

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
Big Box Country
Becca Tucker

Judge's Comments: *Story shows us the downside of convenience shopping, at least in some people's backyards.*

1

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

Non-daily Division circ. 10,000-14,999
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
Big Box Country series
Becca Tucker

Judge's Comments: *Helping the community understanding weighing the value of tax increases vs. quality of life.*

2

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
Big Box Country series
Becca Tucker

Judge's Comments: *Controversy was handled well with this story.*

3

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
Big Box Country series
Becca Tucker

Judge's Comments: *Superb series about this nationwide trend impacting so many areas as technology continues its advance. Each piece draws on its predecessor to strengthen every aspect featured and to make the public aware of the myriad pitfalls to weigh against the promised benefits.*

4

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
Big Box Country series
Becca Tucker

Judge's Comments: *This is a dilemma and no solution in sight. The problems and tax dependencies were fleshed out well in this series.*

5

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
When you get a phone call saying your son is lying dead on the side of the road
Bob Quinn & Beth Quinn

Judge's Comments: *Incredibly powerful piece which hopefully serves as a direly needed warning about these unregulated substances.*

6

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
Advertiser-News North, Chester, New York
When you get a phone call that your son is dead on the side of the road
Bob Quinn & Beth Quinn

Judge's Comments: *This tragic, personal story is so powerful as the family continue to struggle with the impact of their son's death.*

7

Best Advertising Idea

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

County News & Coffee

Carrie Pitzer & Kimberly Large

Judge's Comments: *Made me slap my forehead and say "why didn't I think of that?" A perfect way to self promote while driving traffic to your advertiser and building good will for both of you.*

8

Best Holiday Ad

1st Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Seven Beers Ago

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Good, clean pun with attention-getting art.*

9

Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Thriftway Market

Kimberly Large

Judge's Comments: *Nice use of space and tag lines. Easily captures the reader's attention.*

10

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

3rd Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Carrie Pitzer

Work Anywhere. Live Where You Want.

Judge's Comments: *The ad speaks volumes.*

11

Best Small-Page Ad

1st Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Arbor Day

Angelique Boyer

Judge's Comments: *Creative, excellent holiday use, lovely cover principle, and visually striking. Fonts are also lovely*

12

Best Use of a Double-Truck

1st Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Falcons Capture Medals

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *There's a lot of content on these pages but it's well organized. Like the use of photos that broke the columns into the stories. Good action photos.*

13

Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Ice Jam Coverage

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Solid reporting, minute by minute! Keeping your readers / viewers up to date with a hyper localized story.*

14

Column - Best Sports Column

1st Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Rita Shabram Missed One Game In 35 Years

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Heartwarming column about a son and his mom, who only missed one of his games and became a mom and grandmother to many in the community. I feel like I know Rita now. Great job.*

15

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

4th Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Antelope County News Local Photos

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Well done!*

16

General Excellence

4th Place

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Antelope County News General Excellence

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This is a very thorough local community newspaper with many really solid elements: the news and sports writing were very good; front pages were structured nicely; good use of photos - notably sports; the sports coverage was robust, well done and had most powerful photos. Dings taking you down to 4th place included much smaller opinion page than higher placing papers and the chaotic placement of public notices & other ads seemingly plopped where was an open hole. Still top 4 in tough class. Thank you.*

17

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Ice Jam

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Clear photo*

18

Photo - Best Sports Photo**2nd Place**

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Hurdling Into End Zone

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Another excellent action shot that niftily juxtaposes one player's triumph with an opponent's "defeat."*

19

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**3rd Place**

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

Ice Jam

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *This coverage of the third worst ice jam at the Elkhorn River bridge in recent memory is a straightforward account from when it was first noticed to its complete removal. It would have been interesting to know how many people assisted in total, how many total manhours were logged, and the total cost to the various agencies. Perhaps these were in a follow-up story. Also, the word "at" is missing in this sentence: "By the time Tilden Rescue confirmed at 9:22 a.m. that an ice jam had formed (AT) the bridge west of Oakdale, Gary Park of NDOT was already*

20

Story-Series - Best Sports Story**1st Place**

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

Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska
Season Dedicated To Her Mom
Jenny Higgins

Judge's Comments: *Great story about a memorable athlete and her mom. I would have liked some quotes from teammates or the mom, if her condition allowed. The writer knows wrestling.*

21

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye
Shop Archbold
Mary Huber

Judge's Comments: *Creative*

22

Photo - Best Feature Photo

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye
Flying High At State Track
Lynn Roth

Judge's Comments: *Exhilarating shot, with great detail and the added bonus of that fish.*

23

Photo - Best Photo Essay

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye
Solar Eclipse
Mary Huber

Judge's Comments: *Well done*

24

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

4th Place

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

Archbold (Ohio) Buckeye

Archbold Ambulance In Thursday, Aug. 8 Crash

David Pugh

Judge's Comments: *Pretty straightforward. Would have liked to know how fast the ambulance was going when the accident occurred, when was the last time there was an accident during a call, if the driver had any other accidents/tickets, how difficult it will be for the jurisdiction to operate without the damaged ambulance, etc. Also, this newspaper clearly doesn't follow the Associated Press Stylebook. Why not?*

25

Best Small-Page Ad

2nd Place

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

Brentwood (California) Press

Bad Billy Cycles 03-08-2024

Andrew Rulloda, Annie Ray, Eric Kinnaird

Judge's Comments: *Eye catching design. Good placement of logo. Informative ad.*

26

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

2nd Place

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

Brentwood (California) Press

How positivity and renewed sisterhood revived Liberty softball

Jeff Weisinger

Judge's Comments: *Love the descriptive nature of the practice and the effortless nature the writer transitions to the meat of the story. Very well done.*

27

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

2nd Place

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

Brentwood (California) Press

Meet the 10-year-old girl from Brentwood who can kick your butt

Jeff Weisinger

Judge's Comments: *Love this story by Jeff Weisinger. Great quotes from subject, parents and coaches that capture the passion and persistence required to become a champion. Sports stories that impart a lesson for other athletes, parents and coaches to learn from go a lot further than just a story about wins and losses.*

28

Video Journalism

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Brentwood (California) Press

Meet The Coach That's Improving Liberty High School Softball

Jeff Weisinger

Judge's Comments: *Complete view of new coach's commitment to reshaping frustrated team members into an enthusiastic band-of-girls who shared their supportive comments along with details that led to change.*

29

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

3rd Place

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

Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch

Pinal County Veterans Memorial Foundation

Brian Kramer

Judge's Comments: *Great*

30

Best Small-Page Ad

3rd Place

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

Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch

Cooper Painting Inc.

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge's Comments: *The color and hard lines make this one really pretty and easy to look at*

31

Best Small-Page Ad

4th Place

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

Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch

Tri-Valley Fire Equipment

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge's Comments: *Visually appealing and great use of space*

32

Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch

Dramatic Rescue from Burning CG House

Staff

Judge's Comments: *PinalCentral's dramatic rescue coverage used Facebook effectively to share real-time updates and video of firefighters pulling victims from a burning home, drawing strong public engagement and praise. While the coverage was gripping and timely, it was limited to platform-native posts without broader multi-platform integration or follow-up reporting.*

33

Social Media Journalism

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch

PinalCentral Instagram - Photo of the Week

Staff

Judge's Comments: *PinalCentral's "Photo of the Week" on Instagram is a simple but effective example of consistent community engagement. The recurring format encourages audience interaction and highlights local photographers, reinforcing a sense of place and participation. While the submission lacks depth or metrics, the effort is well-executed and shows an understanding of platform use. For future entries, including analytics or showcasing varied*

formats like reels or live content could strengthen the case. Still, this is a solid, community-minded approach deserving recognition.

34

Website - Best Newspaper Website

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch
PinalCentral.com
Staff

Judge's Comments: PinalCentral offers a clean, professional layout with clear navigation, strong visual hierarchy, and solid mobile responsiveness. Content is easy to read, and social links are integrated for broader engagement. Ads are present but mostly unobtrusive. The site includes a podcast, which adds a nice multimedia touch, though video and interactive content are still limited. Overall, it's a strong local news site with room to expand its digital storytelling.

35

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Cass County Reporter
Centennial Farms
Cass County Reporter Staff

Judge's Comments: This is a special section that will be referenced and kept by the families mentioned for years to come. What a great way to preserve the history of this community.

36

Best Informational Graphic

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska
Best computer graphic - Thermometer
Staff

Judge's Comments: Simple but effective method to show temperature extremes.

37

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000
Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska
Reporting on local government
Rob Dump

Judge's Comments: *Quality work in identifying an important local story and following it through. Writing is good and story is told thoroughly.*

38

Column - Best Humorous Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily, circ. less than 5,000
Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska
Best Humorous column - Neb DOT
Rob Dump

Judge's Comments: *Quick, funny, informative and relatable for readers - something anyone can enjoy.*

39

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska
Best Local News coverage - May 8, Nov
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Top four were all very close.*

40

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska
Best Sport photo - discus

Jeremy Buss

Judge's Comments: *This is the best of a couple of similarly styled track and field photos by this photographer. I would heavily caution against overusing this type of lens/angle or else the novelty will wear off quickly.*

41

Best Real Estate Ad

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Cedar Valley News, Greeley, Nebraska

Transferrable Groundwater

Kimberly Large

Judge's Comments: *Nice and simple.*

42

Best Front Page Design

4th Place

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

Clarendon (Texas) Enterprise

Clarendon Enterprise - May 9, 2025

Roger Estlack, Tara Allred

Judge's Comments: *Headline and major organization line are very good, nice attention to detail, pleasing to look at*

43

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Clarendon (Texas) Enterprise

City council votes 'no' to sanctary ordinance

Roger Estlack

Judge's Comments: *Well-written and solid reporting.*

44

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Clarendon (Texas) Enterprise
City should skip acting on proposal
Roger Estlack

Judge's Comments: *Well-written defense of what is likely to be an unpopular opinion.*

45

General Excellence

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
College Park (Maryland) Here & Now
College Park Here & Now, May 2024, July 2024, November 2024
Sharon O'Malley

Judge's Comments: *What a great newspaper for journalism students to cut their teeth in reporting. With what is displayed in this newspaper, journalism is in good hands for future generations!*

46

Story-Series - Best Business Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
College Park (Maryland) Here & Now
Business Solutions
Adelia McGuire and Sharon O'Malley

Judge's Comments: *explained economic issues we..*

47

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
College Park (Maryland) Here & Now
"Lead in the Water"
Sam Gauntt

Judge's Comments: *A story that highlights what many would not consider a problem in today's world. Well done finding details and bringing this to light.*

48

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

4th Place

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

College Park (Maryland) Here & Now

"The First 100 Years"

Sharon O'Malley

Judge's Comments: *The local fire house turns 100 this year and this story talks about changes that have occurred over the years with a spark of hope for the future. An easy read.*

49

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

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

Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon

ALZHEIMER FORUM AND STUDY

TRISHA WALKER

Judge's Comments: *Strong writing. Especially like the education aspect and how to get involved. Well done.*

50

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

3rd Place

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

Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon

Columbia Gorge News

Staff

Judge's Comments: *I appreciate the spirit your paper brings - the pacing and variety of content really do bring a sense of identity to the paper, and a sense of community to the reader. Excellent work!*

51

General Excellence

4th Place

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

Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon

Columbia Gorge News

staff

Judge's Comments: *There was so much great competition in this category. One thing that stood out in your paper is the extensive sports coverage, which some otherwise top choices lacked. Overall a great paper, great job!*

52

Rookie Reporter of the Year

4th Place

Non-daily Division

Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon

Rookie Entries: Radon, Klickitat River, Bureaucratic backlog, Merkley plastics, Overwatch Imaging

Nathan Wilson

Judge's Comments: *Well-written and well-researched. Very strong handle on complicated scientific matters. I would like to see the writer branch out to a wider variety of topics.*

53

Story-Series - Best Health Story

2nd Place

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

Columbia Gorge News, Hood River, Oregon

Radon

Nathan Wilson

Judge's Comments: *This is a very unique subject, and it's something that is just now coming to light. The writing is clear, and it's well researched.*

54

Column - Best Serious Column

1st Place

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

Commercial-News, Danville, Illinois

Silent no more: #MeToo

Amy Graham-McCarty

Judge's Comments: *An incredibly courageous personal statement about an issue that affects everyone, one way or another. All the more courageous for taking a principled stand against a cavalier column by a nationally syndicated writer.*

55

Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition**3rd Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Energy Edition

Cinthia Stimson, Carrie Calliham, Alisha Carver, staff

Judge's Comments: *Very clean.*

56

Best Front Page Design**4th Place**

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

Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Front page design

Matt Adelman

Judge's Comments: *Good job of playing up a very big community success story.*

57

Editorial - Best Editorial**3rd Place**

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

Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

best editorial

Matt Adelman

Judge's Comments: *Tough position to be in in a gun-friendly state. But, the editorial addressed the concerns and recognized the benefits of the compromise solution.*

58

General Excellence

3rd Place

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

Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

General excellence

Matt Adelman, Cindy Stimson, staff

Judge's Comments: *In a very tough category, I wish we could have had three 1st-place winners. Your clean (and sometimes fun) design and lots of relevant local news helped your paper stand out. Great work!*

59

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

4th Place

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

Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Honey business

Cinthia Stimson, with Sabrina Broberg

Judge's Comments: *Detail. Detail. Detail. This story gives the information people would want to know and does so with style and a little flair. Good work.*

60

Best Series Ad Idea, Color

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

Steve's Mirror and Glass

Isabelle Kern

Judge's Comments: *Good, clean campaign. Consistent design leads to TMA.*

61

Column - Best Humorous Column

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily, circ. less than 5,000
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
Lessons from North Scott's 1974 book furor
Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments: *This column was relevant to modern day, while drawing a funny story from the past that we all can laugh about.*

62

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
North Scott Press
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Strong use of photos on all pages*

63

General Excellence

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
North Scott Press
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Appealing design from front to back, along with tons of local, interesting and well-written news. Colorful, well-built ads add to the appeal.*

64

Legacy.com's

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
Everlasting Impressions
Mark Ridolfi, Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments: *What stands out is the number of people Bill Tubbs influenced and helped.*

65

Review - Best Review

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

Magical production enchants crowd

Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments:

66

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

1st Place

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

Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

Shane Knoche heads home

Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments: *An extremely well done story that perfectly captured the extremely tough decisions faced by Shane.*

67

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

I do, again

Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments: *What a sweet topic.*

68

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

4th Place

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

Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

Magical production enchants crowd
Erin M. Gentz

Judge's Comments: *At first, I wasn't sure about the first-person use here, but after reading it again, I think it adds to the magic of what the play was like for the audience. Well done.*

69

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
Domeward Bound
Ross Shinberg

Judge's Comments: *This story has it all. Great lede, strong imagery, wonderful storytelling, impactful quotes, background information and stats...lots of stats. Easily the best entry of the bunch!*

70

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press
The throw of a lifetime
Ross Shinberg

Judge's Comments: *The writer did a tremendous job of absorbing all the little things around the big moment. Those details are easy to overlook, but when used in pieces*

71

Best Advertising Idea

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
ETV News, Price, Utah
Castle Gate Mining
Jamie Swank

Judge's Comments: *An odd subject for ad sales but the accident clearly had a great impact on the community that continues to be felt. Done in good taste and perhaps comforting to the descendants of those who died.*

72

Photo - Best Feature Photo

4th Place

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

ETV News, Price, Utah

ETV News Best Featured Photo

Brittnie Anderson

Judge's Comments: *It's cute and unexpected. I think we can all appreciate a puppy sticking its head out to see the world from a pocket!*

73

Rookie Reporter of the Year

3rd Place

Non-daily Division

ETV News, Price, Utah

ETV News Rookie of the Year - Brittnie Anderson

Brittnie Anderson

Judge's Comments: *I remember watching with the rest of the country in hope and then horror as the Wilberg Mine disaster unfolded. The story brought it all back. That and the stricken postal worker were particularly strong entries.*

74

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

1st Place

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

ETV News, Price, Utah

ETV News Best Breaking News Story

Brittnie Anderson

Judge's Comments: *Great job capturing the moment and relating the news in an easy-to-understand format.*

75

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

4th Place

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

ETV News, Price, Utah

ETV News Best Education Story

Jamie Swank

Judge's Comments: *Well done piece bringing to the forefront a concern not only of this community but of the nation.*

76

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

4th Place

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

ETV News, Price, Utah

ETV News Story Series - Best Feature Story

Brittnie Anderson

Judge's Comments: *Engaging piece with serious undertones for the future of community services and who will work to provide them.*

77

Best Holiday Ad

2nd Place

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

Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News

Bacon Spirits Bright

Jennifer Lewis

Judge's Comments: *Clever. Wish the image was cleaner.*

78

FOI - Freedom of Information

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News

EPA Contradicts Mayors About Asbestos Grants

Gordon Hopkins

Judge's Comments: *Great work with the story in general and the asbestos piece in specific, bonus points for good followups.*

79

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999

Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News

NWS Issues Fire Weather Watch for SE Nebraska

Gordon Hopkins

Judge's Comments: *The imagery in this photo tells a story.*

80

Best Informational Graphic

1st Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

Finding and Raising Monarch Caterpillars

David Hartong

Judge's Comments: *Superb combination of color photography, sharp typography as well as innovative layout makes this a compelling look. Spectacular.*

81

Best Informational Graphic

2nd Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

ODNR celebrates 75 years

David Hartong

Judge's Comments: *Excellent. What could have been a mundane story about an agency celebrating an anniversary is brought to life by vivid photography, striking typography and talented layout. Very well done!*

82

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

Farm and Dairy Front Page 5-2-24

David Hartong

Judge's Comments: *The front page of Farm and Dairy's May 2 edition flows from top to bottom. Two teasers above the banner call attention to short-track racing photos and garden info inside. The banner, with its bucolic bovine logo sticking its nose over the edge of the cover photo, carries the eye to the photo itself—a shot of the bones of an aged barn in front of which stand five guys in cold-weather work garb. The all-caps banner headline, "New Life for Old Barns," overlays the photo down the left side of the image and leads to three columns of text below. A second article in a narrower separate column runs down the right edge of the page. The neutral colors in the cover photo—shades of browns, grays, creams, and goldenrod—are picked up in the cream-colored banner headline and the light gray fill in the second article. But it's the pops of orange—beginning with the graphic in the upper left teaser touting the race reports and moving down to the muted pumpkin-colored fill behind the word for in the banner headline which, moving to the right, matches the knit cap worn by one of the workers and, moving down, to the pumpkin-colored large-font quotation marks on a pull-out quote—that tie the page together. The warm colors, old-barn-salvagers group photo, and comfortable layout invite readers to refill their coffee mugs and settle in to read. The comprehensive index at the bottom is a bonus.*

83

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

Non-daily Division circ. 15,000 or more

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

Western Pa. residents fight for increased well pad setbacks

Liz Partsch

Judge's Comments: *Close coverage of a community concern.*

84

Legacy.com's

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

C. Sherman Allen remembered for passion, service to community
Rachel Wagoner

Judge's Comments: *What a life well led. I wished I would have met him. Thanks for bringing his story to life*

85

Photo - Best Feature Photo

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio
Seldom Seen Farm makes 'Maple Madness' with its bourbon maple syrup
Liz Partsch

Judge's Comments: *A really nice shot of work in action. The steam, the liquid flowing out, all give the photo a sense of movement.*

86

Photo - Best Photo Essay

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio
The Racing Report
Matthew Chasney

Judge's Comments: *Great images nicely displayed.*

87

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio
Farm and Dairy Progress Vol. 2 June 20, 2024
Tammy Reese

Judge's Comments: *Great stories of dreams of dairy farmers realized with support from funding from lenders who understand their dreams and challenges.*

88

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

In memory of Daniel Kibler: Donation hog raises over \$30K in 4-H scholarship funds

Sara Welch

Judge's Comments: *Beautifully written. Great details. Story goes beyond the basics. Photos bring faces to details.*

89

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

12-year-old girl with Apert syndrome shows largest steer at Portage County Fair

Sara Welch

Judge's Comments: *Sara Welch puts it all together -- a heart-warming topic told in a beautiful narrative that simply draws the reader through the tale, answering all the questions and hitting all the right notes. Well done.*

90

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

Tree farmer wins Ohio Tree Farm of the Year award for restoring former strip mines

Liz Partsch

Judge's Comments: *Farm & Dairy goes two for two in this category. Liz Partsch's only fault is her subject wasn't quite as compelling as Sara Welch's first-place profile. Great job of writing.*

91

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

1st Place

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

Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio

Steel mills in Weirton see a rebirth of industry with Form Energy

Liz Partsch, Rachel Wagoner

Judge's Comments: *A pretty good history of the local steel industry and its problems over time.*

92

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

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

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas

Where is the justice?; If he lied

Staff written editorials

Judge's Comments: *Identifying and taking on wrongdoing in local government is at the heart of community journalism. These editorials did just that.*

