CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Nothing went quite as it was supposed to in the Douglas High School football’s three-season opener. From the start, the game was delayed programmatically due to inclement weather. All the way to the end, it just wasn’t their day. Going down to the final seconds, the Bearcats led 29-6 against the Battle High School Bears.

The game started about a quarter early so the fans could see how the Bearcats would react in the last pass. The Bearcats had driven down the field and scored during the first quarter but missed the extra point.

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
**“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 Slaamon. “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.”


**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 Terhaur. “Clean look. Dominant photo takes hug at the heartstrings and played well. Photo headline 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.”

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 USE OF A DOUBLE-TRUCK Non-Daily Division


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 resiliency 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.”

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 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.”

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

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.”

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

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

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

BY HOPE DAVIS | SPENCER COUNTY LEADER (FERDINAND, INDIANA)
FIRST PLACE — Advertisement-News South (Chester, New York), Pamela Chergots. “Clear winner in this category. A good double-truck unit layout will help forward a story; engage the reader in a new way; and be creative. This does all that, and more. GREAT JOB!”


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 on an issue which is also one of the most important community service aspects of local journalism.”

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BREAKING NEWS Daily & Non-daily Division

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

SECOND PLACE — Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye, David Hugh 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 Pernner. “Post of the year! You did a really 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 to help 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, Alexa Barker. “This entry really stood out for me 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 the news. The community 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 on an issue which is also 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 many times 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 the previous comedy show. Laughed all the way through it while enjoying it”

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more

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

SECOND PLACE — Philadelphia Gazette, John Mark Segal. “I am long 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 Hrytek. “Very interesting but more of a feature than a serious column.”

DAILY & NON-DAILY DIVISION, CIRC. 6,000-10,000

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 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. “Simple, homes, 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 many of you. 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 — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), Lisa 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!”

SECOND 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 the story comes out.”

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. 1,000-5,999

FIRST 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. 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. 2,000-9,999

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 column; 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 Hanson. Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Pesicka Recalls a Winter of Coyote Opportunity: Wish the picture of the three girls wasn’t too close to 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. 15,000 or more

FIRST PLACE — The Yankton (South Dakota) Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Pesicka Recalls a Winter of Coyote Opportunity: Wish the picture of the three girls wasn’t too close to 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.”

SECOND PLACE — Manchester (Massachusetts) Sun, Publisher Jeanie Hankins. “This entry was shorter than the others, but it was still 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 — The Village Voice (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 on an issue which is also one of the most important community service aspects of local journalism.”

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BREAKING NEWS Daily & Non-daily Division

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 quotes and using raw data 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 column; 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 Hanson. Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Pesicka Recalls a Winter of Coyote Opportunity: Wish the picture of the three girls wasn’t too close to 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.”
nickname Kappy, whose half-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 recollections to document his all—and drew on his own personal archived columns—close to 900 in sifted through 20-years’ worth of figure in his region. 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 Tekamoriaka report on what could be bland government meetings - making them readable and relatable. Excellent writing.”
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) Jule Drake. “Jule 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

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
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!”  

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  
First & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000  
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  
First & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more  
FIRST PLACE — Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Brian Martin. “This is a powerful, thoughtful, and well-
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 Bon-durant. 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 driv-ing 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 Bon-durant, where some ranches and homes are scattered along several miles of Highway 191, about 36 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, 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 remember.”

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 blub-bering and get on with it.’”

JT 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 new grandson, who joined brother Bobby and pre-ceded 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 Saunders’ 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-Wil-son High School in 1943. He wanted to enlist right away but his mother had to sign for him, and she insisted he be a cowboy a final summer on the fam-ily’s operation on Togwotee Pass. Just after he turned 18, Saunders was part of the 1st Marine Division assault at 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 wor-ried about getting that box of Lucky Strikes in my pocket wet.’”

“That’s one of the things he never talked about his military career,” said Richard Thomas, a long-time friend. “‘I held my rifle high,’ Thomas recalled being told. ‘And I was worried about getting that box of Lucky Strikes in my pocket wet.’”

“At the hospital, while he was there, she said he talked 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.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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 Rendez-vous Mountain as the site for the new Jack-sen Hole Ski Resort.

In the late 1950s he bought the Wilson Rodeo, moving it to Jackson two years later, where it still oper-ates 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 dirty, 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 de-manding 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 Saun-ders would live on because of what he did and who he was in Jackson Hole and Bon-durant. Bill’s friend Ed-i-en 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.”

MARK HUFFMAN may be contact at 732-5907 or mark@rwnewsandguide.com.
A 1-year review of Holyoke’s blood donor impact

2/3

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

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

29 pints

Power red doned

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 who may have received blood from Holyoke drives in the last year.

