping your community informed on timely issues. You have great interaction with your readers and great use of videos."

THIRD PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. "Very helpful and useful for parents.

A great way to reach out!" **HONORABLE MENTION** — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune. "Nice job showing readers. Would have liked to see more."

PNRC BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division



FIRST PLACE — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Brad Nygaard. "Good background given on an upcoming meeting providing the public lots of substance."

SECOND PLACE — The Times-Tribune (Scranton, Pennsylvania), Jim Lockwood. "More of Lockwood's excellent use of generating important and relevant stories from digging into public notices."

THIRD PLACE — Grand Forks (North Dakota) Herald, Grand Forks Herald Staff. "Excellent reporting on open meetings violation and other malfeasance by elected officials."

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

FIRST PLACE — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Sarah Donaldson. "Great topic & treatment by reporter Sarah Donkin. Once again, she boils down a complicated tech issue to something that people who are busy raising crops & livestock can easily understand. This is not about helping them be 'social' it is about sharing & explaining info to help them do business. Your 'dial up vs broadband' info should be required reading for all our real areas (and legislators from urban areas), including mine here in Washington State where it's also a real issue. Excellent graphics at Farm & Dairy really help with presentation - your graphic designer shares in this award!"

SECOND PLACE — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Sarah Donaldson. "Excellent reporting by Sarah Donkin. This is an example of a business-related story that helps people improve their business instead of just a story talking about business in this case, ag. Love the headline! (Maybe because I know exactly what Facebook jail means...) Social media glossary could prove vital as business tool for farmers not so sharp on these platforms. Graphics staff deserves a big shout out for the presentation. Great effort to reach out to farmers from different states. Excellent work, Sarah!"

THIRD PLACE — The News-Gazette (Lexington, Virginia), Mattie Marsh. "Mattie Marsh did a great job assembling these stories and

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



SECOND PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
By Bill Battle | Washington (Missouri) Missourian

DON'T LOOK BACK — Union Post 297 Freshman Legion baserunner Jayden Overschmidt turns as the ball brushes across his back between Jefferson City shortstop Cole Scheulen and second baseman Patrick Baker Saturday at the Missouri State Tournament in Jackson against Jefferson City Post 5. Overschmidt was trying to steal second on the play, but made it back to first safely. Jefferson City edged Union in the losers' bracket final, 4-3. Jackson Post 158 won the state title.



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
By Carrie Pitzer | Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska)

Neligh-Oakdale senior Andrew Herley (left) flips his way to a win over Trigger Pokorny of Cedar Valley during Friday's semifinal.



FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
By Lisa Carroll | The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma)

A fatal collision on US Highway 62 near Cherry Road involving a sem1truck and a car left one dead and another severely injured Wednesday, May 22. First responders used the Jaws of Life to free the driver and a juvenile passenger that were pinned for close to 45 minutes inside a Buick Lacrosse after it was struck head on by a commercial motor vehicle. The driver of the car died at the scene. Medi Flight arrived to transport a 12-year-old male passenger to OU Medical Center in critical condition with multiple head, leg, arm and internal and external bodily injuries.



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division
By Ashley Darnold | Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News

Wilton senior Emily Fausel (center) had the vivid idea to add a color run to Wilton's homecoming weekly activities. She pitched the idea of having a color run Oct. 3 during homecoming week. The school and students bought in and it was a success. Plans are to continue the event next year.



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
By Arron Husted | Washington (Missouri) Missourian

JOINT CUSTODY — Borgia wide receiver Nick Dyson (left) and Washington defensive back Conner Maher (right) battle for possession of a pass in the final round of Friday's preseason jamboree. The play was ruled a simultaneous catch and a touchdown for Dyson and the Knights. Both teams play at home in Week 1 this coming Friday as the Knights host Pacific and Washington takes on Seckman.



SECOND PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
By Robert G. Breese | Warwick Advertiser (Chester, New York)

As the New York Wind Symphony played at Railroad Green on Friday evening, June 7, this row of iconic Village of Warwick buildings could be seen through the distorted reflection of a tuba.

sidebars. All are readable, full of facts, good for business & accented by some rich Virginia history. Great job on doing your homework! Readers like the shaded-green Inside tease to related stories."

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Brian Wright. "Brian Wright presents a great package to educate farmers, and other readers, about the business prospects of hemp. Strong, clear headline & kicker head. Sentence structure is clear & easy to follow. Variety of quotes from local sources along with national numbers. Everything you need to know about hemp. Great work, Brian!"

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

FIRST PLACE — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Sydney Glasoe Caraballo. "Top-notch storytelling in this special section, spotlighting the lives of local people who make agriculture work. GREAT!"

SECOND PLACE — Nogales (Arizona) International, Genesis Lara. "Lots of great entry points into this engaging piece. Lara is a strong storyteller, capturing the scents and sounds of the ranch. WELL DONE!"

THIRD PLACE — Richmond (Missouri) News, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia. "Good questions for a sec. of ag. who's not excited about answering them."

HONORABLE MENTION — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Jen Sieve-Hicks. "Startling story on ewe kills, and the raptors responsible."

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "This is a thorough and engaging piece."

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "This piece utilized public records well to tell an engaging story."

THIRD PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Mason Dockter. "This piece is thoroughly reported and highly detailed."

Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Preston Hollow People (Dallas, Texas), Bethany Erickson. "Great coverage of a massive event. Great understanding of community effects."

SECOND PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). "Great coverage of the events. Very detailed information provided so that all readers were able to understand the story in its entirety."

THIRD PLACE — Philadelphia Gay News, Laura Smythe. "Really serves the purpose of the source showing multiple aspects of the target audience and more."

HONORABLE MENTION — Brentwood (California) Press, Tony Kukulich. "Great story. Grabs the attention of the devastation that the fire caused. Would had loved to see how this was actually featured in the layout of the print edition."

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999

FIRST PLACE — The News-Gazette (Lexington, Virginia), Mattie Marsh. "Hard news rarely stands out; 'Just the facts ma'am.' This paper went way beyond, attacking the story from every angle possible and supplementing it with a mind-boggling array of photos. Bravo!"

THIRD PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Steve Marion, Mark Brown. "Excellent coverage of a truly bizarre story, with wonderful use of multiple viewpoints. Poor layout brought it down."

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Amy Hubbell. "Good follow-through on a horrible attack. I was actually interested in the knowing how it comes out. It could have benefitted from sidebars." **HONORABLE MENTION** — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Kayla Vaughn, Gregory A. Summers, Emily Pollok. "Like my first choice,



SECOND PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division
By Jesse Brothers | Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Julie Schoenherr looks at election results on a phone held by Michel Rohner while winning a Sioux City Council seat during an election watch party at SoHo Kitchen & Bar, her Sioux City restaurant, Tuesday evening.

this paper attacked the story from many directions and did it well. It was the supporting photography that set the others apart.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Mark Ridolfi.

“Exceptional, well-written coverage of court testimony in a sad case. Very strong lead. The writer nicely handled the sensitive situation.”