93

News and Opinion on Public Corruption

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas

Investigators link George to fake, racist online posts

Scott Reese Willey

Judge's Comments: *I prefer this piece as a Public Corruption entry over an FOI entry, so I'll award it here instead of there. As mentioned, my only gripe is with the imprecision of the word fake, it's casual enough that it undermines an otherwise really well delivered story. Overall excellent work.*

94

Photo - Best Feature Photo

1st Place

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

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas

kissing camel; zombie chase; lions advance; boa constrictor

Scott Reese Willey

Judge's Comments: *A fine collection of humans in action . . . with supporting cast of camel, zombie, boa and "Lions" leaping.*

95

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas
Lions Advance; Fulshear sweeps
Rhonda Taormina; Dave Sanders

Judge's Comments: *Peak form volleyball photo by Dave Sanders. The player's face displays concentration while the ball shows motion, just what this judge appreciates in a sports photo.*

96

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999
Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas
May 12, 2024 issue; Nov. 7, 2024 issue
sports staff

Judge's Comments: *This entry is solid in every way...writing, photography, lay-out...and would be something worth reading each time published. A great effort, a great publication*

97

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post
Best Single Ad Idea, Color
Barney Kane

Judge's Comments: *Great use of the AIDA principle. Attention grabbing and impressive*

98

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post
Best Front Page Design
Ken Esten Cooke

Judge's Comments: *I love the styles (fonts) of this newspaper and the sidebar of page numbers for varies stories teasers inside. I love how the stories in the center of the paper are all about the eclipse, under one big headline, but separated to show they are different stories about the same event. Very beautiful and simple front page design.*

99

Column - Best Humorous Column**4th Place**

Daily & Non-daily circ. 5,000 - 9,999
Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post
Humorous Column Writing
Christine Granados

Judge's Comments: *Love the ending. That about sums it up: You're not old, you just don't have the right app.*

100

Legacy.com's**4th Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
Fredericksburg (Texas) Standard-Radio Post
Legacy.com's
Sherrie Geistweidt

Judge's Comments: *Very special tribute to a life ended way too soon. If your eyes are dry at the end of it you didn't get the message. Very well done*

101

Best Public Notice Section**3rd Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division
Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi
Gazebo Gazette Public Notice Section

Hunter Dawkins

Judge's Comments: *Very professional looking.*

102

Best Real Estate Ad

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi

Gazebo Gazette Best Real Estate Ad - Amy Wood Properties

Hunter Dawkins

Judge's Comments: *lots of houses all at once.*

103

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

1st Place

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

Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi

Gazebo Gazette Best Single Ad, Color - Taste of Long Beach

Hunter Dawkins

Judge's Comments: *Nice, clean and inviting.*

104

Best Classified Section

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Gillette (Wyoming) News Record

Best Classified Section

JR Study, Mallory Schenach

Judge's Comments: *Nice and clean look.*

105

Best Holiday Ad

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
2024 Winter Walk
JR Study

Judge's Comments: *Great idea - love the reader participation aspect.*

106

Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
2024 Pet Calendar
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Great idea!*

107

Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Ads By Kids
Staff

Judge's Comments: *These are great!*

108

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

1st Place

Daily Division, circ. less than 10,000
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Nelsons Fireplaces
JR Study

Judge's Comments: *Great attention grabbing headline and use of space for the promotion.*

109

Best Small-Page Ad

2nd Place

Daily Division
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Spring Sports / CBH Coop
JR Study

Judge's Comments: *Great use of color. Making the most of the small space without seeming too crowded. Great job.*

110

Best Use of Ad Color

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 10,000
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Days Inn
Mallory Schenach

Judge's Comments: *The gloves with the heart immediately caught my eye. Very eye catching.*

111

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

Daily Division
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Having Second Thoughts
Mallory Schenach

Judge's Comments: *Second entry by this publication again uses wide measure columns for the lead story, but it is better displayed here than in other entry.*

112

Editions - Best Headline Writing

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Gillette (Wyoming) News Record
Nursery to Nursing, Money Trees

Jonathan Gallardo, Cassia Catterall

Judge's Comments: *Nursery to nursing school - good headline for a feel good story*

113

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

1st Place

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

Gillette (Wyoming) News Record

May 21 2024 Edition

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This is a BEAUTIFUL paper. Neat, without feeling empty, dense without feeling busy.*

And your content seems to capture the sense of locality and community very well. Five stars.

114

General Excellence

3rd Place

Daily Division

Gillette (Wyoming) News Record

Nov 5 2024 edition

Staff

Judge's Comments: *A strong community based paper that is no doubt both essential and enjoyable for its readers.*

115

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

Daily Division

Gillette (Wyoming) News Record

Under the Lights

Preston Zbroszczyk

Judge's Comments: *I feel like I'm in the action in the stiff-arm photo.*

116

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,500

Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent

Digging Deep

Cinthia Stimson

Judge's Comments: *Very complete and in depth. Interesting read and a story well told. Enjoyed it and the learning that went with it*

117

Best Holiday Ad

4th Place

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

Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota

Christmas Ads

Christine Jacobson, Ashton Hagen, April Franken

Judge's Comments: *love that the ads are from the people behind the businesses*

118

Best Use of Ad Color

1st Place

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

Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota

Grant County Solid Waste

Christine Jacobson, Ashton Hagen, April Franken

Judge's Comments: *Informative, great use of color to draw eye between different examples. Very organized, easy to read ad.*

119

Editorial - Best Editorial

3rd Place

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

Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota

'Cruel Optimism' Holds Back Meaningful Change

Reed Anfinson

Judge's Comments: *Exceptional writing and structure. Lays out the argument and solutions in a logical, thoughtful fashion.*

120

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

3rd Place

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

Grant County Herald, Elbow Lake, Minnesota

Grant County Herald Sports Pages

Sam Peterson, Mike Mallow

Judge's Comments: *Crisp and complete sports section with a wide range of coverage attractively presented*

121

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999

Harlan (Iowa) News-Advertiser

Hope after the storm

Renee' Brich

Judge's Comments: *Powerful photo.*

122

Best Use of a Double-Truck

1st Place

Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 2000

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Giant Days coverage

Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, Angie Wilson

Judge's Comments: *The Henderson Independent's coverage of Le Sueur's three-day Giant Days celebration features a two-page spread of photos—the left page in full color; the right page, due to printing limitations, in black-and-white—showcasing the people, events, performers, and fireworks. The thoughtfully composed and shadow-boxed pics are carefully arranged photo-album style below a banner reading "Giant Days celebration marked with royalty, rockin' music, classic cars, and miles of smiles". More impressive is that each photo is captioned and not just*

with the name(s) of the subjects but with context and commentary. That extra attention to detail took a lot of work but makes the pages a part of the historic record of the town. Just enough white space keeps the pages from feeling crowded.

123

Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Henderson experiences historic flooding

Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish

Judge's Comments: Continued coverage of the flooding day-after-day builds credibility. Viewers / readers want information practically before it happens. Well done!

124

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

2nd Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Hay bale fire

Rachel Miller

Judge's Comments: Nice crop! Photo conveys the action well of what was properly considered a routine job by firefighters.

125

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

1st Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Henderson Independent - Best Sports Section

Rachel Miller

Judge's Comments: Will someone please give Rachel Miller a day off? I count 11 stories and a handful of pictures in one week's sports section! Considering it is almost completely done by one person, this is spectacularly comprehensive and thorough coverage! Well done Rachel!

126

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

2nd Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Henderson and greater region experiencing historic flood levels

Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish

Judge's Comments: *Nothing fancy, but good solid reporting. Not a fan of starting stories with dates like the two on the front page. Also would've liked to see attribution or citations for all of the current and 1850s statistics. And bullets would have made the lists of road closures easier to read.*

127

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Best Christmas Ever brings joy to Ziebarth family

Rachel Miller

Judge's Comments: *When covering an event it is sometimes easy to get caught up in the what and not answer the rest of the questions. This story answers all questions and does so in a style that is well-written and interesting.*

128

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

3rd Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Giants baseball competes at state

Rachel Miller

Judge's Comments: *Each of the two entries by this author has strong points as well as opportunities for improvement. This one overcomes a cliched lead paragraph with great use of game stats and player quotes.*

129

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

4th Place

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

Henderson (Minnesota) Independent

Giants are headed to state!

Rachel Miller

Judge's Comments: *I love the quotes from team members about the keys to their championship. The article could be strengthened by avoiding use of vague opinions from the writer about team members' dedication and buy-in, especially when you already have similar and better statements from the team members themselves in the article.*

130

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

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

Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

Front Page Design - Greenville 2

Warren Morrison

Judge's Comments: *Eye-catching photo, with a very important and impactful headline that makes people want to read what happened. Good outline and set up for a cover page.*

131

Column - Best Serious Column

2nd Place

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

Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

Serious Column - Greenville 3

Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *Extremely touching tribute. Sometimes it is difficult for a writer to bare the deepest hurts in their life to their readers. You shared the good along with the not so good memories and the love you hold for your mother - I think she is beaming proudly at you for this column. Congratulations Kent, on 2nd place! There were so many great columns, but the best ones are those that are the most personal. Frame yours proudly on your wall of wins.*

132

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
It's a total solar-bration! - News Photo - Greenville.pdf
David Claybourn

Judge's Comments: *Great timing! You wonder what the folks in the plane were thinking.*

133

Photo - Best Feature Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
Bois d'Arc - Feature Photo - Greenville
Laurie White King

Judge's Comments: *This photo is just dripping with whimsy and character; it also made it impossible not to read the story to find out more about the subject.*

134

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
She's really cleaning up - Business Feature - Greenville
Travis Hairgrove

Judge's Comments: *Just a quality piece from beginning to end. Author tells story with good detail without getting bogged down. Top-notch work.*

135

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
A fearless protector ... Feature Story - Greenville
Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *While heartbreaking, this story goes behind a tragedy and tells a story we often don't get to tell. It is well-written. Quality story and quality work. A+*

136

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

A Well-Earned Distinction - Feature Story - Greenville

Travis Hairgrove

Judge's Comments: *This is not only a story worth telling, but a well-told story. Excellent job in every way.*

137

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,500

Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

The Game - Preserving Local History - Greenville.pdf

Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *A true baseball fan would love this one and be glad to have read it. What a great thing for Greenville's minor league team. This story takes you back to a magical time and captures a worthwhile memory. The ballpark is gone but the accomplishment will live forever, Good job*

138

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Hernando Sun, Brooksville, Florida

Not Homeless, Just on an Adventure

Hanna Maglio

Judge's Comments: *Exceptionally well written story that tells a tale filled with surprise and respect. Well done!*

139

Best Reader-Generated Campaign

2nd Place

Non-daily Division

Hooker County Tribune, Mullen, Nebraska

The Vacationer

Gerri Peterson

Judge's Comments: *Throughout the year, the Hooker County Tribune invites readers to take their paper with them when they travel and to send in selfies of themselves and the Tribune in far-off places. "The Vacationer" is an annual compilation of the photos received and the photos appearing in the January 2024 issue included ones taken in various places around the country and a couple of places from around the world.*

140

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

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

Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times

It's time to bring back in-person council meetings

Griffin Limerick

Judge's Comments: *Even though the headline, "It's time to bring back in-person council meetings", tells readers the topic of Griffin Limerick's editorial up front, he doesn't begin by listing his reasons and making demands for returning to in-person meetings after four years of virtual ones. Rather, he invites readers of the Hyattsville Life & Times to consider a particular moment shortly after the beginning of the most recent virtual council meeting. Deftly he sets the scene in terms worthy of any of several dystopian films, describing "disembodied voices, missing microphones, and text messages declaring 'Here'" during roll call, an "erratically" behaving Zoom camera during the pledge of allegiance, and an empty silence when the public is invited to address the council. Only when readers are hooked does Limerick build his case by recounting the projects that have been passed or completed without public input—including a middle school built by the county but without city involvement—during the previous four years, noting the promised but not delivered technology that would enhance virtual meetings, and pointing out that surrounding communities have reinstated in-person meetings. Then he switches gears, acknowledging that virtual meetings have their virtues and proposing a couple of compromises before describing in poignant detail moments of physical connection during the last in-person meeting, held in 2020. Limerick threads dates and figures and email responses from officials through his narrative, and he offers solid reasons for a return to in-person meetings. But Limerick's way with words and his finesse in presenting his case make this an editorial worth studying.*

141

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times
PGCPS asks for patience as busing improves for some
Kit Slack

Judge's Comments: *Well documented story of a problem seen in many jurisdictions. Great research and presentation.*

142

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times
Beer and American Sign Language build bridges for hearing community
Jessica Arends

Judge's Comments: *My brother is deaf so I can appreciate what the writer went through to make this story understandable to the reader. Keep up the good work!*

143

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times
When and where will Snow Crane land?
Griffin Limerick

Judge's Comments: *Well-written piece featuring an intriguing niche in the culinary world.*

144

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times
New Hyattsville soccer team opens doors for local players
Griffin Limerick

Judge's Comments: *A terrific story exploring the founding, and growth, of a Hyattsville soccer team that really goes back to Cameroon roots. Great details and reporting. Made me want even more, as good stories tend to do.*

145

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

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

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho

Village master plan glides through Sun Valley P&Z

Gabe Barnard

Judge's Comments: *Show the community the value of their input as it affects the future of their community and keeps town leaders on track.*

146

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

2nd Place

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

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho

Idaho Mountain Express

Greg Foley

Judge's Comments: *Diversity of stories shows interest in the community that is covered here.*

147

General Excellence

1st Place

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

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho

Idaho Mountain Express

Greg Foley

Judge's Comments: *Excellent reporting, focused editorials with responsive letters and columns, stimulating and relevant photos, ads with focused messages in colorful and revealing graphic layout, good classifieds . . . Just the best!*

148

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho
Resort owner Carol Holding dies at 95
Gabe Barnard

Judge's Comments: *Story was well written.*

149

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999
Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho
Ketchum romps through frontier history during annual Wagon Days celebration
Gabe Barnard

Judge's Comments: *Good reporting. Lots of useful and interesting information. Keep up the good work.*

150

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho
Wood River softball coaches allege Title IX violations
Gabe Barnard

Judge's Comments: *Sad but true illustration of Title IX not getting its due. Shows how tough the girls are!*

151

Best Informational Graphic

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
What's allowed on Teton County pathways?

Andy Edwards

Judge's Comments: *Clever idea and educational. I might steal this for my own newspaper. Congratulations to your graphics department. This took a lot of work but it was worth it.*

152

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

Jackson Hole News&Guide front page design

Andrew Edwards, Doug Sanders

Judge's Comments: *I like how the whole front is themed to bears, highlighting "Queen of the Tetons." I do wish the subhead was a little bigger and that there was more story on the front before jumping. But I do like the way other stories about this bear and bears in general are highlighted on the bottom with photos and page numbers.*

153

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

399 inspired policy change, yet work remains

Charley Sutherland

Judge's Comments: *Offbeat story - at least to this reader - struck just the right balance between seriousness of the subject and putting a bear face to it.*

154

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

Holding candidates accountable

Jasmine Hall

Judge's Comments: *Those seeking elected office have to be held to high standards. The writer has no qualms about asking tough questions.*

155

Best Use of a Double-Truck

2nd Place

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

Teton Pass collapse timeline

Andy Edwards

Judge's Comments: *I like the timeline at the bottom of the pages. It's a great representation of how the slide happened. The only thing I see on this spread that I would change is aligning the story spacing to the grid so the columns of text running across the pages are the same. Other than that, this looks great.*

156

Column - Best Humorous Column

3rd Place

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

View from the Hole

Mark Huffman

Judge's Comments: *The last man with a landline. Had fun reading this on my phone.*

157

Column - Best Sports Column

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000 or more

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

Mountainside

Molly Absolon

Judge's Comments: *I appreciate the research in this column about extreme sports and the possible psychological causes of risk-taking in humans.*

158

Column - Best Sports Column

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000 or more
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
First Rodeo
Kyle Leverone

Judge's Comments: *Fun personal story about trying mountain biking. Thankful that reading it did not require "eating dirt" like the writer experienced.*

159

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Local News, Jackson Hole News&Guide
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Imagery and stories capture the essence of the community.*

160

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Best use of photographs, Jackson Hole News&Guide
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Excellent work in providing the photos for the major Teton Pass stories. Beyond the pages and pages of Teton Pass, very nice portrait photos presented on news, feature and special pages. Great work in a really challenging category.*

161

General Excellence

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
General excellence, Jackson Hole News&Guide
Staff

Judge's Comments: *This newspaper has it all. Excellent mix of news, photography, strong layout and design, sports, advertising and everything in between. I was especially intrigued by the extensive coverage of the death of the bear. A sign of a solid newspaper is seeing readers engaged through letters and the Reader's Respond poll. This entire publication is a STRONG example of solid community journalism. Beautifully done and well deserved honor!*

162

Legacy.com's

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Cowboy, guide Gap Pucci dead at 89
Mark Huffman

Judge's Comments: *This was good as it tells a real story about a very unique person. I felt the passion from Gap Pucci's life.
Excellent work*

163

Photo - Best Feature Photo

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Aurora over the Teton Range
Kathryn Ziesig

Judge's Comments: *Breathtaking photo of the Northern Lights coupled with dramatic lighting of the landscape. Great spot for a photo that gives incredible depth.*

164

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Pinned
Morgan Timms

Judge's Comments: *Tells a story without a caption. Nice angle by photographer.*

165

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Death of an icon: Grizzly 399 remembered
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Such a beautifully written homage to an icon. The tenderness of language and experiences mesh so well with the heartfelt loss of 399--for those closest to her and her myriad fans. Eloquent pieces too describing her impact on both the ecology & economy--such a multi-faceted & superb section. Of course, the photography is spectacular.*

166

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Jackson Hole News&Guide Sports section
Kyle Leverone

Judge's Comments: *One of the best entries and a pleasure to read. Appreciate the work and the overall effort. I would gladly read this and would look forward to it*

167

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Breech baby makes surprise entrance on Broadway
Jeannette Boner

Judge's Comments: *Well written with great details.*

168

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
The Gros Ventre guardians' last day
Billy Arnold

Judge's Comments: *Intricately told story that required a ton of research and lengthy interviewing. Subject was a fascinating piece of history*

169

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Fighting for more than the podium
Kyle Leverone

Judge's Comments: *Wonderful story – with excellent descriptive writing by Kyle Leverone – on how friendship and commitment rule in the sled dog sport. It's a long story (supported by great photography) and well worth the read.*

170

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Speed record on Grand rejected
Jeannette Boner

Judge's Comments: *Wish the lede was not buried four paragraphs into the story, after it already had been shouted in the headline. Subject matter, however, is a wonderful break from the usual sports story submissions. Education Reporter Jeannette Boner did well to get so many interviews and perspectives. Good job!*

171

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming
Teton Pass collapse

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Great reporting on an issue that affected so many of your readers! Good job of putting a face to the story. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the comprehensive coverage.*

172

Best Newspaper Promotion

3rd Place

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

Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska

County News & Coffee

Shelby Pitzer & Kimberly Large

Judge's Comments: *Clean.*

173

Best Use of Ad Color

2nd Place

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

Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska

Earth Day

Angelique Boyer & Shelby Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Great color photo that is the attraction of the ad. Very eye catching. Love the silhouette.*

174

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

4th Place

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

Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska

Water Search

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Well-framed image, with everyone focused on their job.*

175

Photo - Best Sports Photo

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska
He's A Unicorn
Jenny Higgins

Judge's Comments: *Excellent eye by the photographer to capture both the thrill of victory and agony of defeat so close together in frame.*

176

Story-Series - Best Health Story**1st Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska
Fighting Cancer, Helping Others
Jenny Higgins

Judge's Comments: *The writing is good, and as cancer treatment improves, more women are living with stage 4 breast cancer, and stories like this are important. This could help others in their cancer battle.*

177

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series**1st Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska
Heart of a Warrior
Damon Crawford

Judge's Comments: *An incredibly moving in-depth story that was very well told.*

178

Best Use of a Double-Truck**2nd Place**

Non-Daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard
Labor of love
Steve Ranson

Judge's Comments: *A clean, well-organized design, with good photography capturing the feel of the event.*

179

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

2nd Place

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

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard

Best Local News Coverage

Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comments: *Good local coverage, winner just had a little more.*

180

Editorial - Best Editorial

4th Place

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

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard

Mail processing plan should be scrapped

Steve Ranson

Judge's Comments: *Addresses an important issue facing our industry and basic service to our customer. Nice recap at end of editorial.*

181

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

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

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard

Fallon girls down Hug, Sparks

Thomas Ranson

Judge's Comments: *I love the gritty look on the offensive player's face. Just a solid, solid action shot right there.*

182

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard
Classmate's tribute and honor Gold Star families
Steve Ranson

Judge's Comments: *Touching story on friends' memories of a U of Nevada athlete who died during military service in the Viet Nam War.*

183

Story-Series - Best Sports Story**2nd Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Lahontan Valley News & Fallon (Nevada) Eagle Standard
Longtime football coach steps down
Thomas Ranson

Judge's Comments: *Two State Championships! A nice sendoff for a football coach that made his mark on a school.*

184

Best Informational Graphic**1st Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming
Crime down, theft persists
Kim Draper