149 pints

Whole blood donated

By Jes-c French | The Holyoke (Colorado) Enterprise

Rowe discovered there were no standards shared with county staff to guide them on what could be stamped and why. Open government spokespersons 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 bureaucratic ‘Confidential,’ which was intended to keep that document secret from the public. In his news article,

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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 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 well-written 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 Hoffman. “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), Chrisey Sutke. “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”

**DAILY & NON-DAILY DIVISION**

FIRST PLACE — Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida), Jodi Pushkin, Lisa Schilling. “Best Breaking News Photo”

SECOND PLACE — Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida), Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Lisa Schilling. “Best Breaking News Photo”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “The top photo drew me in immediately, and I am a stickler for breaking news. I wasn’t to see photographers work under pressure. Good job.”

**NIE - PARTNERSHIPS**

**DAILY & NON-DAILY DIVISION**

FIRST PLACE — The Standard (Elgin, Oklahoma), Lisa Carroll. “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.”

SECOND PLACE — The Chronicle (Vilas County, Wisconsin), Kurt Krueger. “In a small community, sadly fire is a top breaking news event. 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.”

THIRD PLACE — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “The top 3 to 4 photos are all great. 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.”

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**
I erupted in sweat when...
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 Kunz 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
SECOND PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Harrison Epstein. “Great action picture! Caught at the perfect moment. Great job!”
HONORABLE MENTION — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Skip Pearlman. “Photo could be cropped in from bottom a little. Little dark but 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 (Neill, Nebraska), Carrie Pitzer. “One-in-a-lifetime photo! Wrestlers grappling, each landing on his head! GREAT!”
SECOND PLACE — Sault Centre (Minnesota) Herald, Mark Klapakhe. “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 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 — 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.”
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 floppy cats).”
HONORABLE MENTION — Vilas County News-Review (Eagle River, Wisconsin), Michelle Doolittle, Gary Ridderbusch. “A job well done, this section is thoughtfully laid out and well executed. Nice job!”
SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Staff. “This section is thoughtfully laid out and well executed. Graphics that pop. Well done!”
FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
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.

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

First PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
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Firefighters from multiple departments attack a fire at the 16,000 square foot Silver Phoenix building yesterday morning in Dandridge.
Daily & Non-Daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Scott Gerds. "Taos 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 — 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. 10,000-20,000
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 — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah). "The 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). "The thoroughness of the Valley Press’s local sports coverage is evident."

HONORABLE MENTION — Washington (Missouri) Missourian.

Bill Battle, Arron Husestad. “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. 3,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Scott Gerds. "Taos staff. “Gorgeous layout, beautiful photographs and compelling content. This is what special sections are supposed to look like!”

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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). "The 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). "The thoroughness of the Valley Press’s local sports coverage is evident."

HONORABLE MENTION — Washington (Missouri) Missourian.
A great way to reach out!

HONORABLE MENTION —
Leeland Enterprise (Lake Leeland, 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 malifaxence 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...”

FURTHER INFORMATION

A fatal collision on US Highway 62 near Cherry Road involving a semitruck 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 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 Scheuken 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.
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.

**FIRST PLACE** — The Journal (Crosby, North Dakota), Sydney Glassie Carrabo. “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 (Michigan) Newspaper, Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia. “Excellent coverage of a truly bizarre story, with wonderful use of multiple viewpoints. Poor layout and supplementing it with a mind-boggling array of photos. Bravo!”

**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!”

**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!”

**SECOND PLACE** — Leelanau Enterprise (Lake Leelanau, Michigan), Amy Hubbell. “Good questions for a sec. of ag. who’s not excited about the purpose of the source showing the results. 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.”

**THIRD PLACE** — Preston Hollow People (Dallas, Texas), Isadora Kukulich. “Great story. Great headline. Great layout. Readers like the shaded-green Inside tease to related stories.”

**HONORABLE MENTION** — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas). “Great coverage of a massive event. Great understanding of community effects.”

**FIRST PLACE** — The Morning Journal, Mason Dockter. “This piece is thoroughly reported and highly detailed.”

**SECOND PLACE** — The Standard Banner (Jefferson City, Tennessee), Laura Smythe. “Really serves the purpose of the source showing multiple aspects of the target audience and more.”

**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.”

**HONORABLE MENTION** — The Lancaster (South Carolina) News, Kayla Vaughan, Gregory A. Summers, Emily Pollok. “Like my first choice, all 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.”