SECOND PLACE — Blair (Nebraska) Pilot-Tribune. “Very thorough coverage of flooding in local communities. Information was presented on what happened, how to get around, rescue operations and even how to give or get donated items. Nice job.”

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands (New York) Current, Chip Rowe. “Well balanced coverage of an unusual situation. This story no doubt answered a lot of questions in the community.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. “You’ve got to love a headline like that. Great writing, great story. The characterization came across well—I felt like I was having a conversation with Mr. DePeel.”

SECOND PLACE — Richmond (Missouri) News, Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia. “Excellent coverage of flooding.”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Hannah Weikel. “Solid story about jet ski driver retrieving derelict boats.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Hannah Weikel. “Breaking news photo augments this piece.”

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

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

FIRST PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Melissa St. Aude.

“An interesting, well-written, well-organized story and a fun business feature.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Jenna Alton. “Interesting, informative, well-researched and well-written.”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “A fun and interesting story - not your average ‘business profile.’”

HONORABLE MENTION — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Mark Huffman. “A well-written history of the business.”

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000

FIRST PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Steve Ranson.

“Strong feature writing with lots of scene-setting details, action, and people-driven storytelling. The writing turned this from what could have been just another corporate philanthropy story into something memorable. The photos added to the story’s emotion. Great work!”

SECOND PLACE — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), Bob Bonnar. “Good in-depth look at a local family-owned business, its ties to the community and its plans to expand.”

THIRD PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Cricket, Orestes Brown. “Good story about young food entrepreneurs taking advantage of the trend toward fresh food. Make it easier for the reader. The paragraphs are way too long and feel crunched together. Let the story breathe. Good photos and quotes.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Jen Sieve-Hicks. “Good profile of a saddle maker, with lots of quotes and excellent flow.”

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Mason Dockter. “Story

highlighted an issue common to many small towns, and did it well. The writer didn’t just pitch the story as big vs. little but took a nuanced view. The graphics showing locations of store in the multi-county area was especially helpful.”

SECOND PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Chrissy Suttles. “Writer took time to explore both sides of this issue, and also brought in a comparison with a similar organization in another town. Well done.”

THIRD PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Nick Hytrek. “This is obviously going to be a continuing story in this community. Writer did well in giving the background and context.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Good business piece. I would have preferred to see the dry statistics on number of units, amenities, etc not so near the front of the story.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Kaitlyn Bancroft. “In-depth, enterprising look at the role Chinese language newspapers play in the local community. This took a lot of reporting, with colorful photography and graphics to turn it into a strong package.”

SECOND PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Nicole Wells, Bob Quinn. “Using a strong people angle and focusing on one driver’s experience is an excellent way to get into the broader story about gig workers. The story cries out for a photograph of Celestin. Clear, interesting writing.”

THIRD PLACE — Beaumont (Texas) Business Journal, Sharon Brooks. “Excellent coverage of the kick off for downtown renovation and a description of the projects.

Good package of photos, too.”
HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Lauren Lethbridge. “Thorough reporting that illustrates how the problem of Chinese knockoff impacts a local company.”

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000

FIRST PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Mara Abbott. “Great page layout -- This piece provides a balanced view, even while being sympathetic to local constituents. The two pieces paint the picture of hope raised and then lowered. There is enough technical information to fill the piece near the end of the story, while capturing the casual reader in the early part of the story.”

SECOND PLACE — Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, David Pugh. “Being from a small town, I appreciated this well-written piece that captures a small town problem with full sized coverage. The photo enhances the piece nicely.”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Deirdre McCrohan. “Intriguing article.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Matthew Hose. “Nice photo, lead is too long/convoluted.”

BEST EDUCATION/ LITERACY STORY

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Morgan Hughes. “The Bullying at McCormick story had much factual information including how the victims of the bullying felt, what they did to end the bullying, and how they responded to such action. The story not only included experiences from one student but numerous students, parents, and faculty about the situation going on at the school and what action was taken or what



SECOND PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division
By Tim Hynds | Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Sandra Pearson directs the MLK Choir as it sings the Negro National Anthem during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration held Monday at Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ in Sioux City. The annual celebration of the life of the slain civil rights leader was hosted by the Sioux City NAACP.

was not which made the story complete.”

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “The story of the Verdigre kids creating a historical book about the flood that took place in their hometown that left hundreds of families devastated was pure. The story provided a beautiful storyline, with great organization. The article did lack personal experiences of the kids of how they felt giving back to their people of the community and what they enjoyed and learned through their journey.”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Lost and Found had a great background story that included the reason of why the program Lost and Found was created and what the motives of the program were. The story had appropriate organization, though the story could have used much more detail of how the students in the program were being helped through Lost and Found and what their end result was like.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Honorable Mention - The heartfelt story of a community and the Wagner schools coming together out of respect to honor the students lost in tragedy remembering them on a Friday night football game. The story contains great quotes, information, reasoning, and feelings of the event and has great structure. However, the story could have featured more quotes directly from the family about how they felt in that very moment receiving their blankets and donations from the community.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Doug Cantwell. “The Best Education/Literacy Story was a very competitive category. Doug’s in-the-room, action coverage of the strife and turmoil of a rural New Mexico school district brought about meaningful change. Informing readers and bringing about positive change in communities is a high honor for reporters in community journalism. Great style and voice in the writing of the article and congratulations on a job well done!”

SECOND PLACE — Advertiser-News South (Chester, New York), Nicole Wells, Mike Zummo. “Very informative article on a very relevant topic. I really enjoyed the descriptive writing style. It wasn’t just a “nuts-and-bolts” factual article. The article explored the perception of home-schooled children and how this educational option fits into our evolving culture. It included examples from parents with a variety of experience.”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Jenna Alton. “Jenna’s opening made me feel like I had stepped right into the

living room with her. Good mix of professional opinion and parental experience for a firm foundation of her article.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Sparta Independent (Chester, New York), Pamela Chergotis. “Very informative written in an easy to read style.”

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000

FIRST PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Alex Hoef, Becca Loux. “Interesting story about teachers being let go. Good sources, research.”

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Focus on the vaping crisis. Complete and comprehensive.”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin. “Nice spotlight on a teacher and his efforts to make science more approachable.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin. “Highlights the efforts of a high school student to share her passion for science with younger girls.”

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Tom Coulter. “Good looks at varying perspectives. You can tell a lot of time was invested into the article to make it well rounded.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Josh Carter. “Good photos, though they were not originals for the article. Short and sweet, but provides good insight to the issues revolving around the lakes.”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Riley Waldman. “The varying perspectives, infographics and satellite images added interest to the article. The writer did a good job at tying the issue to every person.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Josh Carter. “Article dives into the tourism, environmental and health impacts of the algal blooms, giving depth to the article.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Becca Loux. “The Highlands Current and Moonshine Ink do excellent reporting on the challenges of microplastics on the environment through localizing the challenges. Both publications thoroughly researched the topic and used local experts to underscore the challenge local citizens face. They also detail the ongoing local efforts to address the problem.”

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Brian PJ Cronin. “The Highlands

Current and Moonshine Ink do excellent reporting on the challenges of microplastics on the environment through localizing the challenges.