Judge's Comments: *Excellent! Love the police car lights in the large circle. Also like how the other pieces of the pie are pulled out of the graph. This makes a powerful statement. Great job!*

185

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**3rd Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming
A Landerite in the West Bank
Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Well written piece on local connection to international issue.*

186

Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming

Premature publication

Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Excellent analysis of public notice issues and ensuring that they are done properly.*

187

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming

Pride and prejudice

Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Top notch look at gay pride in one of America's most rural states. Gripping content, flowing narrative. Nice job.*

188

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 2,500-4,999

Lander Journal, Riverton, Wyoming

A champion for the common man

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *The front page teaser is great - almost is good as the lead that instantly drags the reader into the story.*

189

Best Classified Section

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Classifieds

Jason Plowman

Judge's Comments: *Like that you had several pages in your classifieds, nice layout.*

190

Best Holiday Ad**1st Place**

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

The Gift of Leelanau

Mike Anderson

Judge's Comments: *Very eye-catching and clean design. The design is simple but effective, with good use of color and space.*

191

Best Multiple Advertiser Section**2nd Place**

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Salute to Cherries

Leelanau Enterprise Staff

Judge's Comments: *That's neat that you have Cherries as a focus in your section.*

192

Best Newspaper Promotion**3rd Place**

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Perfect Day at the Beach

Mike Anderson

Judge's Comments: *Good use of color. Nice concept.*

193

Best Real Estate Ad

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Featured Realtor

Jason Plowman

Judge's Comments: *Love this idea.*

194

Best Informational Graphic

1st Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Steaming Through the Years

Mike Anderson, Amy Hubbell

Judge's Comments: *Eye-catching design, well-planned layout and bite-size nuggets of information make the overall project an easy and interesting read. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it immensely. Keep up the good work.*

195

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Twin Flames

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge's Comments: *Writing for the Leelanau Enterprise, Meakalia Previch-Liu covered a presentation by two women—one a former member of the Twin Flames Universe (TFU), a group in Leelanau County that is described as a cult by the second, a professor of sociology and cult expert and author. The two women were recently featured in a documentary series that aired on Netflix. Previch-Liu's article, "Twin Flames Universe survivor and cult expert speak out," captures the essence of the event and presentation and includes comments from attendees.*

196

Best Use of a Double-Truck

1st Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Steaming Through the Years

Mike Anderson, Amy Hubbell

Judge's Comments: *I love the creativity of this design. While it looks a little hard to read through the text at first look, it's easy to follow the train tracks around to reach each moment in time for the railroad. Fantastic use of a two page spread.*

197

Column - Best Humorous Column

2nd Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Corn Loss

Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *I'm no farmer but this was funny.*

198

Editions - Best Headline Writing

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Don't be koi

Brian Freiburger

Judge's Comments: *Cute and a best headline qualifier if I ever read one!*

199

Editorial - Best Editorial

3rd Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

North Manitou Access

Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *This is what the op-ed page is for. hope the issue has been resolved.*

200

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Glan Lake

Brian Freiburger

Judge's Comments: *This tells a story. No caption needed. Shows what high school sports is all about. Raw, emotional. Paired with story, does a great job of putting you there.*

201

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Jeff LaCross

Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *Thank you veterans for our freedoms!*

202

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

2nd Place

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Disaster Declared

Brian Freiburger

Judge's Comments: *Solid story on state decision affecting the local farming industry. Good mix of local and state sources.*

203

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Sweet Cherries
Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *Overall a fine story with good local color and voice, explaining the relationship between weather and the sweet cherry harvest well. But if you are writing a serious agriculture story, next time leave out that someone's fruit stand is "cute by any standard." It's editorializing and undermines your credibility.*

204

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**1st Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Glan Lake Teacher
Brian Freiburger

Judge's Comments: *Good job of getting this story into the paper quickly. No doubt readers appreciated the information and details behind the band leaders' arrest. Great job! Stories like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily life.*

205

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**2nd Place**

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Milfoil
Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *Well, it certainly isn't sexy but I'm guessing milfoil is an important topic in a state with so many lakes. The writer did a good job of jumping on this story and getting it to readers quickly. Good job of tracking down all the details.*

206

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**3rd Place**

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

Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Kayaker
Brian Freiburger

Judge's Comments: *Drowning stories are never fun to write but it is important to keep the community informed and the writer did a good job of that in this instance, and quickly got the details in the paper for the public. Keep up the good work.*

207

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place
Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Manitous Access
Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *good explanation of a unique topic*

208

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place
Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Missing pony found
Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge's Comments: *A feel good story that gives you the warm fuzzy feeling. Great job.*

209

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

4th Place
Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan
Moeggenberg
Alan Campbell

Judge's Comments: *Writer Alan Campbell tells a great story of a professional basketball player back home on the family farm, reflecting on how different the WNBA was nearly 20 years ago. Bet this was a popular story in the hometown paper.*

210

Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Maricopa (Arizona) Monitor

Cypress Point Retirement Community

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge's Comments: *The ad is like receiving a special invitation to a welcoming and inviting place. Who would not want to go visit?*

211

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

4th Place

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

Maricopa (Arizona) Monitor

Boys & Girls Club of the Sun Corridor

Nick Arnold

Judge's Comments: *Great!*

212

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

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

Medford (Wisconsin) Star News

Bad dog, bad laws

Brian Wilson

Judge's Comments: *Well sourced and well written, exploring all sides of this issue.*

213

Editorial - Best Editorial

4th Place

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

Mid Hudson Times, Newburgh, New York

Is team building better in the mountains?

Carl Aiello

Judge's Comments: *Wonderfully done. The paper makes its point with well-documented facts, and proposes what should be done.*

214

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

Election Healing: Reflecting on Contention in Recent Local Races

Alex Hoeft

Judge's Comments: *Alex Hoeft's well-researched article, "Election Healing: Reflection on Contention in Recent Local Races," describes how the strain of Covid-19 and ensuing decisions made at the federal and state levels combined with increasingly partisan politics affected local governing bodies. Hoeft, writing for MoonshineInk.com, combines comments gleaned from in-depth interviews with former and current staff and officials with information from historical records to give readers a better understanding of how contention is nothing new but how exacerbated contention affected everything from the airport district board to utilities boards. More important, Hoeft reports on how officials realized things needed to change and agreed to work together, using concepts of compassionate communication, despite their differences. The balanced, well-organized, and clearly written article offers a path forward to other communities who may be struggling to recapture cooperative governance.*

215

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

3rd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

Bully in the Legislature

Mayumi Peacock

Judge's Comments: *In "Bully in the Legislature," Mayumi Peacock uses a carnival-game analogy to describe how a complex issue with both national and international roots—who pays for online information and how that affects community-based journalism—is playing out at the state level. Peacock, writing for MoonshineInk.com, draws on material from Free Action Fund and CalMatters to support the explanation.*

216

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

October 2024 Front Page

Mike English

Judge's Comments: *It took me a minute to figure out that the blurbs are teasers with page numbers for the stories inside. It's very clever! I like the graphic, that it's humorous but not bias (as a newspaper should be). I think the only thing I would change in this instance is maybe a different color for the logo and changing the font style of the date and issue info (because I always like to point out small things I would change if I created it). Great job!*

217

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

Town Planning In the Hot Seat

Alex Hoeft

Judge's Comments: *The number of on-the-record comments about the powers that be is remarkable. great job telling it like it is.*

218

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Trash

Heather Solomon

Judge's Comments: *Some things just need saying. This succinct, straight to the point rant is one of them.*

219

Editorial - Best Editorial

4th Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

A Teen's Perspective On The World

Kaya Siig

Judge's Comments: *Wise words, particularly in that final graf.*

220

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Moonshine (California) Ink

The Truckee Way

Mike English

Judge's Comments: *Very relevant to that community.*

221

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

One and Done

Melissa Siig

Judge's Comments: *judge best written of the top three*

222

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

The Subaru Bread Run

Eve Quesnel

Judge's Comments: *This the kind of story that newspaper find - that they tell -- that are lived in their communities. Well-written. Amazing photo. Total package!*

223

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

The Mushroom Man

Priya Hutner

Judge's Comments: *Outstanding story that weaves the take of the person with interesting facts about mushrooms. Well written*

224

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

Moonshine (California) Ink

Surviving the Unimaginable

Tiffany Connolly

Judge's Comments: *Excellent story that takes the experience of a person and illustrates the greater problem and how the organization described in the story helps to find solutions*

225

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 8,999

Moonshine (California) Ink

The Woman Who Spotted the Wildfire

David Fenimore

Judge's Comments: *Personal angle is good premise to get story out there, good use of 'that is \$20 million in today's dollars' to show impact to reader. Nice ending, good digging into woman's life and her kids. Quotes could be a bit long, breaking them up a bit. Maybe more on what happened to her family and how that impacted the initial story. Kind of leaves you hanging in a way.*

226

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

4th Place

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

Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner

'In Her Shoes' offers glimpse into effects of domestic violence

Sophia Aldous

Judge's Comments: *Well written. Domestic violence is difficult to write about, but the coverage of this event shows the importance of organizations that offer help.*

227

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

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

Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner

'Don't offer a moose a muffin'

Sophia Aldous

Judge's Comments: *Short but very readable. The headline is great!*

228

Editorial - Best Editorial

4th Place

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

Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner

My family loves the county fair

Michelle Nedved

Judge's Comments: *Light, fun, and promotes a community asset. Not as heavy or deep as other submissions, but better written than most*

229

Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Newport (Washington) Miner/Gem State Miner

2024Voice-Summer
The Miner Staff

Judge's Comments: *This publication has a lot of good informative information.*

230

Best Newspaper Promotion

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Break our website
Amy Menerey

Judge's Comments: *Great use of font.*

231

Best Small-Page Ad

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Black Hills Vigilantes
Amy Menerey

Judge's Comments: *Incredibly attention grabbing. Probably in need of a better call to action but still impressive*

232

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Salmonella outbreak
Mary Stroka

Judge's Comments: *Good piece that goes beyond just looking at a local outbreak, and give information on the impact nationally. Giving actionable information on the illness a real plus also.*

233

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Local ballot errors, Investigation continues
Alexis Barker

Judge's Comments: *Excellent reporting and follow up. The box showing previous errors was an excellent addition to the story. Quality work all the way around. A+*

234

Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
News Letter Journal Socials
NLJ Staff

Judge's Comments: *The News Letter Journal effectively uses video and Facebook to alert the public during emergencies and share key civic meetings, helping keep the community informed. While strong on consistency and transparency, it would benefit from more field reporting and layered storytelling to elevate its impact.*

235

Column - Best Sports Column

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Touch the line
Sonja Karp

Judge's Comments: *Oh, the world of "suicide drills" on a basketball court. A conditioning drill. And a life lesson. Really well done column that winds up with the "life lesson" part.*

236

Editions - Best Headline Writing

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
News Letter Journal
NLJ Staff

Judge's Comments: *Local ballot errors: After the recent nationwide controversy, I definitely wanted to read this story. The Journal didn't shy away from this with a nice bold headline.*

237

Photo - Best Feature Photo

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Any which way you can
Stefanie Roth

Judge's Comments: *Just a wonderful shot -- it's full of movement and thrilling on a visceral level, but it also piques the curiosity: How did this little rider wind up backwards??*

238

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Hard ride
Walter Sprague

Judge's Comments: *Extremely close competition between first and second place in this category. This one rises to the top due to the difficulty of getting this good a shot of both cowboy and horse midfall. Well done.*

239

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
Striving to honor veterans, Honoring vets
Michael Alexander, KateLynn Slaamot

Judge's Comments: *A nicely-prepared, well-presented set of stories on a World War II veteran and the effort to give him and thousands of others their due recognition.*

240

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
News Letter Journal, New Castle, Wyoming
A day for remembrance
KateLynn Slaamot

Judge's Comments: *I really enjoyed this report. What an experience. Great job of recounting the horrifying experience for your readers. I can't help but wonder why it wasn't on Page 1? (It would have been in my newspaper!) Keep up the good work.*

241

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
The Odessan, Odessa, Missouri
Covert County Business
Hannah Spaar, Melody Cook

Judge's Comments: *Kudos to you for this dogged coverage!*

242

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

Non-daily Division circ. 2,000-3,999
Ojai (California) Valley News
V.C. parks now tree graveyards
Kimberly Rivers

Judge's Comments: *Our most important duty is to keep an eye on government, and this is an excellent example.
Clear, concise description of a "how could this have happened?" decision.*

243

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

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

Ojai (California) Valley News

Gov. Newsom: Trading free press for monopoly money

Laura Rearwin Ward

Judge's Comments: *Nice job calling out the governor for selling out our profession.*

244

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

Ojai (California) Valley News

Lisa Hester lived a life of faith, love and friendship

Marianne Ratcliff

Judge's Comments: *Touching story of community well written.*

245

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

2nd Place

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

Ojai (California) Valley News

'Think Again': County fights 'shadow' fentanyl epidemic

Grant Phillips

Judge's Comments: *First person testimony by parent was effective*

246

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

1st Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestMultipleAdertiserSection_PCPSep2024_PCFootballPreview

Park Cities People

Judge's Comments: *Very professional.*

247

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestMultipleAdvertiserSection_April2024_UP100

Park Cities People

Judge's Comments: *Made me want to go visit spots there.*

248

Best Series Ad Idea, Color

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestSeriesAdIdea-Color_RescueAir-Spadea_Aug-Oct-Nov-Dec2024

Tana Hunter, Melanie Thornton, Emma Saldivar

Judge's Comments: *Very simple design make the ads stand out.*

249

Column - Best Serious Column

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestSeriousColumn_PCPMay2024pg2_RollingThroughParkCities

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *Sarah Hodges, writing for Park Cities People, packs a lot of information in her short account of riding a local bus. After noting the price of a ticket (\$2.50) and the \$12.7 million in support from two local districts, Hodges wondered what kind of service taxpayers were receiving from the one bus route running through the two districts. So she packed up her kids and decided to find out. In "Rolling through the Park Cities on Bus 237," Hodges recounts her observations, experiences with the schedule and app, and the difference weather can make. Clear, concise writing, in-person reporting, and attention to details make this short column stand out.*

250

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

3rd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

Best SpecialNewsSportsNicheFeatsectionorEdition_May2024_20under40

Park Cities People

Judge's Comments: *Great to see recognition for so many young people working with passion.*

251

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestBusinessFeatStory_PCPNov2024pg26_GarageBarber

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *I love stories about young people finding their niche. He's an artist - and so is the writer. Great job.*

252

Story-Series - Best Business Story

3rd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestBusinessStory_PCPAug2024pg6_AppointmentatDPS

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *Well done! The web is rife with online scams and your story validates and gives credibility to a legitimate business offering a wonderful service. Good job.*

253

Story-Series - Best Business Story

4th Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestBusinessStory_PCPLJune2024pg43_Mahjong

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *I had to look up "Mahjong" to find out what it was. Fascinating niche to market a specialty product. This story has a comfortable pace and is easy to read.*

254

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestFeatStory-NonProfile_PCPMay2024pg30_AnimalLoverHelpsRooster

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *Great story that is a breath of fresh air. Nice photos to add to it. Bravo.*

255

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestFeatStory-Profile_PCPDec2024pg31_Don'tThrowAwayThatEmptyCerealBox

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *A brisk look at a glass artist. Gets the reader in and out.*

256

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

BestSportsStory_PCPDec2024pg24_DeterminationBeyondtheMat

Todd Jorgenson

Judge's Comments: *Great story on the efforts of one girl to make a change in her community.*

257

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

2nd Place

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

Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas

PreservingLocalHistory_PCPCApril2024_UPHistoryQuiz

Sarah Hodges

Judge's Comments: *Not exactly a riveting read, because it is a quiz. But it is a bold entry in history-filled competition.*

258

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

Coverage of Philadelphia 76ers conflict

Lauren Rowello

Judge's Comments: *Great coverage of a community issue from the perspective of residents who continue to fight hard for the neighborhood they love.*

259

Column - Best Serious Column

4th Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

What President Joe Biden Told Me

Mark Segal

Judge's Comments: *Mark Segal, writing in the Philadelphia Gay News, shares how a chance comment during a short meeting with former President Biden following the opening of an iconic visitor center has given him pause. Segal, who as an 18-year-old in 1969 was present when police "barged in" to the Stonewall Inn and who is one of only a few remaining witnesses to the events of that night and of the next few days, spoke last year at the opening of the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center in New York City. In "What President Joe Biden told me," Segal recounts how after the ceremony, he spoke briefly with the former president who hugged him and then said five words that stunned him: "You could have been killed." At 18, Segal writes, it had not occurred to him that he might die during those events. Fifty-five years later? Segal says he needs time to process the thought. Segal gives us all food for thought about our own mortality and about what we are doing in the meantime.*

260

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

Déjà vu

Jeremy Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Usually editorials explain a situation and take a stand on how that situation should be addressed. Strong editorials back that explanation and stance with facts, research of various types, interviews with pertinent people, and a reasoned course of action. But occasionally an editorial simply acknowledges the feelings of its readership in response to an event. Jeremy Rodriguez's "Déjà vu," written for the Philadelphia Gay News and appearing on November 6, 2024, is one such editorial. Rodriguez recaps the presidential elections of 2016, 2020, and 2024—the day before this editorial appeared. He expresses fears for what the future might hold. But most important, Rodriguez notes that there is a time to act but there also is a time to process emotions. Rodriguez acknowledges his need to process his grief, and he makes sure his readers know it is OK to take time to grieve, too. This, too, is an important editorial statement.*

261

General Excellence

2nd Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

Philadelphia Gay News

PGN Staff

Judge's Comments: *Advocacy Journalism is tough to judge here. However, it's professionally crafted with excellent writing, heavily personalized for readers' engagement. Exceptional advertising display. Missing focused editorial section; limited dominant photos. However, opinion pieces, including editorial (the paper's view) were issue-focused and written with force! Good coverage of democrats' president campaign stops in community.*

262

Photo - Best Photo Essay

1st Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News
Pride Weekend
Kelly Burkhardt

Judge's Comments: *Great photo essay capturing many faces and people from an event that is clearly important to your readers. Congrats for not skimping on the space to share this visual journalism.*

263

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News
Celebrating 48 LGBTQ+ Leaders
Jeremy Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Kudos for recognizing the hard work of so many who make an impact in your community.*

264

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News
Alcohol addiction and the LGBTQ+ community
Victoria A. Brownworth

Judge's Comments: *Affecting pieces about two of America's most open secrets--well-written tying in both the celebration of American alcohol culture with its impact and fracturing of every facet of life and the confluence of the gay club culture which worked as an avenue of liberation instead of libation.*

265

Story-Series - Best Health Story

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News
Reporter's notebook: Cancer
Victoria A. Brownworth

Judge's Comments: *Well told personal story*

266

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

As legislation lulls, Pennsylvanians struggle with the current name change process

Lauren Rowello

Judge's Comments: *Great job explaining the process and pitfalls of undergoing a name change if you're trans or nonbinary. A thorough reporting job. The writer did a great job of putting a face to the story and keeping it interesting from start to finish. Keep up the good work!*

267

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

3rd Place

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

Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Gay News

Post-election impact on the LGBTQ+ community

Jeremy Rodriguez and Lauren Rowello

Judge's Comments: *Good reporting on an important subject.*

268

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

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

Pinedale Roundup

'Hope' lost and found in Daniel, WY

Cali O'Hare

Judge's Comments: *Very in-depth story, with good context of previous aspects.*

269

Photo - Best Photo Essay

3rd Place

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

Pinedale Roundup

Bringing history to life

Cali O'Hare

Judge's Comments: *Nice shots*

270

Story-Series - Best Sports Story**2nd Place**

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

Pinedale Roundup

Pedigree Stage Stop mushers close in on finish line

Cali O'Hare

Judge's Comments: *Well-written for what it is, though the construction of the article is confusing, with the headline and lead paragraphs about the sled dog race mushers as a whole but then only one team focused on for the rest of the article, with no mention of any of the others. Either change the headline and lead so it reads as a feature article, or make some mention of the leaders of the race so it reads as a straight-news article.*

271

Best Reporting on Local Government**4th Place**

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

Port Townsend (Washington) and Jefferson County Leader

Meredith Jordan

James Robinson

Judge's Comments: *the conflicting "facts" of this case are head-spinning. great job following through.*

272

Column - Best Serious Column**3rd Place**

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

Port Townsend (Washington) and Jefferson County Leader

Journalism 101, standards of conduct, and 'The Yellow Kid'

Meredith Jordan

Judge's Comments: *Whining local politicians should be called out when they pull stunts like this. Did you make them uncomfortable? Good, that's because you were doing your job! Great job making your point and explaining the background of what transpired.*

273

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

Daily Division

Portland (Maine) Press Herald

Jan. 27 front page

Zack Aldrich

Judge's Comments: *Nice looking front page with four stories. The main (no pun intended) focus is on a large lobster image accompanying story. Headlines and drop heads maybe a bit too wordy, but there appears to be attention to detail in spacing.*

274

Editions - Best Headline Writing

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Portland (Maine) Press Herald

Best headline writing, May 25 and Nov. 2

Zack Aldrich, Brian Robitaille, Lynley Price, Debbi Hardy

Judge's Comments: *Shortstop Showman was catchy, and told about his position and abilities at the same time.*

The play of the term "vital signs" in the campaign signs story was catchy ... and I caught it!