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**SECOND 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 Vaughan, Gregory A. Summers, Emily Pollok. “Like my first choice,
this paper attacked the story form 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
SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Jenna Alton. “Interesting, informative, well-researched and well-written.”

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 cramped 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 Suttle. “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 Hyltrek. “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 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.”
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), 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
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 detailing on how the students in the program where being helped through Lost and Found and what their end result was like.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Honororable Mention - The heartfelt story of a community and the Wagner schools coming together out of respect for those who have 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 Charleston, West Virginia, 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 did a great job of informing home-schooled children and how this educational option fits into our evolving culture. It included examples from parents with a variety of children.”

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), 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.”

THIRD PLACE — Jackson (Wyoming) Hole News&Guide, Mike Kosmrl. “Impact of an invasive species on local populations of native species 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 look at the challenge to maintaining a threatened species.”

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

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

SECOND 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 make the case that this topic fits the story; well written and an easy read. Wonderful community connections.”


THIRD PLACE — Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard (Fallon, Nevada), Kris McGinn Straub. “Great feature story; well written and an easy read. Wonderful community connections.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin.

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.”

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BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

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

SECOND PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Riley Waldman. “The varying perspectives, infographics and satellite images added interest to the article. The writer had 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 algae blooms, giving depth to the article.”

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.”

FIRST 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 much more in college communities. Well written, easy to ready and understand.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan, Randy Dockendorf. “Good 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 story about a young cancer survivor. It flowed well and was very interesting to read. It would have worked equally well as

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SECOND PLACE — Elldridge (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 sidebar was 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 — The Examiner (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin.

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

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

HONORABLE MENTION — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin.

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

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THIRD PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Brian FJ Cronin. “The Highlands
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 a 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. 3,000-5,999

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

SECOND PLACE — Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press, Scott Campbell. “Strong piece looks at school official and student response to Januling 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 never even thought of. Great story on the local problems.”

SECOND PLACE — Myrtle Beach News & Guide, Emily Mieure. “A very educational piece that was well written and well-researched with many entrance points.”

THIRD PLACE — The Cambria County (Eldred, Pennsylvania), Kelli 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), Gretchen Lang, Hannah Weikel. “Really interesting story. Important to include the residents’ stories.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Cheyenne, Wyoming). “Great research!”

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

THIRD PLACE — Meeker (Colorado), Niki Kottmann. “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 INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES
Daily Division

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

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

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

FIRST PLACE — The Pilot (Southern Pines, North Carolina), Jaymie Baxley, Laura Douglass. “Really excellent work! Engaging writing, thorough storytelling, compassionate voice. 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), 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. 4,000-5,999

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.”


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 — 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. 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.”


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

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 voice. 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), 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.”

THIRD PLACE — 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 definitely 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.”

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
never knew what I didn’t know about peacocks. Adequate lede, plenty of neighborhood sources, nice quotes.

Non-daily Division, circ. 1,000-1,999
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 overwrought.”

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 1,000
FIRST PLACE — Dalton (Ohio) Gazette & The Kidron (Ohio) News, Christine Lowe. “This is an example of an adage I have about newspaper contest judging. All other things being equal, compelling content wins. Compelling content an 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 research.”

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

SECOND PLACE — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Emily Lavin. “Emily Lavin’s unbrushed 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 — Yakont (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 theaters 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), Kaitlyn Bancroft. “I loved this story, as it was nice to see a ‘jock’ want to survive and 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.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Philadelphia Gay News, Laura Smythe.

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News, Cody Hooks. “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 Bulletin (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 runs with wildlife.”

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. 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.”


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 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 Guza 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’ want to survive and 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.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Philadelphia Gay News, Laura Smythe.

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE — The Sheldon (Iowa) Mail-Sun, Randy Paulson. “A heart-warming story that lifts spirits.”

HONORABLE MENTION — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Carol Lee. “This is a very unique situation.”

SECOND PLACE — The Holyoke Enterprise, Dard 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 family itself, but also the memories of some of his runs with wildlife.”

HONORABLE MENTION — The Sedill (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
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.


Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more
FIRST PLACE — Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, Mike Moore. “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 — Lohant 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 veteran, 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. 1,000-1,999
FIRST PLACE — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Alison Rooney. “Excellent article on a very unique situation.”

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

HONORABLE MENTION — Stemmer (North Carolina), Lisa Carroll. “A heartwarming creative story about how theater and the arts can reach people of all ages.”

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 1,000

SECOND PLACE — The Holyoke Enterprise, Dard 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.”

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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. 3,000-6,000
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 Rockin Robin because the file 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), 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. 5,000 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 Commissio’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. 9,000 or more
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.”