Both publications thoroughly researched the topic and used local experts to underscore the challenge local citizens face. They also detail the ongoing local efforts to address the problem.”

THIRD PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Mike Koshmrl. “Impact of an invasive species on local populations of native fish in the Snake River. It outlines how the problem development, its impact, and the efforts to restore the river’s native cutthroat trout. It is well written and has good photographic support.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Colin Tiernan. “The Budget’s story on the impact of drilling and development on the sage grouse population is a good in-depth look at the challenge to maintaining a threatened species.”

BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dolly A. Butz, Justin Wan. “Very well put together -- excellent photos”

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “four interesting stories”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Kaitlyn Bancroft. “Well written with attractive photos”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune. “captures the fun the ladies have doing their thing and shares it with the reader”

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

FIRST PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Cricket, Kris McGinn Straub. “Great feature story; well written and an easy read. Wonderful community connections.”

SECOND PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Steve Ranson, Pat Huntsman. “Great job on the history of the Lincoln Highway. Very interesting. Great photos.”

THIRD PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Steve Ranson.

“Wonderful step into the past of these Veitnam Veterans. Great Job!”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Sidell (Illinois) Reporter, Linda Rosnett, Rinda Maddox. “Very nice read. Interesting and educational to your City.”

BEST HEALTH STORY

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

FIRST PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Tom Hallberg. “Wow. Choosing just one 1st place winner in this category was

tough. This one is so in-depth and well written. So much information provided that it took a couple of reads to digest but it was still fairly easy to understand. Also topic no one else touched on.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Jenna Alton. “This was interesting angle on the vaccination issue. Very interesting account from a mother’s point of view. After the first few graphs the reader can’t put it down. Very well done.”

THIRD PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas), Sharon Brooks. “Tough call between 1st thru 3rd. Well written. I found the information on vaccinations and varying policies quite interesting, especially what it going on now, more than a year after this was printed. Nice job.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dolly A. Butz. “Good story on a topic that needs addressed, and not just in college communities. Well written, easy to ready and understand.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “This was the strongest entry in a category with several strong entries. I liked the way the main story flowed and laid out the issues with Juul and vaping. I liked the discussion of how school officials are dealing with the issue, the health impacts and the ease in which teens get into vaping. The sidebars were also quite good. While I quibble with use of unnamed sources, it was appropriate here with juveniles. At a time when news rooms are stretched thin, it’s impressive to see this level of coverage. Outstanding job.”

SECOND PLACE — Richmond (Missouri) News, Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia. “This was a very strong package and while not all disabilities are health-related, i think we can make the case that this topic fits the category. This is a complex issue that was handled well. There was a great explanation of what is happening around the country. The personal stories were very striking. Strong writing and good organization. Great job!”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Kevin Hessel. “The vaccination issue is one that is fraught with controversy. This article handled the issue very well, with good balance from all sides in the debate. Writing was generally good, although the lead was a bit clunky. the rest of the story flowed very well. I appreciated the variety of sources quoted and the comments. Great job.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin. “This was a well-written and inspirational story about a young cancer survivor. It flowed well and was very interesting to read. It would have worked equally well entered as

a human interest feature. Great job.”

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Garrett Looker. “This was an exceptional in-depth piece of a cold case. To put it quite simply, the competition wasn’t even close. Garrett Looker did a great job interviewing, getting the facts and weaving together colorful language to tell a story. It was highly enjoyable, mysterious and haunting.”

SECOND PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). “A highly educational piece that was well researched and reported.”

THIRD PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas), Sharon Brooks. “A very educational piece that informed the readers about what local pharmacies are facing.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Brian PJ Cronin. “As you read this, you are absorbing and giving off tiny plastics, just as is the ocean and those streams around you. One of the biggest pollutions affecting us all is one to which we don’t have the answers yet, though we know much about the problem. This is an unusual investigate story and one worth reading.”

SECOND PLACE — The Republic-Monitor (Perryville, Missouri), Robert Cox. “Sometimes laws don’t turn out as intended, and this investigation shows how a state law is causing concerns, loss of money, changes in child care, and problems with the state legislature. A well-done look at the local problems.”

THIRD PLACE — Myrtle Beach (South Carolina) Herald, Christian Boschult. “People often accuse police of doing nothing, but this investigation shows how the Atlantic Beach police do not follow up on crime. A long look shows police inaction.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Emily Mieure. “A truly interesting story on how many organizations help with handling homelessness. This shows actions and services with homeless folks who often work in unusual situations.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Rio Blanco Herald Times (Meeker, Colorado), Niki Turner, Susan Greene. “Great storytelling about a tragic incident in rural Colorado, involving its police, lack of mental health resources, and freedom of information. Terrific melding of these issues with a real life plagued by mental illness. Couldn’t stop reading both parts. Excellent work.”

SECOND PLACE — News Letter

Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), Kim Dean. “Beautiful story that covers so much time and heart in a community. Good research!”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Gretchen Lang, Hannah Weikel. “Really interesting story. Important to include the residents’ stories.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Petersburg (Alaska) Pilot. “Excellent presentation of a traffic flow problem at an airport. Would’ve liked a few more comments from travelers. The interview with the 28-year employee was terrific for adding humanity to the traffic story. Good photos. Illustration seemed out of place.”

BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Chip Rowe. “Gripping, startling and terrifying.”

SECOND PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Victoria Shannon. “Well-researched, well-written piece with many entrance points.”

THIRD PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Strong piece looks at school official and student response to Juuling epidemic.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Cecile Wehrman. “Local ties to a shocking murder in Mexico.”

BEST NON-PROFILE FEATURE STORY

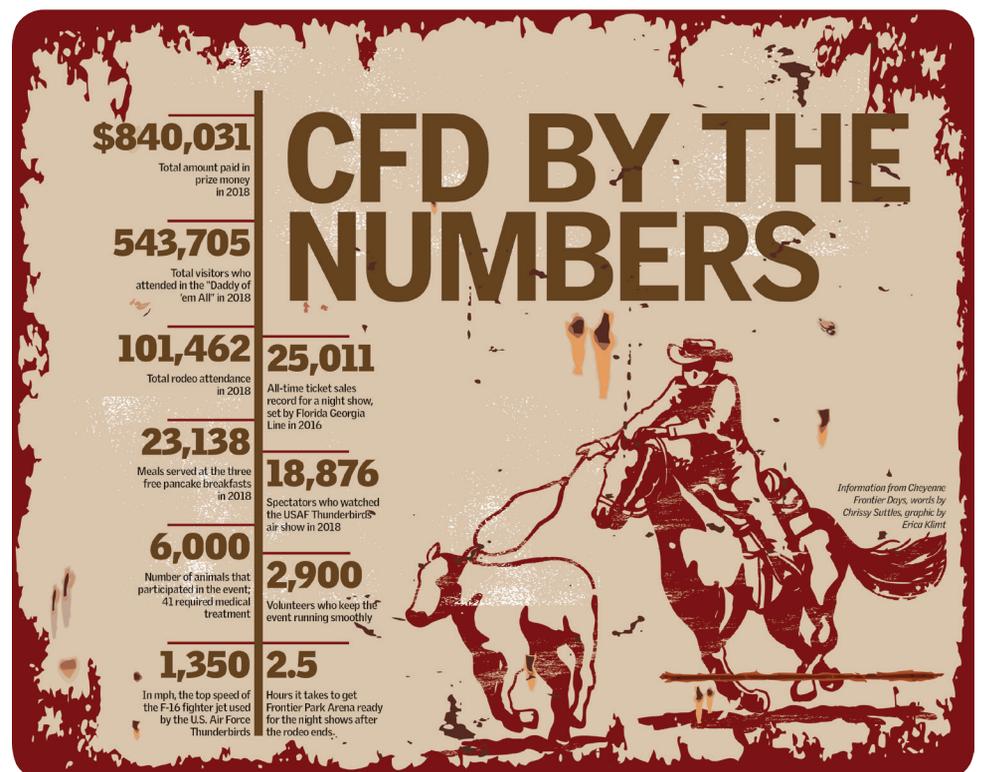
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Niki Kottmann. “This is a pleasant feature on a topic I bet many people in the community found interesting. The length of this story is appropriate and I enjoyed how the reporter started the story. Great community feature.”