275

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

3rd Place

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

Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota

Opinion pages

Molly McRoberts

Judge's Comments: *nice personal feel. love the local cartoon effort*

276

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota

Ava's smile still bright while battling rare cancer

Molly McRoberts

Judge's Comments: *Well-written, interesting and educational. This story should be included in journalism 101 text books on how to handle delicate topics, such as a child with cancer. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the story and couldn't wait to meet Ava in person. Stories like this remind readers why journalism continues to play an important role in their lives.*

277

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

4th Place

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

Potter County News, Gettysburg, South Dakota

Gettysburg teen's scars...

Molly McRoberts

Judge's Comments: *Really strong and detailed feature on a high school athlete who overcame double knee surgeries, one of them involving a cadaver donation.*

278

Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas

BestAdvertorialorSponsoredEditorial_PHPJun2024pg1_ConciergeMedicalTeam

Preston Hollow People

Judge's Comments: *This entry delivers a clean, professional layout anchored by a polished portrait photo. The writing exudes authority, professionalism, and warmth, articulating the value of concierge medicine without sounding elitist. It places a strong emphasis on service differentiation, teamwork, and patient care. There's a nice rhythm in the storytelling. A touch*

more originality or visual creativity would have elevated this to the top spot, but it remains a model of tasteful advertorial execution.

279

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

2nd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Gold Rush Days

Kim Draper

Judge's Comments:

280

Best Informational Graphic

3rd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Beat the heat

Anita Duran

Judge's Comments: *Great use of visual ties ins.*

281

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Missing, then murdered

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *Strong writing, a powerful story at a local level that plays out too many times in Indigenous communities. Powerful and heartbreaking.*

282

Best Front Page Design

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
Ranger front page
Anita Duran

Judge's Comments: *Great design, content, layout. Nice job*

283

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

Non-daily Division circ. 4,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
The cost of transparency
Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *This newspaper is doing what good journalists do - investigating a problem, providing detailed results. Great story on an important issue for every citizen.*

284

Column - Best Serious Column

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
10 Thanksgivings
Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *Wow. Had to be a tough column to write, and relive. Your Kong sounds like the kind of a guy who enjoyed making a difference in the lives of others ... including yours.*

285

Column - Best Serious Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
Bounty of Mother's Day
Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *Lots of memories shared. Glad you've still got your Mom. I can appreciate the fishing for supper story, but I was about 9 and we were blessed with a garden to finish out the meal.*

286

Editions - Best Headline Writing

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Riverton Ranger headline writing

Staff

Judge's Comments: *As an aside, you have a really nice layout and presentation ...*

I loved "Clear as mud" and it fit the story well.

While you didn't note, I took your "Race against nature" as an entry and worked well. Great art.

287

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

2nd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Riverton Ranger, local news coverage

Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Austin Beck-Doss, Carl Cote

Judge's Comments: *Your paper could get an award just for the aesthetic flow alone, whoever does your layout, kudos - too many papers nowadays are busy with too much visual noise, I appreciate your formatting.*

I appreciate your content's variety, as well as the pacing of the issues you've put together. Good work.

288

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Riverton Ranger use of photos

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Nice balloon photos and display. Terrific sports photos by Carl Cote. Nicely done!*

289

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

You work for us

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *Honestly not a great entry. Tells the tale of a citizen removed from a meeting, but says nothing about her behavior that led to it.*

290

Editorial - Best Editorial

3rd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Efficiency or overreach?

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *It would have helped if the news piece that the editorial was referring to was included in the letter sent. The editorial's tone reads like a rant more than a reasoned response to a city action*

291

FOI - Freedom of Information

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Ranger FOI

Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *With the exception of an opening essay, which was a bit aggressive for my tastes, this was a darn near perfect series. Good work was done in preparation, you called out an important issue and backed it up with pertinent data, and you gave a voice to citizens watching over government malpractice. Stellar work.*

292

General Excellence

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
Riverton Ranger, general excellence
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Very attractive front pages. I hope you won something in that category. In-depth news and local features along with fun design and overall good look made this a very tough category to judge.*

293

Photo - Best Photo Essay

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
Jurassic Classic
Carl Cote

Judge's Comments: *Stunning photos make this an easy winner. Great job at capturing fast-moving action. I especially love the photos with the bikes over the head, especially the woman with riveting expression. Excellent job in letting the photos tell the story of the Jurassic Classic!*

294

Photo - Best Photo Essay

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger
Pulling each other through
Carl Cote

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful scenic shots with people incorporated into them. I love the photos of the swimmer and woman climbing the mountains. Beautifully done!*

295

Photo - Best Sports Photo

2nd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Colter Nun

Carl Cote

Judge's Comments: *Nice angle. Tells a story and just fun to look at. Crop bottom blurred dirt to give calf more emphasis.*

296

Rookie Reporter of the Year**2nd Place**

Non-daily Division

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Marit Gookin Rookie Reporter of the Year

Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Every story we tell should be about people. These entries are, complete with history, science and a little government. Stories are entertaining, informative and in some cases heartbreaking. Well done!*

297

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**1st Place**

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

SageWest faces suit

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *such a sad story!! Handled very clearly, including other allegations which all add up to a sad story.*

298

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**2nd Place**

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Fed. suit alleges RPD racism

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *No one likes bullies. The writer did a good job of explaining the issues of the officer, and his help with the community, which went unappreciated by his peers.*

299

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Business fraud series

Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Who knew this type of fraud was going on?*

300

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

3rd Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Mosquito/West Nile series

Marit Gookin

Judge's Comments: *Interesting subject, multiple sources and an entertaining read. One of my old mayors used to say that the only mosquitoes the bug sprayer killed were the ones that hit the windshield, but the citizens demanded it.*

301

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

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

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Missing, then murdered

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *Far and away the best of the lot -- a compelling tale written masterfully. Hats off.*

302

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 8,999

Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger

Chief Black Coal

Sarah Squires

Judge's Comments: *'These items pick you' is a tremendous quote. I would have put it in a break out on the front to tease readers to go inside. Well flowing story and good choice to put bio at end and then wrap up with final quote was excellent ending. 'It had been in a box in his attic.' I would lead with Temple Smith had it in a box in his attic to establish him as source and not confuse with previous source.*

303

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

2nd Place

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

Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota

VBS - Breaker Rock Beach

Heather Johnson

Judge's Comments:

304

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

4th Place

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

Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota

It's Planting Season - Pepsi

Heather Johnson

Judge's Comments: *Great use of space and photo*

305

Column - Best Serious Column

1st Place

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

Rock County Star Herald, Luverne, Minnesota

We're on the same lonely dock, but our ship will come in on the other side

Lori Sorenson

Judge's Comments: *You are in an exclusive club that no parent should ever have to be in. Sadly, we see more stories like this than should be, of the "Forever xx" club of youth. The last three paragraphs really show how you have managed to get through your grief. It isn't easy to write about loss of any loved one. Your column, the headline and that somber image of the dock made a beautiful package. Congratulations on 1st place hardly seems right, considering your pain. Thank you for sharing your journey with your readers. Keep a copy of your column in your wallet, if you aren't already.*

306

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

Front Page Design - Rockwall 3

Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *Very compelling design and content. Great Job.*

307

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

Unveiling Discrepancies - Editorial - Rockwall.pdf

Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *Combines decent information with description of issue and a call to action*

308

Photo - Best Feature Photo

3rd Place

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas

I'm not going to do it! - Feature Photo - Rockwall

Laurie White King

Judge's Comments: *Adorable! Congrats to the photographer who caught this shot and the photo editor who realized that the little kid stole this photo. Makes any parent who will recognize that look laugh out loud.*
Warm and memorable.

309

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 9,999
Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
Performing Arts Story - Rockwall
Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *Interesting story. Solid reporting. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.*

310

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas
Investigation continues - Sports Story - Rockwall
Kent Miller

Judge's Comments: *Strong investigative piece. It could have used a stronger headline for the entire package, but the information was solid.*

311

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
San Fernando (California) Valley Sun
Local Cancer Survivor is Named Grand Marshal in SFV Veterans Day Parade
Gabriel Arizon

Judge's Comments: *Well done!*

312

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
San Fernando (California) Valley Sun
The Northeast San Fernando Valley gets greened
Diana Martinez, Alejandro JMS Martinez, Gabriel Arizon

Judge's Comments: *Engaging series of how citizenry can take charge of neglected lands & spaces whilst also teaching future generations how to become stewards of both natural resources as well as provided assets.*

313

Photo - Best Photo Essay

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
Santa Paula (California) Times
Welcoming Santo Niño de Atocha
Joseph Garcia, Santa Paula Times

Judge's Comments: *Crisp, clear photos capturing so much of the event. Well done*

314

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

Daily Division
Sidney (Nebraska) Sun-Telegraph
Heroes Save Christmas
Mike Motz, Barbara Perez

Judge's Comments:
A local re-enactment of the Grinch who stole Christmas as though it was a real story. Cute.

315

General Excellence, College Division

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Signpost, (Weber State University)

The Signpost

Brisa Odenthal, editor-in-chief

Judge's Comments: *The Signpost* presents a well-executed, polished student newspaper with strong editorial standards. Its April 16 issue stood out for its investigative piece on cold cases in Utah, a sensitive, nuanced, and informative feature with compelling quotes, data visualizations, and human interest at its core.

While its design is clean and consistent, it leans more conventional and subdued in visual tone. The November 12 issue is primarily a graduation list edition, which, while useful for the campus audience, offers little journalistic depth. The Nov. 5 issue provides solid reporting on financial aid options, though it lacks the hard-hitting edge or community watchdog work seen in the Sun. The Signpost's reporting is clear, accurate, and thoughtful, making it a reliable student news source. It would benefit from more original investigative reporting and a bit more risk-taking in its editorial scope to push it to the next level.

316

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Sioux City Journal

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Clean front page with just two stories (vertical presentation) and refer info at the bottom. The main image is cunningly offset with a cut-out mug shot. Good use of subheads to help break up type.*

317

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Too cool for comfort

Caitlin Yamada

Judge's Comments: *Smart accountability reporting and excellent use of freedom of information requests to find out what was going on with a long-delayed local project.*

318

Column - Best Humorous Column

2nd Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

You too can be an influencer

Bruce Miller

Judge's Comments: *Every generation has its version of a generation gap.*

319

Column - Best Serious Column

3rd Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Homeless student finds home at school

Nick Hytrek

Judge's Comments: *Nick Hytrek, writing for the Sioux City Journal, spotlights a high school senior who has had multiple roofs over her head the past several years—none of which have been her home. In "Homeless student finds home at school," Hytrek describes the student's journey from living in a home with two parents and a sibling to her mother's leaving, then living with relatives or friends or in a series of hotel rooms with her father and sibling. Through it all, the student found a home at school, joined the school's chapter of Educators Rising, and has earned scholarships to help her become a teacher herself. For the most part, Hytrek steps back and lets readers hear the student's story through her own words and those of a school counselor, adding weight to this look at a different kind of homelessness and of the inner resiliency one student developed along the way.*

320

Column - Best Sports Column

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000 or more

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

'For each other and our school'

Nick Hytrek

Judge's Comments: *Well-told perspective on a high school basketball team's first win in 114 games, bolstered by comments from team members.*

321

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

1st Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Sioux City Journal

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This publication looks engaged in their community and it shows through their writing.*

322

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Shine more light on WITCC settlement

Dave Dreeszen

Judge's Comments: *An editorial is the perfect place for a publication to call out a local official for failing to engage with the public (especially the media). This well-written editorial even lays out the questions reporters would like to ask the college president.*

323

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

3rd Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Sioux City Journal

Bruce Miller, Dave Dreeszen

Judge's Comments: *The writing is good and the layout exceptional. Overall quality work.*

324

FOI - Freedom of Information

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal
Too cool for comfort
Caitlin Yamada

Judge's Comments: *This is excellent work, and a demonstration of exemplary journalism. I'm biased, but I wish there were more of the details you shared in the context for judging section of your entry in the body of the article itself to illustrate how the story is pertinent to FOI. It's a pretty good sign my only criticism of the story is "I wish there were more of it!"*

325

General Excellence

2nd Place
Daily Division
Sioux City (Iowa) Journal
Sioux City Journal
Staff

Judge's Comments: *This publication had consistently strong layout, including some instances of creative ways of bringing straight facts to the readers.*

326

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

1st Place
Daily Division
Sioux City (Iowa) Journal
Riverside flooding
Tim Hynds

Judge's Comments: *This photo really captures the drama of this disaster.*

327

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

3rd Place
Daily Division
Sioux City (Iowa) Journal
BNSF bridge explosion
Tim Hynds

Judge's Comments: *Nicely done*

328

Photo - Best Sports Photo

2nd Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Fumble recovery

Tim Hynds

Judge's Comments: *This looks like the photographer was right in the middle of the play.*

329

Review - Best Review

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Chalamet shines as Dylan in 'Complete Unknown'

Bruce Miller

Judge's Comments: *Review of Dylan BIOPIC. The author is in touch with the movie peppers opinion throughout.*

330

Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Siouxland Life

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Imagery and stories make this a must pick up issue!*

331

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

1st Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Sioux City Journal

Ryan Timmerman, Logan Shanks, Dave Dreeszen

Judge's Comments: *Wide variety of coverage with local teams getting front page play.*

332

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

2nd Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

'And then the next rain came'

Jared McNett

Judge's Comments: *Covering natural disasters quickly and accurately is of the utmost importance as misinformation can spread easily. These stories sum up a disaster well in a way that allows people to understand the basic facts in a timely manner.*

333

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

What's to become of ex-Tyson offices?

Mason Dockter

Judge's Comments:

334

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

1st Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Woodbury County Drug Court

Nick Hytrek

Judge's Comments: *A citizen-based court for drug users focused on helping more than punishing. Fairly informative, but forced to focus more on qualitative statements over*

quantitative because of a lack of studies. Shouldn't these stories have triggered a study, perhaps as an investigative piece?

335

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

American dream cut short

Dolly Butz

Judge's Comments:

The story of an immigrant who went missing and ended up dead. Almost a profile feature so much time is dedicated to his story. The story would have been stronger if it used his story to jump into the bigger problem, which is addressed only in passing here.

336

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

Daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Family, corgi, important in returning to normal

Dolly Butz

Judge's Comments: *This story pulls at the heartstrings. Very nicely done.*

337

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

1st Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

The 'real' family band

Bruce Miller

Judge's Comments: *A well-written story. Sharing just enough of the history and leading us into the surviving members of the family and how they keep doing the thing they have always done -*

sharing music. I enjoyed this and even went to YouTube to listen to their biggest hit. Congrats on 1st place. Bruce Miller knows how to craft a story, great reading for a Sunday morning.

338

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

1st Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

A Ghosts story

Jared McNett

Judge's Comments: *This is a really nice long-form story remembering the Sioux City Ghosts, an all-Black softball team that won 2,000 games, entertained crowds and became softball's Globetrotters around the country. Fascinating story. Great details and interviewing.*

339

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

1st Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

June flooding in Siouxland

Staff

Judge's Comments: *OUTSTANDING! What solid reporting on an issue that affected every single one of your readers. Very informative. The writing painted a picture of the destruction that was easy to read and comprehend. Kudos to the editor who organized this team effort and saw it through to completion. I'm certain your readers enjoyed the comprehensive coverage. Captivating photos. This sort of reporting reminds your readers why newspapers remain a valuable part of their daily lives. Keep up the good work!*

340

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

3rd Place

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

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

When racing was the rage

Mason Dockter

Judge's Comments:

The history of a local greyhound racing track until its eventual demise. Some interesting storytelling.

341

Video Journalism

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal

Double hitting: State Rep. J.D. Scholten talks Sioux City Explorers

Hannah Schuh, Logan Shanks

Judge's Comments: *Exceptional story marked briefly in this video. Reporter guided the subjects; great context; focused comments by the politician/baseball pitcher.*

342

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

3rd Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Shortage of court reporters affecting regulators, district courts

Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Good piece on a lesser-known issue affecting localities.*

343

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

4th Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

26 illegals in Oklahoma are potential candidates for Trump's deportation order

Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Juxtaposition of this story with a more global look at the problem was effective.*

344

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

DA to investigate allegations of Open Meetings violation

Eric Swanson

Judge's Comments: *One of the more thorough pieces I've read this year. Good work.*

345

Best Use of a Double-Truck

4th Place

Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 2000

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Continuing Coverage of the Hand Sanitizer Fires

JJ Francais, Curtis Awbrey

Judge's Comments: *It's unusual, but not unheard of, for a double-truck spread to consist primarily of text. In this case, it makes sense. The Southwest Ledger has, as part of the aftermath of the corona virus pandemic, been covering problems with the disposal of surplus hand sanitizer, much of which was tainted with poisonous ingredients. This spread, under the banner "Continuing Coverage of the Hand Sanitizer Fires," features four articles that trace the history of the sanitizer being consigned to a disposal company and the resulting legal disputes; the injunctions pending in the various cases; the number of fires caused by the sanitizer becoming exposed to the elements; and the lawsuits filed among various parties. One article, accompanied by two photos, takes up the upper two thirds of the left page. Two articles, accompanied by two photos, take up the upper two thirds of the right page. The fourth who-is-suing-whom article runs across the bottom third of both pages and is accompanied by one photo. Divider lines keep order, and this effective layout makes it easy for readers to go from one article to the next without having to search for jumped articles elsewhere in the paper.*

346

Column - Best Serious Column

3rd Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Father, son give insightful review of Temple Grandin

James Finck

Judge's Comments: *James Finck, every column I read of yours was wonderful. This one I really connected with as I have a couple of grandsons who have autism. I loved the Kristofferson piece.*

I do not know how I never knew of you or your columns, being that I am just a couple towns away from you in a neighboring county and have been in news for 30 plus years. Now I am a fan of your work! Keep up the great work, your columns cover a diverse range of topics and are all well written. Congratulations on 3rd place in a big pool of entries and many great writers.

347

Column - Best Serious Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
10-8 Bidding farewell to Kris Kristofferson
James Finck

Judge's Comments: A well researched and excellent piece of writing put this column into the win pile. Not every serious column has to be about politics or even local issues. As writers, journalists have an obligation to keep the history alive and you have done just that with the Kristofferson piece. Thanks for a great read! Congratulations on 4th place!

348

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
5-21-24; 11-12-24
Southwest Ledger staff

Judge's Comments: Smaller paper, but had lots of local photos

349

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Education for County Commissioners
Jim Cox

Judge's Comments: Could this cartoon not be fitting in many other areas of the country? Great entry.

350

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Kiamichi River
Jim Cox

Judge's Comments: *What a way to bring a story to life in a different way with a twist. Great details right down to the colors.*

351

News and Opinion on Public Corruption

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
1-23 Audit uncovers issues in Payne County
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *I really like the formatting of this piece, makes it more concise and detail oriented where it could otherwise be very confusing and subjective. Good content, this needed investigating*

352

News and Opinion on Public Corruption

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
3-5 Lawtonian pleads guilty
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Hopefully a piece like this will discourage future crime. Well reported, similar to the other piece I awarded, I enjoy the bulleted format, and your writers use it well.*

353

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Westwin protesters disrupt Lawton City Council meeting
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Caught the moment, everyone's emotions worn on their faces.*

354

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
5-28 Military Hall of Fame
Debi DeSilver

Judge's Comments: *Any good war movie is not so much about war as it is about the people who are caught in it.*

Good stories about the soldiers are the same.

This is a story about people readers might have met in church or on line at a supermarket without knowing their amazing stories.