VIDEO JOURNALISM
Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 1,500 or more
SECOND PLACE — The Greenwood (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cuthshall. “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. 6,000-11,000
FIRST PLACE — The Daily Universe (Provo, Utah), Morgan Timms. “Wonderful story told in this video. Great editing.”
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)

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

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.

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.
SECOND PLACE, 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. less than 3,000
By Bruce Brierley | The Exponent (East Grand Forks, Minnesota)

Dennis Lee Rogers, “Ashkilassah” 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.

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

The most compelling thing about this readable. And it was.” with its modern feel and community of this publication is outstanding from a larger city.” with compelling photos. The FIRST PLACE flooding. Very well laid out.” that day and the day after about the well written. Lots of local reporting 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 terrible lesson to learn how devastating inattentive driving could be!” THIRD 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 Greenville (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cutsall. “Providing COVID related free access is very important. I like that the website is setup similar to the newspaper. Website is easy to use.”

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 Greenville (Tennessee) Sun, Brian Cutsall. “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. 5,000-9,999

FIRST PLACE — The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Taos seems to do everything right present a superior package that draws you in. From the stunning photos and strong writing, combined with ingenious page designs, it doesn’t miss a beat. Why is this happening anywhere, 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 strong writing. Written with “Assurance” (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. 1,000-5,099

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 editors 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, editors 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. 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 (Lovelock, Nevada). “Really loved all the information and layout of this newspaper. There was several ads that helped balance the page.”


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 package is 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 824
**BEST ADVERTORIAL OR SPONSORED EDITORIAL**

**Ken-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 graphic elements.”

**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 adverorial 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.”

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

**THIRD PLACE** & Brentwood (California) Press, Sherrie Hamilton, Eric Kinnaid, 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.”

**BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION**

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

**FIRST PLACE** — The Ark (Tiburon, California), Leigh Pagan. “The only think I would change is not mixing the black wth color. I would have only solid color.”

**SECOND PLACE** — Port Aransas (Texas) South Jetty, Elizabeth Weaver. “Love the eye catching graphic.”

**SECOND PLACE** — The Highlands Current (Cold Spring, New York), Dwayne Stowell. “Strategic move to put “save journalism’ on Opinion page! Never seen this before. Bringing it right to your reader – no time to be coy. Nicely done 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!”

**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 REAL ESTATE AD**

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

**FIRST PLACE** — 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 SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION**

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

**FIRST PLACE** — Douglass (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 and well laid out.”

**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 the right amount of content to peak you in the right direction. Very clean, well laid out.”

**BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION**

**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.”


**BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION**

**Non-daily Division, circ. 16,000 or more**

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

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

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

**BEST ADVERTORIAL OR PROMOTION**

**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 sections makes these ads exceptionally eye-catching and effective.”

**SECOND PLACE** — The Examiner (Beaumont, Texas), Sharon Brooks. “Great use of color to match the logo.”

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

**BEST SALES PROMOTION AD, BLACK & WHITE**

**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), Dwayne Stowell. “Strategic move to put “save journalism’ on Opinion page! Never seen this before. Bringing it right to your reader – no time to be coy. Nicely done for both pieces.”

**HONORABLE MENTION** — 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!”
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 they’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), J.J. Francis. “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), J.J. Francis. “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.”


BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE — Park City 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 — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), J.J. Francis. “Great typography and imagery.”

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), J.J. Francis. “Cute ad and great typography.”

BEST USE OF AD COLOR DailyNon-daily Division, circ. more than 10,000

FIRST PLACE — The N’West Iowa Review ( Sheldon, Iowa), Crystal Poppema. “Clever way of using art inside the word SEED to tell a big story in a small space. Nicely balanced. Great job.”

SECOND PLACE — The N’West Iowa Review (Sheldon, Iowa), Crystal Poppema. “Visually appealing. Great use of color.”

THIRD PLACE — Photo News (Chester, New York), Adam Emmerich. “Very interesting graphic draws you into the ad. Coby 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), J.J. Francis. “Good typography and imagery.”

SECOND PLACE — Antelope County News (Neligh, Nebraska), Angelique Boyer. “Use of color makes content stand out.”

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

HONORABLE MENTION — The Chronicle (Elgin, Oklahoma), J.J. Francis. “The photo used draws in the eye immediately. The entire ad is crisp and to the point. Well done!”

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.”


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

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHIC’S BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

FIRST PLACE — Monochrome Ink (Chester, New York), Alley McCombs. “Great interactive concept to generate reader interest around town. Nice tie-in to holiday as well.”

SECOND 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 of 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 Boulten. “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, any time, in about a minute, through a busy and important fourth quarter.