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “This story is very well researched and written clearly. Very easy to understand for the general public. I would have liked to see a punchier, more grabbing lede. The story is also much longer than it needs to be.”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Well-written and clear, however I would have liked to learn more about the vets themselves and less about the production of the show.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Niki Kottmann. “Story begins with editorializing ad speculation from the reporter. You have a lot of really wonderful information about this photographer that gets buried about halfway through. I can tell you took the time to listen to this person and understand them, but a lot of great information is bogged down in



FIRST PLACE, Best Informational Graphic, Daily Division
By Erica Klimt | Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming)

clunky writing. Otherwise, you do a great job in digging deeper into the artist behind the exhibit.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The Pilot (Southern Pines, North Carolina), Jaymie Baxley, Laura Douglass. “Really excellent work! Engaging writing, thorough storytelling, compassionate reporting. The significance of the shooting—both in terms of its immediate aftermath and its lingering effects—was well-captured.”

SECOND PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas), Bianca R. Montes. “A moving story, well-told thanks to the interviewing and writing skills of the reporter.”

THIRD PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas), Kersten Rettig. “The unique angle on this story makes for an eye-opening experience for the writer, as she mentions, but also for her readers.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999

FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Harriet Norcross. “Insightful, interesting, and well-organized. Good job!”

SECOND PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). “Well-organized, with good use of quotes.”

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Emma Benson. “Timely and informative.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Sahalie Donaldson. “Good coverage of an interesting topic.”

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

FIRST PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Melissa St. Aude. “This story was an excellent read and very well written. The pictures were really nice, although a little pixelated as if taken with an out of focus phone camera. I would consider reading more stories from this writer in the future.”

SECOND PLACE — The Taos (New

Mexico) News, John Miller. “This story was very well written and extremely detailed. The way the story was written, made you feel as if you were experiencing the story or as if you somehow witnessed or viewed the story through the writer and rescuers eyes. The pictures were very nicely done as well, without being too graphic.”

THIRD PLACE — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Gregory A. Summers. “This was an amazing story to read. I feel that the writer went above and beyond to track down the information regarding the historic coin cut in half by George Washington, that went missing. The story was extremely detailed and the photos were very nice. I would definitely enjoy reading another historical mystery piece by this writer.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Gregory A. Summers. “This story was very interesting to read. There was so much detail about the search for Leroy Springs, and so much detail about Leroy Springs as an individual. This was an excellent history lesson for me as the reader to learn about. This writer should be in charge of writing all historical stories, as this was very well written. I would enjoy reading more historical stories from this writer in the future.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Nice lede. Good read and an inspiring story. Good use of quotes to drive the narrative. My only comment is this: it’s a bit long. Sometimes less is more.”

SECOND PLACE — Myrtle Beach (South Carolina) Herald, Viraj Naik. “This was an entertaining read about a neighborhood’s unlikely mascots. I

never knew what I didn't know about peacocks. Adequate lede, plenty of neighborhood sources, nice quotes."

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999

FIRST PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Jenny Higgins. "Such a heartwarming story. Well written and not too long. I'm glad to see a happy ending."

SECOND PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Lisa Carroll. "How amazing is that! What a neat present to get. The article was well written and informative, without being drawn out too much."

THIRD PLACE — Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News, Derek Sawvell. "The artist is amazing, what a gem of a story. Detailing in the article was nice and the layout was good and clear."

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000

FIRST PLACE — Dalton (Ohio) Gazette & The Kidron (Ohio) News, Christina McCune. "This entry is an example of an adage I have about newspaper contest judging. All other things being equal, compelling content wins. Compelling content a excellent writing make this entry a winner."

SECOND PLACE — Southwest Ledger (Elgin, Oklahoma), Mike W. Ray. "Well-done and thorough history of the oil industry in Oklahoma. Good job."

THIRD PLACE — Southwest Ledger (Elgin, Oklahoma), Debi DeSilver. "This was a nice historical piece on the taming of Lawton, Oklahoma. This would be a must-read for lovers of local history."

HONORABLE MENTION — Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, Pam Graber. "Nice story about a perhaps unintended contribution to a local church."

STORY-SERIES - BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Billy Arnold, Allie Gross. "In 'The Metal Mentality'"

SECOND PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin. "Emily Lavin's unrushed profile of a local saxophonist showcases the subject's voice—his reminiscences, thoughts, and musings. But it's not a solo performance. Over and around the melody, Lavin weaves relevant background information—suggesting time spent in research and in seeking to understand what hasn't been spoken— that adds depth and clarity. Sometimes the two strands blend, as when Lavin paraphrases the subject's words; always the transitions are smooth and the prose flows. In a word, this piece sings."

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. "Randy Dockendorf's thoughtful article introduces readers to an

unconventional play and to its author and main character, a retired U.S. Army officer, who wrote it especially for those who have served in theatres of war and those who have waited at home. Dockendorf's interviews with the author, with community supporters who underwrote the local performances, and with local veterans and their families all point to the power of drama to articulate that which we cannot."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Emma Benson. "Emma Benson's well-rounded article documents the behind-the-scenes work involved in producing the first-ever filmed versions of events told in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint's Book of Mormon. Interviews with actors, directors, ecclesiastical advisors, and costume designers help readers understand the thinking that shapes every facet of the production."

STORY-SERIES - BEST PROFILE FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Bruce Miller. "Interesting story about a survivor. The story held my interest to the very end."

SECOND PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf.

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf.

HONORABLE MENTION — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Niki Kottmann. "The art contributed greatly. Interesting story"

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Farm and Dairy (Salem, Ohio), Sarah Donaldson. "This is a fascinating, well written story about a man with dual passions."

SECOND PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas), Bill Miller. "This story is fascinating. I only wish it were longer."

THIRD PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Aly Brown. "The details are what make this story strong."