355

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
7-30 580 Pitch Contest awards thousands to local entrepreneurs
Mindy Ragan Wood

Judge's Comments: *Interesting story told in interesting manner. Great writing. Well-structured story packed with lots of information. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it. Stories like this remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work.*

356

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Pork Processing Plant
Curtis Awbrey

Judge's Comments: *A lot of work went into this story and it shows. Solid reporting. Why is the artwork/photo so small? Still, I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.*

357

Story-Series - Best Business Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Solar farms cropping up in southwest Oklahoma
Debi DeSilver

Judge's Comments: *Good job of reporting on a growing industry that are cropping up in communities and counties nationwide.*

358

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Lawton spending millions to rehab its sewage treatment plant
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *I'm recognizing this story because this reporter is really bird dogging this story, as we say in the South. It's an important issue, and the public needs someone to keep an eye on it. I would rate it higher if it were less procedural and transactional (based on reports and filings) and more on impact and human reactions.*

359

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Untapped Workforce Solutions
Mindy Ragan Wood

Judge's Comments: *Great series that taps on ideas that many may not have considered. Well written. Wonderful way to utilize in*

360

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

4th Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

U.S. Constitution 101

James Finck

Judge's Comments: *Great breakdown of the constitution with easy to understand pieces.*

361

Story-Series - Best Health Story

3rd Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Medical leadership drives cancer treatment in southwest Oklahoma

Debi DeSilver

Judge's Comments: *This story demonstrates how grant funding is improving healthcare and outcomes for patients. It is well written, and the lede is good.*

362

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

4th Place

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

Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma

Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting

Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *An incredibly thorough series*

363

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
'Town's End' development well underway
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Well-written, quality story.*

364

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,500
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
He helped end WWII and all he got was a lake: The story of Sen. Elmer Thomas
Don Armes

Judge's Comments: *Worthwhile learning about this. As one who was born at the end of WWII I can identify with how much this means to our nation. Very good job*

365

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma
Fentanyl central factor in opioid-related deaths
Mike W. Ray

Judge's Comments: *Good overview of actions being taken locally to combat Fentanyl abuse epidemic.*

366

Best Series Ad Idea, Color

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Sparta Independent, Chester, New York
NJ State Fair
Christina Scotti

Judge's Comments: *Attractive ads. Consistent, informative layout with eye-catching graphics.*

367

Best Informational Graphic

4th Place

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

Sparta Independent, Chester, New York

PFA's graphic illustration

Christina Scotti

Judge's Comments: *I think the depth, width and length of the pools should have been illustrated. Still, good idea.*

368

Column - Best Humorous Column

1st Place

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

Sparta Independent, Chester, New York

Coasters and Monkey Skeletons

Beth Quinn

Judge's Comments: *We've all been there -- too many coasters, or not enough. Well done!*

369

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

2nd Place

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

Sparta Independent, Chester, New York

'Too stressful': Why some students are saying no to standardized tests

Becca Tucker and Molly Colgan

Judge's Comments: *Interesting story on a topic becoming more and more common. Well researched and formulated.*

370

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

3rd Place

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

Sparta Independent, Chester, New York

PFAS levels in local water systems exceeding the EPA's new standard
Molly Colgan

Judge's Comments: *Well written & informative article with excellent use of info-graphics. Touching deftly on both the health & environmental factors that will impact the public as well as the expenditures for the situation to be addressed.*

371

Story-Series - Best Health Story

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Sparta Independent, Chester, New York
PFAs levels in local water systems exceeding the EPA's new standard
Molly Colgan

Judge's Comments: *Best all around. Nice graphics, looks like a lot of research*

372

Best Newspaper Promotion

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Stanton (Nebraska) Register
Road Rally
Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Eye Catching.*

373

Best Informational Graphic

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Stanton (Nebraska) Register
Jigowatt Tax Breakdown
Angelique Boyer

Judge's Comments: *Clever use of imagery to represent bitcoin tax proceeds*

374

Column - Best Sports Column

3rd Place

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

Stanton (Nebraska) Register

Coach Feels Her Mom By Her Side

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Emotional piece about a volleyball coach and her mom, and coping with her death while cherishing the memories. Nice touch, well done. Evoking emotions is so important. Clearly, the column does this.*

375

Story-Series - Best Business Story

3rd Place

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

Stanton (Nebraska) Register

Nothing Like This In The World

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Solid reporting. Well-planned and educational. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it.*

376

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

1st Place

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

Stanton (Nebraska) Register

He's An Animal

Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *Two big things in Nebraska: Football and FFA. Nicely written story on high school football star Garrett Hansen. Great descriptive writing. Good job!*

377

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

1st Place

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

Stanton (Nebraska) Register

Wilke Overcomes Injury
Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: *The best in class for sure. A great human-interest story told so well from start to finish.*

378

Best Informational Graphic

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Informational Graphic
Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *Effective graphic! Torn page effect adds a layer of depth, as do the highlighted material and the blacked-out portion. Simple, powerful.*

379

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Front Page Design
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Very attractive. Great use of a great photo and great use of white space. This editor really has a good eye for design.*

380

Civic - Community Service Award

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
CFC Sex Scandal
Kay Fate and Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *Powerful, detailed piece that evolved over time. Credit the reporter for gathering so much information through interviews that had to be extraordinarily challenging. Told the story while avoiding unnecessary detail, great balance.*

381

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Local News
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Just best because it had a good variety. great election coverage*

382

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Editorial Pages
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Lots of local commentary -- what makes a paper stay at the heart of its community.*

383

Legacy.com's

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
He was a powerhouse in school bus industry
Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *Tribute to a man who kept going right up to the end.*

384

Photo - Best Sports Photo

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-2,999
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

New Heights
Johnnie Phillips

Judge's Comments: *A well-timed shot that highlights this jumper's athleticism as well as his hair!*

385

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Special Section: Steele County Free Fair
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Fantastic special section from top-to-bottom. The features are great, as well as the design. It's a tremendous product.*

386

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Sports Section
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Crisp and professionally designed pages with a variety of professional sports coverage, great photos and attractive layout. Well done.*

387

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
Best Military Affairs Coverage
Staff

Judge's Comments: *"Shared Service" and AMVETS articles tell stories not often heard; backed with lots of supporting material on local folks who answered the call.*

388

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

3rd Place

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

Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

CFC Sex Scandal

Kay Fate and Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *An important series of stories — well done!*

389

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

2nd Place

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

Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

CFC Sex Scandal

Kay Fate and Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *Powerful series of stories involving a sexual assault. Thorough coverage. Well written.*

390

It's All About Audience

1st Place

Open

Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

It's All About Audience

Rick Bussler

Judge's Comments: *This is a newspaper that understands the importance of readership. It is reaching out again and again with attractive promotions to bring readers in. It is an example to emulate in the industry. Nicely done!*

391

NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Tampa Bay (Florida) Times

Separate ≠ Equal: Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education

Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

Judge's Comments: *Very, very informative publication. Readers and community should have learned much. Good job..*

392

NIE - Partnerships

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Tampa Bay (Florida) Times

Join the drive to conserve more water in Pasco County!

Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

Judge's Comments: *Congratulations on this excellent initiative- the project required a lot of work. It informed readers with quite a bit of detailed information.*

393

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

School board lawyer says school board must adopt new national LGBTQ regulations

Kristy Bailey

Judge's Comments: *Detailed story of why a council voted they way they did. Well written.*

394

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Buckhorn Road side meeting, rezoning, & annexation - story & sidebars (July 4, 2024)

Kristy Bailey

Judge's Comments: *The publisher and the reporter are right — the recess meeting-within-a-meeting stunk to high Heaven.*

395

Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Inadequate public notice regarding proposed new hotel tax

Tom Boney, Jr.

Judge's Comments: *Good coverage and ensuring that notices are properly done.*

396

News and Opinion on Public Corruption

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Tax administrator Jeremy Akins resigns, two tax dept. employees fired for manipulating valuations

Tomas Murawski

Judge's Comments: *This is an interesting and well-written piece! You balanced the two sides of the story very well; as far as feedback, I would note there are a couple of times the story mentioned someone's character - quotes might reinforce those a little more objectively. But that's a slight criticism.*

397

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

4th Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Best Sports Pages

Bob Sutton, John Adams, and staff

Judge's Comments: *Placing this one was easy. Very good coverage and well written. Would enjoy seeing this on a regular basis.*

398

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

3rd Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Local sheriff's deputies answer call to help pacify UNC's campus

Tomas Murawski

Judge's Comments: *I liked this sentence: Neither deputies nor Bearcat armored personnel carrier ended up being needed. Excellent introduction.*

399

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Faith, family, sports, and 'soaps' form cornerstones for new superior court judge

Kristy Bailey

Judge's Comments: *Thorough story telling of a pillar of the community focusing on all he holds dear. Well done interview and presentation.*

400

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

4th Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Allred sisters often hit the sand in college beach volleyball tournaments

Bob Sutton

Judge's Comments: *There is a deep field of entries, but what separates this story from about five others is the depth of knowledge the writer has of the athletes. The writer did his homework and is obviously a storytelling pro. Great job!*

401

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

4th Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Down, but never out; How Western Alamance put together the greatest soccer comeback in state history

Bob Sutton

Judge's Comments: *Great job at capturing the mood. And congrats to the team! Suggest tightening the lede.*

402

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

4th Place

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

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Local jurisdictions mobilize to help with Hurricane Helene relief in western NC

Tomas Murawski

Judge's Comments: *Well written article from a different perspective. It provides a good overview of how the community helped.*

403

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 2,500-4,999

The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina

Should sinking floor of Sesquicentennial Park be fixed – or the whole thing demolished

Tom Boney, Jr.

Judge's Comments: *It's obvious a lot of effort went into this piece. Great research, great sourcing. I was also pleased to see the newspaper editorial board take a stand. I hope it helped to preserve the park.*

404

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

1st Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Home, Spring 2024

Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful and creative layout and design. Such a great use of space and stunning photos and informative and interesting content.*

405

Best Informational Graphic

3rd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Tiburon HOA fights to undo accidental tax auction

Kevin Hessel

Judge's Comments: *Effective. This proves that a simple graphic will make a powerful point.*

406

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Businesses find ways to cope with rising costs, energy bills

Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Well done piece on local impact of high energy costs--an issue that crosses all states' borders.*

407

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

4th Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Report emphasizes urgent need to respond to sea-level rise, but peninsula efforts stall

Gretchen Lang

Judge's Comments: *Thorough and well-documented piece on a significant local issue. Well done.*

408

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

The Ark, Sept. 11

Kevin Hessel

Judge's Comments: *Very nice. Great use of photography and graphics.*

409

Best Reader-Generated Campaign

1st Place

Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Celestial events

Ark Readers

Judge's Comments: *The Ark publishes reader-submitted photos on its front page. One category of such photos is celestial events and the three photos included in this entry are striking examples of the beauty to be found when we look up. One is a once-in-every-80,000 years shot of a comet streaking across the evening sky. The other two capture the northern lights in all their magnificence. The Ark contextualizes the images by providing scientific information about the scenes.*

410

Best Reader-Generated Campaign

3rd Place

Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Sports Shout

Ark Readers

Judge's Comments: *Most local papers cover high school sports and a few may cover middle-school sports. But sports featuring younger teams? The Ark's "Sports Shout" space invites submissions from community members such as coaches and parents who send in brief write-ups of games written in full sportscaster lingo and accompanied by action photos and group shots. The sports covered vary with the seasons, but this regular feature highlighting a segment of the community seldom covered by reporters probably goes a long way in ensuring loyal readers now and in building a next-generation base of newspaper readers for the future.*

411

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

Non-daily Division circ. 2,000-3,999
The Ark, Tiburon, California
Tiburon HOA fights to undo accidental tax auction
Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Thorough, deep and detailed.*
The reporter didn't take the easy way out, taking the serious approach on something that easily could have been treated as another wacky government foul-up story.

412

Civic - Community Service Award

4th Place
Daily & Non-daily Division
The Ark, Tiburon, California
Martha Belongs to Marin
Francisco Martinez, Naomi Friedland

Judge's Comments: *A complex tale well told over time. These issues are very arcane to most people, but the reporter navigated them flawlessly and told the story in a manner coherent to readers.*

413

Editions - Best Headline Writing

1st Place
Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Ark, Tiburon, California
The Ark, Best Headlines
Kevin Hessel & Ark staff

Judge's Comments: *Good strong headlines tell what the story is about and if it is worth reading. Period. The Ark did it best.*

414

General Excellence

2nd Place
Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
The Ark, Tiburon, California
The Ark, General Excellence

Kevin Hessel & Ark staff

Judge's Comments: *This paper is a very crisp, colorful and professional publication I would expect from this geographic area (which I am very familiar with). The news writing was elite, front page a bit 'busy' but well done. Excellent advertising, deep local news coverage, awesome entertainment section. Really solid use of photos. Negatives that cost you first place include NO - yes NO - sports content!!! And a nearly total ignoring of an opinion page. Headlines across the pages were too long, too. A great job by all, but those elements kept you from top spot. Thank you.*

415

Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Belvedere will rework second-unit incentive to comply with state laws

Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland

Judge's Comments: *Good that the material was published but the article doesn't mention that's the reason the problem was discovered and sent back to local government for revision.*

416

Photo - Best Feature Photo

3rd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

As tides turn, anchor-outs reach for a way off the bay

Clara Lu

Judge's Comments: *Nice clear image of offshore live aboard seeking onshore home. Good composition; maybe tighter crop.*

417

Photo - Best Photo Essay

1st Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Hot start to summer

Leo Leung, Ted McDonnell

Judge's Comments: *Nicely done*

418

Review - Best Review

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Novato Theater Co. stages uproarious performance of 'Nunsense'

Michele Caprario

Judge's Comments: *A bit one-dimensional for a play review, but an entertaining play review peppered with opinion.*

419

Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

ArkBeat

Kevin Hessel & Ark staff

Judge's Comments: *This publication keeps locals in the know about what is happening in their community.*

420

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

3rd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

The Year in Review

Kevin Hessel & Ark staff

Judge's Comments: *Love the modern look of the design for this section and the creative way the staff recapped the year. Outstanding job.*

421

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

1st Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Tsunami warning puts disaster response to the test

Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland

Judge's Comments: *A 60-word single sentence lede is too long. But this is good solid coverage of how much more needs to be done to better implement public notification systems and coordinate media with emergency officials. Perhaps more tabletop and full-scale exercises will be suggested by the media in editorial opinions to better prepare for the future? The boxed sidebar explaining to the public how to be better informed during a disaster is excellent; the Red Cross tsunami cellphone app could've been included.*

422

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Candy Store owner says rent hike forcing closure

Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Excellent article. The personal story of the shop owner forced to close because of a high rent increase will resonate with readers. Thorough and factual.*

423

Story-Series - Best Business Story

3rd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Businesses find ways to cope with rising costs, energy bills

Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *A story that could resonate with any business owner in this country. Strong data. Thorough writing sprinkled with personal perspectives of local business owners.*

424

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

2nd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Tiburon student graduates from Redwood, College of Marin in three-week span

Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Great job with the use of quotes in this story.*

425

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**2nd Place**

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Report emphasizes urgent need to respond to sea-level rise, but peninsula efforts stall

Gretchen Lang

Judge's Comments: *This story is a winner because it provides the reader with insights from multiple sources. And it offers context and background from a journalist who has studied the issue. This is coverage that matters, and it's coverage that a reader will pay to read.*

426

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**1st Place**

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

As tides turn, anchor-outs reach for a way off the bay

Gretchen Lang

Judge's Comments: *Great writing, great education on a fascinating subject. The best of several strong entries from the Ark. These folks know how to write features.*

427

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**3rd Place**

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Teammates, friends turn rivals for girls tennis crown

Francisco Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Nice piece on a pair of high school tennis girls and close friends who played against each other for a championship and helped their team win a high school title.*

428

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

3rd Place

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

The Ark, Tiburon, California

Tsunami warning puts disaster response to the test

Kevin Hessel, Naomi Friedland

Judge's Comments: *I cannot imagine not receiving notices about a tsunami that may hit. This is a well-written article that leaves an important message. Good job.*

429

Website - Best Newspaper Website

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark, Tiburon, California

thearknewspaper.com

Kevin Hessel & Ark staff

Judge's Comments: *The Ark's website is clean, easy to navigate, and well-organized, reflecting the paper's trusted, hyperlocal focus. Its straightforward design puts content first, with clearly labeled sections, readable typography, and fast-loading pages. Social media links are conveniently placed at the top, helping connect readers to broader platforms while reinforcing community engagement. A small visual touch like the "Pick of the Week" photo adds charm and variety to the layout.*

However, the site lacks multimedia features. There are few videos, no audio elements, and minimal interactivity, which limits appeal for a more modern digital audience. Still, the site delivers solidly on clarity and function, serving its readers well with room to grow.

430

Best Informational Graphic

1st Place

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

The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida

Primary Election Results

Jessica Prevatt

Judge's Comments: *The best informational graphic is always one you don't notice. Functional and useful*

431

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

4th Place

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

The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida

Babysitter guilty in infant hot car death

Joel Addington

Judge's Comments: *Good job getting the family to talk, and persistent follow-up stories make this shine.*

432

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

3rd Place

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

The Baker County Press, Macclenny, Florida

Opioid settlement money

Joel Addington, Elizabeth Lucas, Brittany Wright

Judge's Comments: *Good ongoing coverage of dollars coming to the community, and plans to use them.*

433

Best Informational Graphic

2nd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Johnson County: By the numbers

Stacy Bronson

Judge's Comments: *Presentation of information is incredible with the background photo. Informational and useful*

434

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Buffalo Bulletin

Stacy Bronson

Judge's Comments: *Great photography, layout, design and content - really did a nice job!*

435

Best Online Album or Slide Show

3rd Place

Non-daily Division

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Johnson County Fair

Tanishka Poal, Cara Penquite, Marco Monterastelli

Judge's Comments: *Diversity of what is photographed makes this entry stand out.*

436

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

3rd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Best use of photos

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This paper uses photos well throughout the editions.*

437

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

1st Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Best editorial pages

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This is what a good community newspaper should do -- local editorials, local cartoons, good guest columns, letters to the editor, clean format.*

438

NIE - Partnerships

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin
Buffalo/The Pemmican
Staff/BHS students

Judge's Comments: *This was an excellent initiative and required much work - every newspaper should see this and start their own page or pages.*

439

Photo - Best Feature Photo

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin
First Lady Jennie Gordon branding
Ethan Weston

Judge's Comments: *When a photo makes you cringe and stare at the same time it is doing its job. The anguished cow is the focus of this vivid and powerful look at branding and vaccination in cow country. Well done!*

440

Photo - Best Sports Photo

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin
Hang on tight
Marco Monterastelli

Judge's Comments: *Love me some rodeo action! It's one of the more difficult sporting events to photograph as animals don't care that a camera is watching. Marcello Monterastelli did an outstanding job of being positioned to capture this steer wrestler complete with flying dirt clods frozen in (shutter speed) time.*

441

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

3rd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Salute to Agriculture

Bulletin staff

Judge's Comments: *The all-encompassing salute hits on all cylinders for exploring issues vital to agriculture, especially impressive was the article on farmers' mental health. To pay homage to an industry and field many say is dying nationwide, this serves as a love letter to all things ag. Articles are engaging and photography is outstanding--to put the reader into a personal space with the people who provide economic, environmental & physical sustenance.*

442

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

3rd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

The Perfect Storm

Jen Sieve-Hicks

Judge's Comments: *Outstanding story that weaves a lot of different threads together in a coherent way. It shows how farmers tried to adapt and the challenges they still face from the fire*

443

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

Buffalo's last logger

Alex Hargrave

Judge's Comments: *Interesting and well-told. Great use of quotes (some rather colorful at that) and weaving logging industry stats in the story. I'm certain your readers enjoyed it. This sort of story reminds your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work. Journalism is alive and well in your neck of the woods (see what I did there?)*

444

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 2,500-4,999

The Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

2024 Heritage Edition

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This is truly a phenomenal section, great photos, great layout, excellent writing. it would fit better in a different category, though.*

445

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

1st Place

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

The Crittenden Press, Marion, Kentucky

Marion's OD Alarm Bell

Chris Evans

Judge's Comments: *Good localizing of national story, with actionable information sidebars. Dominant photo especially effective.*

446

Best Advertising Idea

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Willows anniversary ad

Barry Anderson, Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *Love this. Ad rep and art department clearly go the extra mile for this client. Great idea and well executed*

447

Best Advertising Idea

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
Willows tri-tip map
Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *Ditto. Love this.*

448

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
Real Estate 3-1-24
Marvin Ancheta, Melanie Dela Cruz

Judge's Comments: *Nice layout.*

449

Best Public Notice Section

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
Public Notices 1/19/24
Melanie Dela Cruz

Judge's Comments: *Very easy to read.*

450

Best Real Estate Ad

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
Wilbur Properties
Marvin Ancheta

Judge's Comments: *Real Ad, nicely built, professional.*

451

Best Restaurant Ad

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Mike's Diner Bar

Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *This ad bursts with energy and urgency. The layout delivers excellent visual hierarchy, from the headline to the food images. The copy is concise but effective—"GO NINERS!" says it all. Creative composition and punchy design invite immediate action. A textbook example of successful event-driven restaurant advertising. A masterful use of food imagery and color. The clean layout makes the Eggs Benedict the visual star. Strategic use of orange and yellow echoes brunch tones, while copy delivers variety and clarity. It feels both indulgent and accessible. Elegantly simple and visually delicious—strong work.*

452

Best Series Ad Idea, Color

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Care Indeed

Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *Clean, consistent design. Simple message. Photos of people jump out, relatable to reader. Very eye-catching.*

453

Best Small-Page Ad

1st Place

Daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Quinto Sol

Marvin Ancheta

Judge's Comments: *Very visually appealing. Who would not want to give Quinto Sol a try?*

454

Best Use of Ad Color

1st Place

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

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Palo Alto Blueprint

Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *This ad wins for its conceptual brilliance and color control. The integration of blueprint aesthetics with a real-world kitchen is imaginative and brand-reinforcing. The cool blue tones communicate professionalism and precision, while warm accents add approachability. The visual metaphor is clear, and the layout supports both function and creativity flawlessly*

455

Best Use of Ad Color**2nd Place**

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

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Elia opening

Brandon Heinrichs

Judge's Comments: *A stunning food-forward ad with rich, appetizing color saturation. The use of classic Greek blue paired with vibrant food tones is both appropriate and enticing. The layout is balanced, and the message is elegant, though slightly less original in concept compared to the blueprint ad's striking dual-visual execution*

456

Best Front Page Design**4th Place**

Daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Trump guilty 5-31-24

Emily Mibach

Judge's Comments: *A busy looking front page that appears to have four zones: the crowded top zone promoting inside information, the main story, the secondary story plus a busy looking roundup, and footer information consisting of ads. Good presentation of the main story, but the rest tries to cover too much ground.*

457

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

Daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Tampering cop hired here

Emily Mibach

Judge's Comments: *Important reporting holding local law enforcement accountable for past actions.*

458

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

Daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

County slow to release Covid report

Elaine Goodman

Judge's Comments: *Great job staying on top of the county to get this report that was critical of its actions.*

459

Column - Best Serious Column

4th Place

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

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California

Google deal won't save journalism

Dave Price

Judge's Comments: *Good job explaining, analyzing and taking a clear stand, which might not be popular with the powers that be, on an important issue.*

460

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

3rd Place

Daily Division

The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
North Fair Oaks fire 6-3-24
Braden Cartwright

Judge's Comments: *This story presents a different kind of tragedy, the loss of future critical housing inventory. The incident itself is shocking, but the greater implication is heartbreaking.*

461

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

2nd Place

Daily Division
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
San Mateo County Sheriff controversy
Daily Post Staff, Braden Cartwright, Dave Price, Elaine Goodman, Amelia Biscardi

Judge's Comments:

462

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Daily Post, Palo Alto, California
Tragedy strikes local family
Emily Mibach

Judge's Comments: *This sad story shows no one is immune from the drug problem.*

463

Best Public Notice Section

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Daily Washington Law Reporter, Baltimore, Maryland
Daily Washington Law Reporter
Donald J. Nichols

Judge's Comments: *Very interesting way to do notices.*

464

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter
The Tobacco Days Issue
Diane Everson

Judge's Comments: *A very effective, informative and educational way to celebrate your area's history and sense of community. The photos and articles are very interesting and the ads show a great source of support for your area, it's people and it's history.*

465

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter
Edgerton Winter Sports Preview 2024
Diane Everson, Dave Wedeward

Judge's Comments: *An excellent overall preview of the Winter Sports season. This type of section is wonderful to support the area schools, athletes and fans to showcase upcoming sports, teams and premier athletes. The community support is well showcased through the advertising.*

466

Legacy.com's

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter
Warren Kukla
Tristan McGough

Judge's Comments: *A portrait of a man I would have like to have known. no one can ask for more than that.*

467

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-9,999

The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter

Tornado Damage

Ray Oswald

Judge's Comments: *Photo shows a lot about the story.*

468

Photo - Best Feature Photo

4th Place

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

The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter

Edgerton Children's Center Kindergarten Students

Cathe Engler

Judge's Comments: *A broad scene with many featured expressions!*

469

NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser

Veterans Project

Tammy Witherspoon

Judge's Comments: *WOW...incredible work, effort and initiative...every newspaper should mirror this publication*

470

NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser

Democracy Day

Tammy Witherspoon

Judge's Comments: *Great effort, work and program.*

Very informative. Other newspapers should mirror this program. Good job...

471

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Trafficking 101: Harvest House educating public about victims in plain sight

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge's Comments: *Important story told with facts, figures and heart.*

472

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

3rd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Sweet beginnings: Jefferson County's Candy Land Adoption Day brings families together

Barbara Davis

Judge's Comments: *Sweet story - many happy endings.*

473

Best Online Album or Slide Show

1st Place

Non-daily Division

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Monster trucks and Army recruits

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Great action shots!*

474

Best Online Album or Slide Show

2nd Place

Non-daily Division

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Rodeo

Chaed Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Great photos!*

475

Best Online Album or Slide Show

4th Place

Non-daily Division

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

P.O.D. - proverbially perfect

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *This type of scenery is hard to photograph and the photographer did a great job capturing this event.*

476

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Hardin County Commissioners Court, Port Arthur City Council

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge's Comments: *Educates the community on delinquencies cause by lack of oversight.*

477

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

4th Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

In the know: Jefferson, Orange and Hardin county coverage

The Examiner

Judge's Comments: *The diversity of coverage is outstanding.*

478

Editorial - Best Editorial

3rd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Billionaires plotting takeover of Texas House

Don Dodd

Judge's Comments: *In "Billionaires plotting takeover of Texas House", Don J. Dodd begins by noting the out-of-state mega-contributions being made in support of candidates for Texas offices. At least one of those candidates, however, seems uninterested in providing voters with information about himself. Dodd, writing for The Examiner, then speculates on what the ultimate game plan is—could it be that it doesn't matter who gets elected as long as it isn't the current incumbent? Is it possible—gasp!—that a candidate who succeeds in ousting the current incumbent might be beholden to the ones who paid to put him there? Say it isn't so! Dodd raises important questions and refers to other articles and editorials he has written that bolster claims made in this editorial. Combined with his high-energy writing style, Dodd's editorial packs a serious punch.*

479

Photo - Best Photo Essay

4th Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Theo Von

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Definitely a fun feature. Nicely executed.*

480

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Veterans tapped for local employment

Barbara Davias

Judge's Comments: *WE love our veterans!*

481

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

4th Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

TPWD deploys materials for new artificial reef

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge's Comments: *Impactful article about an environmental niche, which is often covered on a global scale. Too, the information relates to both reusing & repurposing items which can't go into landfills or become otherwise traditionally mitigated.*

482

Story-Series - Best Feature Series**2nd Place**

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Cold case killer confined for life

Barbara Davis

Judge's Comments: *Gripping account of trial that doesn't sensationalize case. Particularly moving and chilling is the account of other victims' encounters.*

483

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series**3rd Place**

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Leaked: Beaumont's broken billing system

Barbara Davis

Judge's Comments: *Great follow with the businesses that were delinquent. Lots of voices in these stories really bring it to life.*

484

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**2nd Place**

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Cold case thaws this summer

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge's Comments: *I enjoyed this report. It was well-written and was a quick read despite all the details the reader had to absorb. The story is almost a crime novel. Good job enlightening the public on this tragic event.*

485

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Volunteers ensure widow has home for holidays

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge's Comments: *Moving piece about those in need and those who meet them. Too, the piece has an underlying focus on how few do much with little and how many are needed to help in service.*

486

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

Champion doctor has love for the arts

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Engaging piece about one man's endearing respect for art and its power to speak to us about history--rather than focusing on his ability to collect, the focus is on the artists and what they're able to relate to more people by his sharing the collection. Nicely done.*

487

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

2nd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

The Nutcracker

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Thanks for sharing the story of The Nutcracker! Well done in starting with the beginning of its history, tossing in scenes and bringing its characters and performers to life.*

The layout was good and the old reference news photo was a great addition to the overall entry. Chad Cooper, congratulations on 2nd place!

488

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

3rd Place

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

The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas

'Corteo' will enchant audiences at Ford Park

Chad Cooper

Judge's Comments: *Great story and this would make anyone want to see the show. Crafted well and easy to read. All the details of the show only enhance the interest for someone who enjoys performance shows. Good job! Congratulations on 3rd place Chad Cooper!*

489

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

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

The Green River (Wyoming) Star

Fighting the BLM's RMP

Hannah Romero

Judge's Comments: *Thorough accounting of how even state and local government can get caught under the wheels of the federal government.*

490

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

2nd Place

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

The Green River (Wyoming) Star

Continuing a legacy of service

Hannah Romero

Judge's Comments: *Natasha Young's story and that of her family are fascinating. Terrific writing and storytelling.*

491

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

4th Place

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

The Green River (Wyoming) Star

Connecting through classroom critters

Hannah Romero

Judge's Comments: *This was a really informative story, though the story could have been better (and placed much, much higher) with quotes from more than just Dan Parson.*

492

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

The Green River (Wyoming) Star

A funeral for ghosts

Hannah Romero

Judge's Comments: *historical and mystical , compelling and informative. Thanks!*

493

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

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

The Green River (Wyoming) Star

A lifetime of connections

Hannah Romero

Judge's Comments: *Extremely well written chronicle of this man's life and those with whom he connected.*

494

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

2nd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Spring Thrift Sale

Pierce Strudler

Judge's Comments: *Fun use of color. Draws the eye with it's unique look.*

495

Best Informational Graphic

4th Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

By the Numbers

Pierce Stradler

Judge's Comments: *Numbers don't lie, and these numbers show the increases. Easy to read chart.*

496

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Issue of July 5

Pierce Strudler

Judge's Comments: *Very attractive. Cut outs don't always work, but yours look great.*

497

Best Reader-Generated Campaign

4th Place

Non-daily Division

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Baby and Dog

Staff

Judge's Comments: *"Baby and Dog" is a feature of The Highlands Current and is described as "a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down." The paper invites people to submit pictures of a baby and a dog. This portrait, taken by a professional photographer in what appears to be a park, showcases a sun-dappled Golden Retriever seated on the grass next to and towering over a golden-haired child dressed in shades of cream and peach.*

498

Column - Best Sports Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000 or more

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Converting a Pickleball Snob

Joey Asher

Judge's Comments: *The third- and fourth-place columns had a similar theme: trying a new sport. Picking one partly came down to the mountain biking column being more adventurous than this pickleball column, but that should not be taken as a criticism of the pickleball column. Kudos to both writers for trying something new and writing about it!*

499

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

2nd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

How Do You Feel About Surveys?

Clay Jones

Judge's Comments: *This cartoon said so much without saying anything at all. Surveys are around every corner and literally "lurk" just beyond everyone's front door.*

500

Legacy.com's

2nd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Clara Lou Gould, Longtime Mayor of Beacon, Dies at 97

Jeff Simms

Judge's Comments: *Well done. I felt I knew her.*

501

Photo - Best Feature Photo

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
Martial Art
Ross Corsair

Judge's Comments: *A Martial Art personified, in action.*

502

Photo - Best Sports Photo

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
Talking Baseball
Ross Corsair

Judge's Comments: *This entry by Ross Corsair is an example how not every sports photo we publish must focus on "game action." The sidelines or bleachers often produce photos that capture the thrills and spills of youth athletic adventures. Keep up the great work!*

503

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
Who Will Watch the Kids?
Leonard Sparks

Judge's Comments: *This article gives business a personal face: families affected by a lack of childcare. Data driven, profile driven. Well balanced writing.*

504

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
Talking Trash, Part 1
Brian PJ Cronin

Judge's Comments: *This story has all the elements of a winning story: Independent reporting, multiple sources and an entertaining read.*

505

Story-Series - Best Feature Series

3rd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

The Good Death

Joey Asher

Judge's Comments: *Different approach to a situation everyone faces at some point. Great way to put the idea of death into perspective.*

506

Story-Series - Best Health Story

4th Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Local Sewage Tests High for COVID Virus

Leonard Sparks

Judge's Comments: *This story is well-written, and it's important because we have all been interested in the COVID-19 Pandemic and the transmission of the virus. This highlights important trends and while the study was isolated to these communities, the science behind this has a big impact.*

507

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

1st Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Talking Trash

Brian PJ Cronin

Judge's Comments: *Just excellent! Well-researched, well-sourced, and well-written about a critical topic. In-depth and highly informative.*

508

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

2nd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Modern Immigrants

Joey Asher

Judge's Comments: *The personal stories bring this to life, and an excellent job of getting these people on record. In-depth and well written.*

509

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

1st Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Free Pipe Organ

Brian PJ Cronin

Judge's Comments: *This story is unique. There truly aren't many who can play a pump organ these days, and this story captures both the subject's passion for organ music and the instrument itself.*

510

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

2nd Place

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

The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York

Nancy Dolin in a Rock 'n Roll Grandma

Joey Asher

Judge's Comments: *This story was an excellent portrait of Nancy Dolin, a would-be rockstar. I love the way the narrative flows revealing bits about her past and her desire to be a performer. Great job.*

511

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
T is for Trumpet
Alison Rooney

Judge's Comments: *A snappier lede could have taken this up a notch, making it a second- or first-place contender, but the story overall is well-written.*

512

Video Journalism

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
A Mother's Fight for Bridge Barriers
Erin Holton, Facundo Martinez, Sofia Milojevic

Judge's Comments: *Emotional, exceptional detail in this video! A complete story from the mother/activist: her son's suicide she witnessed and endured to her persistent pleas before state officials seeking protective screens on the state's "suicide bridges" . . . frustration personified first hand!*

513

Website - Best Newspaper Website

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York
HighlandsCurrent.org
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Lovely, clean website that highlights social media accounts. So many websites clutter up the viewer's eyeballs. They don't provide a pleasant experience. I didn't see a temperature widget, that might improve the page design. Easy to donate to the non-profit newspaper with easily found buttons. Great work!*

514

Editorial - Best Editorial

3rd Place

Daily Division
The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Not FAIR: Naive response insufficient to address racial tensions of SACS, society
Jeff Kovalski

Judge's Comments: *People like to say that opinion pieces need nuance to hit the mark. This editorial writer understands that's not always true. Nice work meeting the issue head-on.*

515

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Journal Gazette embraces a diversity of topics and thoughts
Fred McKissack, Jeff Kovalski, Keith Elchert

Judge's Comments: *The editorial writing is very good.*

516

Column - Best Sports Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota
Recommended reading: Katie Ledecky's book
Jody Michael

Judge's Comments: *Nice hometown column on Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky and her family beginnings in North Dakota.*

517

Editions - Best Local News Coverage

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota
May 1, Nov. 27
Staff

Judge's Comments: *smaller paper, but had lots of local coverage, local photos including spot news*

518

General Excellence

3rd Place

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

April 24, May 1, Nov. 27

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This North Dakota community paper had a very nicely organized, crisp and powerful front page combined with good headlines, nice writing and a robust opinion page. Sports was well organized; good use of clear fonts and had a nice mix of community/family news tidbits. Liked the placement of public notices in one area for ease. Good stuff and 3rd place in a challenging category IMO. Thank you.*

519

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Cubs rally twice over Kenmare, earn split with Ray

Don Anderson

Judge's Comments: *The emotion of the player's face is brilliantly captured and the action is perfectly frozen. It's a nice bonus to have the opposing team's catcher in the frame as well.*

520

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

2nd Place

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

April 3, Sept. 25

Jody Michael

Judge's Comments: *Jody Michael is a powerhouse, populating this colorful section with columns, content and photos. The appearance is crisp and colorful. Great job!*

521

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

1st Place

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Harvest '24: Inflated costs, deflated income

Sydney Caraballo

Judge's Comments: *Very detailed, well researched, a lot of moving parts to bring together. Excellent use of context to explain*

522

Story-Series - Best Business Story**4th Place**

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Jason's closes indefinitely

Jordan Rusche, Jody Michael

Judge's Comments: *Although this is a hyperlocal story, a closure like this can happen anywhere. A complete picture that shows how the closing of a business ripples throughout a community. Well done.*

523

Story-Series - Best Feature Series**2nd Place**

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Divide County School District new teachers

Jordan Rusche

Judge's Comments: *Wonderful way to help the community get to know new teachers. Great use of space to perform a service.*

524

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**3rd Place**

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Paulhus headstone's new home

Jordan Rusche

Judge's Comments: *A touching story out of the past, this is well written.*

525

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

3rd Place

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

The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota

Outlaws, back in playoffs, aim to finally beat Shiloh

Jody Michael

Judge's Comments: *I hope the Outlaws got their sweet revenge. Loved the quotes from the players.*

526

Best Holiday Ad

2nd Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

First Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro

Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Judge's Comments: *Clear message and well-organized information. Gets the point across effectively. Great job!*

527

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

1st Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Holiday Gift Guide

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Gets all advertisers in at the same time, good idea.*

528

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

3rd Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Local Mothers Fly Supplies To North Carolina

Isaiah Atkins

Judge's Comments: *Powerful story about helping others in need.*

529

Best Reporting on Local Government**3rd Place**

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Wooded Acreage Assessment Is State Statute

Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Judge's Comments: *Good continuing coverage of an obviously controversial local issue.*

530

Editions - Best Use of Photographs**4th Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Best Use of Photographs

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Good use of photos throughout all the pages.*

531

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**2nd Place**

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Best Editorial Page

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Lots of voices -- including the cartoon. Nicely done*

532

Photo - Best Photo Essay

4th Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Old Tyme Tractor Show

Kyle and Mary Herschelman

Judge's Comments: *I love the creativity in piecing together a unique photo story utilizing letters. It may borderline be a little bit of a distraction to great photos, but it's an interesting way to tell a story.*

533

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Major Wilhelm Receives Bronze Star, Purple Heart

Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Judge's Comments: *Hero! Veterans are heroes with invisible capes!*

534

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

4th Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Houck Eager To Learn More About The Field

Isaiah Atkins

Judge's Comments: *Great job using the story of an individual to illustrate the role of his board and his effect on ag policy.*

535

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois

Boondockers Welcome, Just Look For The Sign On Route 16
Isaiah Atkins

Judge's Comments: *A nice delve into another threat of society. Nicely crafted.*

536

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois
Litchfield Author Profiles 30-Year Hunt For I-70 Killer
Isaiah Atkins

Judge's Comments: *A lot of effort went into this profile piece and it shows. Great job. Rock-solid reporting and interviewing. Good use of quotes. I'm certain your readers read every word, I know I did.*

537

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois
Birdie Gives Cowdrey Top Spot At Staunton
Kyle Herschelman

Judge's Comments: *Nice job highlighting a young golfer having a great day. Based upon this entry, this is golf-loving community.*

538

Best Use of a Double-Truck

2nd Place

Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 2000
The Kerkhoven (Minnesota) Banner
Clickbait.
Ted Almen

Judge's Comments: *The Kerkhoven Banner's two-page spread of colorful photos from the Kerkhoven Town and Country Days celebration featured pics from parades, contests, performances, and just plain fun. The top of the left page sported—at an angle—a vintage film*

camera with a flash-cube on top and, along the right edge of the camera, the words, in medium-sized Lucida Blackletter (?) font, "Good Old-Fashioned Community...". Below the camera and in large, bold, more modern font (Arial?) is the word "Clickbait." –yes, with period. The pics are shadow-boxed and laid out as in a photo album. Across the bottom of both pages runs a wide dark gray border with diagonal (left-to-right) black lines and white and gold text reading "It was another PHOTO FINISH at Kerkhoven Town and Country Days!"

539

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

3rd Place

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

The Kerkhoven (Minnesota) Banner

Lamecker's General Store sells its last hammer

Ted Almen

Judge's Comments: *Well-told story. Shows both excitement and heartbreak in the same story. Excellent work.*

540

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

2nd Place

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

The Kerkhoven (Minnesota) Banner

Mitchell Hagen delivering the gift of a smile

Kari Jo Almen

Judge's Comments: *Well-written. Educational and interesting. This story certainly will remind readers why they subscribe to the banner: for stories about their local community and people. Keep up the good work!*

541

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

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

The Laurel Independent, Hyattsville, Maryland

maylaurel.indd

Valerie Morris, Ashley Parks

Judge's Comments: *The May issue of The Laurel Independent features a clean, easy-to-navigate layout that makes use of white space, black divider lines of varying thickness, and a squares-within-squares design that draws the eye systematically to the colorful off-center photo. What keeps the geometric layout from unrelenting rigidity is the stem of the letter 'p' in the word Independent that breaks through the line dividing the nameplate from the body of the page. Despite the paper's smaller size, the Independent fits, along with the cover photo, three articles with jumps on its front page and, in the upper right corner, a small index to items inside.*

542

Column - Best Humorous Column

1st Place

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

The Laurel Independent, Hyattsville, Maryland

aprillaurel.indd.pdf

Bob Reilly

Judge's Comments: *Relax. These are not the robots threatening to take over our jobs.*

543

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

1st Place

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

The Magnolia News, Green Cove Springs, Florida

The Magnolia News

Dave Petraglia

Judge's Comments: *GREAT OVERALL USE OF PHOTOS*

544

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

Bucking national trends, a third of Maine towns still count ballots by hand

Emily Bader

Judge's Comments: *Good lede, clear writing, interesting and educational. Five sources by my count. Great job! Stories like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

545

Best Reporting on Local Government

1st Place

Non-daily Division circ. 15,000 or more

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

How one Maine town is prepping for its next disaster

Emmett Gartner

Judge's Comments: *Great deep dive into a town that found itself alone and without resources when a disaster struck. Good mix of personal stories and scrutinizing town decisions.*

546

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

1st Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

Meat producers frustrated by slaughterhouse backlogs

John O'Meara

Judge's Comments: *Great color from the farmers you interviewed for this story. The problem is clear enough, but hearing their voices gave this real immediacy.*

547

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

3rd Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

UMaine potato breed edges out longtime favorites

John O'Meara

Judge's Comments: *Good straightforward article.*

548

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

As ecotourism grows, so does the desire to maintain Downeast's wild character

Joyce Kryszak

Judge's Comments: *Well-rounded story. I found myself wanting to know a few of the most popular ecotourism attractions and hearing from a visitor or two about what they enjoy most. Well-written story.*

549

Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

1st Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

Community solar is booming in Maine, but who owns the projects?