HONORABLE MENTION — Brentwood (California) Press, Aly Brown. "This article individualizes a veteran's story and tells it well."

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999

FIRST PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). "The writer did an amazing job on this story. The story was a very moving, feel-good community piece, and was very inspiring and motivational. The photos were nice as well, but I wanted a few more photos, like maybe having a photospread page included with the story."

SECOND PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). "This story was extremely well written and

an amazing history piece. I was on the edge of my seat throughout the journey of the story and how Guzardo was going to survive and make it back to the states. The photos were amazing as well."

THIRD PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Kaitlyn Bancroft. "I loved this story, as it was nice to see a 'jock' was more than just a 'jock' and had other talents besides sports. The artwork was beautiful, as were the photos. All-in-all, this was a very interesting read."

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

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Cody Hooks, Morgan Timms. "What a touching story. It brought tears to my eyes to read about Avis's journey and choice to end her life. This story had everything — from friends' comments, to great photos. It took the reader on the journey, which made it hard to read at times. Great job at memorializing this woman, her struggles and final decision."

SECOND PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Steve Marion. "This was a great feature on an interesting man. I like the quotes from people he busted, but also the memories of some of his run-ins with wildlife. Good job!"

THIRD PLACE — The Utah Statesman (Logan, Utah), Kortni Wells. "This feature provided some great insight into a disorder that we don't normally hear about. Tiffany is a courageous young woman."

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Melissa St. Aude. "This was a nice, simple feature on crossing guards, who normally don't get recognition. Good job."

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. "Wow - what a nice story! You told it well, and it is inspirational! There were such good entries in this category, but this one touched my heart the most. Suggestion: on the layout, the pull quotes running across columns served as an impediment. Maybe consider designing the pull quotes into a single column to avoid the shortened lines of text."

SECOND PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Steve Ranson. "An excellent look at the life of a Jewish man who grew up in Nazi Germany, and the hope and sadness that was reflected in artistic expression."

THIRD PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. "This is another great entry from this newspaper - it is a story with heart. You can't beat that."

HONORABLE MENTION — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. "This is a very

well-done profile of a retiring veterinarian, an example of a very good profile story."

HONORABLE MENTION — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Mark Ridolfi. "Thanks for a great story about a local man honored by the Marines. A great feature!"

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999

FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Alison Rooney. "Excellent article on a very unique situation."

SECOND PLACE — Carolina Forest Chronicle (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina), Charles D. Perry. "A heartwarming story about the connections between kids and those who are willing to develop them"

THIRD PLACE — The Sheldon (Iowa) Mail-Sun, Randy Paulson. "A heart-warming story that lifts spirits."

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. "A creative story about how theater and the arts can reach people of all ages."

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000

FIRST PLACE — Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent, Mike Moore. "What a great story. Excellent writing and storytelling with excellent photos that added to the story. Very nicely done."

SECOND PLACE — The Holyoke Enterprise, Darci Rodriguez. "Really enjoyed this piece. Excellent use of imagery, storytelling and word play to paint a vivid picture of a man and his life. Great work."

THIRD PLACE — Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent, Cinthia Stimson. "Well done story about a local family with a huge predicament. A little more backstory on the illness itself might have helped pull it all together just a bit more. But overall great job."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Sidell (Illinois) Reporter, Rinda Maddox. "Great story of resiliency and the hope that can follow a tragic loss."

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Bruce R. Miller. "I liked the lede. And then about 3 graphs in, this: "Both held fast to the dream of winning a national title and didn't let go until it actually happened last fall." "Didn't let go" after reference to the catch in the lede was nice...A well written account of their friendship and accomplishments."

SECOND PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas), Todd Jorgenson. "Narrow margin between 1st and 2nd in this category. I'm a stickler for a good lede and this has it. I would have like a bit more story, but still, it's proof that a story doesn't need to fill a page to be a good read. Good subject, well written story."

THIRD PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Jeremiah Johnke. “Well done. It can be hard to write a story like this and focus on the person, not their supposed limitation, but you did. Good easy-to-read story that should have made your readers want to keep coming back for more.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Tyler Poslosky. “Enjoyed reading this. High school sports is about more than winning games, and this story is proof. It’s also proof that the sports writer knows the teams and players in his beat and doesn’t just cover the games. Well written, also.”

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3,000-9,000

FIRST PLACE — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Steve Marion. “WOW!! The writer does a fantastic job painting a picture with so many details about the field, the bus, what they drank, signing Rocking Robin because the filed was on Jay Street, the fans and so many more. This was an absolute joy to read. Well done Steve Marion!”

SECOND PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Chance Q. Cook. “Great story of a 47 year old overcoming his adversity and what others would fear to continue to do something he loves.”

THIRD PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Nice story about a team rediscovering themselves to pull together and win a second state championship.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf.

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

FIRST PLACE — The Holyoke (Colorado) Enterprise, Darci Rodriguez. “The most creative and in depth story of the competition.”

SECOND PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Deirdre McCrohan. “A well written biography of a an unknown sports legend”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Matthew Hose. “The story does not come off as cliché, but still is inspiring”

HONORABLE MENTION — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Laura Read. “Is a good and inspiring story. However, I feel I have heard this story many times in the past.”

BEST SPORTS STORY
Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Aaron Fitzner. “This story was nicely written and the photos were very nice. I like that Childs admitted he made a dumb decision and that he received punishment in the form of losing a scholarship, sitting out of games, and paying a fine. It’s about time a ‘big shot’ athlete actually

received punishment for doing something wrong.”

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Aaron Fitzner. “This was a nice story with amazing photos. I’m not sure if my computer speakers were not working or not, but I couldn’t hear the audio interview at the bottom of the page.”

THIRD PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Jeff Storey, Bob Quinn. “This was a neat story to read and an excellent story showing Commisso’s sports career through the ages to purchasing AFC Fiorentina. The photos were a great addition to the story.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Brentwood (California) Press, Kyle Szymanski. “The photos accompanying this story were taken really well taken and the story was nicely written without being too ‘wordy.’”

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

FIRST PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Chris Olson. “Love the lay out. Great pictures and clarity.”

SECOND PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune. “Nice, layout and stories.”

THIRD PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Jen Sieve-Hicks. “Very informative and clean layout.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Chance Q. Cook. “Great pictures, good layout.”

VIDEO JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Nadav Soroker. “Excellent video and editing work. Great story content.”

SECOND PLACE — The Greeneville (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cutshall. “Story was well explained and interviews with pertinent people relating to the back story.”

THIRD PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Justin Wan. “URL was not found. Once video was found. Good content and video editing was great.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-12,000

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Morgan Timms. “Wonderful story told in this video. Great editing.”

SECOND PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Skyla Teel, Nick Arnold, Brian Kramer. “Great video. Very professional and well done.”

THIRD PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Daniel Fortune.

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

FIRST PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. “An excellent well-paced video clip with good narration



SECOND PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
By Melanie Fritz | The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee)

Carson-Newman’s Abby Wilson flies to the basket to score two of her 13 points in Carson-Newman’s 111-82 win over King Wednesday night at home. Trailing the play is King’s Trinity Lee.



Streeters win playoff
THRILLER

SECOND PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
By Mark Klaphake | Sauk Centre (Minnesota) Herald

Sauk Centre players rush to home plate to celebrate with Chris Stadther who slid in safely to home plate to score the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning during the Streeters’ home playoff game May 27 against Milaca. The Streeters won 8-7 to advance in the Section 6AA playoffs.

CHEY-TOWN



SECOND PLACE, Best Best Sports Photo, Daily Division
By Michael Cummo | Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming)

Paul Martinez, 10, left, and Ivan Garcia, 10, trade punches during the Southside Slugger's Chey-Town Throw Down on Saturday at the BEAST Foundation in Cheyenne.



SECOND PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
By Janet Morgan | Myrtle Beach (South Carolina) Herald

Stepping out of the plane at 12,500 feet and saluting, the first member of the U.S. Army's Golden Knights starts the show at the Sun Fun Festival in Myrtle Beach on Saturday.



SECOND PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
By Bruce Brierley | The Exponent (East Grand Forks, Minnesota)

Dennis Lee Rogers, "Ashkilasaah" performs a dance at South Point last Thursday. The program was part of National American Indian Heritage Month. Central Middle School also had some special activities on Wednesday.



SECOND PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
By Harrison Epstein | Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Junior Chase Abell (13) dives across midfield to try and intercept the pass from Torrington during the game's fourth quarter. Abell broke up only this pass defensively while catching one ball on offense.

(albeit without emotional inflection). The subject performed well and contributed to the explanation of what this specific rehabilitation program did for him, and overall the subjects gave solid supporting comments to wrap this video package for viewers. Was there a print story involved with this project?"

SECOND PLACE — The Ozona (Texas) Stockman, Melissa Perner. "A robust feature, but without narrative support urgently needed here. Using sound system at the school for after-action reflections

and explanations would discourage views/listeners. Speakers should be linked to reporter's camera directly-digitally. Yet this is a terrific lesson to learn how devastating inattentive driving could be!"

THIRD PLACE — Cedar County News (Hartington, Nebraska), Rob Dump and Peggy Year. "A competent narrative with interviews on the results of a school's volleyball match. Comments interspersed with action video and the interviews carries this piece to a well-formed conclusion."

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Cedar County News (Hartington, Nebraska). "Loving the fact that the website has the translation function. The featured story section is visually appealing. The sections are clear and the homepage is not overloaded."

SECOND PLACE — The Greeneville (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cutshall. "Providing COVID related free access is very important. I like that the website is setup similar to the newspaper. Website is easy to use."

THIRD PLACE —The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), "I really like the build of this site. I like that the articles have contributor photos, about sections, and that the website has a community calendar. Clean, fresh homepage with COVID updates section (very important right now). Clear sections."

HONORABLE MENTION — Philadelphia Gay News. "Nice webpage. My one suggestion is that you find a way to have articles not populate twice on the homepage."

GEN-EX - GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming). "Loads of load news reported and written by paper's staff. Good clear writing. Nice photo handling. Design, especially on page one, is strong. Some font funkiness but in general an excellent newspaper."

SECOND PLACE — Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. "March 15 issue is well written. Lots of local reporting that day and the day after about the flooding. Very well laid out."

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

FIRST PLACE —Idaho Mountain Express (Ketchum, Idaho). "There's not much to critique about this newspaper. The community is lucky to have such an outstanding publication. The layout was clean with compelling photos. The reporting was clear with enjoyable stories. The staff at this paper excels and if I were passing through town and picked up these papers, I would think I was looking at a newspaper from a larger city."

SECOND PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas). "The design of this publication is outstanding with its modern feel and community based focus. It felt and looked very readable. And it was."

THIRD PLACE — Philadelphia Gay News. "The layout for this publication is very clean. The most compelling thing about this publication is the stories of interest that highlight the local community and its issues."

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

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New

Mexico) News. "Taos seems to do everything right to present a superior package that draws you in. From the stunning photos and strong writing, combined with ingenuous page designs, it doesn't miss a bit. Typography is seductive where appropriate, as in the lifestyle sections. Obviously pros are at work here and everywhere, including the "back of the book" must-haves like public notices. Well done!"

SECOND PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide.

"Jackson Hole was a very close first - I'd say I dropped by about two points. Not as flashy as Taos but just as seductive with excellent presentations and strong writing to boot. Again, use of strong headlines, excellent writing, layout, design and typography. Again, a job well done!"

THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin). "A more traditional newspaper with traditional presentation that includes straightforward headline writing and stories combined with traditional (I refuse to say standard) design and presentation in all categories. A good solid paper that is informative as it is attractive."

HONORABLE MENTION — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, J. Brian Monihan, Patrick Malee and staff. "Again, this was a very close three - there really are no clunkers in this year's group of entries. Solid reporting and strong use of photos, traditional layout - although I'd go a little easier on the rules, as they did tend to district. But again, a good, decent product."

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

FIRST PLACE — Blair (Nebraska)

Pilot-Tribune. "This is an great community newspaper. The coverage is comprehensive, stories are well-written and the photos are outstanding. The editorials take a stand, and public notices in the front page index. This community is lucky to have this as its newspaper."

SECOND PLACE — The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Staff. "A perennial winner, and rightly so, this newspaper has it all, writing, design, editorials with punch, a breadth of sports coverage. Would like to have seen more prominence for public notices, but overall, this is what a community newspaper should be."

THIRD PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. "Several features of this newspaper really stand out. The info graphics are what one would expect (or used to) of a daily paper. The sports section is fantastic - even non-revenue sports getting great coverage. The design is clean and appealing. One edition in this series had a public notice teaser, which would be nice in every edition, along with the page where the can be found. But overall, a really fine newspaper."

HONORABLE MENTION — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "A newspaper that does many things well. Great photos, strong front pages, good writing. This paper obviously knows its community."

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

FIRST PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska). "Really loved all the information and layout of this newspaper. There was several ads that helped balance the page."

SECOND PLACE — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming). "Well

laid out and very informative."

THIRD PLACE — Nogales (Arizona) International, Jonathan Clark, Genesis Lara, Nick Phillips. "Nice paper, it was a little more jumbled than the 1st and 2nd place winners."

HONORABLE MENTION —Mid Hudson Times (Newburgh, New York), Carl Aiello. "Nice paper with several large ads that were well designed."

GENERAL EXCELLENCE, COLLEGE DIVISION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah). "The Universe is like the perfect window into campus, with thorough and broad coverage of what's happening and what matters to students. The staff is serving its readership very well."

SECOND PLACE —The Southwestern College Sun (Chula Vista, California) "Solid reporting and news judgment. While the design is generally eye-catching throughout, the front-page headlines were sometimes curiously small for what are presumably the most important stories."

THIRD PLACE — The Utah Statesman (Logan, Utah). "Good mixture of topical news and interesting features, and the sports coverage reflects the teams' successes. It would be worth considering cleaning up the design, especially choosing a consistent column width."

HONORABLE MENTION — Chadron State College, The Eagle, The Eagle staff. "The photography was a clear highlight in the issues submitted for nomination."