Murray Carpenter

Judge's Comments: *Bracing article that highlights the politicization of supposedly environmentally friendly options when turned into corporate gains. Hopefully the article will cause more scrutiny at every level of oversight & governmental & public involvement. Well written & timely.*

550

Story-Series - Best Health Story

3rd Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

A tenth of Maine's pharmacies have closed in the past decade

Emily Bader

Judge's Comments: *Nicely written, researched well.*

551

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

1st Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

Maine's Wandering Residents

Rose Lundy

Judge's Comments: *Very well done! Investigative reporting with meaningful results.*

552

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

2nd Place

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

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

Child care providers across Maine cited for numerous safety violations

Alexa Foust, Kate Hapgood

Judge's Comments: *Very tedious data work that takes talent to present in an easily understood story. This story does it very well.*

553

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine

The Maine Monitor's opioid coverage

Emily Bader

Judge's Comments: *Comprehensive coverage of Maine's struggle to cope with the epidemic, including helping marginal communities like Native Americans and women with children.*

554

Best Newspaper Promotion

2nd Place

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

The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado

Holiday Lights 2024

Jessica LaFone

Judge's Comments: *Fun font.*

555

Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado
2024 Pet of the Year
Jessica LaFone

Judge's Comments: *Everyone loves animals!*

556

Best Front Page Design

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado
Eagles in a runaway victory & Camp ACA Trick-or-Tret
Jessica LaFone

Judge's Comments: *The multiple photos draw the eye into the cover page. Good use of space, especially using multiple photos*

557

Best Use of a Double-Truck

3rd Place

Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 2000
The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado
Graduation celebration
Joyce Robsinson

Judge's Comments: *The Mountain-Ear's two-page spread features, under its ink-and-watercolor running header of a mountain range, an image of gold mortarboards and ribbons tossed into a blue sky with white clouds and a congratulatory message to its local high school's graduating class. Arranged around this image, and against a graduated gold background, are full-color pictures of all thirty-four members of the class. Simple, highly effective, and frame-worthy. The sky's the limit for these new grads.*

558

Editions - Best Headline Writing

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado
Diversion: Mark Cohen

Mark Cohen

Judge's Comments: *hotdog fight and a paring knife - no one can say it isn't catchy*

559

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,500

The Mountain-Ear, Nederland, Colorado

A lifetime in pictures Jeanette Smith

Christopher Kelley

Judge's Comments: *I really liked this one. It tells the story of someone who might have lived next door to you and you finally found out some very wonderful things about them. This chronicles a life well led and someone who cared so much about others. Very good and enjoyable to read*

560

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

4th Place

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

The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia

Shop Downtown Staunton

Matt Paxton

Judge's Comments: *Very nicely done.*

561

Column - Best Serious Column

2nd Place

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

The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia

Musing on Miss Jane

Joann Ware

Judge's Comments: *Powerful human story connecting past and present. So well told, with authentic emotional strength.*

562

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia
Protesting the Protesters
Ed Smith

Judge's Comments: *The publication doesn't shy away from controversy and deftly navigates the area between extremes to give a reasonable and balanced view.*

563

General Excellence

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia
General Excellence, The News-Gazette
Staff

Judge's Comments: *This is a solid newspaper with lots of great content, including stories and photos. There is a nice variety throughout the editions. Readers should be proud of this local news source.*

564

Best Front Page Design

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
The Observer, Dundee, New York
The Observer 3-6-24
Brandon Lawson

Judge's Comments: *The two big pictures in the middle being stacked on each other shows two perspectives - the athletes and the students, great use of space and headline*

565

Photo - Best Sports Photo

4th Place

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

The Observer, Dundee, New York
Penn Yan-Dundee takes big win over Marcus Whitman
Brandon Lawson

Judge's Comments: *There's a nice little bit of mystery to this photo of a football catch, captured as the ball lands on the player's wrists, control not quite fully secured yet.*

566

Civic - Community Service Award

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina
Hurricane Helene Special Edition
Staff

Judge's Comments: *This edition with the multi-faceted coverage of the hurricane was a perfect example of what a small town paper can be and do. It gave all of the needed information, yet also found room for a nice feature. A historian 100 years from now will find this an excellent source for research because this staff did so well*

567

Column - Best Humorous Column

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily, circ. less than 5,000
The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina
Birdmageddon
Allen VanNoppen

Judge's Comments: *Funny, easy read and has reader involvement.*

568

Editorial - Best Editorial

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina
Time for the City to move beyond Bella Vino
Angela Kuper Copeland

Judge's Comments: *Wonderful writing, well-laid out position taking on officials that just don't "get it."*

569

General Excellence

1st Place

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

The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina

General Excellence

Staff

Judge's Comments: *In one of the toughest general excellence competitions this judge has been involved with, your publication came out on top this year as my clear No. 1. The front pages were all excellent; the design of this paper is ultra crisp and easy to read/see/digest with eyes. Robust local news coverage that was uplifted by smart, pert writing. Very good use of photos; deep opinion content; great sports and astute use of photographs. Ads and public notices rounded out a superb newspaper. Be proud; y'all No. 1 in my judging. Cheers!!*

570

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

1st Place

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

The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina

Hurricane Helene Special Section

Staff

Judge's Comments: *This special section shows the importance of a newspaper in a time of crisis. The amount of effort required by the staff to pull together all of these stories in difficult circumstances, all of which are of major value to the community is impressive. Major kudos to the entire staff and congratulations to Burke County, NC for having such a fantastic, community-centered newspaper.*

571

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

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

The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina

West End Pooch Inducted Into Puppy Bowl Hal of Fame

Emilee Phillips

Judge's Comments: *sweet story that is well-written.*

572

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
It All Starts Now
Lauren Ellis

Judge's Comments: *It's a bold move to devote the entire above-the-fold half of the front page—including behind the nameplate—to a photo, but The Pilot does just that with their Sunday, June 9, edition. In this case, it works. The photo, a stunning close-up of the trophy awarded to the winner of the U.S. Open being held that weekend in the paper's venue, is set against an out-of-focus Carolina Hotel at Pinehurst. Forgoing its usual green-lettered nameplate and compass logo, this issue uses white lettering for the nameplate and publication information and lets the winged Goddess of Victory atop the trophy jut into the nameplate. The banner headline and "why it matters to locals" info, also in white lettering, frames one side of the cup. Across the bottom of the image a white semi-transparent overlay gives readers—in black lettering—the at-a-glance need-to-know info, where to find coverage inside, and what to expect in terms of coverage during the tournament from four different Pilot media streams. And that's just above the fold. Below the fold is equally compelling with text for the beginnings of two articles and jumps framing a middle column of graduation photos and jump; teasers for four other articles, one with a photo; colorful weather graphics; and a brief index. Packed with information, the neat layout with plenty of white space compels rather than overwhelms.*

573

Best Reporting on Local Government

2nd Place

Non-daily Division circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
The Short and Whining Road
Ana Risano

Judge's Comments: *This writer took a relatively dry topic, a road repair that residents think was shoddily done, and made it very entertaining. And kept it brief. Well handled.*

574

Best Reporting on Local Government

3rd Place

Non-daily Division circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Goats Facing a Gruff Goodbye
Matt Lamb

Judge's Comments: *Fun look at a surprisingly common local problem.*

575

Column - Best Humorous Column

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily circ. 10,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
A Whole Lot of Baloney on My Lost Love of Liverwurst
John Nagy

Judge's Comments: *The demise of liverwurst is no loss, but at least you got a column out of it.*

576

Column - Best Serious Column

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
The Original Sin That Led To an Anxious Generation
John Nagy

Judge's Comments: *Joe Nagy, writing in The Pilot, frames this thoughtfully-written column as a confessional in which he acknowledges his own guilt in contributing to "The Original Sin that Led to An Anxious Generation," that is, giving in 2012 his then 12-year-old daughter with a cell phone, a device he did not own until he was in his 30s. Nagy shares how, in reading Jonathon Haidt's The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, he realized that he and many other parents at that time gave their children phones out of fear. Phones were a way for parents and kids to stay in constant touch with each other, for parents to confirm—instantly—that their children were safe from school shooters and other random acts of violence. The deception, Nagy notes, was and is that the phones themselves linked children to forces equally dangerous and more insidious. Nagy's conversational tone and his focused attention on parenting invites readers to join him in an introspective examination of today's connected world and how it has affected younger generations.*

577

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

1st Place

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

The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina

Best Editorial Pages

John Nagy, David Woronoff

Judge's Comments: *The mix of local, regional and other columnists, plus good local editorials make this Opinion Page stand out. Excellent writing, well-laid out. Overall quality.*

578

General Excellence

3rd Place

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

The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina

The Pilot General Excellence

Staff

Judge's Comments: *Graphically appealing layout with many applicable story-related photos; many other photos of the stand-and-grin variety and photo montages for gatherings and events. Good opinion pages; the two staff editorials tended toward story telling rather than critiques of current news events. Ads were well designed and graphically appealing. Long six-column format is a challenge for readers: down-and-up repeated. Lots of gray type.*

579

Photo - Best Feature Photo

3rd Place

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

The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina

Butterfly Kisses

Ted Fitzgeralds

Judge's Comments: *I appreciate the depth of field on the main photo here, the butterflies are in focus, but the child holding them up is still easy to make out. Great positioning.*

580

Photo - Best Photo Essay

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Polocrosse Team Takes On The World
Lauren Ellis

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful work in capturing and curating these images.*

581

Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Best Family Life / Living Section
Laura Douglass

Judge's Comments: *Contains a lot of good information and encompasses what the community is about.*

582

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Open Daily
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Impressive! A high-quality magazine in addition to your regular publication! I'm sure the readers and advertisers were thrilled to receive these each day.*

583

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Best Sports Section
Jonathan Bym

Judge's Comments: *good local coverage, wide variety*

584

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
A Tragedy That Requires Action
Staff

Judge's Comments: *Clear and concise. Easy to read.*

585

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Making Way for Change
Ana Risano

Judge's Comments: *I feel for this community, losing its mainstay grocery store. This is happening in too many rural places. Great job in developing the lede and working to the impact it will have on many people.*

586

Story-Series - Best Business Story

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Downtown Retailers Adapt to Changing Market
Frank Daniels IV

Judge's Comments: *Good job with this. You can feel the frustration of the shop owners behind their friendly responses.*

587

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
From Chemo to Kindness
Deborah Salomon

Judge's Comments: *Wonderful, well-written story with stellar photos. Bravo.*

588

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
His Kitchen Rocks
Emilee Phillips

Judge's Comments: *Part of the secret of writing a great profile is finding a great subject to profile. Emilee Phillips did that and then did a great job of telling a fascinating tale.*

589

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Stewart's One Moment Lives On
Jonathan Bym

Judge's Comments: *Good job on a story that includes a U.S. Open win, the famous course at Pinehurst, a shocking death and an emotional statue that brings it all together. Very good "inside" details and reporting.*

590

Story - Series - Best Opioid Crisis Coverage in Your Community

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina
Opioid Settlement Funding Challenges Nonprofits
Elena Marsh

Judge's Comments: *Showing the challenges faced by nonprofits in receipt of large amounts of money to combat the opioid problem.*

591

Story-Series - Best Business Story

1st Place

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

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York

How much should you pay for a good sandwich in Brooklyn

Jeremy Skehan

Judge's Comments: *Sounds delicious! And a great way to give back to the community, and very creative!*

592

Story-Series - Best Business Story

3rd Place

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

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York

Red Hook businesses bring good news to the Red Hook Rec Center

Nathan Weiser

Judge's Comments: *Nice donation! Great for youth!*

593

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York

The attack of the Chinese Mitten Crabs

Oscar Fock

Judge's Comments: *A nice dive off a news hook to educate us on another invasive species*

594

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York
Being 92 is besides the point for artist, writer, actor
Katherine Rivard

Judge's Comments: *What a delightful story about a 92-year-old artist. It's clear you spent a great deal of time interviewing her for this story and it shows. Solid reporting let down by weak photo and poor layout. She's an artist, for god's sake, and so are you! Go big or go home when it comes to writing about artists/photographers/writers and other creative people. You have to be equally creative when covering them. Still, I'm certain your readers enjoyed the story.*

595

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
The Red Oak (Iowa) Express
Polish community honors WWII vet Sunberg
Nick Johansen

Judge's Comments: *Nice tribute story. Interesting and informative.*

596

Best Front Page Design

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California
Front Page Design
Morgan Jacobson, Zeke Watson, Alexa Lima

Judge's Comments: *Awesome design and content . Very informative - nice work!*

597

Best Use of a Double-Truck

1st Place

Non-Daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California
GODFATHER OF CHICANO THEATER
Blanca Esthela Castañeda García

Judge's Comments: *I like the photos chosen for the layout of this story and the way the story is boxed in the middle of the first page. I do wish there was a little more style to the headline, as the font for this story looks basic in comparison to the overall feel of the layout. I'm also confused by the photo credits on the bottom of the page. I can guess which ones go with which, but the credits should really be with the cutlines for the photos.*

598

Best Use of a Double-Truck

2nd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION ANIMATES CHICANO PARK

Anahy J. Gutierrez, Yanelli Z. Robles, Emily Esparza, Maritza Prieto

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful photos but no real design aspect to it. Looks more like the photos were used to fill the space vs making the photos work for the space. I do like that the big photo goes across both pages. I'm not a fan of the way the headline for the story cuts across 3 columns, but the story is only in 1 column all the way to the right.*

599

Best Use of a Double-Truck

3rd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

ISLAND DANCE IS MOANANUIKEA POETRY IN MOTION

Yanelli Z, Robles, Melissa Suastegui Martinez

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful photos of the dancers at the festival. I probably would have flipped the story and the photo to the left of it so it's more in the center of all of the photos instead of being off to the side, and I feel like you could have done something really neat graphically in the background to pull the two pages together. As it is now, it's just photo pages with a short story, nothing really stands out to make it special.*

600

Column - Best Serious Column

1st Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

I STAND TO HONOR MY MILITARY FAMILY, REJECT INJUSTICE

Zeke Watson

Judge's Comments: *While there were parts of your column that I perceived to have been written for the stereotype, It was a well-written and thought-provoking piece.*

You raised many points that ring true and you wrote it from a perspective that many could not have — as a Black veteran who experienced the injustice of a "cop with a cause."

I read your column three times just to make certain I didn't miss anything. Thank you for writing it, and than you, sir, for your service.

601

Column - Best Serious Column

2nd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

MANY ARE SURPRISED BY ABILITIES OF AMERICA'S DISABLED

Alfonso Julián Camacho

Judge's Comments: *Strong piece written from experience. While we have come so far in so many ways, there are others in which we still have millions of miles to go.*

602

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

DOING RIGHT BY NATIVE AMERICANS

Carla Labto

Judge's Comments: *I gave this entry the edge in all categories. Tops in creativity and overall appearance.*

603

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

GUN VIOLENCE STEALS YOUNG AMERICANS' FUTURES AND DREAMS

Carla Labto

Judge's Comments: *This was tops in overall impact*

604

Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

UNSELFISH SOCCER SQUAD TAKES ONE FOR THE TEAM

Robert Navarro

Judge's Comments: *Good art, just edged out by others*

605

General Excellence, College Division

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

The Southwestern College Sun

The Sun Staff

Judge's Comments: *The Southwestern College Sun delivers a truly exceptional example of student journalism. Its bold, watchdog-style reporting stands out covering institutional failures, internal corruption, AI bots defrauding FAFSA, and high-impact profiles such as the heroic story of Angelina Stuart. It offers a strong blend of investigative journalism, in-depth community engagement, and powerful storytelling. The FSFA story was months ahead of many national outlets.*

Design-wise, the Sun is professional and energetic, with bold visual hierarchies, creative use of pull quotes and strong headlines. The photography and layout support the stories well.

Coverage is diverse and culturally sensitive, featuring bilingual content, stories of cross-border education, and Native American events. It offers rich community relevance and positions itself as a voice for students and faculty alike.

This is student journalism operating at a professional level, fearless, deeply reported, and beautifully presented.

606

Legacy.com's

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

A BRIEF SHINING MOMENT

Natalia Plaza

Judge's Comments: *What a wonderful tribute to a person who turned her life around only to have it ended way too soon. It was a story worth telling and a piece worth reading. Great work*

607

Photo - Best Feature Photo

1st Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

OTHERWORLDLY DANCE

Mijail Jones

Judge's Comments: *Stunning! This artistically taken and elegantly-edited photo is art in and of itself as it illustrates an arts story. Well done!*

608

Review - Best Review

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

SATAN'S SANDBOX

Valeryah Lara-Urrea, Yanelli Robles

Judge's Comments: *Review of a college play. The author really seems to be in touch with the performance and does a good job putting things into perspective.*

609

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

1st Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

'GOOD DAY TO BE AN INDIAN'

Alexa Lima, Emily Esparza, Briana Nuñez

Judge's Comments: *Superbly written with stunning photography & intelligent headings. Just an overall excellent piece--captures the event well along with the spirit of revival for the college's relationship to the Indigenous of the area. Just such a gorgeous work in totality.*

610

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California
EDUCATION LIBERATES DONOVAN PRISON INMATES
Camila A. Gonzalez, Jose Guzman, Holden Ames

Judge's Comments: *Such a great story to read.*

611

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California
SOUTHWESTERN SUPERMAN JMS
Nicolette Monique Luna

Judge's Comments: *Outstanding reporting and writing. Great use of quotes. This is journalism at its best. Despite the length, it was an easy and quick read (and I had to read it twice!) I know your readers read it from start to finish. First-class reporting deserves a first-place award! Keep up the good work!*

612

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 9,999
The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California
SOUTHWESTERN SUPERMAN JMS
Nicolette Monique Luna

Judge's Comments: *Wow, what a story! This Informative and interesting. Congratulations on weaving all these threads together into a compelling account. I'm certain your readers enjoyed every word! It's stories like this that remind readers why newspapers and journalism continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work.*

613

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

2nd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

NATIONAL CITY'S IMMORTAL 'ANGEL BABY'

Alexa Lima

Judge's Comments: Great writing on what is now an obscure, one-hit wonder long forgotten by most people and no longer played on the radio. I listened to it as a young man (yep, I'm that old) and sang and hummed along to the song because of the simple melody and lyrics. So I enjoyed the story. However, most young people have never heard Angle Baby or of Rosie and the Originals — and, really, isn't that the market we're trying to reach? (Not old fogies like me.) I took off points because of the narrow appeal of the story. Still, great job of recounting Rosie's life story and her impact on leading musicians. A lot of depth in this story. Lots of sources to keep the story lively and flowing smoothly. Despite it's length, it was a quick read. I even went to YouTube to hear Angel Baby again for the first time in decades. Solid reporting. Keep up the good work.

614

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

3rd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

GODFATHER OF CHICANO THEATER

Blanca Esthela Castañeda García

Judge's Comments: Great writing. Story was educational, interesting and inspiring. That's some good interviewing, let me tell you. Really good use of quotes.

615

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

1st Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

HARDWOOD SUPERHEROES

Emily Ingco

Judge's Comments: *This is a sensational story filled with imagery and told in an imaginative, creative way. Writing about losing teams is a massive challenge, but this was done in a way that celebrated the positive in a beautiful way. Great job.*

616

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

3rd Place

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

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

'BOYHOOD DREAM COME TRUE'

Juan H. Estrada

Judge's Comments: *Very strong lede for a story that was helped with the visual elements. As a sportswriter, it's always great to highlight local athletes doing well, and this story did that beautifully.*

617

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 8,999

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California

NATIONAL CITY'S IMMORTAL 'ANGEL BABY'

Alexa Lima

Judge's Comments: *This story was enthralling. Keeps reader wanting more, excellent placement of big rock stars showing their appreciation of Rosie. Needed to be tightened a bit, 'in her autobiography' what is title and when was it published? 'Later in life' was this in the 1980s, 1990s? When was later in life. Solid ending, wonderful tribute story.*

618

Column - Best Humorous Column

2nd Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Born with a rainbow in his heart

Steve Marion

Judge's Comments: *Anyone can see the time, though and penmanship that went into this column, which was both funny and touching. I got to know these people through small stories that gave me a sense of who they were.*

619

Photo - Best Feature Photo

4th Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

JROTC one-rope bridge

Dale Gentry

Judge's Comments: *This could have been a mundane story about military training but was brought to life by the vivid shot of trainees struggling to make the grade. Colorful and compelling.*

620

Photo - Best Photo Essay

2nd Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Having fun at the Elementary Field Day

Dale Gentry

Judge's Comments: *Great job in bringing to life the Elementary Field Day with strong action photos. The tug-of-war shot is priceless with captivating expressions on the kids' faces. Awesome job!*

621

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Hornets, Elks fight for the ball

Dennis Barker, Jr.

Judge's Comments: *Great capture by Dennis Barker, Jr. Photo has all essential elements of a great sports photo: Action, facial emotion and focus. Kudos to the paper for covering a middle school basketball game. Outstanding photos can come from anywhere!*

622

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

1st Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Standard Banner Best Sports Section

Dennis Barker, Jr.