GENERAL EXCELLENCE WINNERS, PAGE B24

The National Newspaper Association thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2020 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest & the Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

- Anne Anderson
- Darrell Davis
- Frank Garred
- Kasi Greenwood
- Bob Morehead
- Patricia Robinson
- Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
- Jeff Andres
- Debi DeSilver
- Eileen Gilligan
- Randy Keck
- Teresa Myers
- Christine Sablynski
- Reed Anfinson
- Garry DeYoung
- Carol Haun
- Jennifer Lewis
- Julie O'Keefe
- Dennis Schick
- Elizabeth Callen
- Jay Dickerson
- Amber Hedington
- Willis Mahannah
- Matt Paxton
- Stephen Segal
- Dee Camp
- Scottie Draper
- Donald Heinzman
- Ashley McCallum
- Melissa Perner
- Richard Stone
- Curt Chandler
- Rob Dump
- Cliff Hightower
- Jennifer McCall
- Krista Quesenberry
- Jeanne Straus
- Patrick Sullivan
- Jenny Chciuk
- Jeff Farren
- Harry Hix
- Jane McClure
- Steve Ranson
- Ashley Swanson
- Jenny Chciuk
- Kara Fohner
- Linda Ireland
- Sheila McGuire
- Pat Reilly
- Ashley Swanson
- Zoe Cooper
- Jennifer Garcia
- Kathryn Jones
- Jody Michael
- Daniel Richardson
- Brad Thompson

BEST ADVERTORIAL OR SPONSORED EDITORIAL**Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000**

FIRST PLACE — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas), Sharon Brooks. “This weekly series focused on “Buy Local” provides engaging articles about specific advertisers, sharing product and service details with a stream of personality sketches about businesses’ staff and owners. Nicely written with the human relationships sharply focused. Good explanatory articles about the series, too! This series deserves sharing with other newspapers, and the First Place award!”

SECOND PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson, Jason Plowman, Pat Varley, Advertising Staff. “A distinctive, unique advertising enterprise, mixing generic stories to the specific advertisers—no story mentions the advertiser. Stories offer no attribution or human sources. Nice design; nice variety of advertisers.”

THIRD PLACE — The Valley Reporter (Waitsfield, Vermont), Jeff Knight, Lisa Loomis. “The kids return home to work for the local flatbread company. This piece highlights their personal choices and relationships to the community business. Writing captures the “soul” of homecoming for life and work!”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson, Jason Plowman, Pat Varley, Advertising Staff. “Advertisers tell their stories in this advertorial entry. Collected in a distinctive special section the advertisers write directly to the readers.”

BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION**Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 10,000**

FIRST PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Leigh Pagan. “Love the pops of color! If not looking for this, it would still definitely catch your attention. Great selection of listings throughout.”

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more**

FIRST PLACE — The St Louis American. “A lot of work went into this section, good job.”

SECOND PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Eric Kinnaird, Sherrie Hamilton, Michele Chatburn. “Very eye catching section.”

THIRD PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Sherrie Hamilton, Eric Kinnaird, Anne Ray. “Good idea to place into spread pages.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Warwick Advertiser (Chester, New York), Nick Korn. “Clean, easy to read, great design and typography.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — JJackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Sarah Wilson, Lydia Redzich, Luis F. Ortiz, Chelsea Robinson, Heather Haseltine.

“Excellent job on this warm and delightful publication. Layout, design, typography and photographs are wonderful.”

SECOND PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson, Jason Plowman, Pat Varley, advertising staff. “The whole magazine was very well done. Beautiful publication.”

THIRD PLACE — Sullivan County Democrat (Callicoon, New York), Barbara Matos and staff. “Design, layout typography very easy to read. Information and advertising very well done.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Ferdinand (Indiana) News, Debbie Powell. “Well done piece. Nice mix of advertising and editorial. The vintage ads were a nice touch.”

SECOND PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Colin Tiernan, Staff. “Certainly not your run of the mill special section. It’s clear that a lot of work went into producing this report”

THIRD PLACE — Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News, Carissa Hoekstra. “Enjoyable section. It’s fun to see these businesses through the eyes of the students.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Wilton-Durant (Iowa) Advocate News, Carissa Hoekstra. “Clean, concise, section. Use of a common font throughout makes for easy reading.”

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION**Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 16,000 or more**

FIRST PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Anne Ray, Sherrie Hamilton, Connie O’ Neill. “Everyone likes dogs. To use them in a campaign with theme “costumes, is a winner.”

SECOND PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Anne Ray. “Overall solid. But a little too subtle and “back door” to be effective.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson, John Elchert. “Nailed it with “Behind the Pages” series – newspaper employees are folks just like anybody else! Good creative designs. Very well done! All your other entry samples show your strong commitment and important role of service to your community.”

SECOND PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, J. Brian Monihan, Dwayne Stowell. “Strategic move to put “save journalism’ on Opinion page! Never seen this before. Bringing it straight to your reader – no time to be coy. Nicely done creatives for both pieces.”

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York). “Real nice call to action for membership. I bet the p. 1 white space piqued readers’ interest. Nice touch to use quotes from members, plus they are real convincing quotes.. Layout is clean and uncluttered, easy to follow.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “All very fine samples of your commitment to your community and pride in your employees. Your town should be very proud to have such a REAL community-based newspaper! Keep up the good work!”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson, John Elchert. “Nailed it with “Behind the Pages” series – newspaper employees are folks just like anybody else! Good creative designs. Very well done! All your other entry samples show your strong commitment and important role of service to your community.”

SECOND PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, J. Brian Monihan, Dwayne Stowell. “Strategic move to put “save journalism’ on Opinion page! Never seen this before. Bringing it straight to your reader – no time to be coy. Nicely done creatives for both pieces.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “All very fine samples of your commitment to your community and pride in your employees. Your town should be very proud to have such a REAL community-based newspaper! Keep up the good work!”

BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR**Non-daily Division, circ. Less than 10,000**

FIRST PLACE — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Cecile Wehrman. “Great idea to promote local businesses.”

SECOND PLACE — Warwick Advertiser (Chester, New York), Christina Scotti. “Very clean, well laid out.”

THIRD PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Pat Varley, John Elchert. “Beautiful, bright colors and well laid out.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell. “Nice layout.”

BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION**Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000**

FIRST PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Leigh Pagan. “Consistent design standard in these samples with squared-off Legal Notices section ensures these legals look clean and readable. Treatment of tables is carefully done to maintain squared-off design. Incorporating news items on the top third of the page enhances readership of legals. Voters and taxpayers who read the Ark Newspaper are well-served by this presentation.”

SECOND PLACE — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Keith Petrus. “Kudos to those who designed and wrote this ad. It’s powerful and was no doubt effective. Congratulations!”

BEST REAL ESTATE AD**Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 10,000**

FIRST PLACE — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Elizabeth Weaver. “love the eye catching graphic.”

SECOND PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Pierce Strudler. “Welcoming group.”

THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. “Nice layout.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francois. “I like the ad space.”

BEST RESTAURANT AD**Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 10,000**

FIRST PLACE — Sparta Independent (Chester, New York), Christina Scotti. “Gorgeous photos and bold type make these ads exceptionally eye-catching and effective.”

SECOND PLACE — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Elizabeth Weaver. “I love how the color scheme connects these ads. The logo is great, too!”

THIRD PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Eric Kinnaird, Sherrie Hamilton, Anne Ray. “Beautiful, elegant ads lead the reader to envision a lovely dining experience.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The N’West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Krystal Poppema. “Nicely done - very eye catching!”

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION**Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 10,000**

FIRST PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “A great combination of bright and colorful ads along with editorial content to match! A beautiful section!”

SECOND PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, Rick Fryback, Dan Adams, Pamplin Media staff. “Very professional section”

THIRD PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California). “A beautiful guide for shopping with content to point you in the right direction. Advertisers should be proud of this section.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Jason Plowman, Mike Anderson, Pat Varley, Advertising Staff. “Great looking promo with just ads. The only think I would change is not mixing the b&w with color. I would have only solid color.”

BEST SERIES AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE**Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Zoe Cooper, Olivia Lewis, Byron McConnell. “Great timeliness with ads. When you are uncomfortable with temp, that is truly all you can think about ... the great pictures make these impossible to miss!”

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR**Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000**

FIRST PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Sherrie Hamilton. “Great use of color to match the logo

and the house inside the lightbulb design is super creative. Nice, clean layout. A well thought out, eye-catching ad."

SECOND PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Adam Emmerich. "The photo used draws in the eye immediately. The entire ad is crisp and to the point. Well done!"

THIRD PLACE — Cody (Wyoming) Enterprise, Shannon Severude, Cassie Capellen, Stephanie Tarbett. "What a cute ad! The color is bright and eye-catching. It's a simple but fun idea with an easy-to-follow layout, and you know what you're getting quickly."

HONORABLE MENTION — Brentwood (California) Press, Anne Ray. "Good use of graphics, easy to follow, and the color helps everything pop off the page. Great job!"

Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. "The simplicity of this ad made it my favorite. The use of color, the placement of the artwork and photo -- all perfect. Even though it's small, there's no way a reader wouldn't notice this!"

SECOND PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. "Can I go to Pizza Corral? I sure want to, after seeing this simple but effective ad!"

THIRD PLACE — Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent, Matt Adelman. "Love this -- the use of the tall vertical space is fantastic."

HONORABLE MENTION — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Lisa Adelman. "Who could resist this beautiful, softly colored ad? Well done."

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Park Cities People (Dallas, Texas), Melanie Thornton, LaQuita Johnson. "Fabulous! Love the graphic of the sheep, plus the educational information -- it all pulls together to create a very effective -- and very different -- ad."

SECOND PLACE — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Mike Anderson. "Sweet ad, that makes me want to go shop at this store!"

THIRD PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Adam Emmerich. "Effective and eye-catching. Great use of black and white."

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Zoe Cooper, Olivia Lewis. "Nice ad - love the art used!"

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, Mary Huber, Pam Kruse. "Great way to make the graduates feel special! Love that all the names were included."

SECOND PLACE — Clay County News (Sutton, Nebraska), Karla Fehr. "Great ad -- really showcases the realtor and her sales."

THIRD PLACE — News Letter Journal, Amy Menerey. "Nice looking ad. Makes me want to go to the

program!"

HONORABLE MENTION — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Keith Petrus. "That baby looks creepy, but this is a great idea! Made me laugh!"

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Krystal Poppema. "Clever way of using art inside the word SEED tells a big story in a small space. Nicely balanced. Great job."

SECOND PLACE — The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Krystal Poppema. "Visually appealing. Great use of color."

THIRD PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Adam Emmerich. "Very interesting graphic draws you into the ad. Copy stands out well against the dark background."

HONORABLE MENTION — Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch, Zoe Cooper, Olivia Lewis, Byron McConnell. "The puppy in the pot of gold is a nice use of art."

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. "Good typography and image."

SECOND PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Angelique Boyer. "Good tie in with the theme."

THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Pierce Strudler. "Very colorful."

HONORABLE MENTION — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais. "Cute ad and great typography."

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., more than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Brentwood (California) Press, Anne Ray. "Use of color makes content stand out."

SECOND PLACE — Park Cities People, Imani Chet Lytle, Tana Hunter. "Very professional looking ad."

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten. "Love the colors in the stands and of the racers. All blends together well."

SECOND PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Angelique Boyer. "Really well done! The background colors behind the runners creates a bit of a 3D effect."

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten. "Love the colors in the stands and of the racers. All blends together well."

SECOND PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Angelique Boyer. "Really well done! The background colors behind the runners creates a bit of a 3D effect."

THIRD PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Stacy Bronson. "appealing

background colors makes the roofing colors stand out."

HONORABLE MENTION — News Letter Journal (Newcastle, Wyoming), Stephanie Bonnar. "Really cute ad. Colors, fonts and artwork work together to create an appealing ad."

BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, J. Brian Monihan, Jon House. "Spectacular photo, providing a great base for a really effective advertisement. I love the wording, as well. Great job!"

SECOND PLACE — The N'West Iowa REVIEW (Sheldon, Iowa), Kristin Oldenkamp. "Great local photos work well in this fun, effective ad."

THIRD PLACE — Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin, Stacy Bronson. "Love this - beautiful and eye catching."

HONORABLE MENTION — Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, Mary Huber. "I love the mix of old and new in this ad. Really effective."

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHIC'S BEST ADVERTISING IDEA



CREATE. SELL. PROFIT.

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Moonshine Ink (Truckee, California), Mayumi Elegado. "Stylish & effective reader support ad highlighting the current state of local journalism. Typography is clean, clear and testimonial heightens impact of ad."

SECOND PLACE — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), JJ Francais.

"Great interactive concept to generate reader interest around town. Nice tie-in to holiday as well."

THIRD PLACE — The Community News (Aledo, Texas), Randy Keck.

"Adorable local holiday concept with sponsorship opportunities. Clean layout looks great and using local kids creates an intimate feel with a community focus."

Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Advertiser-News North (Chester, New York), Christina Scotti. "This ad/effort to support local journalism is fantastic. Appealing to readers who were responsive and supportive, the ad WINS 1st place."

SECOND PLACE — Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review, Pamplin Media Group staff. "This strategic effort to honor amazing stories and efforts of local kids focuses on the future and helps highlight local youth giving back to the community. Bravo!"

THIRD PLACE — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Betsy Boulden. "Well-designed and effective promo ad to prospective advertisers. Great headline and bold design!"

When we all share ideas, it's a win-win for everyone!

Congratulations & Thank You to All

of the **Best Advertising Idea contest** participants and winners!

To further show our appreciation and support as the contest sponsor,

WE ARE OFFERING ALL PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS A **FREE THREE-MONTH TRIAL OF THE NEW METRO AD WIZARD® FOR MOBILE.**

See how the Wizard can help you create ads and close sales from any device, anytime, in about a minute, through a busy and important fourth quarter.

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