Judge's Comments: *This is a great sports section. Writing is excellent and the photography and layout are also solid. This is something to look forward to each time published*

623

Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

2nd Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Cultivating the preservation of farms and farming

Mark Brown

Judge's Comments: *This story tells of the development of these issues over time about a serious problem that replicates nearly anywhere that farming is important*

624

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

1st Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Four-legged counseling sessions

Mark Brown

Judge's Comments: *The story pulls you in from the beginning and keeps you interested all the way through. A good feature story grabs your attention quickly and the author did that well in this case. The best of a packed category of good entries.*

625

Story-Series - Best Business Story

4th Place

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Steel Warehouse a good fit for Jefferson City

Mark Brown

Judge's Comments: *so many laws!!!*

626

Story-Series - Communication in Crisis**1st Place**

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

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Hurricane Helene aftermath

Mark Brown, Steve Marion

Judge's Comments: *Excellent coverage of Hurricane Helene and the aftermath. I get a distinct sense of personal and community storytelling that shows the importance of communication during a disaster.*

627

Story-Series - Preserving Local History**1st Place**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 2,500-4,999

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Uncovered history

Mark Brown, Steve Marion

Judge's Comments: *Wow. An easy choice for first place. Great research, great writing and great design. This newspaper shows a real dedication its community and that community's storied history.*

628

Photo - Best Sports Photo**4th Place**

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

The State Port Pilot, Southport, North Carolina

Twisted helmet

Michael Paul

Judge's Comments: *Great timing, good clarity to photo. Caption could have said if there was a penalty or not.*

629

Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Success Stories
Ellen Miller Goins

Judge's Comments: *From honoring student-athletes and celebrating artistic traditions to showcasing innovative businesses and heartfelt volunteerism, these pieces embody compelling narratives with authentic voice and professional polish. The originality of themes, clean and eye-catching layouts, and the seamless integration of sponsor messaging into well-written, engaging content is impressive. These advertorials didn't just inform readers — they invited them into vibrant, local experiences that resonate long after the page is turned.*

630

Best Classified Section

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Taos News Classifieds Section
Mary Chavez

Judge's Comments: *Love the layout, design and eye catchiness, good job.*

631

Best Holiday Ad

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Larry Martinez Jewelers
Jason Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Beautiful ad that showcases the product well. The pops of red and yellow are eye-catching and pull the viewer in. Nicely done!*

632

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Enchanted Circle Map

Jason Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *That is a cute idea with map and advertisers. simple.*

633

Best Newspaper Promotion

1st Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Land Water People Time

Chris Wood

Judge's Comments: *Nice designs, interesting concepts, great way to pull readers in. Like a mystery novel, you get to the end, piece everything together and say, "Ah, I get it." Wonderful layout.*

634

Best Newspaper Promotion

2nd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Ski Pioneers

Jason Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Good concept. Strong design.*

635

Best Public Notice Section

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos (New Mexico) News
Taos News Public Notices
Mary Chavez

Judge's Comments: *Easy layout design.*

636

Best Restaurant Ad

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
The Gorge Bar and Grill
S'zanne Reynolds

Judge's Comments: *The Gorge Bar and Grill restaurant ads stand out for their vivid imagery, smart layout choices, and appealing copy. From bold food photography to punchy taglines like "Something for Everyone" and "Best Local Bites & Brews," each ad captures brand identity while enticing readers with flavor and ambiance. Their originality and execution deliver compelling visual storytelling that connects directly with audiences*

637

Best Restaurant Ad

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Taos Inn
S'zanne Reynolds

Judge's Comments: *These three Taos Inn ads effectively market the restaurant's vibrant happy hour scene through consistent branding, bold visuals, and smart layout. Each ad uses strong focal imagery—whether beer, cocktails, or smiling patrons—to evoke mood and appetite. The copy is concise and action-oriented, and the repetition of logos, hours, and themes reinforces recognition. Together, they showcase a cohesive, well-executed campaign that's playful, polished, and tuned to the rhythms of nightlife and seasonal energy.*

638

Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos (New Mexico) News
Taos County
Shane Atkinson and Jason Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Stunning photographs and the perfect way to use history to highlight the community*

639

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Randall Lumber
S'zanne Reynolds

Judge's Comments: *Great photo.*

640

Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White

3rd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Fiesta de Taos
Louis Codone

Judge's Comments: *Nice.*

641

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

1st Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Taos Pueblo
S'zanne Reynolds

Judge's Comments: *Incredible by every stretch. Poetic. Beautiful. Use of thirds. Vibrant colors. It shows a place naturally*

642

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

2nd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Mudd and Flood Mountain Shop

Lindsey Rae

Judge's Comments: *I have seen few ads in my time that are so poetic and built around selling the dream. Great piece*

643

Best Single Ad Idea, Color

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Parsons Gallery

Chris Wood

Judge's Comments: *Perfect display of art. Impressive visually. Draws attention well*

644

Best Small-Page Ad

1st Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Zeke's

Jason Rodriguez

Judge's Comments: *Great use of photos. Very eye catching. Professional.*

645

Best Small-Page Ad

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Earth Oven 1/8 page ad

Sara Kollig

Judge's Comments: *Good mix of photo and text. Eye catching.*

646

Best Use of Ad Color

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Taos Winter Sports Team Ski Swap Full Page Ad

Sara Kollig

Judge's Comments: *Love the design of this ad. Simple, but it works. I love the cut out of the skier - with the colorful clothes.*

647

Best Use of Local Photography in Ads

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Town of Taos

Shane Atkinson

Judge's Comments: *Great blend of photos into the ad. Simple, poetic, beautiful*

648

Best Informational Graphic

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

October 17, 2024 edition of the Taos News (B8, Gas infographic)

Paul Gutches

Judge's Comments: *Great idea for an info graphic to go with a story. I would have liked to have seen mileage between each station. Still, good job!*

649

Civic - Community Service Award

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Tradiciones
Ellen Miller-Goins, Paul Gutches

Judge's Comments: *Well-written series with very detailed stories about fascinating individuals. The photographs and layout were superb and eye-catching*

650

Editions - Best Headline Writing

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Artful justice
Geoffrey Plant

Judge's Comments: *Give 'em hell, Dickie! Cute head.*

651

FOI - Freedom of Information

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division
The Taos (New Mexico) News
Town of Taos 'unlawfully withholding public records'
Geoffrey Plant

Judge's Comments: *The words "Corollary Benefits" hit me just right, not sure why. Anyhow, excellent series of articles, pertinent to the category and important for the community. Professional work.*

652

General Excellence

2nd Place

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999
The Taos (New Mexico) News
General Excellence
Staff

Judge's Comments: *A close second to the top newspaper. The Taos News also is a strong community newspaper with lots of solid coverage throughout the paper. The writing is solid as is the photography. I love the use of large photos.*

653

Photo - Best Feature Photo

2nd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Ancient steps

Daniel Pearson

Judge's Comments: *Amazing colors and beautiful separation of focal point to tell the story. Great work.*

654

Photo - Best Feature Photo

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall dedicated ahead of 4th

Daniel Pearson

Judge's Comments: *Nice spot on photography with the photography being in the right place at the right time. Seeing the decorations of the veteran along with the bright colors and interesting take on the day brought this photo to the top.*

655

Photo - Best Photo Essay

1st Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Irrigation on a dry mountain

Daniel Pearson, Paul Gutches

Judge's Comments: *Nice photos! The nighttime background brings to the forefront the visual content. Excellent job.*

656

Photo - Best Photo Essay

2nd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Grace Kelly @ Taos Jazz Fest (Tempo On the Scene, November 21, 2024)

Daniel Pearson, Paul Gutches

Judge's Comments: *Crisp, clear and focused photos. Great job capturing the artist in all of her moves and moods.*

657

Rookie Reporter of the Year

1st Place

Non-daily Division

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Emery Veilleux

Emery Veilleux

Judge's Comments: *The entrant can cover anything and cover it well. Excellent reporting, writing and storytelling on a wide range of subjects. Great reads.*

Government corruption? Check.

Abortion from the Supreme Court to a patient too fearful to give her name or be away from her home too long? Check.

Federal budget cuts hitting home 1,800 miles from Washington, D.C? Check.

And does that bakery deliver to New York?.

658

Section - Best Special News, Sports, Niche, Feature Section or Edition

2nd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Tradiciones

Paul Gutches, Ellen Miller-Goins

Judge's Comments: *Taken collectively, the series is more than impressive, offering such variety of subject matter along with stunning photographic work to make a cohesive effort of community excellence. Taken individually, each is worthy of awards.*

659

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Stampin' Sam leaves his mark

Olivia Lewis

Judge's Comments: *Wright has done an excellent job with what could have been a run of the mill story. Stampin' Sam, you are famous now and I expect you to receive even more orders. Daniel Pearson gets a nod for excellent photography.*

660

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

4th Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

'People need a place to play'

Olivia Lewis

Judge's Comments: *The writer did her job, introducing us to Popolos. I want to go there. So much nostalgia in the story, tying in the need for community. Love it.*

661

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series

3rd Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Authorities identify bridge suicide

Geoffrey Plant

Judge's Comments: *Wow! Hard-hitting, well-written, and provides essential information. Excellent job!*

662

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

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

The Taos (New Mexico) News

'A kind of madness'

Geoffrey Plant

Judge's Comments: *This story is a lot of fun, very descriptive, and offers a few unusual turns*

663

Website - Best Newspaper Website

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos (New Mexico) News

Taos News

Heather Owen

Judge's Comments: *Taos News delivers a clean, visually engaging site with strong use of photography and a modern layout that reflects the region's artistic identity. Navigation is straightforward, and stories are easy to access across sections. However, the site lacks visible social media links, which limits its connectivity and reach despite having active platforms. Multimedia content is minimal, and while the visual design is appealing, the overall digital experience would benefit from more video, audio, or interactive elements. It's a solid site with good aesthetics, but it falls behind in digital engagement.*

664

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

4th Place

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

Township Journal, Chester, New York

Chronic absenteeism plagues local schools

Molly Colgan

Judge's Comments: *good report on a condition that's only growing worse.*

665

Column - Best Humorous Column

3rd Place

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

Township Journal, Chester, New York

My worst summer job was nothing to wink at

Beth Quinn

Judge's Comments: *Oh the things our parents think we will enjoy. Or just be good at.*

666

Photo - Best Sports Photo

4th Place

Daily Division

Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado

Lady Mean Moose fall to Lady Meloneers

Ken Hamrick

Judge's Comments: *Great job capturing her facial expression and the difficulty of this play.*

667

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

4th Place

Daily Division

Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado

14-hour search for shooting suspect ends with citizen tip

PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Judge's Comments: *This is a thoroughly reported account of something that no doubt caused immense rumors throughout the community. Excellent work with the timeline.*

668

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

3rd Place

Daily Division

Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado

"We're working the work"

PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Judge's Comments: *Piece tackles difficult questions--particularly struck by the use of "Feel good" programs portion--what many outside the education system may see as frivolous is now*

deemed necessary due to societal changes. Too, the focus on outdated facilities and what it takes to affect change at basic levels of environment is handled well in the article.

669

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Daily Division

Valley Courier, Alamosa, Colorado

A man who loved a clock, the community who loved the man

PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Judge's Comments: *Touching story with a fascinating history.*

670

Photo - Best Feature Photo

2nd Place

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

Washburn Leader-News

Frosty

Laura Gardner

Judge's Comments: *An image that's chilling but also full of warmth. I can't think of a better time of day or a better place from which to take this shot.*

671

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

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

Washington (Missouri) Missourian

Major Problem

Arron Hustead

Judge's Comments: *It is extraordinarily hard to get a well composed focused shot of one soccer player. This one captures two- a thrill of victory agony of defeat moment with a vivid look at both players. Extremely well done!*

672

Photo - Best Sports Photo

2nd Place

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

Washington (Missouri) Missourian

Stating Their Case

Bill Battle

Judge's Comments: *An unique sports photo: this one is after the action as the players lobby the umpire for a call after a close play at second. Clever of the photographer to stay on the action and wise of the photo editor to use it.*

673

Photo - Best Sports Photo

3rd Place

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

Washington (Missouri) Missourian

Concentration

Bill Battle

Judge's Comments: *Wow! A tangle of bodies and a ball in a scrum at the goal is a compelling action shot. Great job!*

674

Photo - Best Sports Photo

4th Place

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

Washington (Missouri) Missourian

Ober the Bar

Arron Hustead

Judge's Comments: *High jumper is caught at the instant of attack as she soars over the high jump. Colorful and compelling.*

675

Photo - Best Photo Essay

2nd Place

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

Watkins Glen Review & Express, Dundee, New York

WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL HOSTS FIRST-EVER NASCAR PLAYOFF RACE

Brandon Lawson, Sam Morse

Judge's Comments: *Strong group of images*

676

Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

West Milford (New York) Messenger

Locals turn to Jersey Roots

Molly Colgan & Kayla Hartigan

Judge's Comments: *This piece stands out for its elegant balance of brand narrative and editorial tone. The story of a woman-owned cannabis dispensary helmed by a pharmacist bridges credibility and community relevance beautifully. It's rich in customer testimonials, specific services, and professional expertise. The layout is crisp and modern, with eye-catching product photography and consistent fonts. Most importantly, it reads like a thoughtful local feature rather than a blatant ad, hitting the sweet spot of sponsored storytelling.*

677

Best Small-Page Ad

4th Place

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

West Milford (New York) Messenger

Jenti Jewelers

Megan Bowen

Judge's Comments: *Clean looking design. Good artwork.*

678

Best Classified Section

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Wright County Journal, Mountain Grove, Missouri

Best Classified Section WCJ

Ron Schott

Judge's Comments: *I like that you had color on your classifieds, makes them pop.*

679

Best Reporting on Local Government

4th Place

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Laramie County denies firework permit, company claims discrimination

Noah Zahn

Judge's Comments: *Serious claims, but an entertaining approach to the story. The lede made me laugh out loud.*

680

Editions - Best Use of Photographs

2nd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Best Use of Photographs, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

WTE staff

Judge's Comments: *Wow. The rodeo photos are breathtaking. They capture action and emotion at the same time. These are great photos! Terrific use of photos and graphics throughout these pages.*

681

Editorial - Best Editorial

2nd Place

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Regardless of election outcome, lawmakers need to do their jobs

Brian Martin and WTE Editorial Board

Judge's Comments: *This editorial stands out because of the details included to support the ultimate premise. It leans heavily on facts, quotes and other reporting to successfully make its point.*

682

Editorial - Best Editorial

4th Place

Daily Division
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Education, not omission, is the best way to protect our kids
Brian Martin and WTE Editorial Board

Judge's Comments: *Addressing the local angle of a national issue, especially by taking a stance in an editorial, can be tricky, but it's well done here.*

683

Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

2nd Place
Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Best Editorial Pages, Wyoming Tribune Eagle
Brian Martin

Judge's Comments: *Some of the better writing on Opinion Pages. Carmon's column is exceptional and the balance is overall very good. Solid work.*

684

General Excellence

1st Place
Daily Division
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
General Excellence, Wyoming Tribune Eagle
WTE staff

Judge's Comments: *This publication is meaty in a way that is rarely seen in this day and age. While it could be considered a negative to take up some space with AP and other content, in this case, it feels more like a supplement than a replacement for local content, which this paper is also loaded with.*

685

Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

2nd Place
Daily Division
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Meeting gets heated
Milo Gladstein

Judge's Comments: *I can feel everyone's emotions in this photo.*

686

Photo - Best Feature Photo

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Back to School Brigade
Milo Gladstein

Judge's Comments: *This photo catches the action perfectly. You can see the joy in their faces and the quality of the photo is excellent.*

687

Photo - Best Photo Essay

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
What does freedom mean to you?
Milo Gladstein

Judge's Comments: *Powerful variety of folks highlighted in this feature. Portrait format of those varieties done well.*

688

Photo - Best Sports Photo

1st Place

Daily Division
Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Grit, dirt and determination (CFD steer wrestler)
Milo Gladstein

Judge's Comments: *The dirt flying! This is very cool.*

689

Section - Best Sports Section/Page

3rd Place

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Best Sports Section, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Jeremiah Johnke and Matt Atencio

Judge's Comments: *Good section, but others seemed to have more local stories*

690

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**1st Place**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

'I hope you hear our hearts': LCSD1 school board reluctantly supports MCER study

Ivy Secrest

Judge's Comments: *Article takes a difficult topic and breaks it down for average reader to understand the difficulties faced by school boards as well as the greater need for community input and involvement. With failing infrastructures nationwide this is a timely piece about how few control the futures of many and how generations will be impacted by these decisions.*

691

Story-Series - Best Health Story**4th Place**

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Experts: Medicaid expansion critical to saving Wyoming's health care industry

Hannah Shields

Judge's Comments: *Good lead brings you into the story*

692

Story-Series - Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series**3rd Place**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

K-12 special ed teachers burned out amid behavioral health epidemic

Hannah Shields

Judge's Comments: *This is an informative story about a special education teacher shortage. A complete story, but hardly investigative, just standard good reporting. And as a lone story, it barely qualifies as in-depth. So many unanswered questions. Still, not bad ... and a good service for the community.*

693

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

4th Place

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Group organizes after racist incident at South High School

Noah Zahn

Judge's Comments: *A little too newsy. Could be a great entry, but most of it is just covering a meeting. Would like to see the reporter go a little deeper, and not just as an add-on near the end of the story.*

694

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

1st Place

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

'Never going to get through this:' Nannette Hernandez's life was upended by COVID

Noah Zahn

Judge's Comments: *Heart-breaking story. Great job!*

695

Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

4th Place

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Rocky Horror wouldn't be the same without a shadow cast

Taylor Staples

Judge's Comments: *It's obvious the writer enjoyed crafting this story. Telling details about the set, things that happen but keep the performers moving along, and the rehearsals. Congrats to Taylor Staples on 4th place.*

696

Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

4th Place

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Brody Cress is Cheyenne's cowboy

Matt Atencio

Judge's Comments: *Writer Matt Atencio does a nice job bringing us into the world of Wyoming rodeo cowboying and featuring one of its hometown rising stars. Wins a buckle!*

697

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

3rd Place

Daily

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Winning through pain (MMA fighter)

Jeremiah Johnke

Judge's Comments: *This fighter has real grit and passion for his sport, understanding what he has to overcome to win.*

698

Video Journalism

4th Place

Daily & Non-daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming

WyoSports 2024 Female Athlete of the Year: Taliah Morris

Matt Atencio

Judge's Comments: *Excellent video of competitor's success in track and field events. The entry was guided with succinct commentary and reporting by the narrator. The subject's performance was shown in a variety of clips.*

699

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

1st Place

Daily

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Extending A Life Line

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Great job helping local readers understand a disaster on the other side of the country, told through the experience of local volunteers who traveled to help out.*

700

Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

2nd Place

Daily

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

At Odds Over 'G'

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Thoughtful exploration of two local religious leaders' opposing views on abortion.*

701

Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

1st Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 or more

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Tyndall Native Reaches New Heights In Army

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Well done! Encouraging for a young woman, or anyone for that matter, to be involved in the Armed Forces.*

702

Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

1st Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

3 Die In Centerville Slayings

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *In this tremendously competitive category with a good number of worthy entries, what set this story apart was the depth of reporting. This story, using multiple sources, conveyed a harrowing narrative while also providing the greater context.*

703

Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

1st Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Grant To Help Ponca Tribe Process Buffalo

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *A look at plans to process buffalo from all angles, including jobs, local customs, and environmental considerations.*

704

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

2nd Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

USD's Native American Day Festivities Part Of Efforts To Attract More Native Students

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Engaging piece that focuses on both Native culture's history and future with education at the crux of those paths. Informative as well as encouraging while integrating the totality of what the college experience can mean for all including academics and athletics.*

705

Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

4th Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Mentoring Program Aids New School Officials

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Piece deftly describes the difficulties faced by educators at all levels and how bureaucracy has changed aspects within education and how educators are taking strides to combat those changes. Nice personal glimpses and use of quotations let the educators' voices come through as well as highlight the difficulties that will come with the future gaps in filling roles.*

706

Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Recovery Warriors

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments:

The story of a podcast telling stories about meth addiction recovery. Could use a bit more passion, but overall solid.

707

Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

3rd Place

Daily Division

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

For Vietnam Vets, A Belated Thanks

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Focusing attention on a group of veterans who are often overlooked. Very well done.*

708

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

1st Place

Daily

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

During Vermillion Visit, Mills Discusses Racial Issues

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Great story of a personal battle against racism.*

709

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

2nd Place

Daily

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Coyotes Packed Up For Battle

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Community partnership breeds success for the team.*

710

Story-Series - Best Sports Story

4th Place

Daily

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Walking The Walk

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Shows the value of staying connected throughout your life.*

711

Story-Series - Preserving Local History

3rd Place

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000 - 8,999

Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan

Restored Bell Ringing Again In Utica

Randy Dockendorf

Judge's Comments: *Writer knows what they are doing. Great lead, solid writing throughout. Bell history was a good way to set up story. Nice quotes from pertinent people. Needed a bit more meat on the bone of the history of the church or what the bell means to congregation/history of the church.*

712